CHAPTER III.

APRIL 11.—On awaking this morning we were near the level coast of Formosa. The island, which has become celebrated since the establishment of the Dutch on some parts of it, at present forms the granary of Fuhkeen. It produces immense quantities of rice, and furnishes many cargoes of sugar. The Formosan camphor is generally known, and exported to all parts of Europe. Though the greater part of the island has been subjected to China, the eastern portion, lying beyond the range of hills which passes through the island, is still in possession of the aborigines. They are described as a harmless race, when not provoked, but relentless when once enraged. As we saw no individual of them, we are enabled to speak only from report. Frequent rebellion has tended to retard greatly the growing prosperity of the island. The colonists, as I have said, are chiefly Fuhkeen men, who, after their arrival, laboured hard to acquire a little property. The mandarins, here, who were free from the immediate control of their superiors, concluded that they might safely oppress these emigrants, who were but the dregs of the Chinese population. The colonists, on their part, considered themselves entitled to higher privileges than in their mother country, and opposed obstinacy to oppression. The spirit of discontent was also encouraged by the success of the rebels in repelling their enemies. When all resources fail, they retire to the mountains, and defend their liberty against all the attacks of the numerous troops, which the emperor constantly sends against their authority. There is a vast expanse of water here, but chiefly in the vicinity of Fuhkeen, who have advanced the cultivation of the soil, and for the cultivation of the island, not a few few books upon Christianity, in Formosan language. The converts, to have been very considerable, was created at Batavia, in order to Formosa. While reading of their missionary efforts, of the island by the Chinese, in the true gospel. We have come to this point, but found every number of fishermen.

picion; on the contrary, enthusiasm, and promised to be their purchases. They were assisted to come along-side in great As I can remember now, since the Chinese conquest, they had an opportunity of giving the Chinese. They were very thankful, and had been freely given them.

We afterwards went down the whole coast; the soil was alluvial. The sea recede
constantly sends against them, to regain and maintain his authority. There is a very brisk trade with this fruitful island, but chiefly in the hands of Fuhkeen merchants, who have advanced the capital for clearing the rice-fields, and for the cultivation of sugar. There are no junks strictly belonging to this island; all the shipping is the property of the Amoy merchants.

It was at the early period of the Dutch conquest that Christianity was preached to the Formosans. Several ministers of the Dutch church, which was at that time imbued with the spirit of the reformers, here spread the saving knowledge of the gospel. There are still extant a few books upon Christianity, which they published in the Formosan language. They seem, from the number of their converts, to have been very successful; and great emulation was created at Batavia, in deciding who should first be sent to Formosa. While reading their simple and short relation of their missionary efforts, we must regret that the conquest of the island by the Chinese has probably left little traces of the true gospel. We spared no trouble to ascertain this point, but found every one ignorant of the facts.

After anchoring, we were immediately visited by great numbers of fishermen. They did not show the least suspicion; on the contrary, they treated us as old acquaintance, and promised to bring off some merchants to effect purchases. They were very eager to possess books, and came along-side in great numbers, earnestly craving them. As I can remember no effort here to spread the gospel since the Chinese conquest, I rejoiced to embrace this opportunity of giving them, at least, the means to know it. They were very thankful, and promised to read what had been freely given them.

We afterwards went on shore, and had a view of the whole coast; the soil of which appears to be entirely alluvial. The sea recedes from the land so rapidly, that
many harbours, once good, are now inaccessible, even for small junks. Formosa has always been deficient in good harbours, and ships were obliged, even at the capital, to lie at a great distance from the shore, near the Fort Zelandia. But latterly the land is increased to such a degree, that large shoals have become visible all along the coast, and the approach to it is consequently dangerous. The place which we visited bears the name of Woo-teaou-keang, where several junks were lying in shore, with scarce two feet water at ebb tide. The soil is a black sand, and, as far as the eye can reach, there is neither shrub or grass. Carts, with wheels, but without spokes, and drawn by buffaloes, are used to carry the cargo through the water to the vessels. The village is very mean, but inhabited by some mercantile agents, whose houses are two days’ journey in the interior. They have also hemp for exportation. We saw a few agents, or clerks of the mandarins, residing here, as overseers of the exports. The people, though secluded from intercourse with Europeans, exhibited great interest to know everything respecting our ship and our country. Their inquiries were very appropriate, and were continued till properly answered. At the same time we had to lament the profligacy which reigns throughout the island, and especially in the sea-ports. When will the glorious gospel banish from the earth all the pests of mankind?

We found here many readers, very anxious to possess our books. Several natives set off to call either some merchants residing in the district of Keau-e. The capital of this district is a very large town, upon a river which empties itself into the sea at Woo-teaou-keang, in lat. 23° 38′, long. 120° 21′. We waited about two days for the merchants, but they did not arrive. At length we saw the mandarin clerks stepping on board, with presents of tea and fruits. By ascertaining the prices of our goods, they endeavoured to give us hope that they would probably trade. But unable to wait we got under way.

April 15.—We narrowly escaped the island of Nan-jih, 24° 30′; Several junks had anchored there when we visited, and were advancing to Nan, where we might find the commerce. The people were complaining that we should be unable to sell them any of the natives were suffering starvation for want of money to buy cloth?

April 16.—We entered a labyrinth of islands and shoals, and the large island of Jib-ou-foo, rock, and escaped with difficulty. The ships have sailed through the straits so well that none but small craft could come on board. However, we had many fish; and they were entirely up to us. As soon as they had their fears vanished, and they had never seen a ship, it was great in viewing its size and shape. "Are they!" was their general cry whenever they were struck with some new thing. Scarcely could the savage curiosity and amazement be engaged immediately to know and fasten home to get the things they had seen.

April 17.—During the night we had heard guns, the sure sign of the foe. In the morning we received
trade. But unable to wait longer in so bad an anchorage, we got under way.

April 15.—We narrowly escaped running ashore near the island of Nan-jih, which belongs to Footeen district. Several junks had anchored in this harbour, some of which we visited, and were advised to go to Shang-hae in Keang-nan, where we might find a ready market for our cargo. The people were communicative, and expressed their fears that we should be unable to do much in trade, because the natives were suffering starvation; "How could they afford money to buy cloth?"

April 16.—We entered the Hae-tan passage, a very labyrinth of islands and rocks, between the Fuhkeen coast and the large island of Hae-tan. We were near striking a rock, and escaped with much difficulty and peril. Few ships have sailed through this passage, and it would be well that none but small craft should attempt it again. When we had anchored at Wan-gan, a fish-boat came along-side, but the boatmen did not, at first, venture to come on board. However, we prevailed on them to sell their fish; and they were at length emboldened to come up to us. As soon as they had looked around a little, their fears vanished, and their tongues were loosed. They had never seen a ship, and their astonishment was very great in viewing its superior structure. "What a people are they!" was their general exclamation. In the cabin, they were struck with its order, and admired its carpets. Scarcely could the savages of the Pacific islands show more curiosity and amazement than these natives did. They engaged immediately to bring off customers for our cargo, and hastened home to give an account of all the strange things they had seen.

April 17.—During the night we heard the report of guns, the sure sign of the approach of war junks. Early in the morning we received a visit from the rear-admiral,
an old stupid opium-smoker, who behaved in the most disrespectful and even insulting manner. It was remarked, by his companion, a mandarin with a crystal button, that he had lost his understanding by the immoderate use of this drug. We should otherwise have been at a loss to account for his silly behaviour and insolent language. However, Mr. Lindsay made to both of them a present of pictures, with which they were very highly delighted. The inferior mandarin pledged himself to bring off some purchasers.

Near our anchorage, is the city of Chin-tan, now chiefly in ruins. We ascended a hill which commanded a view of all the adjacent region. On the top was a platform, and some stones, engraved with unknown characters, which seemed to have been placed there many centuries ago. The inhabitants had cultivated, with the most assiduous care, every inch of arable land, and we could not but admire their ingenuity in watering their terraced plats. The city itself is extensive, but thinly peopled at present, for the pirates had destroyed it. We saw a few shops, and distributed some books. Close upon the shore, at the entrance of the city, stands a pyramid, about seventy feet high, very neatly built of massy granite, erected during the Ming dynasty. We entered it, and the more we examined it, the more we were led to admire its workmanship and durability. In front is an ancient temple, far gone to decay. We saw also many dilapidated images of Buddha, with negro head and hair, very similar to those in Siam. This temple seemed to have been entirely abandoned. How earnestly should we pray that this may be the fate of all the images of idolatry, and that in their place may rise the temples of the living God! Whilst our company was examining the pyramid, I read and explained some passages from the tracts to the surrounding people, who were very much astonished at this new doctrine. They received gratefully some of our tracts, and carried them away with us.

In the afternoon we took in board a man from a junk which had stoppered the straits, and which seemed a den of pirates. The junk seemed a den of pirates. The junk was an imitation of their ordinary type, and was loaded with a narcotic. He told us that he had been carried to the coast, and that he was to be sold to the pirates. The man seemed to be a little指南针 of his junk compared with us. The houses were made of cast iron, and the shingles were innumerable.

There were several other junks, and we escaped by a speedy passage. Soon after we found her already under the same signal in the gulf of our friend, and we waited till we had met a fishing boat in which the signal was afterwards heard, to send them a present to the poor people, bearing our wishes. Doubless their pursuers were not very much pleased. The populace at Amoy were in a state of anxiety as to the war junks fired from the banks; we performed our rockets also, both to show our friendship and to cause an effect.

April 18.—Owing to the wind, we were obliged to anchor amidst the groups of barren rocks, and to make the intricate passage, which took up many hours. We shoaled aft to head, and it was some time before we could lose how to get off a
gratefully some of our tracts, and took the utmost care to carry them away without being observed.

In the afternoon we visited the young mandarin who had been aboard. He had just risen from smoking opium, which had stupefied him to such a degree, that he had forgotten his promise to bring purchasers. His whole war junk seemed a den of opium-smokers, for all the crew, in imitation of their noble captain, indulged freely in this narcotic. He told us that our ships had, a century ago, traded to this place. There was nothing but the utmost politeness in his conversation, at the same time that all his remarks showed a total want of moral principle. He seemed to be a little ashamed of the miserable appearance of his junk compared with our ship. He had a few cannon, made of cast iron, which seemed to be in the worst state imaginable.

There were several merchants desirous of coming on board, who were pursued by the mandarin boats, but escaped by a speedy flight. We returned to our ship and found her already under way, after being obliged to cut the cable of our friend, the rear-admiral. On our return, we met a fishing boat in tow of the mandarin boats, which, we afterwards heard, to our great mortification, had arrested the poor people, because they had approached too near us. Doubtless their punishment will be as severe as that of the populace at Amoy; we regret that we did not rescue them from the hands of such cruel men. During the night, the war junks fired their guns continually, and threw up rockets also, both of which we imitated with very good effect.

April 18.—Owing to a continued calm, we are still amidst the groups of islands. The want of charts of this intricate passage, rendered our situation very perilous. We shoaled aft to three fathoms; and were actually at a loss how to get off again. Having anchored opposite to a
fishing village, we visited the natives, who were at first very shy, but when they perceived our peaceable intentions, they became very familiar. They were much struck with the construction of our fowling-pieces, so different from their matchlocks, and mistook them for opium pipes. Their hospitality formed a striking contrast to their extreme poverty, for they invited us into their dirty hovels, and shared with us their scanty supper. I gave them the Holy Scriptures, by which they may become rich in God, and find their present miseries alleviated by the joyful and firm hope of eternal riches.

We exchanged with them rice for fish. This excited all the inhabitants to come and enjoy the luxury, which they had not known for a long time, of eating a sufficiency of rice. The smoke, which was soon rising in every direction, showed that we had provided them a banquet at so very trifling expense.

April 19.—To-day was a perfect calm, and we had therefore no alternative but to wait patiently or impatiently for a breeze. In the meanwhile several fish-boats came to barter fish for rice, and were highly delighted with their profitable bargain. On their return home they fell into the hands of the mandarin boatmen, who towed them to the admiral’s junk. We much fear that they will suffer severely for having had intercourse with the barbarians.

A very polite note was put on board, making inquiries after us, and inviting us on shore. We expected to see a very great man, who had taken the trouble to invite the strangers, but found only a pawnbroker. He gave himself an air of much importance, and seemed anxious to inform government of our arrival; yet he behaved with much politeness, and showed also much sound understanding. We were so happy to-day as to get out of this dangerous passage, and to find ourselves once more in the open sea.
INTERCOURSE WITH THE NATIVES.

April 21.—We went on shore at Pih-keun-shan island, which is not far from the entrance of Fuh-chow harbour. The fertility of the island astonished us, for we had hitherto seen only sterility. The inhabitants had not cultivated it to the extent of which it was capable, but availed themselves principally of its pasturage for their goats. The natives lived in the most wretched hovels imaginable, and were filthy and rude in appearance. We could not have obtained a correct idea of pirates better than by seeing these natives, whose very physiognomy betokened great ferocity. Their language differed widely from all the dialects which we have yet heard. However, they could write, and thus assisted, our intercourse was mutually intelligible. There were no females among them, nor any comforts to distinguish them from mere savages. I left here some books, the perusal of which may arouse their untutored minds to reflection.

While advancing towards Fuh-chow, the capital of Fuh-keen province, we met several war-junks, despatched, doubtless, in quest of us. We happened to direct our spy-glass towards one of them, which so intimidated the crew that they ran below decks, and did not re-appear till they were sure of having escaped the danger. We could only ascribe their panic to mistrusting the glass for a gun, which they supposed pointed at them.

April 22.—It is the commemoration of the Lord's resurrection. How far from all christian society! How long have I been separated from the communion of the saints!

We arrived to-day in the harbour of Fuh-chow, after having, the day before, slightly touched the ground. The whole atmosphere was shrouded in darkness, which obscured the landmarks at the entrance of the harbour; yet we had excellent pilots on board, who brought us in safely. We are now come to that district whence the greatest quantity of tea is furnished for consumption in Europe.
The hills where the tea is cultivated, stretch abroad in every direction. The soil does not yield a sufficient quantity of rice for home consumption; however, the exports of timber, bamboo, and teas, more than balance the imports of rice and cotton. The whole region is very romantic: ridges of undulating hills, naked in part, and partly cultivated, in form of terraces, up to the top, give the whole a most picturesque aspect. The river, which leads up to the capital, is broad and navigable as far as the city. Here are no fragments of ancient edifices, or other classic ruins, but a display of Chinese industry and skill in all its variety. The villages and hamlets are very numerous all along the river; often in beautiful situations. The Dutch anciently traded at this port; but even the remembrance of it is now lost. Our appearance, therefore, struck the inhabitants with astonishment. The entrance of the river is in lat. 26° 6', long. 119° 53'. As soon as we had anchored, we were visited by the inhabitants of the adjacent village. They made no inquiries after trifles, but were anxious to ascertain the prices of our cargo, and invited us to their village. Fertile fields, sown with wheat, naked rocks, and plains of sand, gave a diversified aspect to the whole environs. We visited our friends in their houses, and held very long conversations with them, principally upon trade. They received the books with hearty pleasure, and read them most diligently. After going through the village, and scrambling over several cliffs, we were intending to return, but were pressingly invited by a merchant to partake of a supper, which he had prepared for us in a public hall. We supped, therefore, upon very good fare, among an immense crowd, who were extravagantly delighted to see us their guests, and urgent that we should partake freely of their refreshments. We felt very happy in the midst of these cheerful people, who did not act on the principle of the mandarins, that barbarians must be treated as enemies.

April 24.—Ignorance,

...the object which drew us was a little bay. Here we found them, and we began...
THE APPROACH TO FUH-CHOW. 199

April 24.—Ignorant of the situation of Fuh-chow, we started in search of it. Steering north by west, the first object which drew our attention was a war junk, anchored in a little bay. Hitherto we had not been annoyed by them, and we began to cherish the hope that we might escape their vexatious visits. The beautiful scenery on the banks of the river, which reminded me of the Rhine, in Germany, was enlivened by the numerous hamlets in all directions. We came to the entrance of a second river, which is more shallow than the first by which we came in. Near the junction, a village is built, with a granite jetty: on both sides are dismantled forts, apparently without garrisons. As soon as the mandarin on the opposite side espied us, he immediately ordered us to return. But finding us obstinate, he tried to terrify us by the tremendous peal of the gong. When every measure failed, he gave us over to the mercy of the other boats in pursuit of us. But as none of them could come up with us, they gave up the pursuit, and returned to their stations. When we had passed the narrow point of the river at Min-gan, the boats molested us no more, and we had the pleasure of admiring the cascades, which fell down the rocky declivities. Farther up is an island, in the midst of the river: the water shoals from seven to five and a half fathoms. On the southern bank is a large pagoda, with high, towering hills, in the back ground, cultivated up to the very summit. Many junks were passing to and fro, to which we distributed books.

The river, which is here two miles broad, divides into two branches; the northern, and largest of which, leads to Fuh-chow. There is a lofty mountain, bearing north-west one half west from this: near the north bank of the river is a large shoal, with two fathoms water; on the south, varying from one to three fathoms. Perceiving, at a distance, a forest of junks, which we supposed near the city,
we steered for them, and the city gradually opened to view. On a nearer approach, the numerous small craft were found to be coasters from the Che-keang province, and vessels constructed purposely for the carriage of timber and bamboo. The next object which arrested our attention, was a great stone bridge; a rude, but substantial structure, built quite across this broad river. The natives, from all quarters, crowded around us, to behold the novel sight of foreigners. We speedily stepped ashore, and found an easy passage through all the crowds, whose politeness was by no means inferior to their curiosity. As we had drawn up a petition, we proceeded in quest of the governor, passing through a very long street, both sides of which were lined with shops, richly supplied with every variety of merchandise. Many dwellings were spacious and commodious; and, though of wood, were built in an elegant Chinese style. The eyes of all were fixed upon us, and their reiterated inquiries were satisfied, by simply distributing a small pamphlet, which had been written "upon the English nation." Scarcely any means adopted to promote a friendly intercourse, proved so effectual as the circulation of this paper. My patience was exhausted by the time of our arrival at the city gates, from whence we proceeded slowly to the Heen's office. Here we were encompassed by a crowd of curious police runners, who were incessant with their common-place questions, till the arrival of a demure mandarin, who asked no more than was indispensably necessary, keeping his eyes at the same time fixed upon the ground. We were then shown into a small temple, and assured that supper was preparing. Meanwhile, we were invited to take a little warm water. Scarcely had we finished this water repast, when a servant came with a torch, and screaming, commanded his fellow-servants to conduct us to another house of plenty. Our swift guides had all provided themselves with torches, and re-conducted us back to the city gate,
and hurried us through the long street, which we had just passed. In the way, we met a strange and gaudy procession or rather masquerade, apparently in honour of some god, whose huge image was borne by people dressed in yellow. Our sudden appearance amidst such a train, threw them into confusion. We hurried away, however, though weary and hungry, in the hopes of being conducted to good fare and lodgings. How great, then, was our surprise, to find ourselves suddenly surrounded by a number of mandarins, who insolently directed us to step immediately into our boat and depart. Hwang, a "civil" mandarin, with a white crystal button, continued to enact his authoritative injunctions to ears now deafened by his insolence. They, however, enforced their orders, by pressing us towards the water's edge, and leaving us no alternative, but to enter the boat or the water. Their greatest wonder was, that we should find our way to the city without a guide; and regarding this as impossible, they fixed on a young gentleman and myself, as the leaders of the party. They affirmed that they had seen us some time since; confounding us with some sailors who had been cast away near Hae-ton, and brought to Fuh-chow.

As we, however, expostulated with them on their inhospitable treatment, and insisted on our right to quarters, they promised to bring us to a boat for lodging. This we found overcrowded with people, who had no previous intimation of our coming; so we were under the necessity of taking our abode in the custom-house, a very airy mansion. But it did not end here. Hwang contrived to entice us to a temple, where he had assembled his fellow-mandarins to sit in judgment over us. Thus far he succeeded in drawing us from our lodgings, but failed in his design, which he urged very hard, of sending us into the street for the night. After a long and useless debate, we quietly made quarters for ourselves in the room where
our disappointed judges were sitting. In order to secure tranquillity, we posted a sentinel at the door, who had, however, to perform the duty but a quarter of an hour, when the mandarins all dispersed, greatly ashamed of their unsuccessful stratagem.

April 25.—I was first aroused by them this morning. Hwang, in very insinuating terms, inquired after our books. When satisfied on this point, he again tried to persuade me that I was a Chinaman, very kindly entreating me to write down the contents of the petition, that he might report it to the governor. We had come, however, to have an audience with his excellency, and therefore could only thank him for his kind officiousness. Last night we had been regaled upon warm water and sweet-meats, and this morning we were expected to breakfast on board a boat; but being vile barbarians, were by no means allowed to take food on the shore of the Celestial Empire. Instead of attending to these proposals, we examined the stone bridge before mentioned. It is about four hundred and twenty paces long, built upon thirty-five huge pillars of granite, and bears the name of Wan-show, “Myriads of ages!” Though built with extreme rudeness, and having all the defects of unskilful architecture, it is one of the most famous bridges in the empire. Durability is a praise which it well deserves, considering its great length, the rapidity of the current, and the total absence of arches.

Finding that we were only embarrassed continually by the mandarins, we went out of their way, and visited other parts of the city; and were making preparations to re-embark, when our friend Hwang made his appearance in a large boat, inviting us to come on board. We had had too many proofs of his studied insolence to make another trial. There was a large Soo-chow junk in the harbour, the crew of which were very anxious to see us, and show their friendliness.

In our return we could surpass the enjoyments of a beautiful a country, no matter how many precipices, over which the sublime prospect of our books to eager and erudite men. We have had a large field of investigation, none of us understands the language near us, and inquire for books.

The natives spoke of our house built on the declivity of a hill, and ascended the highest and the finest places imaginable, in the form of terraces, which overlooked the precipitous sides and the front of the fort; and the most romantic hill. Nothing than the view, after having a view opened; thus we arrived at the summit of the gardens and fort; and descended to the top of the mountain, inquisitive natives approached, and some mandarin boats came nearer, and were very disrespectful to trade, but we made a sport of a second one.

April 26.—Mr. I was surprised at the unjust punishment of our friend Hwang, should not be forgotten. He visited by the mandarins, and a good old man. He is the only governor of the Christian boats.
In our return we walked along the shore. Nothing could surpass the enjoyment we had in passing through so beautiful a country; and though we had to scramble over many precipices, our trouble was richly compensated by the sublime prospects we enjoyed. We distributed several books to eager and grateful readers. Botany might here have had a large field for its researches; but unfortunately none of us understood any thing of it. Many people came near us, and inquired the prices of various articles.

The natives spoke with admiration of Min-gan, a fortress built on the declivity of a hill. We stopped at the place, and ascended the hill by granite steps till we saw one of the finest places imaginable. The fortifications were built in the form of terraces; several large trees overshadowed the precipitous sides; gardens adorned both the valley and the fort; and the town was situated at the foot of this romantic hill. Nothing can describe our agreeable surprise, when, after having ascended one terrace, another enchanting view opened; thus continuing, one after another, till we arrived at the summit, when we could overlook multitudes of the gardens and plantations beneath us. When we descended to the town, we were soon surrounded by the inquisitive natives and sportive children. When we left, some mandarin boats escorted us, to protect us, as we were told. When we had gone some distance, one of the boats came nearer, and wished to make some arrangements in regard to trade, but was interrupted by the sudden arrival of a second one.

April 26.—Mr. L. and the captain took proper care that the unjust punishments of the natives, who might approach us, should not be repeated here as at Amoy. We were visited by the mandarin of this district, a civil and sagacious old man. He had received orders from the deputy-governor of Fuhkien province to procure a certain number of our christian books for the inspection of the emperor.
I gave him, accordingly, one copy of “Scripture Lessons,” a tract on Gambling, “Heaven’s Mirror,” a full delineation of Christianity, besides a few other books of which he had copies before. I was highly delighted that God, in his wisdom, was sending his glorious gospel to Peking, that it might be fully examined and known in the palace. Taou-Kwang has never shewn himself an enemy to popery. In all his edicts against the sects and heresies in his dominions, he does not even mention the name of Christian. Though I know nothing of his character, except that he delights more in pleasure than in business, I humbly hope that the perusal of the word of God will impress his mind favourably towards the gospel. It is the first time that the Chinese government has taken the trouble to examine the oracles of God. The depravity of the human heart, which is as great in the rulers of China as any where, I fear will not permit them to perceive the glory of God in a crucified Saviour. Yet it is the cause of God. The mighty God and the Saviour will advocate his own cause, and defend it by his omnipotent arm. His mercy embraces China as well as enlightened Europe. The Chinese are his creatures as well as ourselves, and the gospel is given for their salvation likewise. His wisdom will find ways to convey it to their minds. Though we are unable to fathom his purposes, we wait for the glorious day when the door will be thrown open, and the gospel ride triumphantly through the land.

I began, to-day, my medicinal operations with a great number of sick people. To this even the mandarins could not object.

April 27.—A reinforcement of war junks arrived, and the behaviour of the mandarins was immediately changed. Though they had promised us to give the people full permission to come on board, they now not only threatened them, but ourselves also. We therefore went and complained to the admiral, who promised that the junks were moored and the admiral to remove so far with the tide, which people on board his general consternation withdrew into the river.

April 29.—As soon as I visited by great number the local literary men on account of the damage of Sze-chuen province, shrines of the Koran, some Arabic sentences, organs of speech could. His joy was very great, had the same creed. but was by no means his moral character. Mohammadans never tell lies, repeating the improvement in me, “he told the most dreadfully oath. I meeting Mohammadans of China, descendants of Turks, never numerous, not government. They are officers under government, at the stated festival of the temple, and making however, they solve their heart does not usage, but they externally
the admiral, who promised redress. Towards evening the
junks were moored close around us. We requested the ad-
miral to remove so far as to permit our ship to swing round
with the tide, which he refused. The captain sent some
people on board his junk, who cut his cable. This spread
general consternation, and the following day the whole fleet
withdrew into the river.

April 29.—As soon as the fleet had withdrawn, we were
visited by great numbers of traders and patients. Yang,
the local literary mandarin, came to expostulate with us on
account of the damage done. He was a Mohammedan, from
Sze-chuen province, and appeared to know a little of the doc-
trines of the Koran, for he was very careful not to eat pork.
Some Arabic sentences were familiar to him, but the Chinese
organs of speech can scarcely pronounce the Arabic well.
His joy was very great to find some among the sailors who
had the same creed. He denied that he worshipped idols,
but was by no means superior to his Pagan countrymen in
his moral character. Whilst affirming that the Moham-
medans never tell lies, and with every important assertion
repeating the imprecation, "May heaven's thunder strike
me," he told the most palpable falsehoods, unmindful of his
dreadful oath. I made several inquiries respecting the
Mohammedans of China. Many of them appear to be the
descendants of Turkish tribes west of China. They were
never numerous, nor ever had influence in the councils of
government. They pretend to serve no idols; but if they
are officers under government, this is almost unavoidable: for
at the stated festivals every mandarin must appear in
the temple, and make his prostrations. On such occasions,
however, they solve their scruples by the excuse that
their heart does not participate in this abominable worship,
but they externally comply with it as a mere governmental
usage.

We were to-day invited to the ceremony of hearing a
reply to our petition, which had been addressed to the viceroy of Fuhkeen. We found a number of mandarins in a boat moored opposite to a military station, Tang-ko, and among them the adjutant of his excellency. Instead of receiving a reply to our own petition, we were presented with an answer to a statement drawn up from our petition by a military mandarin, and presented to the viceroy. This answer contained a refusal of our request. No barbarian ships were allowed to come to this place, and no tea could be exported by way of sea. We drew up another petition, therefore, and humbly expressed our wish for a direct answer, not to the representations of others, but to our own.

In the mean time I was fully employed in healing the sick, who came in crowds from all quarters. They were afflicted with cutaneous diseases and ophthalmic complaints. A great many complained of the "heart-ache," others of the asthma, and not a few of coughs. I was highly rejoiced that they came and afforded so good opportunities of proving our friendly intentions. Some among them were suffering intensely, and after being relieved, shewed themselves very grateful. Their presents were numerous, and their letters of thanks very hearty; I had often more than a hundred a day, and might have had triple the number, if I had had time to attend to all the applicants.

I praise God for the grace bestowed upon me, to be a distributor of his holy word. Here was ample opportunity to communicate these holy treasures; for the people were anxious to see and study the books which the emperor was to examine. Often when I came upon deck all hands were stretched out to receive them; a scuffle would ensue, and loud complaints were vented by them whose wishes were not satisfied. I frequently visited the adjacent villages; the houses were comfortable, except from their want of cleanliness. The people took little care to wash their persons, and hence the frequent communicative upon through the villages, with great care. But it was to be true of all the character of the regard in and of the manner of .

May 2.—After waiting in petition, we found that intended merely to or find some means of our steady visitor, to confer with us. Instead been issued against us on board. We had and this had been great this breach of promise before decided formally on the river.

May 3.—This decision mandarins are now the sureties for our permission.

The patients became, and the number of also wears a very favorite, reconciled to our situation, the natives are punished. At the close of our eight or ten hours, fields. The people look out these fields.
UNCLEANLINESS OF THE PEOPLE. 207

cleanliness. The people themselves seemed to bestow little care to wash their persons and preserve neatness; and hence the frequency of cutaneous diseases. They were invariably friendly, when we entered their dwellings, and communicative upon all our questions. After passing through the villages, we generally found a temple built with great care. But a small part of this was destined to religious purposes, the larger part was a stage. This seems to be true of all the temples we saw, and is truly characteristic of the regard in which the Chinese hold their idols, and of the manner of worship which they offer to them.

May 2.—After waiting long for an answer to our petition, we found that all the promises given us were intended merely to encourage our hopes, till they could find some means of sending us empty away. Even Yang, our steady visitor, took no longer the trouble to come and confer with us. Instead of this, two very fierce edicts had been issued against us, prohibiting every body from coming on board. We had expressly stipulated, free intercourse, and this had been granted and affirmed repeatedly, so that this breach of promise was the more irritating. We therefore decided formally to enter the harbour, or rather the river.

May 3.—This decision produced immediate effect. The mandarins are now mild and yielding, and have become sureties for our permission to trade.

The patients become daily more numerous and clamorous, and the number of books distributed increases. Our trade also wears a very favourable aspect, so that we begin to be reconciled to our situation; withal we rejoice, that none of the natives are punished for holding intercourse with us.

At the close of our daily business, which generally lasted eight or ten hours, we often traversed the extensive rice fields. The people have shown much ingenuity in laying out these fields. To satisfy immediate want, seems to be
the object of the Chinese peasant. Instead of cultivating grain, and a variety of vegetables equally nutritious, he is satisfied to plant the rice, and seldom cultivates vegetables to any extent. Every corner is planted with rice, and, in the cold season, with wheat, for they have here two crops a-year.

Their daily food, with scarcely any variation, is rice, with a few vegetables as a relish. Meats seldom fall to the lot of the common people, except on holidays, and even the higher ranks consume meat more sparingly than the common people in Europe or America. No Chinese in the southern provinces will admit that he has made a meal, unless he has eaten a sufficient quantity of rice. Even at their grand festivals, where a great variety of dishes is prepared, they end with rice. It is not surprising, therefore, that they undervalue all other vegetable diets, and bestow so much pains to supply each member of their families with a sufficiency of rice.

Gardening rarely engages their attention, for, though fond of flowers, they prefer the artificial to the natural. They are very skilful in the fabrication of them, and females, of all ages and ranks, constantly purchase them as ornaments of the hair.

We received, to-day, a paper written with red ink, from a person pretending to be very anxious for our welfare, because some of his ancestors had been saved from a watery grave by people of our nation. He had heard that we were in imminent danger of death, if we were so daring as to advance further, and so pertinacious as not to retire out of the river; that our destruction had been agreed on, but the Tartar general, who was to have executed this bloody work, not agreeing to it, we were still permitted to breathe. Whoever originated this plot, (and we strongly suspect the mandarins,) ought to have been surprised at the consternation which our entrance into the harbour immediately threw among all our seamen. No resistance was offered, and the soldiers who were the most perfectly rejoiced at this happy opportunity to secure our person and advice were none. This kind feeling still more attempting from the people, we are, by a sharp, and are averse from doubts or disbelieve this assertion. We do not think them a most immediate influence on the Chinese government, in which intercourse was not general, the officers being not of the people showed this against their kind feelings.

May 6.—It is the appointment of us the worst ideas of hostile feeling, while trying to prepare for an abusive edict; but we see the veil was too thin to be pierced, and the burlars, who could not be redeemed, while the manner was.

This was to me a proof of China. There was no indication for them we should preclude a refusal.
threw among all our adversaries; not even the most feeble resistance was offered. The mandarins were humble and kind, the soldiers withdrew every where from our path, and the most perfect tranquility prevailed. The people rejoiced at this happy change, and improved the opportunity to secure our friendship. Their letters of civility and advice were numerous, and their demonstrations of kind feeling still more frequent. To receive such treatment from the people, and then to read, what has so often been repeated, that the Chinese nation detest foreigners, and are averse from all intercourse with them, led us to doubt this assertion. My little experience rather leads me to think them a most social people, whenever free from the immediate influence of the mandarins. But to say that the Chinese government discourteousnesses and severely prohibits intercourse with strangers, is strictly true. In general, the officers were never more annoyed than when the people showed themselves our friends, and we returned their kind feelings. They frequently endeavoured to give us the worst ideas of the stupid and treacherous natives, while trying to prepossess them against us also by the most abusive edicts; but on each side unsuccessfully, for the veil was too thin to hide their palpable falsehoods.

May 6.—It is the Lord's day, and an excessive crowd of customers are on board. We received to-day a chart of the river, executed by our friend who had given us the previous warning. He pointed out the station of the ambush, and described the batteries destined to blow us up. But his exhortations were lost upon the fierce barbarians, who could not believe any danger was to be apprehended, while the mandarins were so dispirited.

This was to me one of the most happy days spent in China. There was a real desire for books; and the applications for them were made in so earnest a manner as to preclude a refusal. I am ignorant of the effect produced
by their perusal, but some of the blessed effects of divine truth upon the hearts of the readers will remain. Considering it as the work of God, and as the salvation of souls from eternal condemnation, I am prepared to hope and believe that our Almighty God will give growth to the good seed sown. There are great obstacles to the efficacy of the divine word, but it is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, and is a discerner of the thoughts of the heart. Occasionally I sat down with the people, and spoke about their eternal peace. Though these words sounded strange to their ears, since every thing beyond the reach of sense is strange and unintelligible to a Chinese mind, yet the words will not be entirely lost. I have often by comparisons made the doctrines palpable to their comprehension. They will listen for a time, but after this it is quite useless to recommence; for they generally withdraw their attention and turn their conversation to other topics.

The number of patients is rather increasing; and many of them come from a great distance. They are very urgent in their requests, and so sure of the good effects of the medicines, that they apply them with the greatest confidence. I received several papers expressive of their gratitude, and a great number of presents.

Hitherto we had never seen any native Christian, but to-day we perceived a man with a paper rolled up in his hand, which he was anxious to hide from the other people. He asked me whether I knew the objects there represented. Upon examination I found it a representation of the Trinity, executed in Spain. From his conversation I perceived him to be very ignorant of Christianity, but he adduced decisive proof of being a real believer. He showed me the cross which his wife wore round her neck, with a rosary. Yang, the mandarin, had previously informed us that the number of native Christians in his district was very great, especially among the boat people. This man confirmed Yang's information, and had no European acquaintance, no account of the rise of Christianity. Neither had he seemed to be in any way affected by it when it was known in other countries.

May 12.—The native Christians are increasing. One of them had been converted in a similar manner as our religious work, and used every means to entice the others that as our religion was the true one, and the only one, and we were the only men to have obtained the knowledge of him. The other paper, expressing his great joy at having the possession of the holy book, and the Saviour's life; the story of Jesus, which had begun only last year, and which he had so soon have required a second edition. At the same time, he was going to take the book to any people affected by his father's death, because he was a Christian. He also requested some religious books to study privately. I was well satisfied to have him a holy book which his friends were so anxious to have. At the same time, prayer he departed high, and said he was no longer an unbeliever. He was interested in the new religion, and would not object to the distribution of the tracts. He said that if they would print the Bible and circulate it among his people, they would not be narrow-minded to impart.

I have been very desirous of nominating native priests, and to-day I called upon a young man introduced to me by Yang. Whilst all the other Chinese who exhibited much polish.
confirmed Yang’s information, said they were all very poor, and had no European among them. He could give me no account of the rise and progress of Christianity here, neither did he seem to be aware of the extent to which it was known in other countries.

May 12.—The native Christians came in greater numbers. One of them handed a paper, to prove that popery was the same as our religion. He claimed fraternity with us, and used every means of persuasion to convince us, that as our religion was the same, we ought to show benevolence towards our poor brethren. Another handed us a paper, expressing his great surprise that we should be in possession of the holy book, which contains the relation of the Saviour’s life; the more so, because they themselves had begun only last year to print this holy book; and how it could so soon have reached us, he was unable to explain.

At the same time, he warned us against giving this holy book to any people afflicted with the blindness of heathenism, because they would not understand its contents. He also requested some prayer-books, which he might study privately. I was anxious to see those parts of the holy book which his friends had already printed, but he refused to produce them. After receiving a manual for prayer he departed highly gratified. I do not know how far he was interested in the spread of the Bible; but his objections to the distribution of it among the heathen are light, and unworthy of a Christian. Yet I should rejoice if they would print the Bible, or the New Testament only, and circulate it among themselves at least, if they are too narrow-minded to impart it to the heathen.

I have been very desirous to converse with some of the native priests, and to-day was rejoiced to see a well-dressed young man introduce himself as a Christian teacher. Whilst all the other Christians were rude and illiterate, he exhibited much polish in his manners, and was well versed
in Chinese literature. Yet his knowledge of Christianity was very superficial and unsatisfactory; but he promised to study diligently to become acquainted with the heavenly doctrines. I supplied him amply with Christian books.

When will the time come that the converts to Christianity will be genuine converts; Christians by grace, cleansed from all sins by the efficacious application of Christ's blood!

During this period we had been very successful in trade, and we might have traded to a greater amount if we had not demanded too high a price, and been desirous to retain our cargo for the northern ports. Mr. L. therefore resolved to leave this port for Ning-po. Thither the mandarins had directed us, and earnestly requested us to go for the disposal of the remainder of our cargo.

May 16.—Two naval officers, one of whom had addressed a letter to Mr. L. came to make us a visit. In this elaborate and quaint communication he justified their conduct in interfering with our stipulated arrangements, by the orders received from the viceroy, and excused themselves for the degradation of our coming into their very harbour by the dispensation of fate. Instead of cherishing hostile feelings, they crave our friendship, and beseech us as friends to leave the port. The writer of the letter, who seems to have expressed the sentiments of his brother officers, was a man of very polished manners and cultivated mind. He frankly acknowledged his mistake in supposing us warriors rather than merchants. "Whenever," added he, "your ship may arrive here again we will immediately arrange the articles for trading, so that myself will not be implicated in the danger, and you will lose no time." We asked him whether he desired us to interest ourselves that he might regain the rank which he had lost on our account. "Only quit the harbour," he replied, "and I shall regain lost favour."

DEPARTURE.

May 17.—We got up at an early hour on our first visit from our warm friends in the city of Ning-po against the "imminent" danger which Mr. L. had warned us that he was a Keu-jung, and that the proper degree, anxious to go to the viceroy at Peking, in order to obtain money, however, he assured us was not sufficient to defray his expenses. Dissatisfied with receiving so little in return for the large sum he had paid us, he would not hear of doing anything for us. He considered his mission as a mere piece of business, to be transacted with the least possible trouble and expense. He would not even receive our presents with the usual compliment; he considered them as a sort of traffic, to be compensated for by the money he received from us. He would not even receive our presents with the usual compliment; he considered them as a sort of traffic, to be compensated for by the money he received from us.
May 17.—We got under way after receiving a final visit from our warm friend who had so often warned us against the “imminent danger.” To-day he acquainted us that he was a Keu-jin, a literary graduate of the third degree, anxious to go to the capital and pass the examination, in order to obtain a higher rank. As he was short of money, however, he applied to Mr. L. for a present adequate to defray his travelling expenses to Peking. Dissatisfied with receiving so little he left us.