

THE CANADIAN MISSION AND COREAN CLAIMS.

WHERE shall we locate and establish a Mission Settlement? This was the first problem that confronted us when we reached Corea. To decide what course to pursue when once the foreign field has been reached, requires careful consideration, especially for a new mission. A mistake made in this matter may be felt through future generations and result in cooling the zeal of the missionary, disappointing the church at home, and retarding the progress of the Kingdom of God. It was not ours to consider in what place we would probably gain a first convert, and secure the confidence of the community, or where we could live with the least persecution, without daily horror that our lives and property would be destroyed. Very different were the conditions surrounding us. Pressing invitations and pathetic pleadings reached us from various cities and country districts. What body of Christians were in sorest need of our oversight and ministrations? Should we turn to these fields already white for the harvest, or to unbroken soil, where the seed of Gospel Truth had never been sown? Where can we spend our energies without coming into conflict with other missionaries and establish a permanent mission for the church we represent? These were the questions that confronted us the first few weeks of our residence in this land. These weeks were spent with missionaries in and near Seoul, and although these friends did not express an opinion, the atmosphere of their hospitable homes was fragrant with prayer that our decision should be a happy one. The "Council of Missions," which is an advisory body, composed of all the ordained Presbyterian missionaries in Corea, met for business the last of October, and with this council we decided to place the responsibility of our settlement.

The first two weeks of October, Mr. McRae and I spent together in the interior, going as far as Sorai, 180 miles from the capital. As no missionary was free at that time to accom-