

meal heightening the resemblance. Little or no foreign commerce ; no proper postal communication, no mail coaches ; horseback, or thirty miles a day in a lumbering cart, the only means of conveyance ; and I may add that there was similar insecurity of property, and places in ruins, or towns and villages gradually rising out of ruins, as were to be seen in Scotland during the troublous times of 1715 and 1745.

— What a change ! and yet I venture to say that the Chinese are susceptible of as great an amelioration. Of course, in point of education, intelligence, and honour and moral worth, they are far behind our forefathers ; but they have nearly as large brains ; they possess a certain mental training ; they are in a measure prepared to act ; they have a similar spirit of enterprise, and as dogged perseverance as characterises our countrymen. Moreover, there is far more wealth hidden away in China, and incomparably greater material resources. Of course we had many advantages ; the stimulus, and expansive and elevating power of our blessed religion ; men of great genius and vigour and capacity were raised up in all departments of Church and State ; then, as iron sharpeneth iron, so was the action and reaction of man on man. But all these things are possible in China. We only need to get fairly among the people and *secure their confidence* ; they need the *stimuli* of outside suggestions, the prompting and the encouragements of example, and the powerful incentive before their eyes of obvious and certain success. This struck me powerfully on the recent journey.

FORMOSA.

From various causes Formosa is attracting more attention than it has ever done before. We have published several letters from our own missionary, and extracts of communications of other missionaries, bearing particularly on the moral and religious condition of the island. We subjoin portions of a communication which recently appeared in the columns of the *Times*, which we doubt not will be read by many with interest. It will be seen that the writer bears testimony to the success of the Presbyterian missionary work in Formosa.

“There are probably few islands of any size in the Pacific Ocean which have been so little described. With the exception of an able but short book by Swinhoe, the naturalist, and a few desultory official reports by an American Consul, or the notices in Mayer's Treaty Ports of China, it has been allowed to flourish without any record of its progress or history being given within recent date to the public. It may therefore not be unnecessary to preface an account of a visit to its aborigines by a mention of its geographical position. It lies nearly entirely between the 22nd and 25th degrees north latitude, and the 120th and 122nd degrees east longitude. It is about 240 miles in length and 100 miles in breadth at its broadest part. A chain of mountains traverses it lengthwise, dividing the east from the west. The east of the chain is mountainous, and the west is a plain smaller in area than the mountainous district, and richly cultivated. The Chinese are masters of the plain, while the mountains have from all time remained in the hands of savages, who have successfully resisted every effort to dislodge them. Notwithstanding their proximity to civilization, during centuries they have preserved their isolation, and are at this moment perfectly ignorant of the ways of the outer world. The literary neglect which Formosa has suffered is principally owing to the fact that it is out of the regular route. Travellers visiting the east and going round the world, as so many do now-a-days, very rarely visit it ; steamers going there are