

tory far more ancient and venerable than ours. As far back as the 14th century a body of men numbering 2148 was appointed to prepare a cyclopaedia of universal knowledge, and the result was, after ten years labor, 120,000 volumes on all subjects, astronomy, botany, medicine, agriculture, government, astrology, etc., etc., the greatest collection in the world. In the middle of last century a body of literati were directed to prepare an appendix to this stupendous work, which they did in 10,000 volumes more. True much of it is the merest rubbish, but it was undertaken and finished when the intellect of the Western world seemed scarcely awakened from its slumber of centuries. They had the mariner's compass and manufactured paper long before either was dreamed of in Europe. Think not that China's millions are poor simple minded aborigines. They consider themselves as superiors and look with disdain upon the "foreign barbarians," and if we would succeed in planting the gospel among them we must take into account the men with whom we have to deal.

While they consider themselves our superiors they are not insensible to the advantages to be derived from contact with European nations nor slow to utilize them, and they are adopting in civil and military life many of the latest improvements. They have their troops armed with breech loaders and drilled according to the most approved tactics of modern warfare, their forts mounted with Armstrong guns, iron clad and steel clad war ships ploughing their waters and the beginnings of a rapidly growing merchant fleet that will soon take a place and exert an influence among mercantile navies for which the world is not prepared.

Look not down upon them, they are your equals. Let not the cloven hoof of oppression lift itself against them. Let not such a spot or stain blacken the banner of this fair Canada as that which disfigures the stars and stripes on the Pacific coast.

Such is the people to whom we carry the gospel in Formosa, and while I do not underrate the importance of mission ary work as carried on among savage tribes, and among the scant populations of the islands of the sea, yet, I believe, the Christian world should combine and bend its energies to give the gospel to these nations of antiquity that shall play so prominent a part in the history of our race when dwarfed savage tribes shall be no more.

Ten years ago I landed one Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, in Northern For-

mosa. I got a small, damp bath room from an English trader in which to spend the night. I soon succeeded in getting a small Chinese house, built 45 years ago and long used as a stable, damp and mouldy with a stream of water running through it every rainfall.

Here I began the study of the language. So bitter was the prejudice and opposition to the "foreign dog" that they would not converse with me lest I should learn their language. I went out among the herd boys on the hills, learned from them then went home and committed portions of the New Testament to memory in their language that I might get the idiom of their tongue, and in this way at the end of four months I was able to throw open my door and tell them in their own tongue the wonderful works of God.

HINDRANCES TO THE WORK.

The conduct of Europeans hindered the work. Sailors drinking and blustering, or Europeans when Sabbath morning dawns taking their dogs and guns and going to hunt. When the heathen see such specimens of what they think the fruits of Christianity, no wonder they listen with a sneer when the gospel is preached to them. The conduct of British and American sailors, traders, and travellers abroad is one of the great hindrances to the progress of the gospel. Then, personally, I was not wanted in Formosa by these foreigners. I was looked down upon as a poor ignorant fellow from the backwoods of Canada, until one day Capt. Backs from one of Her Majesty's war vessels visited me, sat and talked with me, then there was a change. When they saw that they no longer treated me with contempt, my work met with a favor that it had not previously received.

HINDRANCES FROM THE CHINESE.

They are joined to their idols. The chief among these is called "The Pearly Emperor." The next is the "Goddess of Mercy" which is worshipped by all. The worshipper has two small sticks, one side of each made flat the other round. He comes before the goddess and prays "Help me to make money." He then throws up the two sticks and if they both fall the one way, that is with both the flat sides or both the round sides up, the answer is unfavorable, if otherwise favorable. If the answer is unfavorable he throws them again and again until they fall according to his wish. I never knew one to turn away from an idol until the sticks turned to his satisfaction. He will then make an offering of money to the goddess by taking worthless scraps