Confucius did not teach men to go to different temples to worship different idols, but to worship at any place as long as the prayers were sincere. In the Chinese Classics any other religion is called 異端; 凡非聖人之道如道教釋教外教皆謂之異端也.

Mo Sih Chiu.

毛錫九.

Anping, Formosa, 3rd December 1886.

Tortoise Hill, Formosa.—Looking at a chart of Formosa, it may be noticed that just south of Liang Kiau Bay there is a sharp bend in the coast line, forming an inlet known as Expedition Bay. On the north side of this bay stands a hill, well detached from the surrounding highlands. This hill, closely covered with scrub, except where on the south slope a small quarry mound appears, is shaped like a tortoise's back, whence it received the distinctive name of Tortoise Hill, 龜山.

This isolated and commanding position must, at one time, before the creek at Liang Kiau Bay silted up, have commended this eminence as a desirable place from which to guard the landings at both bays. Numerous ruins, broken pottery, and plants foreign to the district, attest the natural hypothesis that at an early date some adventurers dwelt here.

The Chinese have it that a certain lieutenant of Koxinga's, named Sia (?), occupied this place, and that the vessels of that time could enter a creek then navigable for some miles inland. This creek is now filled up by sand drift, said to be a result of the surrounding district becoming denuded of trees by the earlier settlers around Cha Ching, some of whom claim priority even to Koxinga. Formosan Chinese have a habit of attributing to the Eastern Viking most things for which no other readily comprehensible theory can be advanced. Weighty at times as their statements may be, they must be taken with some reserve. The probabilities in this case, however, strongly support their idea that Tortoise Hill is a former stronghold of the noted freebooter.

Whoever occupied the hill, it is certain they must have been on bad terms with their neighbours of the plain behind, else they would never have gone to the trouble of digging a well or cistern in the heart of the hill, while plenty of fresh water was obtainable within a few hundred yards. The well in question is now nearly choked up, but an aged individual who has been resident at the foot of this hill for over fifty years, declares, that in his youth it was so deep that people imagined it must be a subterraneous outlet to the sea. The well is circular and neatly lined with bricks. If cleaned out, it would most likely prove to be a tank for holding a supply of water in case of siege.

The outlines still visible of former habitations shew that each dwelling was about twelve feet square, and built of stone foreign to this locality. Of these buildings there must have been some hundreds.

Marks of fire are yet visible, while the surface of the ground is strewed with the fragments of half-baked clay utensils, apparently made on the spot, yet bearing the mark of the potter's wheel, and shaped in that orthodox form which commends itself to all peoples. Fragments of teapots, bowls, plates &c., of a finer glazed earthenware, can be obtained by digging a little under the surface. The 合吉 and 瑞全—good luck to all—which appears on some pieces, removes all doubt as to their origin, and the pattern is recognised by Chinese as that of Chioh-be* ware.

Hearing from Chinese of the abundance of broken pottery, the writer, under the fond hope that the fragments might prove the existence of a foreign colony antedating the Dutch, hired some natives to excavate. Unfortunately the diggers had hardly begun, when they uncovered a number of human

* A place, a short distance up the Amoy River, noted for its earthenware factories.

skeletons, and fled in dismay, their superstitious fears being proof, even, against the almighty dollar.

Human bones have from time to time been uncovered by others, and in all probability the green mound already referred to is an immense grave. Whether the great mortality was a result of continued and deadly hostilities with the aborigines, or the effect of some pestilence, must be left to conjecture.

It is worthy of note that a plant grows on the hill which has the curious faculty of causing blindness in buffaloes eating it. Those animals are therefore carefully kept away from the place. None of the natives could pick out the particular plant, and the writer is no botanist; perhaps some reader of the *China Review* will elucidate the matter. The pepper plant is also found here, although unknown in the surrounding districts.

It was at the bottom of this hill that the Japanese expeditionary force was encamped. The site is covered with broken beer bottles, which may perhaps have been imported for target purposes, with a view to developing that fine aim so necessary for bush fighting.

A large extent of the great Liang Kiau plain was under cultivation by the aborigines before the advent of Chinese. Only barley was the cereal grown, not rice. The interesting question presents itself: why in those days the creek did not fill up as at present. The most plausible explanation would be, that although a certain filling up did take place in the dry months, the force of water during the rainy season was sufficient to clear out the silt, while the numerous dams and other impediments raised by the Chinese in connection with the system of irrigation necessary for rice cultivation, obstructs and diverts that direct rush of water which in former days swept uninterruptedly through the valley.

G. Taylor.

Population of China.—In the abstract of the Peking Gazette, of 23 February, 1887, (see *N. C. Daily News*, of 16th March) the Governor of Chêkiang reports the population of that province at 11,691,255 men, women, and children. This is an enormous decrease as compared with the population of 1812 which is put down at 26,256,784. (Williams, Middle Kingdom. Vol. I. pag. 208, Old edition). According to the Census return of that year, Chêkiang, though the smallest province, was one of the most densely populated, only two others, Ngan-wei and Kiang-su, showing a higher average per square mile. If the inhabitants of other provinces have increased proportionately, the population of China must be very much under what it is generally supposed to be.

H. K.

Short Stories.—A young tiger met an old one and said, 'I got hold of a man to-day whose upper parts were so tasteless and his nether parts so sour, that, hungry as I was, I left him in disgust. I wonder what sort of man this could be?' 'A student who has had to buy his degree,' was the reply.

The Lord of Hades considered a certain spirit to have been a great sinner indeed, so he adjudged that he should re-enter the world to become a poor scholar with five children. 'Is not that a rather light punishment,' remonstrated an angel. 'No,' said His Eminence. 'The five hungry children will soon drive him mad.'

Chang and Chung mutually agreed to start a brewery. Said Chang to Chung, 'You supply the rice and I will furnish the water.' 'But,' queried Chung, 'if the profits are divided according to the capital embarked, I am afraid it will be difficult to apportion your share.' 'Oh I'm not afraid,' said Chang; 'when the brew is over, give me the water, you can have the remainder.'

A man was seized by a tiger. The victim's son took his bow and pursued. 'Hit him in the leg,' cried the father, 'else you'll spoil the market value of the skin.'