

hospitable, or more contented with the lot which has fallen unto them in such pleasant places. They lead active, independent lives, with continuous but not laborious occupation, being able at almost any season to take a holiday for the sake of sport, society, or change of scene. The climate at high elevations is the most favourable to quality in coffee and tea, although heavier crops can be grown in the low country; and the same climate allows Europeans to keep their children around them, and to bring up the youngsters as well educated, as merry, and almost as rosy, as if the peaks towering above them were the snowy Alps, and not the fiery Merapi or Gedeh. Labour can be obtained at moderate rates, while excellent roads and bridges facilitate the conveyance of produce to market. The Javanese are a solemn and silent race, even as children, and it is pleasant to see their faces light up at the approach of the master of the plantation, as he passes along with a kindly word or a smile, ready to give a patient hearing to any desirous of addressing him. Joyous cries of "*Toe-an! toe-an!*" (master) from the children furnish a tribute of popularity which is above suspicion; and upon one plantation, where we spent several pleasant days, even the absurd tameness of every sort of animal testifies to the rule of kindness governing the whole establishment.

The peculiar form of the island, and the easy communication by sea between the great centres of population, renders an elaborate railway system unnecessary in Java, either for military or commercial purposes. Railroads have been constructed, running from the principal ports on the northern coast into the interior of the island.

Beyond all tropical countries, Java seems to attract the love and admiration of strangers settling upon her shores, who speak of her as "*notre Java bien-aimé*," and are fond of describing her as "the finest island in the world." Swiss mountaineers are at one with lowlanders of Holland upon this subject, and even islanders from Britain can hardly express dissent.

PRECIOUS faith our God hath given; rich in faith is rich indeed!
Fire-tried gold from His own treasury, fully meeting every need:
Channel of His grace abounding; bringing peace and joy and light
Purifying, overcoming; linking weakness with his might.