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## ON THE AMOY COLLOQUIAL DIALECT.

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*(Read before the Canadian Institute, 31st March, 1866.)*

This dialect is spoken in the city of Amoy and the surrounding districts. Dr. Medhurst, in his Dictionary (printed at the Honorable East India Company's Press, Macao, 1832) calls it the Fuh Kien Dialect. But as the province of Fuh Kien, though one of the smallest, has at least five distinct dialects spoken within its borders, and as the dialect under present consideration is not that spoken in and around the provincial capital Fuh Chau Fu, it seems scarcely entitled to the name. It has been also called the Chang Chau dialect from the city of Chang Chau Fu, about twenty-five miles S.W. of Amoy. This city, containing about four hundred thousand inhabitants, is the capital of the district in which the dialect is spoken called by Dr. Medhurst, the Fuh Kien dialect. This dialect differs, in some of its tones, as well as in very many words, from that spoken in Amoy. As too, Amoy is not in the district of Chang Chau, but in that of Tsiuen Chau, and as the Tsiuen Chau peculiarities are for the most part found in the speech of the Amoy people, the name of this latter district might more appropriately be given to this dialect. I have preferred, however, to call it the Amoy dialect, as that is the place best known to Europeans, it being the port of both those districts.