

upon a bank, and now lay at a distance of sixty yards from the water. The inhabitants, who collected on the spot, were friendly, and brought fish and other provisions for sale, but in the course of the morning a number of soldiers, headed by an officer, scrambled into the boat and disturbed the party while at breakfast. Mr. Gutzlaff told them to retire; but they persisted in keeping possession of the boat until the sailors obliged them to withdraw.

When the tide again rose, the boat regained the main channel, and, escorted by a numerous fleet of Chinese war-junks, reached Mingan on the 13th May; passed the Forts at the Bogue, whence a salute was fired, and in the afternoon of the same day got on board the ship from which they had started.

A petition was immediately forwarded to the viceroy, praying for an enquiry into the conduct of the persons who had fired on them in the river, complaining of the fierce and wanton attack thus made upon their lives, and demanding reparation. Much delay ensued; the application was answered in an unmanly and evasive manner; and up to the 17th of May, at which time the *Findlay* removed from the Min River into the outer bay, no redress had been obtained.

Mr. Gordon had hoped to penetrate at least two hundred miles into the country, and to spend several weeks there, in making observations on the cultivation and preparation of the tea plant. The enterprise, as regards this design, must consequently be considered as unsuccessful; but in a visit to the Anko Tea Hills, accomplished some time before and with similar purposes, this gentleman collected many additional facts, in connection with a subject which, although interesting, is as yet comparatively but little known. Our readers will therefore be gratified by a description, from so authentic a source, of this valuable shrub as it appears in the field. Mr. Gordon writes:—

"We got up at day-break, and proceeded to visit the spot where the plants were cultivated. We were much struck with the variety of the appearance of the plants; some of the shrubs scarcely rose to the height of a cubit above the ground, and those were so very bushy that the hand could not be thrust between the branches. They were also thickly covered with leaves, but these were very small, scarcely above three-fourths of an inch long. In the same bed were other plants with stems four feet high, far less branchy, and with leaves from one and a half to two inches in length. The produce of great and small was said to be equal. The distance from centre to centre of the plants was about four and a half feet; and the plants seemed to average about two feet in diameter. Though the ground was not terraced, it was formed into beds that were partly levelled. These were perfectly well dressed as in garden cultivation, and each little plantation was surrounded by a low stone fence, and a trench. There was no shade, but the places selected for the cultivation were generally in the hollows of hills, where there was a good deal of shelter on two sides, and the slope comparatively easy. I should reckon the height of the highest plantations we visited to be about 700 feet above the plain, but those we saw at half that height, and even less, appeared more thriving, probably from having somewhat better soil, though the best is little more than mere sand. I have taken specimens from three or four gardens. Contrary to what we had been told the preceding night, I found that each garden had its little nursery, where the plants were growing to the height of four or five inches, as closely set as they could stand: from which I conceive that the plant requires absolutely a free soil, not wet or clayey, but of a texture that will retain moisture; and the best site is one not so low as that at which water is apt to spring from the sides of a hill, nor so high as to be exposed to the violence of stormy weather. There is no use in attempting to cultivate the plant on an easterly exposure, though it is sufficiently hardy to bear almost any degree of dry cold."

PHYSICAL BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRY.

Of the attempt to advance into the interior of China by the Min River, Mr. Stevens has also given an animated and graphical account; noticing some circumstances which Mr. Gordon left untouched. After adverting to the opposition encountered by the party in advancing up the river, Mr. Stevens offers some remarks on the picturesque character of the scenery through which it flows.

"The tract of country," he observes, "through which this excursion led us, independent of all other considerations, is one of great interest and beauty. The river Min, though in magnitude it may seem insignificant in comparison with several of the vast rivers of Asia and China, yet in real utility and commercial importance will contest the palm with any of them." It drains the waters of the province from the parallels of 23 degrees to 25 degrees 30 minutes north; and in longitude extends through the whole breadth of Fuhkeen. Its northern branch, rising in the province of Chekeang, passes southward through the very centre of the Woos hills, joins the two western branches of the city of Yenping foo, from whence, pursuing a south-east direction, it reaches the ocean, after a course of above 300 miles. Besides the capital, Fuhchow, there stands on this river and its branches three cities of the foo order, and twenty-six of the heen, in all, twenty-six walled towns. Bold, high, and romantic hills give a uniform, yet, ever-varying aspect to the country; but it partakes so much of the mountainous character, that it may be truly said, beyond the capital we saw not one plain, even of small extent. But every hill was covered with verdure from the base to the summit. The less rugged were laid out in terraces, rising above each other, sometimes to the number of thirty or forty. On these the yellow barley and wheat were waving over our heads; here and there a labourer, with a bundle of the grain which he had reaped, on his shoulder, was bringing it down the hill to thrash it out. Orange, lemon, or mulberry groves, and other trees, sometimes shaded a narrow strip along the banks, half concealing the cottages of the inhabitants. Rarely have mine eyes seen so varied and lovely, and at the same time, so extensive, a tract, as the valley of the Min. Neither did we in any instance receive unkind treatment from the people, nor, except in the attack at Mintsing, from the military. The interesting events of that week will not be easily forgotten by those who passed so rapidly through them. And as the result is, it is perfectly gratifying to know that, among the friendly people, were left several hundred volumes of books, which may teach the way of salvation, while they remind them of the kindness of foreigners, long after the noise of the present events has died away."

PRACTICABILITY OF ENTERING THE COUNTRY.

"The result of this expedition, taken in connexion with the transactions of last summer in the river of Canton, will go to prove that the interior of China cannot be traversed with impunity by foreigners. The erection of new, and the repairing of old forts, and the garrisoning of deserted military stations, all indicate a sort of indefinite apprehension of danger from abroad. The vigilance of the imperial officers in the interior, forbids the hope that a foreigner can penetrate far without detection; and their adhesiveness when once attached to the intruder equally allows no hope of escaping from them. If the Chinese costume were adopted, this might prolong the time of detection, but would much more diminish personal safety after such a discovery. But this prevalent feeling of suspicion is not of much consequence to the merchant, who only proposes to send his vessels into the outer harbour for the sake of trade. The disposition of the people was sufficiently manifested by their readiness to seize opportunities of intercourse, and especially of trade, with us. More than once were we impor-