JOURNAL

OF A

THIRD VOYAGE ALONG THE COAST OF
CHINA, &c.

1832-33.

After much consultation with others, and a conflict in my own mind, I embarked in the Sylph, Captain W. commander, and A. R., Esq. supercargo, Oct. 20th, 1832. The Sylph was a fast-sailing vessel, well manned and armed. She had to beat up against a strong north-east monsoon, and to encounter very boisterous weather before reaching her destination, Teen-tsin and Mantchou Tartary. From the moment we left Macao roads, we had to contest our whole course against wind and current. Furious gales, accompanied with rain and a tremendous sea, drove us several days along the coast, threatening destruction to our barque. But God who dwelleth on high did not forsake us; and though often engulphed in the deep, his almighty hand upheld our sinking vessel. Only one Lascar was swept away; we heard his dying groan, but could lend no assistance. It was a dark, dismal night; we were thoroughly drenched with water; horror hovered around us. Many a wave swept over our deck, but those which dashed against our poop were really terrible; three of them might have sunk us.

October 26th, we lay to under a double-reefed sail, and then ran into Ke-scak (Ke-shih) bay, on the east coast of
Canton province. The harbour is lined with rocks. The coast is bleak and studded with granite; the interior is very fertile. Many villages and cities are visible from this place. We were soon visited by the fishermen, a boisterous and rough sort of people. In exchange for their fish, we gave them rice, but they were never satisfied with the quantity. Perceiving, however, that the barter yielded them a great profit, they brought vegetables, and offered themselves as brokers. Although this was an imperial naval station, they were by no means frightened by the presence of his Majesty’s officers. They received my books gladly, frequently repeating their thanks, and promising to circulate them far and wide amongst their friends. In this voyage I was provided with a choice stock of books, three times the number which I had in the preceding voyages.

During the night the wind subsided, and for the first time we enjoyed repose. The next evening we visited Kap-chee (Ka-tsze), a little to the east of Ke-seak. Here I was hailed by my friends, who called me their townsman, and expressed their delight in seeing me come back again. Books were in great demand, and the genuine joy in receiving them was visible in every countenance. I had been here a few months before, and travelled through many a village with the word of God in my hand. It had drawn the attention of many, and the interest now manifested was truly encouraging.

The weather becoming gradually fair, though the wind was contrary, we were able, by tacking, to advance slowly. When we passed Namao (Namaou) in Fuhkeen, we saw occasionally large villages and cities along the coast, at which we could only gaze, and were obliged to put into Lae-ao (Nae-ao) bay. This is in the northern part of Fuhkeen, lat. 26° N.; and long. 120° E.; a very excellent harbour, and almost land-locked. Anxious to proceed on our voyage we were kept afloat. When I had got nearer, but by the urgent looking man, he was a gift, but then turning away. Their attention was in vain; requests were made, and surrounded by clung to our tackle are good books, and will determination had the they so earnestly exulting.

November 8th, we of Chekeang, in lat. harbour is spacious, a shelter against all which were on the were offered to the upon the plea of having, present, they made at them upon credit.

Innumerable natives, as we approach the end. These coasters seem to be a briny element to the Chinese fishermen, with the people, the natives of and daring. The great were visited by them; the
on our voyage we weighed anchor early next morning. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood, who had never seen a ship, came off in boats, but being rather distrustful they kept aloof. When I hailed them they approached nearer and nearer, but by the time they came alongside, we had already got under way. Tendering a book to an intelligent looking man, he was at first surprised at the strange gift, but then turning to his countrymen he read it aloud. Their attention was instantly drawn towards him: other requests were made, and within a few minutes the ship was surrounded by clamorous applicants. The Captain was beckoning them away, and loosened the painters, but they clung to our tackle and declared, "We must have these good books, and will not move without them." Such determination had the desired effect; I gave them freely what they so earnestly craved, and they went away exulting.

November 8th, we put into Pih-kwan, on the frontiers of Chekoang, in lat. 27° 11'; long. 120° 22' E. This harbour is spacious, and by changing the berth, affords shelter against all winds. Here we visited several junks which were on their way to Shang-hae. When books were offered to the crews, they refused to accept them, upon the plea of having nothing to give us as an equivalent; and upon hearing that they might receive them as a present, they made many bows, and said that they took them upon credit.

Innumerable native craft are always seen plying about, as we approach the emporiums of Keangnan and Chekeang. These coasters seem to be an aquatic race, preferring the briny element to the comforts of the shore. Of all the Chinese fishermen, which is a very numerous class of people, the natives of Fuhkeen are the most enterprising and daring. The greater part of the Chinese coast is visited by them; they brave all dangers for a scanty
livelihood, and suffer the severest hardships to return to their families with five dollars after the toils of a whole year. Want and their lawless inclinations have frequently converted them into pirates; even at this moment they are the terror of the whole Chekeang coast.

We had now (Nov. 15th) reached Keang-nan; the winds were variable, and a month after our departure we saw the promontory of Shantung, and were beating towards Manchouv Tartary. It was now a year since I had been there; we landed at Fung-ming, a place to the south of Kae-chow. Some Shantung emigrants, which here constitute the most numerous part of the population, were quietly walking along the shore, when they saw "these strangers" start up to view. Instead of being startled they looked very gravely at us, and after having satisfied their curiosity in regard to our origin, they went on with their work. We had had a long conversation with the owner of a house, who had posted himself right in the way to prevent our entering his dwelling. I now thought it high time to make them a present of some books. When they found that I really intended to give these to them, they changed their tone, and became friendly and hospitable. We entered their hovels, of which the oven constituted the principal part, and, in fact, seems to be the drawing-room, bed, and kitchen. Pig, ass, and goats lodged in an adjoining room very comfortably. Our host had provided a quantity of fuel from the stalks of the cotton plant, which grows here very abundantly. He had a very numerous and healthy family of children dancing with delight about the strangers. Every body was well dressed in seven-fold jackets and skins, and seemed also to be well fed; for the country abounds in all the necessaries of life, and has abundance of produce for exportation. When we left the people, now grown more familiar with us, they pressed forward to receive the word of eternal life,

and were by no means ungrateful for the precious gift.

A few hours after, we saw Tzse-kow, in lat. 39° 30'. We found a large fleet of junks, but now lying at anchor. We observed their produce to be hearted, and answerable to our expectations. Their unanimous advice was, to proceed north, because we should pass the season before the hills were visible to their reading, and hills around them, and everything was dedicated to the queen. The saving power hung up their blind men were the whole of the country, and intelligent people, who were well read in the books, and had written in the running of the construction of their shirts, and the broadcloth which they fancied very much; but they were by no means ungrateful for the precious gift.

The valleys along the coast were very fertile. In no part of the world do the productions increase more rapidly and constantly than here. Every year adds to the number of the population, the navigation more extensive, and the estuary which runs a course...
PROSPECTS OF USEFULNESS. 301

and were by no means deficient in compliments and thanks for the precious gift.

A few hours afterwards we arrived in the bay of Tungsze-kow, in lat. 39° 23' N., long. 121° 7' E., where we found a large fleet of junks, bound to the southern provinces, but now lying at anchor. They were all loaded with Manchou produce. The people on board seemed open-hearted, and answered our questions with great frankness. Their unanimous advice was, not to proceed farther to the north, because we should there meet with ice.—I can bear witness to their readiness to receive the tidings of salvation. Though their utter ignorance of Christianity opposed a strong barrier to their understanding our brief conversations, yet the books will speak to them at leisure. They may be only partly perused, or even some of them may be thrown away; yet many a tract and Bible will find readers, and impart knowledge necessary to the salvation of the soul. Filled with these thoughts we visited the valleys and hills around the bay. Very few traces of idolatry were visible in their houses; we saw only one temple dedicated to the queen of heaven, with the trophies of her saving power hung up—some junks in miniature. A few blind men were the overseers. We found here a very intelligent people, who made rational inquiries of us, and who also read our books.—Nothing struck them so much as the construction of a watch. The fine calico of our shirts, and the broad cloth of our coats, also struck their fancy very much; but for their want of money they would have bought these at a high price.

The valleys along this coast present an alluvial soil. In no part of the world perhaps does the sea recede so rapidly and constantly as in Leou-tung and Pih-chih-le. Every year adds to the land some fertile acres, and makes the navigation more dangerous. We walked along an estuary which runs a considerable distance into the country.
Large flocks of goats were browsing upon the remnants of
grass which the retiring autumn had left. The people
were much frightened when they saw us entering the
villages; many of their houses were very bare and com-
fortless. I here learned, to my great surprise, that the
people had become apprehensive that we were about intro-
ducing Roman Catholicism. Though I explained to them
the wide difference between our respective tenets, they
shook their heads and began to disbelieve my statement.
The people in the junks, however, were all attention, and
gladly received the gospel. We had, from an eminence,
a full view of the adjacent country. None of the existing
charts give a correct outline of the coast; the south-
western extremity does not run out into a promontory,
but ends in a bluff headland, about a degree in breadth.
Many islands are scattered along the coast, but the water
is shallow, seldom exceeding ten fathoms.

On the 28th of Nov. we arrived in the roads of Ka-
chow. Upon examination, we found it impracticable to
anchor so close in shore as to protect us from the strong
northerly gales; we therefore bore away for Kin-chow and
the Great Wall. Whilst we were anticipating the pleasure
we should experience in beholding this ancient structure,
we ran upon a sand-bank, which was entirely unknown to
all of us. The ship knocked very heavily upon a hard
sand bottom, and our apprehension both of losing keel
and rudder, and of springing a leak, were by no means
groundless. Backing the sails and throwing part of the
cargo overboard, proved ineffectual to set us off; the vessel
settled in the sand, and remained immovable. The next
morning a fierce north wind blew from the ice-fields of
Kamtschatka down the bay; the water decreased, the ship
fell over on her beam-ends, and all our Lascars were
disabled by cold from doing any work. During these
hours of peril, our almighty God consoled our hearts so
that we were enabled to pray for the best.

After having failed in our party of volunteers was
nearly all covered with frost, and at last we were received most
hostilely by the priest, but found no more nor less support
than the Lascars was frozen to the verge of eternity. No"

302 VOYAGE IN THE SYLPH.

SEVERITY

the 28th chapter of Acts; and a fire was kindled.

Whilst we were on the lighters, the ship got
water upon the bank. —for we were very near
wards an interview with that man even he, though a hea-
man, suprême heaven." When I

ran the risk of perishing, I
rose on a sudden, and evry thing congealed.

Dec. 3d, our ship was
it with solid ice. After

in getting up the anchor
these dismal regions.
bay, we saw a great many
hailed by the kind nature
and fuel, which the
never furnished. The
to oblige, and showed

them more friendly;
SEVERITY OF THE FROST. 303

that we were enabled to remain cheerful, and to hope and pray for the best.

After having failed in all our efforts to get her off, a party of volunteers was made up, and departed for Kae-chow to procure assistance from the mandarins. The land was more than twenty-five miles distant, the cold most intense, and we had thirteen helpless Lascars in the boat. Entirely covered with ice, we arrived at a head-land, and were received most humanely by some fishermen and a priest, but found no mercy before the mandarins. One of the Lascars was frozen to death, the others were on the verge of eternity. Never did I so well understand the 28th chapter of Acts; we also were received into cottages, and a fire was kindled to thaw our clothes.

Whilst we were on shore, endeavouring to hire some lighters, the ship got off by the interposition of God, who had ordered the south wind to blow, thus driving up more water upon the bank. His name be praised to all eternity—for we were very near utter destruction. I had afterwards an interview with a Manchou officer of high rank; even he, though a heathen, ascribed our escape to "supreme heaven." When we returned to the ship, we again ran the risk of perishing with cold; for the north wind rose on a sudden, and the cold became so intense that every thing congealed.

Dec. 3d, our ship was coated inside as well as outside with solid ice. After several hours of labour we succeeded in getting up the anchor, and took a speedy farewell of these dismal regions. At our re-entering Tung-tsze-kow bay, we saw a great number of junks at anchor. We were hailed by the kind natives, who procured for us provisions and fuel, which the mandarins had promised, but had never furnished. The absence of their rulers rendered them more friendly; they did every thing in their power to oblige, and showed themselves worthy of our trust.
There is here a great field for Christian enterprise. The inhabitants show much sound understanding, and are free from that degrading superstition which reigns in southern Asia. Though every grove and high place was full of idols and images, and every eminence adorned with a temple, the people were not utterly enslaved by superstitions. In their habits and behaviour, they appeared very much like our peasantry: some of their farms were in excellent order, and plenty reigns everywhere.—Kiaochow city, which we visited, is situated about ten miles in the interior, surrounded by a high wall, and thickly inhabited; it is a place of extensive trade, but the houses are low and ill-built. The Chinese colonists, which are by far the most numerous part of the population, are very industrious; whilst the Tartars live at their ease, and enjoy the emoluments of government. I consider Mantchou Tartary as a very hopeful field for missionary enterprise, and humbly hope that it will soon attract the notice of some Society.

Unable to remain any longer in these northern latitudes, we bore away for Shantung. However, as we there found the cold rigorous, we steered for Shang-hae, in the southern part of Keungsoo province. Though keeping about eighty miles distant from the shore of Keangnam, we nearly ran upon a bank of the Yellow River. It is very apparent, that the immense sand-flats of Keangnam extend a great distance from the low coast, but this coast, as well as the greater part of Shantung and Pih-chih-lic, is entirely unknown to any European navigator. We arrived (December 11th) near the entrance of the channel, which leads between shoals and sand-flats to the Woo-sung river, on which Shang-hae is situated; here we were detained for three days by contrary winds. The air was darkened, and the storm raged throughout the dismal days and nights. The motion of the ship was very great, the sea dashing violently against her weather-side.
When at last the thick clouds cleared away, and the sun shone out in his lustre, the sea still running very high, we perceived a junk in distress. She had lost both her masts and anchors, and was drifting like a log upon the wide ocean. Several Chinese vessels were in our neighbourhood, but only one approached her, and after perceiving her helpless state, bore away with one of her crew. It was time now for us to retaliate in the Christian way; for when we were in distress, nobody came to save us, and we had now an excellent opportunity of executing Christ’s commands in Matt. v. 44. We manned a boat and ran along-side, but were nearly swamped by the huge waves. The crew, twelve in number, stretched out their hands for assistance, and with piteous cries intimated their dangerous situation. The first thing which they handed to us was an image of the queen of heaven, the patroness of Chinese navigators. At this extraordinary instance of heathenish delusion, I grew impatient, as we had not a moment to lose; I called to them, “Let the idol perish, which can neither save itself nor you.” We snatched up four men into the boat and returned towards the ship. The idol was drowned, but all the men were saved. As soon as they reached our ship, the captain of the junk fell on his knees before Mr. R. the supercargo. We directed him to adore the true God, and render him thanks for deliverance. When we had saved their clothing, and a small part of their cargo, the water had almost risen between decks, and we set fire to the vessel.

After many reverses, having entered the Woo-sung river, we drew up a memorial addressed to the principal magistrate of Shang-hae district, and delivered the Chinese, who were natives of Tsung-ming island, to his care. We had immediately an interview with admiral Kwang, the naval commander of this station; he was very friendly, made numerous inquiries respecting Mr. L., the supercargo of
the Amherst, and offered his services for our accommodation. During the time which we staid in the river, or lived at Shang-hae, I had frequent opportunities of visiting those places where I had been six months ago. The people appeared even more friendly than before. In the villages, they inquired whether I had brought new books with me, and were eager to obtain them. After distributing a few, the demand grew more urgent, so that I could scarcely show my face in any of the villages without being importuned by numerous crowds. Most joyfully did they receive the tidings of salvation, though still ignorant of the glad message, “To you is born a Saviour.”—As it is a custom with them to expose their dead near their houses, they are constantly reminded of their mortality.

The mandarins never directly interfered with my distributing books or conversing with the people. After having issued the severest edicts against having any commercial dealings, they gave us full permission to do what we liked. When they saw that their inflammatory placards had not the desired effect, they changed their tone, praised our conduct in rescuing twelve Chinese, but gave also their paternal advice to the people, to have nothing to do with the barbarians. Meanwhile an imperial edict had arrived, enjoining the officers to treat us with compassion, but not to supply us with rice or water. They acted up to the letter of these peremptory injunctions, but sent great quantities of live-stock, flour, &c. aboard, with the sole condition of not paying for them. As we were rather short of provisions, we accepted their stores.

This central part of China is very fertile, being a continuous plain of a black, loamy soil, well irrigated by numerous ditches and canals. The population is immense, and if we ought to judge from the numerous children which we saw, it is on the increase. Shang-hae appears to be the greatest emporium of the empire. We found there more than a thousand junks, and others were arriving who may call it the gate of the central provinces of China in the port, (from December to February, though it is situated in latitude 30° 37', until the thermometer is rather severe, the thermometer is very flat, and close in to the land. The River is very flat, and close in to the land. The land, so that the flats are dry at low water. They are quite flat, and are gradually to reach the shore a few miles from our jolly-boat got aground. The flats are dry at low water. But from Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety. From Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety. From Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety. From Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety. From Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety. From Cha-poo to the undulating ridges, and hills, is about a mile through the flats, and as the coast is undulating, there is no great variety.
more than a thousand junks moored opposite the city, and others were arriving whenever the weather permitted. We may call it the gate of central Asia, and especially of the central provinces of China. During the time we remained in the port, (from Dec. 25th, 1832, till Jan. 5th, 1833,) though it is situated in latitude 31° north, the weather was rather severe, the thermometer seldom rising above 33.

Jan. 5th we sailed from this port, shaping our course for Cha-poo, a harbour on the north coast of Chekeang, in lat. 30° 37'. Until you come to the high lands which form the harbour of this city, the whole coast from the Yellow River is very flat, and scarcely visible even with the ship close in to the land. The sea is everywhere receding from the land, so that the flats formed along the shore, which are dry at low water, constitute a barrier to the whole coast, and are gradually becoming arable soil. We tried to reach the shore a few miles north of Cha-poo, but even our jolly-boat got aground, and we must have waded more than a mile through the mud, before we could reach the shore. But from Cha-poo the country becomes hilly, with undulating ridges, and continues so for a long distance, with little variation.

Cha-poo is the only place from whence the imperial monopoly with Japan is carried on. It has a tolerable harbour, with considerable overfalls. The rise and fall of the tide is very great, so much so that the smaller junks are left high and dry at low water. Together with its suburbs, the town is perhaps five miles in circuit, built in a square, and intersected by numerous canals, which are connected with the Hang-chow river. Nothing can exceed the beautiful and picturesque appearance of the surrounding region. We may say, that as far as the eye can range, all is one village interspersed with towering pagodas, romantic mausoleums, and numerous temples. The adjacent country is called the Chinese Arcadia; and surely if any territory
in China is entitled to this name, it is the tract around Hang-chow and Cha-poo. It seems that the natives also are sensible of their prerogative in inhabiting this romantic spot. They have tried to improve upon nature, and have embellished the scenery with canals, neat roads, plantations, and conspicuous buildings. We found nowhere so much openness and kindness as among them. Their intelligent inquiries respecting our country were endless, and they seemed never satiated with our company.

When we first landed, an armed force was drawn up along the shore. The soldiers had matchlocks and burning matches ready for a charge. A Tartar general had placed himself in a temple to superintend the operations. Being accustomed to the fire of Chinese batteries, which seldom do hurt, and knowing that their matchlocks cannot hit, we passed the line of their defence in peace. The soldiers retreated, and the crowds of people in the rear being very dense, a great part of the camp was overrun and pressed down by the people, so that the tents fell to the ground. After this outset, nothing disagreeable occurred; we were at full liberty to walk abroad and converse with the people, and were only occasionally troubled with the clamorous entreaties of some officers. But after an interview with a messenger from the Lieutenant Governor at Hang-chow, (a very sensible, courteous officer,) and several other mandarins, we came to an understanding.

In one of our excursions I took a box of books with me. We had visited a temple upon a high hill which overlooks all this populous region. The temples might be called elegant by the Chinese, if the abominations of idolatry did not render such an epithet inapplicable. When I took the books out of the boat, and handed a copy to a man of respectable appearance, he read aloud the title, and all at once the crowd rushed upon me, hundreds stretching out their hands to receive the same gift. Within a few minutes the store was exhausted with rapidity. We saw the people, on the brow of a hill opposite anchor. As soon as they landed, they ran down to grasp the books from our friends in the surrounding groves, and books have been read with great interest. We took a wide view of the sea, when they were really astonished, and inquired after all this, the gospel of the Redeemer, that he has given knowing the way of eternity.

January 14, we changed anchor under an island. The sight here is more splendid than at our former anchorage, by the presence of the sea. The keen in the more quietly to extend the pleasures of a temple. A temple built on the hill is spacious, and presents a view to the sea, is picturesque, and appears to have been built on this account. We saw the possession of a temple. The priests had for a long time a collection of a few Christian books among them; they almost wept, and were previously landed on the shores, surrounded by multitudes,
the store was exhausted, but the news spread with great rapidity. We saw the people sitting for six hours together on the brow of a hill opposite to which our vessel was lying at anchor. As soon as they saw us approaching near to the shore, they ran down the hill with great velocity, grasped the books from my hands, and sped towards their friends in the surrounding villages. If ever our christian books have been read with attention, it was here at this time. We took a wide range in the adjacent country, and were really astonished at the general knowledge which these silent preachers had spread.—Let us not boast of such an extraordinary instance of the diffusion of knowledge, nor deny to curiosity her full share in this stir; yet after all this, the gospel must be said to have flown here on eagles' wings. We leave the result to God, and wish to revisit those places, not to exult selfishly in the great changes which may have taken place, but to praise our Redeemer, that he has given to these millions the means of knowing the way of eternal life.

January 14, we changed our station and came to anchor under an island. The curiosity to see the ship was greater here than at our former place, and being less embarrassed by the presence of the mandarins, we were able to live more quietly and to extend our intercourse with the people. A temple built on the island under which we lay, is very spacious, and presents a real labyrinth. The whole island is picturesque, and appears to have been designedly chosen on this account. We saw here an edict posted up, forbidding the possession of arms on any account, and threatening decapitation to all who dared to disobey this regulation. The priests had for a long time been desirous to get hold of a few christian books, but when they could not obtain them, they almost wept for disappointment. I had previously landed on the opposite shore, where I was surrounded by multitudes, who did not cease importuning me
till they had gotten every book out of my hands. There were very few individuals who could not read, so that we may entertain the well-founded hope, that even the smallest tracts will be perused to advantage. We enjoyed the society of the natives very much. Combining intelligence and cordiality, they lost no opportunity of showing their friendship, or of making pointed inquiries. What a field for missionary exertion do they present! Their hearts are open to the impression of truth, and their doors for the reception of its messengers. We humbly trust in the wise government of God, (which can defeat all the restrictive laws of the most crooked policy,) that the doors to these parts will soon be thrown open.

Though it was now winter, and often severe weather, the country to the south-west presented the most attractive views. From a temple, which being imperial had a gilded spire, we used to look down upon the surrounding valleys. With the priest, a very cunning man, and a fine pattern of Chinese politeness, I had a very long conversation upon religion. As soon as I touched upon some points which concerned a higher world, he was dumb. As to the religious creed of other nations, he appeared to be a perfect latitudinarian.

On the 17th of January, we got under way for Kin-tang, an island which we had visited in the Lord Amherst. The cold being very piercing, some of our crew died. As the mandarins had previously taken possession of the anchorage in the inner harbour, we took care not to have any thing to do with them. The natives being under the immediate control of their rulers, were rather distrustful; however, they recognized me, and had great numbers of diseased people, of whom they requested me to take charge. The state of the poor, and in general of all the common people, is very wretched during the winter. In Europe we have firesides and comfortable rooms; but these miserable beings can scarce kindle their shrub is cut up; end which in other countries are bare or only plant fire; in the want of fire, they keep few coals in them.

which are stuffed with some rous patches put upon their work, but they keep is required. The habits, and the constants uncleanness are a very serious when the to work, but to provide himself with material ointment, and he

It has always been the case, whenever it was human beings are so numerous that portion of the number missionary about to enter acquainted with the other learned in the ophthalmic frequent here than a arises from a peculiar is generally very small very eye-lids. Often, when extent, and successively to establish a hospital place easy of access one instance of a clear up to the service of promoting the glory of fellow-men. There Macao and Canton,
miserable beings can neither afford nor procure fuel. Every shrub is cut up; every root is dug out; and the hills, which in other countries are generally covered with wood, are bare or only planted with a few fir-trees. To supply the want of fire, they carry fire-pots in their hands with a few coals in them. They dress in five or six thick jackets, which are stuffed with cotton, and thickened with numerous patches put upon them; indeed, many are only patchwork, but they keep the body warm, and this is all that is required. The Chinese are generally dirty in their habits; and the consequences both of warm clothing and uncleanness are a great many cutaneous diseases, often very serious when they have become inveterate. It ought to be an object with a missionary who enters this field, to provide himself with large quantities of sulphur and mercurial ointment, and he may be sure to benefit many.

It has always been my anxious desire to give medical help, whenever it was practicable. However, the sufferers are so numerous that we are able to assist only a very small portion of the number. I should recommend it to a missionary about to enter China, to make himself perfectly acquainted with the diseases of the eye. He cannot be too learned in the ophthalmic science, for ophthalmia is more frequent here than in any other part of the world. This arises from a peculiar, curved structure of the eye, which is generally very small, and often inflamed by inverted eye-lids. Often, while dealing out eye-water to a great extent, and successively examining the eye, I have wished to establish a hospital in the centre of the empire, in some place easy of access by sea and by land. I know scarcely one instance of a clever medical man having given himself up to the service of this distant nation, with the view of promoting the glorious gospel and the happiness of his fellow-men. There have been several gentlemen, both at Macao and Canton, whose praiseworthy endeavours to
alleviate suffering have been crowned with much success. Yet we want a hospital in the heart of China itself, and we want men who wish to live solely for the cause.

We went farther towards the southern parts of this island, where I began my christian operations, which were attended with ample success. We have walked over many hills, and gone through numerous valleys, carrying in our hands the sacred Scriptures, which found ready readers. Surely we could not complain of their want of politeness, for all doors were open for us, and when the people reluctantly saw that we would not enter their hovels, they brought tea out to us, forcing us to take some of this beverage.

From this island we shifted our anchorage to Ke-tow point, a head-land on the main. A great many tea plantations are found here, and for the first time we have seen the plant growing wild. This district is cultivated only in the valleys; the mountains furnish a good deal of pasture, but the Chinese keep only as many cattle as are indispensably necessary for the cultivation of the fields.

When I first went on shore, the people seemed distrustful of receiving the word of salvation; some of them hinted that our books merely contained the doctrines of western barbarians, which were quite at variance with the tenets of the Chinese sages. I did not undertake to contest this point with them, but proceeded to administer relief to a poor man who was almost blind. He was affected with this unexpected kindness, and, turning towards me, said, "Judging from your actions, your doctrines must be excellent; therefore, I beseech you, give me some of your books; though I myself cannot read, I have children who can." From this moment the demand for the word of God increased, so that I could never pass a hamlet without being importuned by the people to impart to them the knowledge of divine things. In the wide excursions which
I took, I daily witnessed the demand for the word of God. The greatest favour we could bestow upon the natives was to give them a book, which as a precious relic was treasured up and kept for the perusal of all their acquaintance and friends.

Having remained here seven days, we then departed for other parts of the Chusan group. The weather during this time was generally dark and stormy. February 4th, we arrived at the island Poo-to, lat. 30° 3', long. 121°.

At a distance, the island appeared barren, and scarcely habitable; but as we approached it, we observed very prominent buildings, and large glittering domes. A temple built on a projecting rock, beneath which the foaming sea dashed, gave us some idea of the genius of its inhabitants, in thus selecting the most attractive spot to celebrate the orgies of idolatry. We were quite engaged in viewing a large building situated in a grove, when we observed some priests of Budha walking along the shore, attracted by the novel sight of a ship. Scarcely had we landed, when another party of priests, in common garbs, and very filthy, hastened down to us, chanting hymns. When some books were offered them, they exclaimed, "Praise be to Budha!" and eagerly took every volume which I had. We then ascended to a large temple surrounded by trees and bamboo. An elegant portal and magnificent gate brought us into a large court, which was surrounded with a long row of buildings, not unlike barracks, but the dwellings of the priests. On entering it, the huge images of Budha and his disciples, the representations of Kwan-yin, the goddess of mercy, and other deformed idols, with the spacious and well adorned halls, exhibit an imposing sight to the foreign spectator. With what feelings ought a missionary to be impressed when he sees so great a nation under the abject control of disgusting idolatry! Whilst walking here, I was strongly reminded of Paul in Athens, when he was
passing among their temples, and saw an altar dedicated "To the unknown God." For here we also found both a small hall and an altar covered with white cloth, allotted to the same purpose. I addressed the priests, who followed us in crowds, for several hundreds belong to this temple; they gave the assent of indifference to my sayings, and fixed their whole attention upon the examination of our clothes. It was satisfactory, however, to see that the major and intelligent part of them were so eagerly reading our books, that they could not find a few moments even to look at us. The treatise which pleased them most, was a dialogue between Chang and Yuen, the one a Christian and the other an ignorant heathen. This work of the late much-lamented Dr. Milne, contains very pointed and just remarks, and has always been a favourite book among the Chinese readers.

The high priest requested an interview. He was an old deaf man, who seemed to have very little authority, and his remarks were commonplace enough. Though the people seemed to be greatly embarrassed at our unexpected appearance, their apprehensions gradually subsided; meanwhile we had the pleasure of seeing our ship coming to anchor in the roads. Having therefore renewed my stock of books with a larger store, I went again on shore. At this time the demand was much greater, and I was almost overwhelmed by the numbers of priests who ran down upon us, earnestly begging at least a short tract, of which I had taken great quantities with me; I was very soon stripped of all, and had to refuse numerous applications.

We afterwards followed a paved road, discovering several other small temples, till we came to some large rocks, on which we found several inscriptions hewn in very large letters. One of them stated that China has sages! The excavations were filled with small gilt idols and superscriptions. On a sudden we came in sight of a still larger temple, with yellow walls, recognized it as imperial. An artificial tank, led in by a raised stone. Though the structure of this large temple was not to distinguish a superior from minor, the priests were the same, but to us indeed this is the last hall being arranged with numerous specimens.

These colossal images were well gilt. There were a few in the temple. We were permitted to see which they chanted a part of the Latin service of the ceremonies in their hands, of which one of them had a song in their service referred by drum and large bells for the prayers. The same was sung. None of the officiaries joined in the ceremonies; for the others, who were simple and joking, whilst others who were people who were present merely to gaze at us, felt the solemnity of the dark hall, standing where there was nothing but seats, were disgusted with the voice to invite all to join the minds of the people: that was all which these government sometimes do. We were exhortated to
temple, with yellow tiles, by which we immediately recognized it as imperial. A bridge, very tastefully built over an artificial tank, led to an extensive area paved with quarried stones. Though the same architecture reigned in the structure of this larger building as in the others, we could distinguish a superior taste and a higher finish. The idols were the same, but their votaries were far more numerous; indeed this is the largest temple I have ever seen. The halls being arranged with all the tinsel of idolatry, presented numerous specimens of Chinese art.

These colossal images were made of clay, and tolerably well gilt. There were great drums and large bells in the temple. We were present at the vespers of the priests, which they chanted in the Pali language, not unlike the Latin service of the Romish church. They held their rosaries in their hands, which rested folded upon their breasts; one of them had a small bell, by the tinkling of which their service was regulated; and they occasionally beat the drum and large bell, to rouse Budha to attend to their prayers. The same words were a hundred times repeated. None of the officiating personages showed any interest in the ceremonies; for some were looking around, laughing and joking, whilst others muttered their prayers. The few people who were present, not to attend the worship, but merely to gaze at us, did not seem in the least degree to feel the solemnity of the service. Though we were in a dark hall, standing before the largest image of Budha, there was nothing impressive; even our English sailors were disgusted with the scene. Several times I raised my voice to invite all to adore God in spirit and in truth, but the minds of the priests seemed callous, and a mere assent was all which this exhortation produced. Though the government sometimes decries Buddhism as a dangerous doctrine, we saw papers stuck up, wherein the people were exhorted to repair to these temples in order to
propitiate heaven to grant a fertile spring; and these
exhortations were issued by the emperor himself. What
inconsistency!

This temple was built during the time of the Leang
dynasty, several centuries ago, (about A.D. 550,) but it
has undergone great repairs; and both under the last and
present dynasties, has enjoyed the imperial patronage.
It was erected to emblazon the glorious deeds of the goddess
of mercy, who is said to have honoured this spot with her
presence. On the island are two large, and sixty small
temples, which are all built in the same style, and the idol
of Kwan-yin holds a prominent station among her com-
petitors. We were told, that upon a spot not exceeding
twelve square miles, (for this appears to be the extent of
the island,) two thousand priests were living No females
are allowed to live on the island, nor are any laymen suf-
f ered to reside here, unless they be in the service of the
priests. To maintain this numerous train of idlers, lands
on the opposite island have been allotted for their use,
which they farm out; but as this is still inadequate, they
go upon begg ing expeditions, not only into the surround-
ning provinces, but even as far as Siam. From its being
a place of pilgrimage also, the priests derive great profits.
Many rich persons, and especially successful captains, repair
thither to express their gratitude, and spend their money in
this delightful spot. For this reason the priests have large
halls, and keep a regular establishment, though they them-
se lves live on a very sparing diet. We never saw them use
any meat; few are decently dressed; and the greater part
are very ignorant, even respecting their own tenets. We
saw many young, fine-looking children, whom they had
bought to initiate them early into the mysteries of Bud-
hism. They complained bitterly of the utter decay of
their establishment, and were anxious to obtain from us
some gift. To every person who visits this island, it

appears at first like a fairy scene, which meets the eye.
Solid granite, the mass firmly cemented, the solidified
direction, the highly polisher, many-peaked, riven, and
stately mausoleum, the architecture, the mantling the bones and
bewildering the imagination.

After having examined the outer setting of the temple
as a rendezvous for a number of books, I became excessively
curious, and had about five dozen of the favorite books
in my possession. I had brought my steed along, and great crowds bore me
I entered into a boat with about a dozen boisterous applicants who
and even swam in order to
triumph the precious libraries which
books have thus been destroyed, and
they have found their way. Some persons took them
under their arm and

In order to satisfy my curiosity for Scriptures and
myself in the temple. At this time I
saw my back by the wall, and
by the crowd. Within an moment around me. Though
litely, and begged, after
books under their arm.
appears at first like a fairy land, so romantic is every thing which meets the eye. Those large inscriptions hewn in solid granite, the many temples which appear in every direction, the highly picturesque scenery itself, with its many-peaked, riven, and detached rocks, and above all, a stately mausoleum, the largest which I have ever seen, containing the bones and ashes of thousands of priests, quite bewilders the imagination.

After having examined all the localities, we endeavoured to promulgate the doctrines of the gospel. Poo-to, being a rendezvous for a numerous fleet of boats, gave us great facility in sending books to all the adjacent places. Nor were the people very slow in examining us and our books. When their minds were satisfied upon the subject, they became excessively clamorous for Christian books. At first I had brought my stores on shore, but finding that the great crowds bore me down and robbed me of every leaf, I entered into a boat and sat down, while multitudes of boisterous applicants were on the shore. They now waded and even swam in order to get near me, and carried off in triumph the precious gift. Thousands and thousands of books have thus been scattered, not in this place only, but they have found their way into the provinces, for some persons took them purposely for importation. He who oversees and directs all, will send these harbingers of salvation with eagle-swiftness to all parts.

In order to satisfy my mind respecting founding a depository for Scriptures and tracts in one of the temples, I took my station in the great hall which leads into the large temple. At this time I had taken the precaution of guarding my back by the wall, that I might not be thrown down by the crowd. Within a few minutes the priests thronged around me. Though they were urgent, they behaved politely, and begged, almost with tears, that I would give them a few tracts. How joyfully did they retire with the books under their arms!
Thus we passed many days here, and the demand for the word of God, not indeed as such, but as being a new doctrine, increased daily more and more. We afterwards visited several other islands belonging to the Chusan group, which teemed with inhabitants. There are less obstacles here to the promotion of the gospel, than in many islands in the Pacific. They are far more populous, and their inhabitants are very thriving people, noways deficient in natural understanding. English vessels visited them occasionally, during the last century, but they have never been accurately known by any European navigator; therefore we took the trouble to explore them as far as circumstances would permit. The great Chusan has high towering hills, and splendid fertile valleys, some of which are alluvial ground. There are perhaps one million of inhabitants. Besides other places on its coast, we visited Sin-kea-mun, a fishing village, with a harbour sheltered from all winds, but the very seat of iniquity. The natives here crowded on board; they wanted books, and insisted upon having them; my great stock being almost exhausted, they offered money, and besought me not to send them empty-handed away. On one occasion I had taken some on shore; several sailors acted as my safeguard, to prevent my being overpowered by the crowd. We ran for a long distance to escape their importunity, but finally they overtook us, and I was literally plundered. Those who gained their point, returned shouting, whilst the others left me with a saddened heart, and uttering reproaches that I had not duly provided for their wants. For days I have been solicited, but I could not satisfy the craving desire. I promised to return with a larger supply, and hope that God will permit me to re-enter this sphere.

After staying a considerable time on the coast of Seang-shan, on the main, we reached Shih-poo, in latitude 29° 2', on the 1st of April. I can scarcely do justice to this place, delightfully situated as it is; having one of the best harbours in the world, formed by the hand of the Almighty himself. We had been weeks in March, and in this latitude the spring was approaching; and the blossoms of the cherry ramble at such a season, and are so sweet, and the true enjoyment, and satisfaction to the eye of the Almighty God. The natives are a most hospitable people, they perhaps never try to in any way; they are, of course with the natives of this nature, they seldom do their purpose, the more they are received by them as friends.

We delayed some time, and arrived at a time of great distress; the people were living by the common stock; the revolution had prevented the government from supplying all the necessary services, and the people lived upon the common stock. The hills and islands were inhabited by pirates, and of course many of these people, and highway robbery was very common. The people were inhabited by pirates, and living in the seclusion of the mountains and country, and the locality of China. I had heard much of the light of divine truth, and now only a short time.
DESCRIPTION OF SHIH-POO. 319

delightfully situated as it is, at the bottom of a basin, having one of the best harbours in the world, entirely formed by the hand of God. Hitherto the weather had been very boisterous and cold, a thick mist filling the air. We had been weeks without seeing the sun; even in March, and in this latitude, we had storms. But now the spring was approaching, the wheat-fields stood in the blade, and the blossoms of the peach-trees perfumed the air. To ramble at such a season, surrounded by such scenery, is true enjoyment, and draws the heart powerfully towards the Almighty God. The mandarins had now given up the principle of disturbing us from mere jealousy, and they will perhaps never try to interfere with us any more. So fruitless have been all their attempts to deter us from any intercourse with the natives, that the more they strove to effect their purpose, the more we gained our point, and the readier we were received by the natives.

We delayed some time on the coast of Fuh-keen. We arrived at a time of general scarcity; the greater part of the people were living upon sweet potatoes, dried and ground; for the revolution, or rather rebellion, in Formosa, had prevented the grain-junks from bringing them the customary supplies from that island. Some of the poor peasants lived upon the ears of the green wheat, roasted and boiled like rice. This scarcity had given rise to piracy and highway robbery. We spent some time in a village inhabited by pirates, but received no injury. Notwithstanding all these disasters, the Fuh-keen men are the same enterprising class which they have been for centuries, engrossing all the trade of the coast. We look for the time when they will be brought to the obedience of the gospel, and become the medium of communication with all parts of China. I had here also an opportunity of scattering the light of divine truth, though on a smaller scale, for we staid only a short time.
In our excursions we examined Kin-mun, a large island to the north of Amoy harbour. Here were immense rocks piled upon each other, just as though done by human hands. Though very sterile, it has at least 50,000 inhabitants, who are enterprising merchants or sailors. Several places of considerable importance we may be said to have discovered, for they are not known to any European else, nor were they ever visited by Europeans, if we except Jesuits. As it is not my intention to give any geographical sketches, I refrain from enumerating them. However, as our commercial relations are at the present moment on such a basis as to warrant a continuation of the trade all along the coast, we hope that this may tend ultimately to the introduction of the gospel, for which many doors are opened. Millions of Bibles and tracts will be needed to supply the wants of this people. God, who in his mercy has thrown down the wall of national separation, will carry on the work. We look up to the ever blessed Redeemer, to whom China with all its millions is given; in the faithfulness of his promises, we anticipate the glorious day of a general conversion, and are willing to do our utmost in order to promote the great work.

After a voyage of six months and nine days, we reached Lintin, near Macao, on the 29th of April. Praised be God for all his mercies and deliverances during such a perilous voyage!