CHAPTER V.

JUNE 19.—We reached the banks of the Yang-tze-keang, which stretch out very far, and we had only four feet of water, but very regular soundings. The regions adjoining this river are so low that the shore was at first invisible. We went through a passage, which, so far as we know, had never been passed by a European vessel. Our endeavours to procure a pilot from the numerous fishing craft, proved vain; we had therefore no alternative but following the junks which steered towards the Shang-hae river. About mid-day we saw the low coast, rendered conspicuous by a grove of trees near the shore. In steering towards this harbour, there is no other landmark than a peak of a small island, the most northerly of the Archipelago, and called by the Chinese, if I remember right, Seu-kung-shan. There is a safe anchorage, and many of the junks destined to Shang-hae wait in this harbour for a favourable wind. From hence they steer in a northwestern direction, and generally arrive in a day or two at the mouth of the Woo-sung river, which leads to Shang-hae. On all the banks, during several months of the year, there is fresh water. So long as no regular pilotage is established, and no survey of the banks taken, the entrance will continue to be dangerous for large ships. But so extensive an emporium well deserves the attention of hydrographers; so that we may soon be in the possession of charts, if the spirit of mercantile enterprise can give a stimulus to the art of the navigator.

BANKS OF THE YANG-TZE-KEANG.

JUNE 20.—Early in the morning we started in a small boat in search of Shang-hae, having sighted it yesterday, and an augmented force of guns. We were very much surprised at the mouth of the river, besides the flat coast was everywhere an opening almost imperceptible from the shore of the river, which, of course, bearing south, we followed when we arrived, and which could fire guns from each fort, during our entering forbidden ground. A most ungracious reception, of course, where we found six feet of water in depth, the water shoals so as to prevent the passage of vessels. On our approach to Nanking branches met us, which we met here by several miles, and by an immediate return.

The aspect of the shores of the Yang-tze-keang; all is one flat meadow, which in the sea, well cultivated, would be an unsurpassed ravages occasioned by the sea. There are no banks, made of the sediments of the river. In such low-lying meadows, but even the Chinese have taken advantage of the swamps and grounds of water, and have made a culture of rice, which they prize exceedingly. They do not prize milk and butter as we do, for slaughter; hence the great extent of pastures.

But the spirit of life, rice, as well as all other products, to the capital, which is not far distant, all their energy is directed towards.
June 20.—Early in the morning we set out in our long boat in search of Shang-hae. Several war-junks hove in sight yesterday, and displayed their bravery by firing guns. We were very long uncertain where to seek the mouth of the river, because it was about dawn, and the coast was every where so low and uniform as to render any opening almost imperceptible. Two forts, built on either shore of the river, whose entrance is broad, marked our course, bearing south by west. It was about 4 o'clock when we arrived, and were saluted by a discharge of fifteen guns from each fort, designed, by alarming, to prevent our entering forbidden ground. We cared very little for this ungracious reception, and proceeded to sound the entrance, where we found six fathoms; but, towards the right shore, the water shoals so as to leave only a channel for the passage of vessels. On the left is a town; a canal leading to Nanking branches off in a western direction. We were met here by several mandarin boats, which insisted on our immediate return.

The aspect of the country here differs widely from Chekeang; all is one fertile flat, not much above the level of the sea, well cultivated, without the least hill. The ravages occasioned by inundations are here very great, since no banks, made of this loamy soil, can resist the swollen river. In such low ground one would expect many meadows, but even the name of them is unknown. The Chinese have taken proper care to drain these marshy grounds of water, and to render them well adapted to the culture of rice, which requires a low and moist soil. They do not prize milk and butter, nor do they like to rear cattle for slaughter; hence they would derive no advantage from meadows. But to procure the immediate necessary of life, rice, as well as to furnish their tribute of grain to the capital, which in this province is very considerable, all their energy is directed to raise annually two
crops of grain from this fertile soil, one of rice and another of wheat.

We visited some houses which are very spacious, serving at the same time for granaries and dwellings. The natives are diminutive in size, and very dirty in their persons, as well as in their houses. They shewed very little curiosity or alarm at seeing us come suddenly upon them. While walking through the luxuriant fields, then covered with a ripe crop of wheat, we saw every where the people busy gathering in their rich harvest. As far as the eye could reach over this extensive plain, there was no spot bare of cultivation, or of exuberant vegetation. The dwellings were built in small clusters; the inhabitants possessed just so much land as would maintain their families; these hamlets were very numerous. We saw several females engaged in weaving nankeen cloth, and afterwards examined the cotton of which it is made, and which is of the same colour as the cloth. While we were in the boat at anchor, we received numerous visits from the people, whose curiosity seemed to be raised by degrees, and who staid along-side, silently gazing upon us. They possessed neither the intelligence nor politeness of the Che-keang people. Some of the peasants could read, and we were glad to present them with our books; some hesitated in accepting them, fearing we should ask a great sum in return; others received them gratefully. We greatly astonished them by firing a fowling-piece, for though accustomed to the use of their unwieldy matchlocks, they could form no conception how the powder is ignited without the application of a match. In one of the houses we saw stuck up a yellow paper given by the emperor, in token of his great respect towards an aged pair, who had lived a hundred years. This paper, with a large present, had been granted upon the representation of the local magistrate, who highly extolled this faithful pair. In reading the excellent sentiments contained in the paper,

one could not avoid thinking of those promises which do really exist in the minds of the natives, and which are made in practice. I heard something of the kindness and affection with which the natives are associated; they, " want money, but they are no less contented with the provisions which it is obtained.

We had now arrived at Shantung, and many junks were procuring provisions. We were on an island, and canvass sails. The inhabitants, all of them, are Chinese, and wherever they belong were not at all contented. They are bad sailors, and have often been wrecked. They visit the islands, to get rice, fish, and salt, and to trade with the inhabitants of the Kuo-keang islands.

We very soon had our boats, and immediately set sail, after the departure of the junk, which took us to a place near the coast. We had then to wait for the wind, before we could make headway. We arrived at Shantung, where we were received with the usual ceremony. We were conducted to the city, and the magistrates and officials collected on the shore to welcome us. The city is built on the stone pier, in front of the sea, and the town is divided into two parts. The town towards the Taou-ta is the old town, and the other part is the modern town. The city is built on the stone pier, and the town is divided into two parts. The town towards the Taou-ta is the old town, and the other part is the modern town.
SHANG-HAE.

one could not avoid thinking that paternal government does really exist in theory, and that an occasional show is made in practice. I have often made these remarks to the natives, and exhorted them to value a national government founded on such amiable principles. They always laughed heartily at these remarks, and ascribed them either to my ignorance or egregious stupidity. "Our rulers," say they, "want money, and care little about the means by which it is obtained. If you know this, you know the principles and practice of our government."

We had now advanced half way up to the city, whither many junkes were proceeding. Those belonging to this place are of an oblong form, and have generally four masts, and canvass sails. They seldom exceed two hundred tons burden, are all of them numbered, and have the place where they belong written in very large letters along the side. They are bad sailors, and are very frequently wrecked. They visit, principally, the harbours of Leaoutung, or Mantchou Tartary, from whence they import oil-cakes and peas; whilst they export silks, and other manufactures of Keang-nan.

We very soon had the mortification of seeing several boats from the city, and from Woo-sung, arrive at the entrance, to stop our progress. They were very numerous, and had several military commanders on board, who insisted upon our immediate return; but our boat being a very good sailor, we got a-head of them, and at half-past four arrived at Shang-hae. A crowd had already collected on the shore to catch a sight of us. We went up a stone pier, in front of a temple, dedicated to the queen of heaven, who seems to have many temples and worshippers in all the trading towns. Our first steps were directed towards the Taou-tae's, the office of the principal magistrate, to whom we had addressed a petition.

The city is built on the left side of the river, with
houses generally very low, streets narrow, shops numerous, some magnificent temples, and excessive bustle. Our visit was very unwelcome. At the Taou-tae’s office we were told that his excellency had left this, and repaired to Woo-sung, a town at the entrance, to have a conference with us. We expressed our regret at this news; but having once got to the city, we intended to take the opportunity of fully examining this great emporium of central Asia. The Che-heen of this district, a mandarin with a gold button, came out very soon to insult us, and upbraided us severely for coming hither. After calmly answering his objections, we reminded him that civility becomes the rulers of the Celestial Empire, and then returned to take up our quarters in the spacious temple where we had landed. Very soon we became acquainted with a man who held the office of interpreter, because he spoke both the Fuhkien and mandarin dialects. I have known very few characters so stained with falsehood as this man’s. His tongue was volatile; he was a regular opium smoker, and an abject slave of the mandarins. Surrounded by numerous police-runners, we had scarcely waited a quarter of an hour when the Taou-tae’s arrival was announced. He had come with the swiftness of lightning, and was ready to hear our petition. Before the ceremonial question of standing or sitting was adjusted, we passed more than half an hour in debate. He finally rose when we entered, and we also remained standing. He did not wait till Mr. L. addressed him, but said, in a very stern voice, “Why don’t you go to Canton, and trade there? It is an unheard-of thing for any ship to come to Shang-hae. Conform to the established laws of the Celestial Empire, and don’t trouble us with your presence.” To this Mr. L. replied: “The trade with Canton is in a state of confusion; but that does not concern Keang-nan province. As we allow junks from Shang-hae to enter our ports, we think it right to have the same of your vessels.” When he had thus said, “Do not permit them to drive them away.” “Why?” “Because I do not and does not treat a foreigner to a deal of altercation with them. Suez will not strike us to let us see the view. As we, however, had higher mandarins, we let him go.

Some priests of the Fuhkien sect, who had a death-blow wanted. They shewed us every attentiveness, none but the mandarins in order to prevent one of us setting a forcible argument to us, and the followings upon us, an order which was not issued.

June 21.—Early the next morning we set sail. We regarded our visit a great part of the position of a fierce edict, which a quarter of an hour after our arrival, in consequence of orders from Che-keang, warned us of the inadvisability of our intrusion. We were expected to receive the most explicit injunctions. As soon as the mandarin’s edicts were made known to us, there was no difficulty in being received under our observation, without any expressions of haughtiness and forbidding. We were as great numbers of merchants as we wished.
right to have the same privilege of coming hither with our vessels." When he heard this, he grew very fierce, and said, "Do not permit them to come to your harbours, but drive them away." "This is impossible," said Mr. Lindsay. "Why?" "Because our government understands reason, and does not treat any nation unreasonably." After a great deal of altercation we withdrew. We had not long sat down when our petition was returned, and a copy shewn to us, to let us see that the original paper was superfluous. As we, however, had written it for the information of the higher mandarins, we refused to receive it back.

Some priests of the Taou sect had taken charge of our bodily wants. They provided us a plentiful supper, and shewed us every attention. Indeed, we could complain of none but the mandarins, who wanted to shut us up, in order to prevent our going about the city. We used a forcible argument to dissuade them from placing such restraints upon us, and they very soon desisted.

June 21.—Early in the morning, Mr. L. was ordered to depart. We regarded these commands very little, but visited a great part of the city before breakfast. I copied a fierce edict, which had been issued against us before our arrival, in consequence of some notice they had received from Che-keang, warning them to be on their guard against our intrusion. We bought several articles, though the most explicit injunctions had been issued against selling. As soon as the mandarins perceived that we were firm and reasonable in our demands, they became polite, and yielded. All of them were opium smokers; and among all the number, there was not one respectable man who came under our observation. They all expected to repel us by haughtiness and force; but in this they so completely failed, that they now tried every means to conciliate us.

While walking through the streets, I was observed by great numbers of my former "parishioners." They called
me by name, and were anxious to express their joy at seeing me again; but I beckoned to them with my hand, not to endanger themselves by any show of affection to me. They understood me, and reluctantly complied. How often have I talked to this people, and explained to them the gospel of our glorious Redeemer! They are not ignorant of his holy name, nor unacquainted with his sufferings for all mankind. Alas! it does not enter their minds, that they must show a living faith in order to become partakers of that grace which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Though I have seen here very little fruit of preaching Christ crucified, I am fully persuaded, that if circumstances had allowed a longer stay among them, I might have gained a few for the gospel, for they were not entirely unfeeling.

We had boisterous weather in returning, but reached the ship just as she was entering the port, having been yesterday ashore. The naval officers had already been aboard, and ordered her immediately to leave the port. While entering, the guns from both batteries fired, the war-junks also gave us a few broadsides, which did as little harm as crackers. As soon as we anchored, the Taung-ping-kwan, or river-admiral, came along-side, and told us, in plain language, that we were not allowed to anchor here for a moment. However, while we were debating this point, our captain fired a salute, in return for the many shots; which threw him into such consternation, for the report of our guns was very loud, that he immediately ordered his boat to return on shore.

June 22.—A very fresh breeze, which would have endangered our safety, had we been on the bank outside. But our gracious God protects us from all dangers, seen and unseen; his name be praised to all eternity!

In our petition, we had pointed out the advantages which would accrue to this province, if trade were permitted. We used the most cogent reasons, such as the emperor's

great compassion on the Shang-hae merchant, for these things might be. Instead of this, our petition was a very angry answer to a specimen of Chinese petition, which had been sent to us by the populous town, according to whom we gave to mandarins. We could see numerous villages, people, who collected to see us; who had to jump over our gun ports, mandarins, that they might not be intruders. Our reception was a display of the soldier's embankments. They all spoke very friendly, polite, mounted, of various sorts, of them, which serve the regions were not in immediate assuards of the king, or the troops.

June 23.—A dozen small boats came along, bowing, and ever more, to our cabin. On the habitants of Ning-po, rash measures, an
great compassion towards foreigners, the trade of the
Shang-hae merchants to our ports, &c., and humbly hoped
these things might become a subject of deliberation. In-
stead of this, our petition was returned, accompanied with
a very angry answer. The letter we retained, as a fair
specimen of Chinese diplomacy, but refused to receive the
petition, which had been once formally accepted.

While the captain was going up the river, we took a
ramble in the Paou-shan district. This is on the left side
of the river, a very large alluvial tract, increasing every
year, as the sea recedes. As soon as we landed, the
soldiers were regularly drawn up, armed with pikes, sabres,
and matchlocks. We went to Woo-sung, a filthy, but
populous town, accompanied by large numbers of people,
to whom we gave books; and escorted also by several
mandarins. We crossed many fertile fields, entered into
numerous villages, and entertained ourselves with the
people, who collected from all quarters. In this walk we
had to jump over many ditches, which so wearied the
mandarins, that they were disgusted with such obstinate
intruders. Our return was rendered formal by a second
display of the soldiery, who were drawn up along the
embankments. Their officers behaved like gentlemen, and
spoke very friendly. We saw several large iron guns
mounted, of various calibres, with heaps of stones near
them, which serve instead of balls. These warlike prepa-
rations were not intended for us, according to the repeated
assurances of the officers, but for the customary review of
the troops.

June 23.—A dark day and fresh breeze, but several
boats came along-side. The people were inquisitive,
cringing, and even knelt when they were about to enter
the cabin. On the whole they seem far inferior to the inha-
bitants of Ning-po. The Taou-tae began to repent of his
rash measures, and begged us to give back his saucy
letter, that he might frame another according to the model of those which we had received at Ning-po; both of which requests were flatly refused.

June 24.—We reasoned our friends out of the use of the epithet E, “barbarians,” which they apply to all strangers indiscriminately. The idea of cunning and treachery is always attached to this name when uttered by the Chinese. As foreigners trading to China have hitherto patiently borne such an appellation, they have been treated as barbarians. It was highly necessary to object to this epithet, and to shew from its use in Chinese writings that the term conveyed reproach. From this time they abstained from the use of it, and called us foreigners, or Englishmen. They had the strongest objections to our purchasing any thing; but, regardless of this odious prohibition, we involved some people in danger to-day by buying of them a few trifles.

June 25.—A rainy and stormy day. During all this unpleasant weather, the soldiers, whom we really pity, are lodged under tents, and subject to the greatest hardships, all to no purpose. The greater part of them seem to be common ploughmen, forming a certain sort of land militia, calculated for the protection of the coast against the inroads of the fierce barbarians.

We received to-day a most insolent message, on which account we moved farther up the river, that we might come to a better understanding. As soon as they saw us so earnest, they were kind and yielding. The commander-in-chief, a general of very high rank, sent a message to tell us expressly that he was our warmest friend, and well acquainted with our heroic character, having formerly been an officer at Canton.

June 27.—Early in the morning we received a visit from the two naval officers, who had been frequently aboard. They had received orders to send us out of the harbour to-day; and if they could not, they meant to degrade. To shew us how much they valued our friendship, they screwed the button to their rank, and offered us to receive ourselves. The Taou-tcheou, who told us that he should receive us at the harbour. “This,” he said, “is not in the affair; but our officers, such as chief, would incur the blame no longer. The Taou-tcheou of the mandarins has received us sparingly; and on no other occasion resembled a farce than when fully acquainted with the Englishmen, if we had not been unjust to disturb the most worthless of the coast, and so shamed them a quarter of an inning that we wanted to turn away depart immediately, having been with the maxims of our corrupting officers, telling us that on occasion of degradation, they would tell us that they had sold all the produce of the country to leave. We gave them no real need, when they saw how friendly conversing and the groanings.

June 30.—All the precedents taken off, the corner of Woo-su-foo, “treacherous people, barbarians,” are not yet
to-day; and if they failed in the attempt, they were to be degraded. To show that they were in earnest, they unscrewed the button on their caps, which is the badge of their rank, and offered them to us as henceforth useless to themselves. The interpreter, who had no button to lose, told us that he should be imprisoned if we did not leave the harbour. "They were not the only persons implicated in the affair; but even his excellency, the commander-in-chief, would incur the imperial displeasure if we staid longer. The Taou-tae, also, was very much afraid." One of the mandarins tried to weep, but the tears fell very sparingly; and on the whole, this intended tragedy more resembled a farce than any thing else. If we had not been fully acquainted with the lying spirit which animated these men, if we had not known their baseness, it would have been unjust to disregard their entreaties. But they were the most worthless characters which we met with on all the coast, and so shameless as to deny an assertion uttered by them a quarter of an hour before. We simply told them that we wanted to trade; that after having traded we should depart immediately; that, as strangers, we never interfered with the maxims of their government, as to degrading or promoting officers; and that we were sorry to be the occasion of degradation to them. They afterwards came to tell us that they had been authorized to ask how much of all the produce of the country we wanted before we could leave. We gave them, therefore, a list of all things needed, when they gained more courage, and entered into a friendly conversation, interrupted only by their occasional groanings.

June 30.—All the restrictions to free intercourse are now taken off, though the papers posted up at every corner of Woo-sung, and most severely prohibiting the "treacherous people from all dealings with the barbarians," are not yet taken down. The mandarins themselves
are anxious to oblige us, and persuade the people to sell their choice articles. This sudden change greatly astonishes the people. One shop-keeper gave a mandarin a ludicrous welcome, by contrasting the gravity with which they one day prohibit a thing, with the lightness with which they next day trample on their own injunction.

We visited a temple opposite the ship, which had been built by a mandarin of rank, and served as a place of public resort. There were several huge idols, guardians of the river, and rulers of the sea. The queen of heaven had also a shrine, which was guarded by some demons, armed with tridents. It was very natural that they should ask me whether we also adored these idols. They could not have given me a better text for preaching. Accordingly, after dwelling upon the great truth of an Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, I reverted to the helplessness of their idols, which they all admitted. The mandarins laughed at these remarks. In general they succeed in waiving an argument which they do not intend to follow up, but I kept them to the point, by referring to the mediatorial sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. O that this precious doctrine might not be lost upon them! for all whom we have met here are stained with guilt, and irrevocably lost to all eternity, if divine power, revealed and communicated through Jesus Christ, do not rescue them.

Our conversation was to-day very familiar. They did their utmost to convince us of their friendly intention, and even hinted that they had received the most explicit orders to this effect. They claimed brotherhood with us, and declared themselves our most devoted friends. We only requested them to give us more substantial proofs of their veracity than mere words, to which they agreed. A long time we sat in a loft of the temple, while hundreds of people crowded around us, ready to do us a kindness if we would have it. The crowd was excessive; for a great many said they had no occasion to come to the temple.

We visited the fort built for the protection of the commerce of the district, a massive structure, which rises on the batteries; yet, for they have no thought of war, they have no reliance on it. With the slightest pretense of war, they are made to command it if the necessity arises. But the post, already used, and worse directed than they are made with, were found to be in better hands than his at whom they were directed. I had asked that some of them might be brought here to show the effect of which China has fallen into decay. But the post was crumblable, and fallen into dust, all that we could tell of them.

As I saw the empire was never intended for the Tartar family of whom they were and are the successors. That so happy a nation should suffer such a damp to their success, and cause them to defend itself, is a severe reproach. Their contempt of religion, and the rage with which they rend, and are rend, by their superstitions, China, tributary, and a people of so long a history, is the proof of their bigotry, while the
FORTIFICATIONS.

people crowded around, highly pleased to catch a glimpse of us when we were looking out of the windows. Though the crowd was excessive, not the least disturbance or altercation arose; for the mandarins did not beat them, and they had no occasion to retort the wrong.

We visited the fort on the left side, and saw the internal economy of the defences of the country. It was a very massive structure, and they had done their best to arrange the batteries; yet the most despicable force could take it, for they have no skill in fortification, but place their whole reliance on the thickness of the ramparts and walls. With the slightest inspection we perceived that both the forts were constructed after the European model, which they had probably received from the Jesuits. Though the river is here more than two miles broad, these forts might command it if the cannon carried to any considerable distance. But the powder is very bad, the guns are ill served and worse directed, their touch-holes are often very wide, they are made without proportion, and I am fully persuaded that some of them would more endanger the gunner's life than his at whom they were aimed. From the long peace which China has enjoyed, all their military works have fallen into decay. They even seem anxious that all should crumble to dust, and that wars should be blotted from remembrance. As far back as Chinese history informs, this empire was never so large as at this moment. The reigning Tartar family has grasped dominion in every direction, and been successful in all their ambitious enterprises. That so happy a termination of their warlike exploits should suggest to them that the nation is invincible, and can defend itself without fortifications, is not surprising. Their contempt of European tactics, without the aid of which they rendered whole nations, north and west of China, tributary, is as natural as the Turkish military bigotry, while they vanquished Europe.
Notwithstanding, it is really difficult to ascertain the means by which so extensive an empire is kept together. Persons in the least acquainted with Chinese institutions, can by no means ascribe it to the wisdom of the theoretical laws of the Celestial Empire. Many of them read excellently, but cannot be reduced to practice, because they are not adapted to existing circumstances. Others are trampled on both by mandarins and people, and few are strictly observed. Nor can we ascribe this political phenomenon to the internal vigour of the dynasty. So far as I have known the Tartars, they are great cowards, and they have received their political lessons from the Chinese. Apparently, the principal means which confirm their administration are bribes, which are profusely distributed to those who have the disposition to question their authority, and the power to enforce this questioning.

But in all this we ought to look higher, to an overruling Providence, which upholds nations by imperceptible means, and subverts kingdoms which can bid defiance to every earthly power.

That pacific disposition which generally marks the Chinese rulers is truly praiseworthy; for though often cruel, they detest bloodshed, and have generally made the greatest sacrifices to prevent it. We attach no blame, therefore, to their cowardice; but hope that, while they continue to be pacific, they will cease to be overbearing towards other nations, who have power to humble their arrogance.

We visited also the barracks, those abodes of misery for the ill clad and worse fed soldiers. They are chiefly taken from the drags of the people, such as have no other resource for a livelihood; the most emaciated in appearance, and the most immoral of the whole community. Though our arrival had subjected them to great hardships, many of them had contrived to get a new jacket, to appear at least decently. They endeavoured to be cheerful; and they presented us with a "Get in!" for the utmost contortions. We saw the wall, but could only make out on the opposite shore, the armour; some having pikes, &c. The dress of the men in large characters on their address is the same as the cap which marks the army have the character of jackets behind; and others. Even the soldiers are in certain parts of the regiments cultivate for their masters, they have no farms of their own; servants to the people. They are called for the most part to officers are very illiterate. There are, however, some literate, and degree of rank, buttons or precedence of the greatest consequence, the resources slender, and slender. Many of the general's salaries, besides only as long as the peace lasts; office is but a sinecure from the navy; and
at least decently. During the time of our visit, they endeavoured to be as friendly as possible; having no tea, they presented us with warm water. Their officers repeatedly exclaimed, “What a miserable state our men are in!” for the utmost wretchedness was depicted in their countenances. We saw the arrows hanging round upon the wall, but could espy no bows, which, they said, were on the opposite shore. There is little uniformity in their armour; some having swords, others matchlocks, a few pikes, &c. The division to which they belong is written in large characters upon the front of their jackets. Their dress is the same as that of the people; but they have a cap which marks the distinction. Some parts of the Chinese army have the character Yung—“valour,” written upon their jackets behind; and it is rather characteristic of their bravery. Even the soldiers are forced to become agriculturists. In certain parts of the empire, fields are laid out, which they cultivate for their subsistence; in other parts, where they have no farms of their own, they hire themselves out as servants to the peasants, and plough the fields, till they are called for the military reviews. The greater part of the officers are very illiterate, and have risen from the ranks. There are, however, military examinations, as well as literary, and degrees of bachelor, master, and doctor, in military tactics, regularly conferred. They have the same degrees as literary mandarins, and wear the same badges of rank, buttons or knobs, on their caps; yet they are regarded both by the literary mandarins and the people with the greatest contempt. Their salary is very small, their resources slender, and their situation not at all enviable. Many of the general officers are Tartars, who enjoy great salaries, besides often some lucrative civil offices. As long as the peaceful state of China continues, their office is but a sinecure. The army is no ways distinct from the navy; an officer or private quitting the one and
entering the other without any difficulty, for they both rank alike.

A great part of the navy is manned by Fuhkeen men, and the natives of the eastern part of Canton province. The common soldiers, as well as their officers, belong generally to the place which they garrison. It is only in case of extreme danger that they are drawn off to the frontiers, and then by decimation. The actual military force differs greatly from the numbers on the books. It is the practice of the officers to draw the full allowances, without having the receivers in pay. It may suffice to leave them on paper, so long as the Celestial Empire wages a paper war with European powers, and she is too cautious to try the experiment of the sword.

By the various accounts which we had read in the "Lettres Edifantes," we were prompted to visit the island of Tsung-ming. Though we passed very near it in entering the Woo-sung river, yet we could scarcely perceive it, because it was so low. We set out at half-past nine, A.M., steered north-east by north, crossing banks, and passing near and between several other islands, all of which were formerly shoals, which have gradually increased in height and extent, till they are now habitable. On reaching Tsung-ming, we entered a creek, where we found a junk at anchor. The island is entirely alluvial, formed by the Yang-tsze-keang, and the whole country is low, and almost level with the sea. To facilitate agriculture, the people have intersected it by creeks, and thrown up some dykes, which prove an ineffectual barrier against the high tides. The country was very densely populated, in separate clusters of two or three bamboo cottages. The ground was sown with rice, Barbadoes millet, and some culinary herbs: we found also apricot and peach trees, and apples of very inferior quality.

We bent our walk towards Ho-chin, about two miles distant from the sea. It is easy to pass through such natives were much more familiar and friendly to us than to them freely. It alludes to the protestant missionaries, who had taken with us a box of Scriptures. At first sight, on glancing at the crowd of them for more. I satisfaction of the power, but had then numerous applicants employmen

We scarcely any of them among these islands to oblige us, and proved it from misanthropy. The concourse of people scarcely pass through the gulliness, and they rather something worthy our attention. The temple engaged in gamblings, when the respected and unwelcome offered Mr. L. the a seat, but with rooms a numerous train of their intelligent ingenuity, the appearance of so many us with their characters frivolous, however, but
CHINESE FRIENDSHIP.

distant from the sea, and found it interesting and pleasant to pass through such richly-cultivated fields. At first, the natives were much astonished at our sudden appearance, having never seen an European; but they soon became familiar and friendly, because we distributed books among them freely. It afforded me great satisfaction, as the first protestant missionary, to tread this spot where once a regular mission of the Jesuits had been established. We had taken with us a great number of books, chiefly of the Scriptures. At first, they hesitated to receive them; but, on glancing at the contents, the people became clamorous for more. I satisfied their requests as long as it was in my power, but had then the mortification to send away numerous applicants empty.

We scarcely any where experienced such friendship as among these islanders, all of them seeming very anxious to oblige us, and prove that the Chinese character is exempt from misanthropy. Chin-ko itself is a very flourishing place, with numerous shops, and many pawnbrokers among them, who seemed to be the richest men in the community. The concourse of people was so great, that we could scarcely pass through the streets; but there was no rudeness, and they rather seemed interested to show us every thing worthy our attention. Finding several persons in a temple engaged in gambling, I presented them with a tract on gambling, when they started up astonished at our unexpected and unwelcome gift. At our departure, one man offered Mr. L. the conveyance of a wheel-barrow, which, being pushed on by one man, not only accommodates with a seat, but with room for a little baggage. We had a numerous train of well-dressed persons, who continued their intelligent inquiries all the way. Striking also was the appearance of so many healthy boys, playing around us with their characteristic glee. They were not entirely frivolous, however, but would occasionally turn towards us
and put some intelligent question, which, when satisfied, they communicated to each other. Great numbers stood on the shore to give us a hearty farewell, and lamenting that we could give them no more books. When we were approaching the forts at the entrance we were met by a mandarin boat, sent in pursuit of us. The officer stationed to guard against barbarians, drew upon himself a very severe punishment for his alleged failure in duty. He was led around blindfold, with a bamboo stuck through his ear, and a label, on which was written, "As a warning to the multitude, this culprit has his ear pierced for having neglected and disobeyed the martial laws, by the military commander-in-chief of Soo-sung."

It was in vain to lament such severity, for the great mandarins were determined to wreak their vengeance on the inferior grade. As for us, we had enjoyed the satisfaction of visiting the island undisturbed, and of seeing the Chinese character in its true light, that of friendliness and kindness towards foreigners. Our mandarin friends had thought us entirely ignorant of the existence of such an island; they were therefore highly exasperated that we had dared to discover it and note it in our charts. Judging from their efforts to keep Europeans ignorant of their country, they can scarcely believe that we have any knowledge of them, or are even acquainted with their most celebrated cities. How astonished were they, therefore, when we mentioned the principal districts composing the Keang-soon province, and the canals leading to Nanking. Hence they concluded that some treacherous native had betrayed his country, and brought the barbarians to the most fertile portions of the Celestial Empire. While seeing our maps, which had been made in the reign of Kang-he, they showed very little interest to become acquainted with their construction, because the names were in foreign characters.

July 5.—We revisited the Harring, which, unfortunately, being unfavourable, the tide did not serve us to sail past seven o'clock. We took the opportunity of the queen of heaven's being pleased to send us again. I began with the ceremony of the offering for as the best means of securing success. They seized them eagerly, and retired to read them.

Confounded at our being driven up two outrageous prices. They also stop us at the gates of the city, but we were unable to get in. We tried every member of silk, and some cotton. We had great objections, but to keep up the custom of buying, though they only paid a half the market price, from selling. I disapproved of our being sold, and nobody interfered. In fact, I imagined it was Most High's will to drive us from the city, being the bearer of holy books, and sending us to the old quarters, where the inhabitants showed us great kindness, housing us in their private houses. The mandarins afforded us no assistance, and we ought to be thankful that we are only the first time that they should have been driven from the city.

It will not be amiss to mention the arrangements at Canton in connection with the treaty, the only emporium near which the treaty made it the only place for importing or exporting all the southern products of China. It is also the only place to the harbours northwards and southwards.

There is always a great interest to be much increased,
July 5.—We revisited Shang-hae: though the wind was unfavourable, the tide enabled us to reach the place at half-past seven o’clock. We took up our quarters at the temple of the queen of heaven, where the crowds gathered around us again. I began with distributing the Scriptures to them, as the best means to promote their eternal happiness. They seized them eagerly from my hands, and immediately retired to read them leisurely.

Confounded at our unceremonious visit, the mandarins came in great haste to the temple. They were at this time more humble and yielding than before, yet they had stuck up two outrageous proclamations, which I immediately copied. They also attempted to prevent us from going into the city, but we passed through another gate, which they were unable to shut. We now bought large quantities of silk, and some trifles, to which they at first made great objections, but very soon granted to us the liberty of buying, though they nominally prohibited the shop-keepers from selling. I distributed tracts house by house, and nobody interfered. Highly grateful for the favour of the Most High bestowed upon his most unworthy servant, of being the bearer of his precious gospel, we returned to our old quarters, where the priests who had constantly shown us great kindness, had prepared a very substantial dinner. The mandarins afforded us every facility to do our business, and we ought to be truly thankful to them, for it was the first time that they showed good will towards strangers.

It will not be amiss to remark here that Shang-hae ranks after Canton in importance. Though this may not be the only emporium near the Yang-tsze-keang, and thus the only place for importation to Keang-nan, the junks from all the southern provinces are prohibited from proceeding to the harbours north of this great river.

There is always a brisk trade carried on, which would be much increased, if Europeans were admitted to the
The consumption of foreign articles, among the many millions who inhabit central Asia, is very great. Hence the imports far exceed the exports; the latter consist chiefly of raw silk, silk stuffs and teas, besides manufactures fabricated by the skilful hand of the Keang-nan people. Ships bound to this place might touch at Sha-po, in Che-keang province, Hang-chew district, and at Soo-chow, a little south of Woo-sung river. This latter place is one of the most populous and delightful districts of the whole Chinese empire, and might fully claim the poetical name of Arcadia. That so large a field for mercantile enterprise has been hitherto overlooked, is really surprising. The fear of infringing Chinese laws has deterred ships from even attempting to open commercial intercourse. It is true there are obstacles, but not insurmountable; they are surely less than at New Zealand and Madagascar. If we consider the lukewarmness with which these regions, containing so many millions of immortal souls, are viewed by most of the christian world, we are constrained to weep bitterly. Whilst blind fanaticism, nourished by attachment to popery, has found ways and means to penetrate into these regions, we are satisfied with the bare excuse of alleged impossibilities. If mere fanaticism can conquer the obstacles, ought we not to expect that true christian enthusiasm will prevail? Can we not fully believe that the constant prayer of the church, with a firm reliance on the divine promises, will gradually open the way? If the heralds of Christianity might not at first be permitted to stay, nobody will prevent them from passing along the coast, and the numbers to which they may thus have access are very great, and well repay the trouble. Let us not object that the Chinese laws of exclusion are very severe; they are nominally so, but lose that severity in the same degree with which they are resisted with firmness and reason. Let it rather be remembered that these millions of inhabitants are an immense number of Europeans, and never a book. I speak from experience, and though I am conscious for the advancement of the best, I yet I am fully persuaded that I am better.

July 6.—Two messengers have been sent in order to settle our affairs. Military mandarin with civilian, with a crystal cup in hand. To this audience, to bring the presents, were seated in the honourable anchorage, and received the gifts. After the usual compliments, the Foo-tsang, whose character were so well known in the necessary articles. He was satisfied with this visit of the Chinese mandarins. Mr. L. was pleased with the reasonableness of permitting the invariable laws of that country to prevail. We referred to him a letter offering to trade to all the Chinese merchants and represent the matter to the proper person, with particularity. When our respective subjects were explained, they would rejoice to learn that the Chinese would be a friendly and enduring. They were well pleased that they were our way and the extensive edicts which I had been in the habit of, but enmity. They very much desired which they were empowered to act.
of inhabitants are anxious to cultivate friendship with Europeans, and never object to receiving our christian books. I speak from facts against inveterate opinions; and though I am conscious of having done but very little for the advancement of the kingdom of God in Keang-nan, yet I am fully persuaded that my successor will succeed better.

July 6.—Two messengers were sent from Soo-chow in order to settle our affairs; one of them a Foo-tseang, military mandarin with a red button, and the other a civilian, with a crystal button. We were formally invited to this audience, to bring matters to a conclusion. They were seated in the hall of the temple, opposite to our anchorage, and received us with the greatest friendship. After the usual compliments, we sat down near them, and the Foo-tseang, who was the chief speaker, inquired whether we had been at Shang-hae, and had bought the necessary articles. He rejoiced very much that we were satisfied with this visit, and had no complaint against the mandarins. Mr. L. was very eloquent in showing the reasonableness of permitting us to trade. They urged the invariable laws of the Celestial Empire as their general rule. We referred to laws still more ancient, permitting a trade to all the Chinese ports. They then requested us to represent the matter to our king, that he might send a proper person, with powers to negotiate an arrangement. When our respective sovereigns had agreed on the matter, they would rejoice to give us free permission. They ended with a declaration of the friendly feelings which they cherished towards us.

Whilst they were thus confident of having convinced us that they were our warm friends, we produced those offensive edicts which I had copied, and which breathed nothing but enmity. They were ashamed of the language in which they were couched, and would have denied the
existence of such proclamations, had we not copied them only one day since. The whole conversation was conducted in a spirit of amity, the best understanding reigned throughout the whole, and we began fondly to believe that these men would take the trouble to transmit our representations to the viceroy of Keang-nan. Mr. L. deserves credit for pleading so well the cause of his countrymen; and though we did not reap the advantages of such a conference, we hope that others may be benefited by it in future. The people also, who saw that we were on so good footing with the mandarins, rejoiced at such a happy change.

In the evening we went to the opposite side of the river to visit some of the hamlets, scattered everywhere over this alluvial soil. The cottages are generally built among a cluster of trees, and would be very pleasant, if care were taken to keep them clean. But even the smell of the exhalations from the environs, is so offensive that one scarcely dares to enter. All the fields yield very good crops, but the number of the inhabitants is sufficient to consume their most abundant harvests. After distributing some books to very attentive readers, we went higher up the field and turned towards the fort. This threw the garrison into consternation, and some soldiers came out to prevent our proceeding further; but they were very unceremoniously driven back by the second officer of the ship, who was one of our party. We inspected the batteries, passed several ranks of soldiers, and finally came up to the officers near the fort, who besought us not to enter, because their superiors had forbidden it. There was an open stable for the horses belonging to the imperial cavalry; but it appeared that no care was taken of the ponies, which constitute all their horses, but that they were left to shift for themselves. Their barracks outside of the fort having been destroyed by water, they readily afforded us every comfort.

To extenuate his hand, Mr. L. repeated the gross lie, that we had permitted us to sit down and admire the military review, and now we left them under the weather, as the old soldiers poured down in torrents, their knees in mud. When we could, and answered no more than dictated.

July 8.—After having stowed a great quantity of provisions (our anchorage had been so near the land) The two days previous to this occasion to come on board. There was a great demand; and I enjoyed the reputation of distributing the word of truth, and also were benefited. Our personal influence upon the countrymen of the viceroy we learned to relax their severity in business to-day to praise the good disposition of our character as the more we learned. It is so despicable for falsehood to be believed of us little.

After having made the necessary repairs under the clothes, we were surprised at the kindness of the officer, who had very kind to offer us the keys of a more solid object.

As soon as we had opened the door of the house, valiantly, leaving us no choice but to enter.
afforded us every comfort in their power, which amounted to permitting us to sit down in these stables. They repeated the gross lie, that they were collected here for a military review, and not solely on our account; whilst they complained most bitterly of the literary mandarins, who left them under the open sky. Whilst the rain poured down in torrents, they were obliged to stand up to their knees in mud. We consoled them in the best way we could, and answered many questions which their curiosity dictated.

To extenuate his harshness, the Taou-tae had sent a more reasonable edict on board, but as the seal was wanting, we returned it, to the great consternation of the interpreter and the mandarins. The Taou-tae afterwards was prevailed upon to imprint his official seal upon the document.

July 8.—After having bought, and received as presents, a great quantity of provisions, we prepared for our departure, (our anchorage had been lat. 31° 23', long. 121° 20'.) The two days previous they had given the people permission to come on board. Our visitors were therefore very numerous; and I enjoyed an excellent opportunity of distributing the word of eternal life: some sick persons also were benefited. Our visit here has had a most beneficial influence upon the people; and the mandarins have learned to relax their severity. They made it their principal business to-day to praise us beyond bounds, representing our character as the most amiable on earth. But they are so despicable for falsehood, that their vain talk influences us little.

After having made them a few presents, which they hid under the clothes, we bade them farewell. They were very kind to offer us their convoy, to which we could not object.

As soon as we had left the harbour, they fired most valiantly, leaving us no doubt of their heroism; the military
camps were immediately withdrawn, and the mandarins no doubt began to breathe freely. Had we come hither as enemies, the whole army would not have resisted half an hour, for they were all dispirited; and the mandarins went so far as to report that one soldier had actually died at the sight of our second mate: the war-boats are unable to keep out the smallest well-armed ship; and the people highly disapprove of the restrictions upon trade. All this we have fully ascertained, and make report of it to draw the attention of missionaries, as well as merchants, to this interesting field. At the same time, we should highly disapprove of violent measures to obtain an object, which might be gained by firmness and resolution.

As the heat has been very oppressive, and the mosquitoes numerous, we were happy to leave this marshy country, where all had fallen more or less sick.

The tide being in our favour, we advanced slowly over the banks, followed by the imperial convoy, to protect us against the pirates in our way to Canton. Captain Rees, our naval commander, in this unexplored passage, and in the most critical moments, displayed the greatest skill in extricating the vessel from most dangerous situations. By his consummate skill and coolness, he rendered the greatest service to the expedition. He has also made accurate charts of the harbours which we visited.

July 14.—Without suffering in any way from our passage near the banks of the Yang-tsze-keang, we arrived at the promontory of Shang-tung, at Wei-hae-wei, where the English embassy formerly touched, lat. 37° 8', long. 121° 20'. We immediately landed at the island Lew-kung-taou, inhabited by fishermen, who were astonished at our sudden appearance. In walking over the hills, we experienced from the natives more than one instance of reserve and unfriendliness, which seemed depicted on every countenance. Most of the people refused or returned our books,

though some had the book. The houses are built of great stone, and the people seemed very happy all over Shang-tung province, apparently much more happy than in their southern provinces; but they are pale and languid. Not a few of these natives, who, they say, are the great author of cereals, make good soldiers; for they are the bravest, and their southern countrymen are the hospitable shores of plenty of work, and various; they have lately flocked into large colonies, which greatly, both countries. All the inhabitants, with great fluency; and all understood it perfectly, would do well.

As soon as the ship had reached her large stature, came aboard, and made the customary inquiries. We were not a little perplexed at the officers followed him; and he inquired from Peche-le province, was particularly anxious to see what had touched, and the time he had received from the emperor. But to console the native for poverty and insignificance, he recommended us to go through the province extensively.

After dinner, we went...
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Though some had the boldness to receive and read them. The houses are built of granite, and covered with sea-weed: the people seemed very poor, and indeed poverty reigns all over Shang-tung province. They are stronger, and apparently much more healthy, than the inhabitants of the southern provinces; but the females, on the contrary, look pale and languid. Nothing can exceed the clownishness of these natives, who, though born in the land of Confucius, the great author of ceremonies, are regardless even of the common rules of decorum. The odour of garlic which proceeds from them keeps every stranger at a distance, and is often quite intolerable. But they are more honest than their southern countrymen; and, if well trained, would make good soldiers; for of all the Chinese which I have seen, they are the bravest. Necessity obliges them to seek the hospitable shores of Mantchou Tartary, where they find plenty of work, and various means of subsistence. Thither they have lately flocked in great numbers, and formed very large colonies, which greatly contribute to the prosperity of both countries. All the natives speak the mandarin dialect with great fluency; and any one who would learn to speak it perfectly, would do well to stay among them some time.

As soon as the ship had anchored, a mandarin, of very large stature, came aboard, rudely entered the cabin, and made the customary inquiries. He seemed reserved, and not a little perplexed, at our arrival: several of his fellow-officers followed him; and among them, a literary mandarin, from Peche-le province, of very pleasing manners. He was particularly anxious to know all the places where we had touched, and the times of each. According to orders received from the emperor, we were not allowed to go on shore. But to console us, they all spoke largely of the poverty and insignificance of Wei-hae-wei, and strongly recommended us to go to Leaoutung, where we might trade extensively.

After dinner, we went ashore; and, though strongly...
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urged by a military mandarin to proceed no further, we did not listen to his injunctions, but proceeded slowly alongside of a wall, till we reached the top of a hill. Here were two stones, with inscriptions, from which we learned that this city had been built during the Ming dynasty, and repaired during the reign of Yung-lu, (1423.) The inroads of the Japanese are mentioned, and this is considered a firm bulwark against their invasions.

When the mandarin perceived that we persisted in our walk, he smote his breast most furiously, and seemed entirely frantic. In walking through the fields, sowed with wheat, onions, garlic, Barbadoes millet, and culinary herbs, we saw a team, consisting of an ass, a cow, and a mule, yoked together, which presented the most ludicrous appearance yet seen among Chinese agriculturists. On our return, we stipulated with our mandarin guide, that provisions should be sold us; and he called an old man, who now became the speaker, and explained to us every thing relating to the place. I had the pleasure to observe, that the more civilized part paid more regard to our christian books than the fishermen had done, and we distributed several among them.

July 16.—Fully expecting that the mandarins would keep their word, we went on shore, but found the people backward to sell provisions, and every one willing to impose on us. Weared with evasions, we met the mandarins, who were seated in the area of a temple devoted to the queen of heaven. They complained that we had taken a fowling-piece on shore, and fired it several times. We excused ourselves by saying, that it was our constant custom to go armed in an unknown country, and that fowling was our diversion. But after all our requests, we were obliged to depart without effecting our purpose.

We now stretched over to Corea, and boarded junks, bound to Teen-tsin: one of them was from Siam, and all the crew recognized me.

July 17.—A stiff breeze day. A merciful Providence, among other blessings, has vouchsafed to us, dangers, along the coast of Corea, to escape. Truly grateful!

Before entering on any speculation of this singular nation, I will mention that Corea, called by the nations near to the Chinese, who besides Tartary, extends along the western coast are the works of the Jesuits here. The maps and charts of the Jesuits have hitherto been so imperfect, that the longitude of Corea was given too far westward, which we saw were very far from the truth; the whole country is thinly inhabited, and still in a barbarous state, but the outside of the country is as pleasant as any part of China. The coast, where the king resides, is one of the odious system of excesses. A nation, to a certain extent, maritime nation, been cast up out of the sea, entirely independent, and cannot admit of a numerous court. The king may well be styled the “thousand isles,” for the variety of the temples, of every shape. Though