

not to be met with often, and it has not become one of the staple sights of the world like Pekin and Japan.

"Those who have visited the savages bring back strange tales, and though the visit now recorded was devoid of danger and of hairbreadth escapes, it may be sufficiently interesting to tempt future travellers out of the beaten track.

"I started from Takow on the morning of the 17th of October, shortly after daylight, in company with the captain of the man-of-war in which I had come to Formosa and two other gentlemen, one of whom was a resident at Takow, acquainted with the country and the local Chinese dialect. We owe it to him that we were able to make the expedition, as it would have been impossible to penetrate into the interior without an interpreter.

"It is usual in Formosa to travel in sedan chairs supported by three bearers. They are by no means comfortable even when not in motion, but the jog-trot of the bearers renders the occupant thoroughly miserable for the first day. Subsequently he gets accustomed to it, his bones become more pliant, or his pillows are more cannily arranged, or fatigue may have overcome him; but, to whatever cause it may be due, it is certain that sleep, which at first would have been deemed impossible, will on the second or third day frequently rescue the traveller from thinking of the discomforts of his mode of progress. Walking, however, is the best escape, but only to be indulged in towards sunset and the early hours of the morning.

"The road lay through villages and one considerable town, filthy, like all the Chinese towns. The country was beautiful, with crops, rice, and millet in the open, while the sides of the road were sheltered by cactus, pineapple, bamboo, and other shade-giving trees and shrubs. Towards evening we emerged from the shady lanes into the open country; at a distance of fifteen miles a range of mountains shut in the view; between us and them nothing but waving fields of rice and, at intervals, thick groves of bamboo. The husbandmen of the plain have their habitations in these groves, and towards one of them, named Hoansia, we bent our course.

"A traveller arriving at this village at nightfall would be strangely impressed by hearing the solemn and familiar strain of the Old Hundredth rising fitfully through the thick growth of bamboos guiding him to the home of the chief of the small community. The Presbyterian mission has been exceptionally successful in Formosa, and, thanks to their labours, our first night's halt was among Christian Chinese. The farmhouse of the headman was a quadrangle, one side of which formed the dwelling house, in which the principal room was ornamented with engravings from the *Illustrated News*. I may mention here a fact which shows the quickness of Chinese intelligence. You are aware that their language is written, not in letters like ours, but in characters so numerous that it requires the study of years to read a Chinese work with fluency.

"The missionaries have attempted to introduce our method of indicating sounds by the conjunction of letters. The Bibles used by these Chinese converts were printed in letters, and I was assured that an adult could learn the use of letters and read a book in three weeks. By this means, at the evening service, as we were all provided with the prayers and hymns in Roman character, we who were ignorant of the language were able to join with the natives in singing the psalms in their own tongue.

"Early on the ensuing morning we resumed our journey in the sedan chairs. For upwards of ten miles our road lay through richly cultivated tracts such as we had seen the day before, but as we neared the mountains the aspect of the plain changed. The hand of the husbandman seemed to