

The Hunan Mission.

MR. GOFORTH'S JOURNAL.

For the CHILDREN'S RECORD

CHANG-TE-FU, Sept. 30th

This morning Dr. McClure and I walked through main street to the Old Stone bridge at the North of the city. From the civility of the people we think that good has been done by so many of the upper classes of the people coming for treatment. To-day many officials are in the city to say prayers at the temple for a great man who died.

As we passed the gates we were pleasantly greeted by the silk robed gentry who had already come to see us. Before we came up I noticed in the company the young official named *Nik* who had told me that he always read the New Testament, but on seeing us he immediately passed inside. Perhaps

HE WAS ASHAMED

to be found doing honor to the false god. Returning from our walk we found many sick waiting for us. Soon an official cart comes and takes the Doctor off to see some rich sick people at one of Yamen families. He had not returned when another call came from another official's house but owing to the great number of sick people that were waiting we had to refuse.

The wealthiest man, perhaps, in the city, came in a most stylish cart. Father and son both sought medical treatment. To-day has brought many of the official class. The number of opium users is appalling. Every one, both old and young, of the official class, whom we have asked

"DO YOU USE OPIUM?"

has answered "yes." Of the old there is now little hope, but one's heart goes out in pity for many of these fine young men. They feel that they are caught in the snare of this curse yet they have not power to free themselves from it. Several of the upper class men have become quite friendly and appear right at home

with us. They have told me of how they

DREADED THE FUTURE YEARS

because with this vice chaining them their prospects were blasted. Two of this class, stout young men, under thirty, spoke of how they feared to become the physical wrecks like some of the older men, and asked me to persuade the Doctor to give them something to

CURE THEM OF THE HABIT.

To all this we reply "if we had a hospital where we could have you come and stay, and constantly attend you, the Doctor would undertake your case, but to give you medicine and leave you where you can get opium when the craving comes is useless." We further say we will return again next spring, then if you want us to stay in your city, we will build a hospital and undertake your care. Several of them have said they would like this. The speaking is nearly all falling to me. Several times to-day I have talked till tired and then called the Chinese helper to take my place but in a little while they would again call on me to speak and explain the Bible.

Speaking to a company of them to-day I told how God at first called the Jews and gave them his word that they might know his will; then how Christ came and sent his followers to all nations. I told them that at that time our English forefathers were idol worshippers as the Chinese now are, but hearing God's message they believed and turned from idols to worship the true God. At this point a man of perhaps 45 years, who had been closely listening, said to me, will you tell us again when it was that Christ sent the Gospel to your ancestors? I repeated the time. Again he asked "Did they at that time believe it?" Yes. "And have they had no idols since?" No. Then

WHY WERE THEY SO LONG IN SEND-

ING THE WORD TO US.

What could I say? I said, "true they were very slow about sending the message to you

The whole number of patients treated to-day was *ninety-nine*.