CHINA.

PROGRESS OF THE INSURRECTION.

The want of steam communication with the northward, has kept us in comparative darkness respecting the movements of the insurgent and imperial forces, in the struggle now going on for the dominion of the vast Empire of China. The arrival of the opium coasting clippers, Audax and Island Queen, has contributed something of importance. The principal news from Shanghai by these vessels, is the failure of the attack made by the imperial forces, aided by their fleet of European armed vessels, on Chin-Keang-foo, a city distant half a mile from the south bank of the Yang-tze River, and strongly fortified. This city is the key to the whole Chinese Empire, and to effect its capture the Tartar chiefs were resolved to strive their utmost. The Shanghai fleet, consisting of the recently purchased Agnes, Antelope, and Lyra, armed respectively with 28, 12 and 12 guns, and 25 lorchas, commenced the attack on Chin-Keang-foo on the 28th of May. The defenders had fully prepared themselves for the struggle by strengthening the defences, burning down all the suburbs, and mounting heavy cannon. The Shanghai fleet came to anchor abreast of the city, and opened a very heavy fire, which was returned from the stockades with great spirit. The heights commanding, the river were so admirably fortified that they did serious damage to the shipping. The fleet peppered away until all their powder was expended, when they were forced to retreat about a mile and a half below the town. The loss on either side was not great. During the engagement about 6000 imperial troops were encamped within three miles of the city, coolly looking on instead of attacking the forts on the land side. The fleet had returned to Shanghai heartily disgusted with the service. Here is an extract from the latest received letter from this quarter:

SHANGHAI, June 22.

The Taeutaes fleet has returned from Chin-Kiang, and as the foreigners who were employed do not seem to approve of the Chinese plan, we may expect that the ships will be of no further use against the insurgents.

The numbers of *The North China Herald* recently to hand, furnish several interesting particulars respecting the rebellion. Dr. Charles Taylor, an American Missionary, had made his way into the rebel camp, and was there during the time of the attack by the Taoutaes fleet. Dr. Taylor says he could not ascertain that the insurgents suffered the least injury from the cannon of the imperialists. After the attack on Chin-Kiang-foo, the following proclamation was published by the insurgent chiefs:

PROCLAMATION BY THE INSURGENT CHIEFS.

Yang, the eastern Prince, Generalissimo of the army, and Prime Minister of Heaven, as well as religious Instructor and Deliverer of the People: and

Seaou, the western Prince, second Minister of State, and Generalissimo of the army:

Both servants of the Celestial Dynasty of Thaeping, which has received the veritable decree of heaven to rule, together issue the following proclamation, for the purpose of requiring them each and all to follow peacefully their peculiar avocations.

When the will of heaven is determined, the male and female people are to know: that having now produced the true sovereign to rule the people, they ought to yield their minds to his renovating influence. It is to be regretted that ever since the Tsing dynasty have thrown the Empire into confusion, they have induced the people to worship corrupt spirits and to reject the true spirit, while they rebel against God; they have moreover changed the upright appearance of the human form; by all which means they have roused the vengeance of high Heaven. Besides this they have oppressed our people, and brought calamities on the living intelligences. They have made the stink of their covetous practices to rise up to heaven, while they have degraded literature to the very dirt. The agricultural and mechanical classes have been distressed, every year experiencing greater troubles; while the mercantile classes in coming and going have been severely taxed at each barrier. Thus it is that the people are full of indignation in mind, and the inhabitants of the middle region look on with indignant glance. We the generals above named, having received the excellent decree of heaven, and being unable to endure to see the people of the provinces to the earth, have elevated the righteous standard, with the view of exterminating the Tartar hordes, and have marshalled the royal troops, in order to overcome the wicked one. In every district through which we have passed, the people have welcomed us as they would the seasonable showers: and wherever our standards have appeared the inhabitants have felt as if they were relieved from the greatest calamity; which shows that the will of heaven is evidently on our side, and that the mind of men incline toward us. Ever since we commenced this great undertaking in the province of Kwang-se, the first ranks of those who have come out against our royal troops have inverted their weapons in indication of submission; while those who have been influenced by the rays of Heaven's majesty have on the first report of our arrival lost all heart for defending the enemy. Now, having set up the new dynasty, we especially enjoin the people reverently to worship God, and set aside all corrupt spirits, in order to glorify the mind of Heaven and obtain celestial blessedness. Let the learned, agricultural and commercial classes each severally attend to their several employments. From the date of this proclamation, let every one peacefully abide in his native region, and contentedly follow his usual avocations. We have commanded our soldiers not to touch a single article of the property of the people, nor to molest in the slightest degree the females. Let the shopkeepers and traders each follow their business as usual, and not be in the slightest degree alarmed. Let the people of the villages and towns, each and all, be at their ease