

spirit, that can meet and overcome difficulties, be called into vigorous action. We wish to see these objects attained. We wish to see the Siamese come out of bondage; and the substance and the abilities granted to them, consecrated to the glory of the Creator, and the well-being of his creatures. These are objects worthy of every attention; and with a view to facilitate their achievement, we propose to select for our readers a variety of facts and statements, contained in the documents before us. We must here, however, before proceeding to our task, enter our protest against those declarations,—always the offspring of weak or wicked minds,—that would consign to indiscriminate neglect information the most valuable, simply because it is contained in a “missionary journal.” Petty parties, divisions, animosities, backbitings, rivalries, strifes, and such like, are the abomination of the good man; he abjures them; he deprecates them; but never will he refuse to accept and value the truth,—published though it may be by the humblest of his fellow-mortals.

Mr. Medhurst of Batavia was the first protestant missionary, so far as we know, who ever contemplated a visit to Siam; subsequently Messrs. Fomlin and Gutzlaff engaged to become his fellow-travellers. But Mr. M. being more than once hindered from undertaking the enterprise, the two latter gentlemen, at length, determined to proceed without him. They embarked, August 4th 1823, on board a Chinese junk at Singapore; and after a voyage of sixteen days entered the mouth of the Meiuam.

Only three days after their departure, Mr. Medhurst arrived from Batavia. Unable to obtain a passage either to Siam, Camboja or CochinChina, he resolved to explore the eastern coast of the Malay peninsula; and embarked, August 22nd, on board a Chinese prow, carrying about 15 tons, bound for Pahang; from whence he proceeded to Trin-

gano, Kamman, Patani, and Songora; each of which settlements, he remarks, may contain, on an average several hundred Chinese colonists, with about as many thousands at the mines in the interior;—and altogether the Chinese settlers on the east coast of the peninsula cannot fall short of 15,000; and the Malays may be about 100,000. The cruel character of the Malays is pretty faithfully drawn in the following extract.

“What most disgusts and offends the eye of a stranger in passing through the town of Tringano, is the multitude of deadly weapons which abound among the people. Every man has a creese, sometimes two, and a sword besides; with one, two, and frequently three spears, on his shoulders; so that it is quite burdensome for each man to carry his arms; and the bulk of the people can do no work, having to carry such a load of destructive instruments about with them wherever they go. The consequence is that the men are all idlers, and the women do all the work, both carrying goods to the market, and disposing of them when there. The people being so plentifully armed, quarrels are very frequent among them, and murders not uncommon: immediately a cross word is given, the creese is drawn; if a man tries to escape, the spear is thrown after him, and if that misses, another is ready; and frequently a third, to do the work effectually.... The spears they carry about with them might rather be termed javelins, as they are heavy at the head, and taper to a point at the further end, so that they may be thrown remarkably exact, and seldom fly aside, or miss the mark, but at the distance of ten or twelve paces will pass through the body of any against whom they may be thrown.”

Thus armed and trained, it is not at all surprising, that “almost every evening one or another falls a victim” to these deadly weapons, and that “however numerous and glaring these murders may be, no notice whatever is taken of them by the ruling power.” We are further informed, that the administration of justice “is lax in every respect;” the thief has only to give back the thing stolen and receive a reprimand; but if he is caught a second time making such depredations, he then loses a hand or foot, which is immediately cut off.

at the joint of the wrist or ankle. "But there is no such thing as flogging, or imprisonment, or working in chains; all which degrading punishments, the high spirit of the Malays would not bear, gladly preferring death in its stead." Such are the men who are to be tamed, and made the peaceful subjects of the Prince of peace.

The character of the Chinese, as portrayed in the journal, agrees pretty well, in its chief characteristics, with what is observable at Canton. Books were, generally, well received; and one man was so pleased with them, that he offered money to increase their circulation; this, says Mr. M., is the first time since my intercourse with this people, that I ever knew a Chinese ready to offer pecuniary assistance. All along the coast, the Chinese, though fewer in numbers than the Malays, are decidedly their superiors in every kind of labour and in commerce. But here, as every where else, they are given to the "vile habit" of smoking opium; some lamentable instances of which are noticed in the journal.

Songora is the first Siamese town on this side of the peninsula; it is divided into three parts, in which the Chinese, Siamese, and Malays severally dwell. The trade of Songora is principally confined to junks and native vessels, which pass up and down between Siam and Singapore. The Siamese here are easily distinguished by their stiff black hair, which they wear full in front, stroked back and smeared plentifully with oil; the women wear their tuft of hair on the fore part of the head, and are poorly clad. "The countenances of both men and women are, in general, intelligent and interesting, indicating a share of understanding superior to the common class of Malays."

Here we end our brief notice of Mr. Medhurst's journal, the value of which, to the general reader, would have been considerably enhanced, had the author added more concerning the productions of

the country, and the state of learning among the people. He has done well, we think, in publishing it.

Messrs. Tomlin and Gutzlaff passed *by* this coast, having only now and then a distant view of the main land or islands; which, as they appeared two days before they reached Siam, are thus described:

"At sunset came close to the land we saw ahead at noon; it forms a most singular and picturesque scene on our left. A chain of rocky islands rising up in numerous sharp peaked minarets and blunt turrets, having altogether a most fantastic appearance. On discovering these well known land marks, the men were overjoyed and surprised at finding they were so near home. They, as well as we, have come unexpectedly hither; even our sailing master, the most experienced of all, was not aware of being so far advanced. Soon after first making land, at noon, our course was altered, now steering directly north and ever since we have been running before a fine breeze, with all sail set, five or six knots an hour. Truly, we have great reason to praise the Lord for all his goodness! The people, as usual, expressed their joy and gratitude by giving a double portion to the gods! But at our evening worship below, we witnessed a more pleasing and triumphant scene. The captain, and several others, joined us in reading the cvi Psalm; G. suddenly rose at the end of this spirited and energetic song of praise, and, with peculiar vehemence of manner, commanded every one to kneel down and praise the God of heaven for his mercies; instantly, as if moved by a sudden and irresistible impulse, one and all were down upon their knees, and G. poured forth a strain of impassioned praise to the Most High, and in the name of all, gave thanks for his preserving and tender mercies to us, during the voyage. It seemed, indeed, as if the mighty spirit of the Lord was present and moved every heart, so that each one, christian and idolator, acknowledged his mighty power, and bowed beneath it. They have often been present, on recent occasions, listening attentively and paying a kind of outward respect, but never before heartily joined with us and bent their knees before the Most High God.

"Every thing conspires to fill us with joyous emotions, and exalts our hopes in the Lord. The weather is altered for the better; and this has been one of the most pleasant days we have had for a long while; the night also was bright and lovely. The moon threw off her misty veil and walked in brightness, and the stars glittered in the heavens with peculiar lustre. The path of the moon was strewn with white filmy clouds, here spread out in a thin dappled surface, and there rolled up in delicate fleeces."