



HILLS BELOW ICHANG, ON THE YANGTSE RIVER.

sionaries feel, in teaching the children to hate the baneful drug.

Of the large and important cities of Sz-Chuan the provincial capital, Chentu, has a population of 500,000. As early as the thirteenth century it was visited by Marco Polo, and described as "very great, and exceeding rich." Chentu is sure to become the distributing centre for West China. Already it is pointed out as the goal of three proposed railroads. On the direct highway, between India and Peking, its political and commercial supremacy is but a question of time.

It is to Dr. Virgil Hart, to whom this book is appropriately dedicated, that Canadian Methodism is indebted for the suggestion of Sz-Chuan as a mission field. About the year 1890, when our Church

was seeking a new mission sphere, Dr. Hart, a Methodist Episcopal missionary, on furlough from China, was taking a much-needed rest on his little farm near Burlington, Ont. Dr. Hart knew well the possibilities of Sz-Chuan. He had laboured for twenty-six years as a missionary in China. In 1887 he had refounded in that province the Methodist Episcopal mission, destroyed during the riots of the previous year. Dr. Hart's suggestion as to a field was accepted, and he was put in charge of the Canadian mission. Three other men were also appointed, Mr. Hartwell, and Drs. Kilborn and Stevenson. To these were added the newly-wedded brides of Dr. Kilborn and Mr. Hartwell; and Miss Amelia Brown, a representative of our



HOUSE-BOAT BEING HAULED UP THE RAPIDS ON THE YANGTSE RIVER.