

Mission Crisis.

A PREACHING TOUR AMONG THE HILLS OF HONAN.

I LEFT Chu Wang for Chang Te Fu on the 13th of November, arriving at the latter place the same day. The Goforths were all well and in first-rate spirits and full of confidence in the success of the cause at Chang Te. Everything that I saw of themselves and the place would incline me to believe that this confidence is well founded. They both work from morn till night, and often after night. Mrs. Goforth told me that an average of eighty women called upon her each day, and to every one she attempted to explain some Gospel truth. The people who came to the chapel were well disposed and attentive. There are a few inquirers already. Mr. MacGillivray had left for the Lin Hsien fair the day before we got to Chang Te; but we overtook him at a small town, where he had delayed to preach, not more than ten miles ahead. We put up there for the night. A curious, filthy little inn we lodged in. I had to kick the pigs out of the way in order to reach our little room. My teacher, seeing a heap of venerable rags where we were supposed to sleep for the night, scolded the inn-keeper at a furious rate. "Do you expect me to pay cash for such a room as this?" he asked, in a highly indignant tone. He was to pay less than a cent. After supper a very intelligent man came in to inquire concerning the Jesus doctrine. He had heard Mr. MacGillivray preaching in the street, but was too timid, as most Chinese are in such cases, to make any inquiries. The missionary is always delighted when those who have heard during the day come at night. There is a fine opportunity for explaining the Gospel more fully, for making a personal and direct appeal, for finding out the difficulties in the inquirer's mind or path which prevent him from accepting Christ. Most of them seem to see without great difficulty that idols are useless, but to break away from them and from all the customs and traditions that have clustered around them is a very different and a supremely difficult matter. A Chinaman hates to break with the past. He fairly trembles at the idea of committing himself to the new and untried. These are in many respects desirable characteristics, but to China as she is now they are simply fatal. At meetings the people constantly use the argument that they follow the crowd, and as for anything new they cannot understand it. To meet some of these Chinese in argument is often no easy mat-