

somewhat accustomed to the sounds wherein the natives read the Chinese characters.

“ The resemblance between the Korean and Japanese languages is very striking. The Koreans study euphony to excess, and often omit or insert a letter to effect it. We may call the Korean a very expressive language, it is neither too harsh nor too soft. The Chinese language is sometimes unintelligible to foreigners, because it contains a great many sounds, which are only half pronounced ; while the Korean is full and sonorous, and may be easily understood. The Koreans confound, interchange, and transpose the letters *l*, *m*, *n*, and *r*. As they are a very grave people, they pronounce their language with peculiar emphasis. Their language is expressive, not on account of the great number of ideas which they can convey through this medium, for the natives are poor in thoughts, but because of its sonorous nature. We meet in it all the terms for abstract ideas which the Chinese language contains ; but for many of those ideas, they have nothing more than the sound of the Chinese characters, and not an original word.

“ It is remarkable, that not only the Chinese, but also the nations who have received their civilization from them, have taken the utmost pains to cultivate the Chinese language. To encourage the study thereof, it has been made a duty, incumbent on all who aspire to literary honors, and thereby to offices in the government, to know the language thoroughly. This seems to be no less the case in Korea, than in the other *Chinese language* nations ; and hence it is that the Chinese character is so generally understood in a country, which, in civilization, is far inferior to China, as it is also to Japan.

We have not been able to ascertain whether there exists, among the Koreans, a variety of dialects ; this we can suppose to be the case from the nature of their language. We endeavoured to obtain some native books ; but in this we failed ; and indeed, we were not allowed even to have a sight of them.— The books which have, by way of Japan, fallen into the hands