CHAPTER IV.

May 21.—Highly pleased with our reception at Fuh-chow, we now steered towards Che-keang. Many fishermen, natives of this province, came aboard, and showed much vivacity and decorum. They examined every corner of the vessel; inquired the use of the various parts; and retired, delighted with what they had seen. In general, they were not tall, but stout, and apparently inured to hardship. The Fuhkeen fishermen, who spend several months of the year along the coasts of Keang-nan and Che-keang, in fishery and occasionally piracies, are very daring and rough seamen. No weather can detain them in the harbours. In the highest seas they will venture out of their smacks into a small boat, scarcely sufficient to contain four persons. A great many of them, every year, therefore, are drowned. All this peril is endured to obtain a scanty pittance to sustain their lives, for they are generally very poor, and often even wanting rice.

May 25.—Yesterday, we entered the Chu-san passage, which leads to Ning-po. We did not here observe the same crowded population which we had elsewhere seen. All around us was silent as the grave. Only a few villages, and some temples, were visible in the distant and still recesses of the mountains enclosing us. We soon saw several junks entering and leaving, one of which, from Fuhkeen, we boarded, and found the captain inquisitive, but an inveterate opium-smoker. He showed us a Chinese map; and, being aware of its geographical errors, he was desirous of correcting and adding to them. Chinese, in general, and more especially in geography, therefore, admired the name of Formosa, and was surprised from the perusal of the map. The cargo consisted of sugar, whither at least a hundred tons were to repair. Whilst we were passing, a mandarin boat passed, and hailed us. This called for the salute of the junk. When three mandarin boats had anchored, they went in and began questioning us to wait further orders, and left us.

We pursued our course through the passage, having the appearance of an eddy, which makes the current undulate. As we sought anchorage, from the length of our cable being twenty-five fathoms, could not be carried for the night.

We saw verdant hills, which surprised us to observe, and which we supposed to be extraordinary in China.

May 26.—We set sail from Ning-po. Ignorant of the place, which entered the river from an island. By not keeping the shore we got upon a rock, and succeeded in getting off again.
desirous of correcting and extending his information. The Chinese, in general, are very tenacious of their errors, more especially in geography and in nautical science. We, therefore, admired the more this man's candour. He was from Formosa, and was slightly acquainted with our nation, from the perusal of the pamphlet before mentioned. His cargo consisted of sugar, destined for the Shang-hae market, whither at least a hundred junks from Formosa annually repair. Whilst we were conversing with these boatmen, a mandarin boat passed, and fired a few crackers, to intimidate us. This called forth a laugh even from the sailors of the junk. When we returned to the ship, several mandarin boats had already come along-side. In their exterior there was nothing superior, nor any thing interesting in their questions. They retired very soon, requesting us to wait further orders before we proceeded to Ning-po, and left us.

We pursued our course through a most extraordinary passage, having the appearance of a broad river. The tide was running very strong, producing in some places an eddy, which makes the passage very dangerous. In vain we sought anchorage, for the depth of the water exceeded the length of our cable, till, after long search, we found twenty-five fathoms, close to some junks, and anchored for the night.

We saw verdant hills, but very few dwellings. It is surprising to us to observe so much fertile ground uncultivated. We could never find the reason for a thing so extraordinary in China.

May 26.—We set out to-day in our long-boat for Ning-po. Ignorant of its situation, we followed the junks, which entered the river by a passage between the land and an island. By not keeping at a proper distance from the shore we got upon a rock, from which, however, we succeeded in getting off again. Scarcely any body impeded
our progress, till we came to a war-junk, where we were hailed. On the top of a hill, at the entrance, is a fort, the best we have hitherto seen in China. The buildings in it have something Gothic in appearance; and though the garrison is not numerous, yet the fort is so excellently situated as entirely to command the river. The course at the entrance of the river is south-west: not far up is an island, or rather a rock, which we first thought was the "Triangle" of the charts. The harbour presented a very lively scene. Junks were anchored in all directions; and, judging from the great number of vessels constantly entering and leaving the port, trade must be in a very flourishing condition. Chin-hue, the place at the entrance, is a walled town, with a great number of ships outside.

As soon as the mandarins got sight of us, they despatched a boat in pursuit, which being unable to overtake us, ran ashore, when the soldiers in her jumped out, and ordered us to stop. It may appear strange that we did not obey this summons; but it must be remembered that our object was to deliver a petition to the principal magistrate of Ning-po, and that the local mandarins, as at this place, dislike nothing more than our gaining access to the higher mandarins. They failed, however, here, as well as every where, though they prevailed on a few naked boys to throw stones at us.

The banks of this river are so low that dykes are very necessary; the whole region, with the exception of long ridges of sterile hills, is highly cultivated. It was the time of wheat harvest, and all the people were in the fields, cutting their corn, which this year amply repaid their labour. Even in the houses of the peasants we remarked more comfort and neatness than in the parts we had hitherto visited. To a mandarin boat which had come up with us we gave a report of our ship, and passed on undisturbed towards Ning-po, situated about eleven miles up the river.

The noise of junk-building, the stench of timber which were piled around, announced the neighbourhood. We entered a vast open space, looking very disdainfully at us. Huih-kuei, "black devils," we were called by the natives. The river divides into two branches near this place, and here is the chief town of this district, much larger than at Fuh-chow. While we landed, we passed a broad street with its shops, which even exceeded the Chinese manufactures, as well as those of the English, in quantity and quality. We saw the most splendid silks, embroi-

We were first shown to the magistrate of a small district. Our names were noted down, and inquired into, and this, all delivered in writing. As we started, the Che-heen, who was not the Che-heen button, came out, and ordered us to return to Foo. We followed him through a great crowd, and finally ascended a number of books, destined for the use of the Sew-tsae. The police are very numerous, but they are not in any order, who thronged the streets to prevent us from leaving their station.

The Che-Foo, a storehouse of stone, containing, with a blue building, all the necessary offices. Mr. Lindsay formally called, and we immediately to read it in the presence of the mandate, turned towards us and asked for our attention; we ought to have been in this house the mean while I shall not ask board. Don't you think so?
The noise of junk-building, and the large quantities of timber which were piled up on both sides of the stream, announced the neighbourhood of Ning-po. The people looked very disdainfully at us, and repeatedly called out "black devils." In the middle of the city the river divides into two branches, neither of which has fresh water. The junks here were larger and more numerous than at Fuh-chow. While in search of the principal office we passed a broad street, well lined with the most elegant shops, which even exceed those at Canton. European manufactures, as well as Chinese, were here displayed to much advantage. Mirrors and pictures also, with the most splendid silks, embellished and decorated the scene.

We were first shown to the office of the Che-heen, a magistrate of a small district, several of which make a Foo. Our names were noted down, the particulars of our voyage inquired into, and this, as well as all the other accounts, delivered in writing. As soon as we had duly reported, the Che-heen, who was an elderly man, and wore a white button, came out, and offered to introduce us to the Che-Foo. We followed him at some distance amidst a numerous crowd, and finally came to a large hall with many books, destined for the examination of the lowest graduates, the Sew-tsae. The police runners belonging to this office are very numerous, but by no means kept the people in order, who thronged the passage, and could not be prevailed on to leave their stations.

The Che-Foo, a stout man, of a very pleasing countenance, with a blue button, soon made his appearance. Mr. Lindsay formally delivered his petition. He began immediately to read it; and after having finished it, he turned towards us and said, "This matter deserves our attention; we ought to deliberate upon the subject. In the mean while I shall provide you with a lodging and board. Don't you think this is right?" Upon receiving
answer in the affirmative, he immediately ordered his servants to conduct us to our lodgings. We crossed a floating bridge, and arrived at the leang-kung, Fuheen hall. This was an extensive building, with spacious rooms, adorned with Chinese pictures and idols. A very sumptuous supper was served up in the evening, and every attention shown us to make us comfortable. We were fully sensible of this uncommon degree of kindness, and made no remarks upon the dirty room where we were to pass the night. In front of it were different idols, all gilt; one of them was inscribed with the name of the emperor, and received his regular supply of incense with much more attention than his neighbours.

May 27.—During the whole night the vociferating crowds had never wholly left us. To-day they re-assembled, and were not less anxious to satisfy their curiosity than yesterday. Yet they observed decorum towards us, and one hint from us would silence the most clamorous crowd. Several merchants made inquiries after the prices of our merchandise. Some of the inferior officers asked us what were the countries bordering on our territories in Asia, and how far our power extended. We were upon the point of going out to view the city when we received a visit from several mandarins, both military and civil. Two of these were Turkomans by descent, and Mohammedans by profession. Ma, one of them, was a tall man, with a blue button, and had passed some time at Macao and Canton. He was a very intelligent man, well acquainted with the customs of foreigners, and versed in all the diplomatic arts of mandarins. The mandarins in general are exceedingly ignorant of all the concerns of foreign countries which are either not immediately under the sway of the Celestial Empire, or bordering upon it. They were astonished to hear that our Indian possessions were separated only by forests and mountains from the Chinese province of Yunnan, and could be reached in a few days by a circuitous route near them. Ma, however, took no alarm, and entered into a long discursury about the European powers who had attempted to extend their power to Arabia and Persia, and who had repeatedly turned their backs on the adherents of the Emperor to the system of the Koran, and had been repulsed by them. He talked in a most amiable manner, and frequently endeared himself to us with true Chinese compliments. Yet we could not but laugh at his blunders, and would have been more heartily amused if we could have found any palpable absurdities in what he said. At length, the most cordial farewell was exchanged, and we were going to the lodging house, when we observed the emperor and bowed as long as we could. We were received with much more respect, and showed us the utmost civility and kindness. The merchants from the shops, including the chief mandarin who had answered all the numerous questions which we had put to him.

Returning by a circuitous route from the city wall, a very interesting view of the country and the whole city. Its population is not much greater than that of small towns of Europe. In the same proportion of scenery and objects we have yet seen, there are more houses, larger buildings, and is no one quarter so thronged with people. The Portuguese traded in these parts in remote ages of the 17th century. They found it a land of spices, a land of gums, products, and they gave the name of China to the country.
of Yunnan, and could scarcely believe that we were so near them. Ma, however, waived these topics of petty alarms, and entered into a full discussion upon the European powers which traded to China. He referred to Arabia and Persia as the cradle of Mohammedanism, and tried to repeat some Arabic phrases to show his adherence to the system of religion which was delivered in that language. He was ample in his praise of European character, highly extolled the advantages of a trade with them, and frequently addressed the other mandarins upon the subject with true Persian flattery, and empty Chinese compliments. Yet his conversation was most interesting, and would have been valuable but for being intermixed with too palpable adulation. We received apparently the most cordial farewell of the mandarins, who, whilst we were going to the long boat, came down towards the river, and bowed as long as we were in sight. The people, who by this time had read our "Pamphlet" on the English nation, were highly gratified with such an exhibition, and showed us the utmost attention. We bought several articles from the shops, inquired after others for exportation, and answered all the numerous questions of the natives.

Returning by a circuitous route to our boat, we came to the city wall, a very massive structure, but overgrown with weeds, and in a state of decay. We had here a view of the whole city. In extent it may vie with Fuh-chow, and in population is not inferior to many of the large trading towns of Europe. It surpasses any thing Chinese which we have yet seen, in the regularity and magnificence of the buildings, and is behind none in mercantile fame. The Portuguese traded to this place as early as the sixteenth century. They found here a ready market for European products, and they exported hence to Japan a great amount of silk. After being once expelled they renewed it again, and other European nations participated with them in the
trade, till the extortions became so great as to limit the foreign merchants to Canton. The English East India Company maintained a factory here till the last century. Whilst we were at Ning-po, we received a list of the ships which had formerly been at this port. They seemed to be very numerous; but at the present time no traces of the foreign trade are to be seen, though the old people retain still a faint remembrance of the foreigners. Here the celebrated Jesuits from France, near the end of the seventeenth century, landed, and obtained permission to settle at Peking. Two of them became the constant attendants of the emperor, Kang-he, in all his travels, and were the partners of his dangers in the Tartarian war. What great results might one have expected from such an opportunity, both to benefit the highest personages in the empire, and to impart to the people the blessings of Christianity! In these hopes we have been greatly disappointed. Instead of introducing the reign of truth, they created intrigue; in lieu of pure religion they spread popery. Though possessing the greatest talents, they never devoted them simply to the glory of their Saviour; they never employed them in giving to the benighted heathen, in their own language, the blessed gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is truly lamentable; that they should bestow such labours, encounter such sacrifices, and defend their tenets with such heroism, to found an earthly religion, which confers few blessings in this life, and leads to a doubtful eternity. In offering these sentiments, there is no design to depreciate their talents, or to vilify their religious zeal; but it is the language of deep regret to see the salvation of the soul neglected amidst the best opportunities of securing it; and the most trifling ceremonies predominate over the eternal welfare of men, which should have been the prime object in all their operations. But to return.

Highly delighted with the hospitable reception we experienced, we attributed it to the influence which the perusal of our little tract had. The people were collected with the greatest curiosity, and in their expressions of fear and admiration, they seemed half fathoms. We were surrounded by a circle of mandarins. Among them stood a man, the aide of the admiral, who commanded the squadron. The former stated how we had been selected to come and obey in silence, and how the gunner had proposed to us the wish of showing another flag. He said he saw in us friends, and how can you expect us to attack you? The latter, however, gave him little encouragement, and he retired quietly. Several vessels were anchored near us. A sharp breeze had got under way for the evening. The admiral gave the signal for action. They immediately hove to.

Having arrived at the island, the admiral which roused the soldiers and the crew to visit the Che-heni temple, which invited us to call within the temple. The concourse of people was immense. The admiral ordered the sailors to land, which they did with all the ceremony due to a temple, which was surrounded by a colonnade. Here we met our friends, the Mohammedans, who, with the admiral and his crew, joined them.

The inhabitants of Ning-po, for approaching so closely to the British flag, were severely reprimanded, and all the laws permitted their
of our little tract had had upon the natives. Crowds of people were collected at the beach to give us a kind farewell, whilst mandarins of all ranks vied with each other in their expressions of friendship.

May 28.—In our return we remarked the dangers of this passage; the water shoaled from sixteen to one and a half fathoms. We were to-day visited by great numbers of mandarins. Among them were two naval officers, an aid of the admiral, and a messenger from the Che-Foo. The former stated his excellency was coming the next day to pay us a visit. It was therefore necessary to stay and obey in silence, till he should decide according to our wishes. They again inquired respecting our cargo, and one of them remarked, "You have nowhere sold any thing; how can you expect to effect any sales here?" As we, however, gave him proof of the contrary, he departed quietly. Several war-junks, in the mean time, had anchored near us. After having surveyed the passage, we got under way for the entrance of Ning-po river. This sudden resolution threw all the mandarins into consternation. They immediately left our ship, hoisted sail, and followed us.

Having arrived at our anchorage, we fired three salutes, which roused the soldiers from their stupor. We now went to visit the Che-heen, of Chin-hae, who had pressingly invited us to call when we came down two days before. The concourse of people was very great, and neither threats nor blows could deter them from looking at us. Though prohibited to land, we ascended a stone pier, and went up to a temple, which served also for a public hall and a stage. Here we met our friends the mandarins, and both the Mohammedans, Ma and Le, whom we had seen at Ning-po, joined them. They earnestly expostulated with us for approaching so near the city. We replied, that our laws permitted their vessels to come immediately into our
ports, without petitioning government, and therefore we in return expected the same liberal treatment. To this they could not object, as they had declared themselves our warm friends; but they remarked, that our premature entrance would involve the local mandarins in trouble. We promised to interpose with the admiral in their behalf; and, as his excellency also had made large professions of friendship, we hoped he would yield to our representation. Meanwhile, the people were all gazing upon us, highly enjoying the novel sight. In our return, we distributed many tracts, to grateful readers; afterwards, we went aboard a large war-junk. The commander asked some impertinent questions, for his spirit was wounded, or rather, his national pride had been severely hurt; therefore, he painted in the most lively colours the displeasure of his excellency, which they must experience. After promising our aid to soften his excellency's wrath, he replied, "Before your face he will be friendly, and grant your request; but behind your backs, he will reprimand us severely, and punish us besides." We visited afterwards his fellow-officers, who took it less to heart. They granted that our way of despatching business was the best; "but what could they do who must act according to the laws of their country?" After having given them a store of consolation from the Chinese classics, we returned to our ship, little moved by the charge of rash encroachment.

It will seem strange, that whatever step we take, we are accused of wantonly transgressing the laws of the Celestial Empire. To persons unacquainted with the laws and regulations of exclusion, this must be inexplicable. "Do not approach our country!" is the general prohibition, which would be violently enforced, if it could be with safety. Conscious of their physical weakness, and persuaded of the impracticability of their unreasonable law, the naval officers, who guard the coast against intruders,

always endeavour to carry into execution, the "inviolable laws" once a vessel enters the rivers. To furnish provisions to trade to be carried for the stipulated time, after the mandarins, that they may be Future traders visited. The more they understood better they will be able to obtain their object.

May 29.—This morning we were saluted by many a gun, fired three salutes, which was a signal. To make the event still more solemn, the gong sounded with the gong, and various measures were taken; the people were numerous, and were the soldiers the trouble? We take note aboard the want of permission for the press.

In the afternoon, we went up the river, where we found the population heavy. The land is the population heavy. The land is upon a soil so fertile. The soil is so fertile from the small extent of area, and went to the salt. Even this, our innate disposition to the mandarins, who dislike it. The inhabitants gave us to understand that their wish to oppose us, and not believe that the
always endeavour to prevail by threats, which they never carry into execution, or by repeating the prohibitions of the "inviolable laws." Both measures are vain, when once a vessel enters the harbours. They are there ready to furnish provisions, if required, and to allow a certain trade to be carried on, which they cannot prevent. The only condition they make is, to leave the harbour within a stipulated time, after which they report to their superior mandarins, that they have driven away the barbarian ship. Future traders visiting the coast ought to remember this. The more they understand the spirit of the system, the better they will be able, without injury to the mandarins, to obtain their object.

May 29.—This morning the admiral arrived, and was saluted by many a shot from the guns, whilst we only fired three salutes, which re-echoed through hill and dale. To make the event more solemn, the soldiers blew upon a horn, like that of a herdsman, and accompanied this dismal sound with the gong. As soon as his excellency arrived, measures were taken to seize the people, who had become numerous, and were anxious to trade. We saved the soldiers the trouble of beating them, and sent a very polite note aboard the war-junk, entreaty of the mandarins free permission for the people to come and go.

In the afternoon, we visited several villages farther up the river, where we had before lodged a night. So dense is the population here, that the greatest industry, exerted upon a soil so fertile, can barely procure their subsistence, from the small extent of ground. In our excursion, we went to the salt-boilers, and visited many neat shops. Even this, our innocent walk, created suspicion in the mandarins, who disliked the friendly reception which the inhabitants gave us. We explained to them, that it was not our wish to oppose the laws of the empire, but we could not believe that there were any laws compelling to such
misanthropy. Why not give the people opportunity to see our faces; and, as fellow-men, why not be allowed to visit their abodes? To all this they replied, "Your reasoning is very good, but our laws forbid you this intercourse."

May 30.—We were to-day invited to an audience to hear an answer to our petition. The Che-heel of Chin-hae, talked very reasonably; but some of the mandarins used most outrageous language, and uttered palpable falsehoods. After a preamble about the difficulties of carrying on trade without the special permission of the emperor, they showed us a circular issued by the deputy-governor of Fuhkeen, strictly prohibiting all trade with us. They were pleased to call us deceitful and crafty barbarians, who, like rats, sneaked into every corner. Though this order was only addressed to the officers, and by no means a reply to our petition, yet we were indignant that such words had been used against us; and showed that our conduct had always been just the opposite. This answer alarmed them; and they finally regretted having shown us a document, which only provoked us, and did them not the least good. It was evident, that the mandarins intended to excuse their future oppressions, by a recital of laws, which had been prescribed as their general rule of conduct towards foreigners.

May 31.—To-day we removed to another anchorage, because the strength of the tide continually endangered our cable. As we had received no reply to our petition, and the communication from the mandarins had rather ended in dissatisfaction on our part, and vexation on theirs, a new audience was to take place to-day, when all things should be settled. To render this new conference the more formal and satisfactory, the highest personages were to attend; for we had drawn up a remonstrance for the higher authorities. We found the two military commanders, both of the general officers, and a civil mandarin, with a blue button, seated under a canopy, in a line of stationed soldiers, to line; and to height of some explanation, an elderly man, of very with the merits of his the empire. The extraordinary in his merely to echo the The civil mandarin virulent language, He briefly stated the enemies, but friend regulations which our hope of trading allowed that opposition, (which, preferable, gave Under such circumstances such abusive language paper. As soon claimed against our handed us a copy.
under a canopy, in the open air. On each side they had stationed soldiers, with fire-arms, regularly drawn up in line; and to heighten the solemnity, a great many military officers, of all ranks, surrounded them; whilst flags, in the background, gave to the whole a martial aspect. The spectators were exceedingly numerous, but were quiet and orderly. After being previously instructed in the ceremonies, we proceeded slowly into the assembly, and after some explanation, were seated. The admiral seemed an elderly man, of very dark complexion, good-humoured, and of winning aspect. He wore two peacock feathers, as proof of the merits of his government over some barbarian tribes in the empire. The other military mandarin had nothing extraordinary in his appearance, but seemed to be present merely to echo the words of his superior. Nothing could be more striking than their contrast with the literary mandarin, whose looks and language both immediately showed the bitterest enmity against barbarians. The admiral began with stating, that many years ago an English factory had been established at Ning-po; but having long been discontinued, it was very inconvenient now to recommence it. The civil mandarin commented upon this in the most virulent language, till he was interrupted by Mr. Lindsay. He briefly stated the reasons of our coming hither, not as enemies, but friends, desirous to revive those old regulations which unfortunately had fallen into disuse. We founded our hope of trading on their justice and generosity. We allowed that opposing laws existed; but more ancient regulations, (which, according to the Chinese sentiment, are preferable,) gave us full liberty to trade to this harbour. Under such circumstances, we were highly grieved that such abusive language had been used against us in a public paper. As soon as this sentence was uttered, they exclaimed against our rudeness; and to silence our reproaches, handed us a copy of the letter with which the deputy-
governor had accompanied our books to the emperor. Though we had received the repeated promise of the governor that he would properly represent our cause, and would co-operate with us in having the harbours of the north opened, yet we perceived from this document, that he only asked imperial sanction to what he had done in driving the barbarians off, without a moment’s delay. He also requested that the degradation of several officers, who had been remiss, should be confirmed, and concluded with expressing his anxiety to learn the imperial pleasure. We then presented our petition, which they at first refused to receive. None of the general officers could read: the literary mandarin, therefore, glanced it over, and explained to them its contents. The petition was then returned to us, but we did not receive it. When we expressed our gratitude for the attention received, the admiral replied, that even if our sovereigns had been at war, we should have been treated in the same manner, for we were strangers.

After the audience, Le and Ma, our two friends, visited us, in order to come to some understanding about the trade. I deeply regretted that the people were not allowed to come aboard, since I was thereby cut off from the performance of my duties. All our remonstrances upon this subject proved fruitless; and I had even to give up the patients with whom I had commenced some days before. This was distressing to me, for amongst so friendly a people, I had expected a rich harvest. I felt persuaded that the distribution of books here, would be more useful than even at Fuh-chow, and so far as it was tried, the experiment had confirmed my opinion.

June 1.—Some Fuhkeen merchants visited us to-day, and expressed a desire to trade, but also the impossibility of doing so on account of the mandarins. When they went away, they assured us that we should get no customers, unless we boldly entered the river, and left the mandarins no alternative but comply. That noon we went ashore, a mandarin boat having come to the shore we were surrounded with banners and sticks. We spent the afternoon in a solemnly worshiping the emperor, opposed to the idea whether he did not wish to be present at idolatrous participation, and courted her

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no alternative but compliance with our wishes. This afternoon we went ashore. As soon as we had entered the river, a mandarin boat came up, desiring us to return. On shore we were surrounded by soldiers, armed with swords and sticks. We spoke of the delay in fulfilling their promise to trade, but received no satisfactory reply. Ma told us that he had been absent to-day, because he was obliged to accompany the admiral to a temple, where he publicly and solemnly worshipped the idols. As this was so directly opposed to the injunctions of Mohammed, I asked him whether he did not consider himself polluted by being present at idolatrous worship. He disclaimed all actual participation, and considered it as a mere ceremony.

June 2.—New visits from our merchants. They seemed to be in earnest to purchase, but shewed a great deal of roguery. Yun, a naval commander of a war-junk, of Fuhkeen parents, and my friend, came aboard with a mandarin wearing a gold button. They told us that all the mandarins stationed at Ting-hae, at the entrance of the passage to this harbour, were to be degraded for permitting us to pass, but he himself had endeavoured to avoid this hard sentence by bribes. As for himself he heartily wished that his superiors were on better terms with us, and that they would give permission to trade, to the mutual advantage of both parties. His admiral cherished the same sentiments towards us, and contested the point very warmly with the other mandarins. "He argued strongly to facilitate intercourse with you; he even made the Che-Foo his enemy, who returned indignant to Ning-po. He is also anxious to visit you, but the fear of E, the Taou-tae, prevents him from doing so. Our viceroy, who will refuse you the trade, has represented the matter to the emperor. The only course to be adopted in such circumstances, is to send an intrepid, royal envoy, to his imperial majesty, to arrange these mercantile concerns. If he is a man who
can overawe vile intrigue, and maintain his point against all objections, and if he has full authority to demand, he will surely succeed."

This was his private opinion, which, in some degree, coincided with the advice received from Ma and other mandarins.

The guns of the fort were again fired whilst his excellency, the admiral, went to worship the idols. We begin to suspect that he is imploring their assistance to drive us away. We were anxious to know what all the martial preparations on shore and at the mouth of the river meant; and were told that the navy had been collected to repress the annoyance of the fishermen, who are come hither with their boats, in order to have the names of the districts to which they belong inscribed, to prevent piracy. "His excellency has been previously engaged to settle their quarrels, but is by no means come hither to meddle with you, nor are the batteries and camps for any other purpose than for display on account of the fishermen."

We had long admired from afar a sloping embankment, made of square granite blocks, united together by iron hooks, as a specimen of Chinese industry and ingenuity. It was made in the reign of Kang-he, and had withstood the rage of the waves more than a century. This is the best proof of its superior structure, and shows that sloping dikes resist the fury of the waves far better than massive perpendicular embankments. To-day we visited this monument of Kang-he's glorious reign, and perceived that the present generation had suffered so magnificent a work to fall into decay. It has shared the fate of all the forts which we have yet seen. Whilst we were going round the city wall of Chin-hae, crowds of people had assembled upon the wall anxious to catch a glimpse of us. Wherever they moved the stones tumbled down in great quantities, bearing ample witness to the ruinous state in which the successors of the men who built the fort were stationed on the wall. When we asked them the reason, they replied, "We are afraid of the sea. The embankment is not long enough. We have therefore scaled the wall, but are afraid of the sea." I suggested a circuitous route by sea, but they readily agreed, and the officer of the fort at once provided a number of sharp boats for our excursions. I admired the ingenuity of these children so far as to come with a different plan, which I must regret that no Chinese can understand. I have a mind to design and write. When I see any people I am inclined, and to compose a letter for them. If they intend to improve, I shall longer, and read them. But, after all, their general knowledge lies in the study and of a field there is no place for people by giving them to the sphere for religion. Religion is entirely neglected and does not receive any direction from God.

In our return we were late at the fort. He was very roughly, "But," replied, We have taken and skill of your men to the embankment. "But
successors of the most enlightened Chinese monarch have left the fortifications of the empire. Some of the soldiers were stationed on the wall with matchlocks and bows. I asked them the reason of so strange accoutrements, and they replied, “We are come to look at you in full dress.” The embankment now appeared to be several miles in length. When we had walked to the fort on the hill we scaled the wall, but were requested to withdraw and make a circuitous route back of more than three miles, to which we readily agreed, to avoid implicating the commanding officer of the fort. All the way we were accompanied by a number of sharp boys, our constant companions in all our excursions. I admired the sound understanding which these children so fully exhibited. What they might become with a different education I am unable to say; but I must regret that no better institutions for the cultivation of their minds are established than mere schools for reading and writing. When they are able to write a legible hand and to compose a letter, they are dismissed from the school. If they intend to become literary graduates they tarry longer, and read the literature and laws of their country; but, after all, their acquirements are very limited, and general knowledge lies quite beyond their attainments. How great a field therefore is there in China to benefit the people by giving their children a better education! But the sphere for religious instruction is far greater, for this is entirely neglected, and the juvenile mind here never receives any direction to the knowledge of its Creator and God.

In our return we met the first military commander of the fort. He was seated with two other officers, and asked us very roughly, “Where have you been, sirs?” We replied, We have taken a walk and admired the industry and skill of your countrymen in forming so excellent an embankment. “But were you aware,” he replied, “that
I ordered the soldiers to stop you? These men do not know the rules of decorum, and therefore I was afraid something serious might befall you, and came hither." We thanked him for his care, and moved with all haste towards Chin-lae, for it had become late, and they would not allow us to pass through the city in order to shorten our return. The constant crowds of people, as we passed along, behaved with the greatest politeness and friendship.

June 3.—Ma, and his friend Le, came again on board. He explained the reason that we were treated with such suspicion. "You are," he said, "very clever; understand making charts, are well versed in the management of business, and always ready to act. We know all this, and are therefore on our guard. Some Coreans were last year shipwrecked near us; we permitted them to travel through different provinces, allowed them to see everything, and to return by way of Leau-tung to their native country; for this nation is stupid, and take no notice of the things which fall under their immediate observation. Nevertheless, if by a proper statement to the emperor, you can prove that your sole object is trade, and not the acquisition of power, we will unite our entreaties with yours that trade to this place may be established." He himself had brought off some money to show us that he was in earnest to purchase, and expressed his hearty wishes that others might do the same. They would wink at the trade with several merchants whom they had sent on board.

June 4.—Several mandarins, amongst them Sun, and a clerk from the admiral, came on board; the latter to convey the injunctions and advice of the admiral. He wrote down upon paper, that if we stayed one or two years no trade would be allowed. We understood that a messenger from the governor was expected to-morrow to examine into the conduct of the local mandarins towards us. This will involve the character, as well as the fortune of the admiral,

and several petty officers that we had to get us away. At the end of the admiral exceeding ourselves, we determined not to be taken in the business, and saved to-morrow to express our hope that so much should be better managed.

When going up the river, we stopped, but recourse, and I think, would have been found in this unprecedented manner. The assurances of friendship we received from the crew on board they completely to crowd her, I think. They betrayed great satisfaction in the sight of the Chinese, butpromised that our trade should be encouraged, and pledged themselves to do their utmost to please us.

June 5.—We had just met with a merchant sent off to us to buy the whole cargo in calico, and partly in silk, and partly in silk, like the merchant in Ning-po. He advised us to buy straight from the mandarins.

We visited to-day the principal city, met with some interference from the mandarins, but assured by them that we should be treated as equals, they intended to act under the authority of their sovereign, that the
and several petty officers, and therefore they are so desirous to get us away. At the same time it was stated to us that the admiral exceedingly regretted that he did not previously permit us to trade, as this would have shortened the business, and saved him a great deal of trouble. We expressed our hope that in future the matters would be better managed.

When going up the river this evening we were forcibly stopped, but recourse to compulsory means (which, however, would have been better omitted) procured for us a free passage. We went near the admiral’s junk to complain of this unprecedented behaviour. After all his repeated assurances of friendship, we were treated like enemies. The crew on board the junk were so numerous as completely to crowd her, and rendered all naval tactics useless. They betrayed great fear lest we should board them, notwithstanding our assurances that no hostile feelings had prompted us to come hither. All the mandarins present promised that our trade should immediately be settled, and pledged themselves that we might reckon on their cooperation.

June 5.—We had yesterday concluded our bargain with a merchant sent off by the mandarins. He promised to buy the whole cargo immediately, and to pay partly in raw silk, and partly in silver. This man seemed a respectable merchant in Ning-po, and in full earnest to effect purchases. He advised us to be firm in our conduct towards the mandarins.

We visited to-day the hall of audience, where we also met with some inferior mandarins, who had come with the messenger from the governor of Fuhkeen. We were assured by them that to trade was a thing impossible; the matter, however, should be taken into consideration. Besides, they intended to send a statement in our behalf to their sovereign, that the matters might be properly arranged.
After this confirmed refusal, Ma talked with Mr. L. in private about carrying on the smuggling trade, and asked with much interest whether the merchants had been on board to-day. So much for Chinese duplicity.

In order to prevent our walking abroad, they had drawn up two lines of military before the temple. We asked whether they considered us as prisoners, and to their great astonishment broke through the ranks. The people, by their extraordinary kindness, compensated for all the hostile treatment of the rulers, given under the name of friendship. We, on our part, endeavoured to screen them from the blows of the police runners, who were very liberal in dealing them out, and thereby occasioned much disturbance. One word of admonition from us to a dense crowd was sufficient to repress their noise and rudeness, and we were far more successful in managing them than were the creatures of the mandarins.

June 7.—To-day we received a document from the T'ou-tae, enjoining upon us to obey implicitly the laws of the Celestial Empire, whose dominion extended over all the ocean, and whose power kept all the world in subjection and awe. We were strictly admonished to conform to established rules, and enjoined to quit the harbour immediately. We nevertheless urged the matter further, explained the practicability of the design, and returned a paper, insisting upon the fulfilment of the promises made us.

I have here given at full length an account of our intercourse with the mandarins, as a specimen of the unvaried diplomatic policy of the Celestial Empire. There is a short way of making an end of these wearisome negotiations, by presuming upon their professed friendship, and demanding the fulfilment of their promises. Had our ship been a private trader we should very soon have disposed of all our cargo without encroaching upon the laws of the country, by simply leaving them no alternative to performing their promises of trade. This is the only advice which did not allow us to pursue.

June 9.—Bad weather forced us yesterday into the harbour, and we were asked whether we were always suspicious of each other, and betrayed their petty alarms. The clerk to-day in the Chinese language, ordering us to a proverb, "Whoever obstinately disobeys heaven, will presently be punished by the sentences of the Chinese empire, and while they ought to possess an impartial judgment, guided by such maxims, the theories may appear to be a serious application of justice, in which concerned feels their interest.

June 10.—I had some books, and of some sick people. Some we have been sent as spices, and of friendly manner, and some sick. They and they speedily left.

In order to prevent some communications, the junks were kept together by some mandarins, and the infliction of measures of punishment has long been very severe; he refused it, and intro...
promises of trade. This was the course our merchants advised us to pursue; but we had definite instructions which did not allow us to follow our own judgment.

June 9.—Bad weather and an exposed anchorage forced us yesterday into the harbour. While our flag was wagging, we were asked whether this was not the bloody flag. They are always suspicious that we design to attack them, and betray their petty alarms on every occasion. The Taou-tae sent his clerk to-day with several despatches, in mild language, ordering us away. He quoted at the end the proverb, "Whoever obeys heaven, will prosper; whoever disobeys heaven, will perish." He here blends the institutions of the Chinese empire with the laws of heaven. One ought to possess an implicit faith in political popery, to be guided by such maxims. How absurd soever these theories may appear to foreigners, they are nevertheless the principal basis on which the Chinese found their treatment of foreign nations; and the same arrogance and misapplication of the name of justice pervades all their diplomatic documents. It may be called mere bombast; but whenever a serious application of these theories is made, the party concerned feels their injurious consequences.

June 10.—I had to-day the pleasure of distributing some books, and of administering to the bodily wants of some sick people. Some well-dressed persons seem to have been sent as spies upon us. We treated them in a friendly manner, and showed them every thing worth seeing, and they speedily left us to report to the admiral.

In order to prevent our going up the river, they had locked the junks together by means of bamboo. This line was broken to-day by our long-boat, to the great amusement of some mandarins, who could not but laugh at such ineffectual measures of defence. His excellency, the admiral, has long been very sick. I offered him my assistance, but he refused it, and intimated to us by Sun that he should
recover without medicine as soon as we had left the harbour. Sun complained very much of the sufferings he had to undergo from the duplicity of his colleagues. He warned us to be on our guard against them, for they had two mouths; and while they used to us the most friendly language, they would asperse our characters and thwart our plans whenever they were in the presence of their superiors.

June 12.—We had finally resolved to leave the harbour. Ma offered us six hundred dollars demurrage, and a large stock of provisions, which we refused; for we should otherwise have been put on their records as beggars. Several mandarins expressed their wish that when we came back next year matters might be so well arranged as to permit our trading without any further opposition. We received several presents, accompanied with the warmest wishes for our welfare. The highest officers did not scruple to acknowledge openly their regret that we had not been allowed to prosecute a trade which would have been so mutually advantageous. All articles of European imports are much cheaper here than at Canton; and had we been permitted to trade, or even enforced the fulfilment of promises made us, we might have realized a considerable profit.

The curiosity of the people had always been very great. They had constantly flocked to the beach to look at the ship; and great crowds now assembled to see her quitting the harbour. The mandarins, during our short stay near Chin-hae, had used every means to frighten us; but finding that neither the firing of their cannon, nor the increase of their fleet, could intimidate us, they rallied at one point, waiting patiently the effect of persuasion. They promised themselves much from so subtle a negotiator as Ma, and were highly disappointed to see him so little successful.

June 15.—We left on the 13th, steering near the triangle in four or five fathoms water, a depth sufficient for the entrance of any ship, at the island, Kin-tang, in the anchorage was lat. 29° 16' N. and long. 11° 54' E. We had hinted to us that the Goons people to come aboard our harbour. Though we had reason to think it, and to take in a new anchor, very commodious anchorage was short.

In our excursions, we ascended many hills and valleys, and were delighted with the sight of the fertile valleys and cultivated fields intersected by rivulets, and surrounded by stone walls. The hills were fertile, both fuel and timber for the southern parts of the country; and we doubt not that perhaps every vegetable in this country would give itself to us.

We ascended some hills that we could look over a great extent of the country. The people of nature are here eunuched, and thriving people, who have patience to enjoy the fruits of their labours, but not to share in them; and yet they can easily procure food from soil. The temple is the most picturesque, and the priests, and acolytes of the temple are the most picturesque. My books were read with great concourse of people; and I reigned in the house during my stay there. They expressed universal surprise and wonder at a beholding man.
entrance of any ship, and arrived the same day at a romantic island, Kin-tang, in the neighbourhood of Ning-po. Our anchorage was lat. 20° 55', long. 121° 54'. The mandarins had hinted to us that they would very gladly allow the people to come aboard if we chose to move out of the harbour. Though we placed little reliance on this assertion, we thought it well to reconnoitre the sea in this place, and to take in a new supply of water. The harbour is very commodious and safe, but the distance which we had entered was short.

In our excursions over this beautiful island we crossed hills and valleys, and halted at several temples and houses. The fertile valleys all run in the same direction, are intersected by rivulets, and yield a rich harvest to the cultivators. The hills are clothed with verdure, and furnish both fuel and timber. Most of the fruits which grow in the southern parts of Europe grow here luxuriantly; and perhaps every vegetable could be raised if the inhabitants would give themselves the trouble.

We ascended some of the highest peaks, from whence we could look over a great part of the island. The beauties of nature are here exhibited in every variety to a numerous and thriving people, who lack only the blessings of Christianity to enjoy true earthly bliss. They enjoy the fruits of their labours, because no extortioner or mandarin lives among them; and though they pay the customary taxes, yet they can easily afford it from the produce of their fertile soil. The temples were very numerous, and built on the most picturesque situations. We conversed with several priests, and acquainted them with the way of salvation. My books were rapidly distributed, and eagerly read by a great concourse of people. We admired the neatness which reigned in the houses, as well as in the dress of the natives. They expressed unrestrained joy to see us. In the midst of a beholding multitude, who had collected from all
quarters of the island, we sat down to dine, to the great amusement of the spectators. The mandarins often characterise the common people as stupid; but this could apply very little to the company which we saw to-day, for their remarks were just, and their inquiries showed more intelligence than many of the mandarins. In our return we visited a school. I conversed with the schoolmaster on the inexpediency of teaching young children, like his scholars, the refined principles of good government contained in their classical books. He could defend such a practice by no argument but custom. I urged him to cultivate the intellectual powers of his pupils, instead of merely teaching them a certain number of characters, of which they did not begin to learn the signification till the lapse of two years. He was polite enough to promise what he doubtless never intended to perform. Several idols are placed along the road in little shrines, to remind the people of their religion, and to excite their devotion by burning a little incense. To see so fine an island under the absolute sway of paganism, is a very mournful sight. This feeling is enhanced by reflecting upon the willingness to hear which the inhabitants constantly evinced. Many other islands have been visited by the blessed gospel, though the inhabitants were cannibals and hostile to missionary exertions; but this peaceful abode, where missionaries would by no means encounter all those obstacles which they meet in New Zealand and elsewhere has never known the blessed effects of the glad tidings of salvation. While we ought to bewail our lukewarmness, let us, prostrate, adore the mysterious ways of Providence, when savages are called to the enjoyment of heavenly light, and more civilized nations are left in darkness.

June 16.—We had a large number of visitors on board. Applications for medical aid were very numerous; they were eager to possess books as soon as they knew I distributed them; and it was a pleasure to see how little of God will doubtless find its way to the minds of the intelligent natives of this island, there will be some consolation. When Christ is come into the world, hope animates me under these obstacles, though apparently not up to the Saviour who is to come.

In the absence of the rest of the expedition, I had a long conversation with the mandarins in true colours. I thought I might as well as the source of all comfort. In the meanwhile, having been so long at a great distance from my country, and so much at sea, I felt that it was necessary to pay a visit to the Che-keah, the capital of the Hwang-ho, as it is on the westward towards Shang-hae in the neighbourhood of Ning-po. He took the opportunity of delivering me into the hands of the mandarins in true colours. As the source of all comfort. In the meanwhile, having been so long at a great distance from my country, and so much at sea, I felt that it was necessary to pay a visit to the Che-keah, the capital of the Hwang-ho, as it is on the westward towards Shang-hae in the neighbourhood of Ning-po.
buted them; and it was a very cheerful day. The word of God will doubtless find some serious readers among the intelligent natives of Kin-tang, and when I revisit the island, there will be some individuals who know that Jesus Christ is come into the world to save sinners. This joyful hope animates me under all discouragements. I slight the obstacles, though apparently insurmountable, firmly looking up to the Saviour who has all power in heaven and earth.

In the absence of the gentlemen belonging to the expedition, I had a long conversation with our old comprador of Ning-po. He took the liberty of portraying the mandarins in true colours. He detested the duplicity of Ma, as the source of all our ill-fortune. The naval squadron, in the meanwhile, had been withdrawn and anchored at a great distance from our ship, while some boats were despatched to watch our movements. However, these boats did not stop the people who came on board to trade, nor did they interfere with us in any way. We now bade farewell to the Che-keang province, and moved on our way towards Shang-hae in Keang-Soo province.