

open another fine field for doing good."

JAVA.—After a residence of more than four months on this beautiful island, Mr. Abeel thus writes. "As success, though eventually certain, is beyond the province of instruments; and as the command of God and the opportunity of obeying it are decisive of duty, Java urges many appeals to the charities and obligations of the christian world. *With a population, nearly half as numerous as the whole United States, there are but two missionaries on the island.* The Dutch have sent forth many missionaries to their other colonies; but the widest field is suffered to lie in desolation. Those who reside in Java are generally appointed

and supported by the local government, and either instructed, or disinclined to stretch themselves beyond the narrow limits of a small congregation of Dutch, Portuguese, or native christians. There is very little question that other missionaries would be allowed to co-operate with Mr. Medhurst, and thus amplify the field of gospel culture. The island is by no means as insalubrious as is generally supposed.

Of the Chinese in Batavia, he remarks, that they compose the majority of tradesmen in that place, "being more ingenious, shrewd, laborious, and gain-seeking, than the natives. Where money is to be obtained by dint of traffic, manufacture, gambling, or gulling, Chinamen are sure to be found."

### LITERARY NOTICES.

*Notitia Linguae Sinicae.* Auctore P. Premare. Malaccæ: Cura et sumptibus, Collegii Anglo-Sinici. 1831.

Mention was made of this book in our last number, as one of the works, which, during the last year, was issued from the press in connection with the College at Malacca. The last report contains the following account of this work. The body of the book is preceded by a copious introduction which comprises three general heads.

I. On Chinese Authors. 1.

A general account of Chinese books; 2. on the order and method of studying them; 3. an account of various dictionaries.

II. On Chinese Characters.

1. On the written character; 2. on the mode of pronouncing it.—1.) On Chinese accents; 2.) on Chinese tones.—(1.) On the initial letters; (2.) on the medial letters; (3.) on the final letters.

III. An Appendix, containing a general index of all the words in the Chinese language, and distributed into nine classes, arranged according to the final sound of the syllable: a speci-

men is also given of each of the tones in all the different monosyllabic sounds of the language. The introduction closes with notes to the preceding index.

The body of the work is divided into two parts. *Part the first*, is on the peculiarities of the colloquial language; and *part the second*, on the higher style of writing as practised by the best authors. Of the *first part* the author says, it will assist missionaries to render themselves more intelligible to the Chinese when conversing with them, more readily to understand their discourse, to appreciate better those books which are written in a less elevated style, to acquire the colloquial medium more quickly, and, when there is necessity, to practise this species of writing. Of the *second part* he observes, it will be very useful to the missionaries, in teaching them to apprehend the sense of ancient writings, to translate them correctly into another language, and, if they please, to acquire an elegant style of writing. The object of the author in employing the Latin is to render his work more extensively useful. The *first part* is divided into two heads.

I. On the *Grammar and Syntax* of the common language.

1. Grammar;—1.) Nouns; 2.) pronouns; 3.) verbs; 4.) the other parts of speech. 2. Syntax.

II. On the *true Genius of the Chinese language*, illustrated by copious quotations from native authors, in a series of paragraphs distributed under three leading articles. Art. 1. On the uses of certain characters, comprising *fifteen* paragraphs.

2. On the particles which occur in speaking. 1.) Negative; 2.) augmentative; 3.) diminutive; 4.) initial; 5.) final,—together with *twenty* paragraphs on particular words. 3. On Figures.—1.) On repetition. (1.) The same character repeated twice or thrice with greater effect. (2.) Two synonyms, or at least words of a kindred signification, elegantly repeated and forming frequent phrases of four characters each. (3.) The same word being used with others, which are synonymous, antithetic, or of a kindred signification. (4.) Two words, whether synonymous, of a kindred meaning, or antithetic, being placed in contrast with each other. (5.) The frequent repetition of the same phrase used either numerically, or to impress the sentiment more deeply on the mind. (6.) The same word being repeated with the particle *Ti* intervening to denote the participial form. 2.) On antithesis. 3.) On interrogation. 4.) A collection of proverbs, one hundred and sixty-five in number, with which the first part of the work closes.

The *second part* of the work is on the more dignified style of the *written language*, and exemplified under five general heads.

I. On *Grammar and Syntax*. This head is subdivided into three sections, each illustrative of the grammatical structure of the parts of speech used in good composition.

II. On *Particles*. This head is distributed into *eighteen* articles, some of which are subdivided to illustrate such words as are used in different senses: