



CHINESE MERCHANTS IN SUMMER DRESS.

telling fact, since if the percentage of original initiating and directing minds among them were but a tithe of that of the Caucasian races, it would constitute them a real energizing force in the future progress of the world. What, then, are the causes of Chinese stagnation and of the sameness of their life routine? One cause is universally acknowledged: it is the indifference to truth, as such. A lie is no disgrace; it is only disgraceful not to put a good "face" on things. Combine these two

ideas, and the natural result is universal mistrust, which places co-operation, without which even a pin cannot be economically made, largely out of the question.

Closely allied with untruthfulness is the looseness of conscience in the handling of money. The process known as "robbing Peter to pay Paul," of patching a hole by a piece cut out of the garment, forms a part of the Chinese practice, from the Emperor downward. Mines do not pay the proprietors because the labourers pilfer the