

There are not more than seven hundred monosyllables in the Amoy dialect. An Orthoepist trained in Europe would recognize only *seven hundred words*.

It is evident that conversation cannot be maintained with so small a number of words. The truth is, that there are several thousand monosyllabic words in this dialect.

Under the initial "B," it has been stated that there are twenty-nine monosyllables, and yet there are at least 181 distinct, separate, intelligible monosyllabic words beginning with "B." Of these 76 are nouns, 43 verbs, 22 adjectives, and 40 others.

Under the initial "T," there are 43 monosyllables, and yet there are at least 448 words, viz. : 186 nouns, 175 verbs, 46 adjectives, 18 adverbs, and 10 others.

Under the initial "Th," (aspirated "T"), there are only 39 monosyllables recognizable by a European ear, yet there are 223 distinct, monosyllabic words, viz. : 66 nouns, 117 verbs, 18 adjectives, &c.

Under these three initials (B, T, Th,) then, there are only 111 monosyllables orthographically indicated, and yet there are 852 distinct monosyllabic words, *i.e.* about eight words to each monosyllable.* If this proportion be maintained through the whole number of initials, it will give more than 5000 distinct monosyllabic words in the language with only 700 monosyllables. There are probably more than 7000 words.

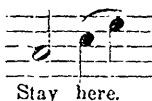
Let us proceed to show how these numerous monosyllables are uttered, so that they may be readily distinguished from each other.

"Stay here;" "Stay here?" are similar combinations of precisely the same letters. They may even be said to be *pronounced* alike, but when properly *uttered*, they are perceived to be very different. The one is a command, "Stay here;" the other is a remonstrance against the command. They are at once distinguished not by a difference of *pronunciation* (in the usual acceptance of that word), but by a differ-

ence of modulation. The command is modulated thus,



the other is



The word "Go" may be uttered with

Stay here.

* These numbers are taken from an unpublished vocabulary of the Amoy dialect. The number of words is probably much greater than here given. The number of syllables is exact.