

Honan, although not as bad as in one or two other provinces, is much worse than in many of the provinces in China, and is going to be a terrible drawback to our work. It not only wrecks the mind and body of the victim, but also destroys his whole moral nature and renders him almost unopen to conviction. The first morning after we reached Honan soil, we were out walking by the river when we heard a man calling at the top of his voice. We had no idea that he was calling to us, therefore walked on; but his cries became louder, and we slackened our pace and he soon overtook us. He at once got down on his knees before us and begged for medicine to cure his opium habit. He had the usual appearance of an opium wreck, and was poorly clad, although from his appearance we knew that he had seen better days. He was told that it was useless to give medicine unless he was under the supervision of a doctor for at least a month. "Woll," he said, "I will soon be ruined. I have but little left, and I am now on my way to town to pawn the only spare garment I have left." The garment which he showed us would not bring more than 100 small cash (about five cents), but it would buy enough opium to satisfy his terrible craving for a little while. Nor does it stop with the men alone, for on this trip I saw three women who were slaves to this terrible habit. In the towns and cities it is estimated that seven men out of every ten use such quantities as to make their reformation almost impossible. I treated, while on the tour, twenty-nine days' work, 1380 patients, about 300 of whom were women, and out of the above number of patients I saw 350 twice or oftener. Extracting teeth is at a discount in North China, and I was called upon to extract only 35 teeth; however, I had 105 other surgical operations as follows:—Entropium 38; Pterygium 18; Cataract 10; Tridectomy 4; Blepharophimosis 2; Hare-lip 1; Nasal polypi 10; Necrosed jaw 3; Cleft palate 1; Opening abscess 7; Tapping in Ascites 1; Removal of tumour 4; Fistula in ano 5; Artificial nasal orifice 1. We have good hopes of being able to secure a place in a village about one mile out from Wei-hui, and we ask an interest in your prayers. We thank God for His goodness during this trip, and are encouraged to press on and expect greater blessings in future.—J.F.S.

Missionary Cabinet.

ROBERT AND JAMES ALEXANDER HALDANE.*

THESE honoured servants of the Lord began their religious career about the time that John Wesley finished his brilliant course. They were not great preachers in

the sense that Wesley, Whitefield and Rowland Hill were such, but they were consecrated men, and had the power of drawing crowds to listen to their simple and earnest presentations of Gospel truth. They were the means of reviving the Churches in Scotland and on the Continent at a time of great spiritual declension.

Robert Haldane was born in London, 28th Feb., 1764. James was born at Dundee, 14th July, 1768. They were descendants of an old family of Scottish barons. On the death of his father, Robert succeeded to the beautiful estate of Airthrey in the south of Perthshire. At the age of seventeen, both brothers went to sea. Robert entered the royal navy, and was distinguished for bravery in several naval actions under Admirals Duncan and St. Vincent. James joined the East India Company's service and rose to be Captain of the *Melville Castle*, with the prospect of soon acquiring an ample fortune. Both brothers, about the same time, and by a way that they knew not, became the subjects of deep religious experience, and both resolved to exchange a sea-faring life for employment of a very different kind. They took a new departure as evangelists. This implied no great pecuniary sacrifice. They had ample means. Robert was indeed wealthy; but when he resolved to consecrate himself to Christ, he also consecrated his purse and all that he had. Shortly after retiring from the sea, he married a daughter of Mr. Oswald, of Scotstown—a beautiful property on the banks of the Clyde. This lady entered heartily into Mr. Haldane's "Eutopian" plans, for the people called him "mad" when he proceeded to sell his magnificent paternal estate in order that he might devote himself more entirely to the path of duty that seemed to open before him. He had spent much time and displayed great taste and skill in improving the lands of Airthrey, which he now sold for a sum of about \$750,000, the proceeds being invested so that they could be drawn upon as occasion required. During the next twelve years he spent nearly half of that amount in erecting churches, educating and supporting preachers, printing and distributing religious literature, and establishing Sunday-schools. Besides some fifty or sixty chapels, he erected large "tabernacles" in

* MEMOIRS OF ROBERT AND JAMES A. HALDANE, by Alexander Haldane; Edinburgh and New York, 1853; pp. 604.