

Apostolic Touring.

At their next meeting of Presbytery, 20 Feb., 1890, preparations were made for extended missionary tours, and the following day, 21 Feb., they started, Messrs. Goforth and Smith taking one route and Messrs. McGillivray and McClure another, while the newcomers wrought at the language.

They went in Apostolic fashion, two and two, a medical man in each pair, preserving an apostolic succession of work, in preaching and healing; while they examined the country with a view to the best place for a permanent settlement.

It was during this trip that Dr. Smith, in an operation for cataract, restored the sight of Mr. Chou, who was afterward baptized, the first fruits of the Mission.

Their reception was not in all cases what it had been the previous autumn. Those who had been well enough pleased to have a passing visit from them did not care to have them return if there was any intention of remaining. Sometimes abusive placards were distributed through the city warning them to leave. In one place the opposition culminated in an unfriendly visit from the district magistrate, after which they withdrew.

In another place, after they had remained for nearly a fortnight, preaching, healing, and selling books, a number of the gentry came and secretly calling aside a Chinese servant that was with the missionaries, said that their city was altogether too small a place for two such distinguished men to live in, which in plain English meant "you must go at once."

Difficulties of Settlement.

In this tour while much work was done in the way of preaching and selling literature, they were not successful in finding any place where they could obtain premises to locate permanently. In another tour, however, later in the season, Messrs. McGillivray and McClure, when they could not find an entrance elsewhere succeeded in renting a compound in a market town, named Chu Wang, just within the borders of Honan. It was not where they wished to settle, but it was the only entrance they could then find.

About the same time Messrs. Goforth and Smith tried to effect a similar settlement at Hsin Chen (New Market), some sixty miles farther in the interior of Honan, but it was not until nine months later, in the spring of 1891, that, after many and vexatious delays, they got a lease signed and obtained possession.

But securing premises did not end their difficulties. In Dec., 1890, only four weeks after the first station had been opened at Chu Wang, the mission premises were looted in broad daylight by a band of roughs incited by the gentry, and nearly everything carried

off, though no violence was offered to the missionaries.

They were not, however, to be thus driven from their hard-won post. If they gave up now it would only encourage similar acts in the future and imperil their work; they therefore held the fort, and made application to the viceroy through the British Consul at Tientsin, and received upwards of \$1500 damages for stolen property, and a proclamation that the rights of the foreigners were to be respected.

Not until the following spring, 1891, were the premises at Hsin Chen finally secured, and thus, after three years of struggle there were two centres of work established in Honan, and as Mrs. McClure arrived at Chu Wang in May, the first foreign lady to settle in North Honan, all departments of mission work were vigorously prosecuted. Healing and teaching from morning till night was the work of the physicians, while in preaching to the people as they waited their turn for treatment, and in touring to more distant parts, the other members of the mission were fully occupied the different members of the staff spending 270 days of the year 1891 touring near and far.

The Work Thus Far Accomplished.

The results of these years are not to be measured by two stations opened. There had been the acquisition of the language without which no mission work could be done. There was the work done in the older stations, not belonging to our mission, but in the same great cause. There was the touring, preaching, healing, and selling books, all through North Honan. Dr. Smith writes of many patients and 105 surgical operation in a short tour of 29 days. All this was seed sowing, some of which has already borne fruit, and some will do so many days hence.

And perhaps as valuable as any was the experience gained of the people and the work. Dr. Smith writes in the summer of 1890:—"It is now two years since I landed, and the work in China appears vastly different from what it appeared in Canada two years ago. Now that anything that savored of romance has disappeared, we find ourselves face to face with a stern, cold, indifferent heathenism, which clings most tenaciously to the past, and which is not going to be moved by merely going through the streets with a Bible in one hand and a hymn book in the other, singing hymns and repeating texts of Scripture. The missionary must know the inner life of the people and understand their ways of looking at things."

Opposition and Rioting.

The year 1891 was marked by a wave of anti-foreign, anti-Christian feeling, which passed over much of China. There were