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MANDARIN EATING WITH CHOP-STICKS.

The customs and practices of the Chinese would form an interesting chapter for our readers, and we may, at some future period, indulge them in this respect. The cut represents a Mandarin, or an officer of the Government, eating with chop-sticks. The Mandarins may be called the nobility of China, and, however strange it may seem, the constant practice of the Emperor is to choose the officers of the Government without respect to their wealth or connections, and regards only their attainments in learning. This is a very commendable feature in the practice of the Emperor, and we would hope the time is not far distant when he will be governed by a yet higher test of qualification for office. The following account will show that however high the intellectual attainments of the officers of the government may be, that, as a nation, they know little of the true God :—

Idolatry of the Chinese.

The Chinese, from the earliest period noticed in their history, have been

the worshippers of gods many, as they are at this day. By not keeping this in mind, we shall be liable to presume on their having much more knowledge than they actually possess. It is very difficult, I think impossible, for one whose mind has been imbued with Christian knowledge from infancy, to understand the true condition of the entire mass of mind in China. The experience and observation of others may be different from my own; but the more I learn of the moral and intellectual degradation of this people, the more dreadful does it appear.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the Chinese have no knowledge of God, or of the immortality of the soul; nor have they, until comparatively modern times, been at all influenced by revealed religion. Instead of the Creator of the Universe, the only living and true God, they have imaginary beings innumerable, whom they adore and