

The Chinese preserve it in the usual way, by burying it deep in the ground during the summer.

Trackers being at length supplied to my boat, I soon rejoined my companions. We passed, during the day, many of the junks which convey corn to Peking, answering, in number and magnitude, to the description given of them by the writers of the former Embassy; and having, from the manner and order of their arrangement, a very imposing appearance: they were moored in regular succession along shore, their lofty and highly-ornamented square sterns meeting us as we ascended the river.

Immediately after quitting Tien-sing, the country exhibited much of the same characters of wildness and flatness which they possessed from Ta-koo to that place. The chief difference consisted in an addition to the kinds of cultivated plants. Besides millet and beans, the *Sida tilicefolia*, one of the hemp plants of the Chinese, the *Sesamum Orientale*, from which they extract an esculent oil, and the *Ricinus communis*, castor-oil plant, continually occurred in patches, or in fields.

Our progress up the river was slow, in consequence of the repeated visits paid by the Mandarins to His Excellency, in order to press his performance of the ceremony of prostration.

On the morning of the 16th of August, at the termination of a conference which the Ambassador had held with the Legate, the boats, instead of advancing, dropped down the stream, and anchored before a village called Tsai-tsun. Lord Amherst informed the gentlemen of his suite, at breakfast, that there was great probability of the immediate return of the Mission, in consequence of his refusal to perform the ceremony. We therefore concluded, that this retrograde movement was preparatory to our going back; but were glad to learn that intelligence had been received of the departure of our ships from the Gulf of Pe-tchee-lee, as the Chinese would consequently be obliged to conduct us through the country to Canton.

During the delay of the boats, I visited the shore, and penetrated into the country to some distance beyond the banks of the river in search of plants, but was not well rewarded for my trouble. The

*Polygonum lapathifolium*, and *aviculare*, two species of *Chenopodium*, the *Tribulus cistoides*, *Statice limonium*, and *Hibiscus trionum*, were the only uncultivated plants which I met with. In my walk, I was taught not to trust to the appearance of cultivation on the banks of a river as an indication of the general fertility of a country. In the immediate vicinity of Tsai-tsun, the *Holcus Sorghum*, the Kow Leang, or tall corn of the Chinese, clothed the margin of the river. Its high and thickly planted stems had prevented our seeing the country beyond them whilst we remained in the boats, and had led us to suppose that it was generally well cultivated. I now found it to consist of a sterile marsh, extending to an undefinable distance. The soil collected from the river, and sometimes deposited by its overflow, frequently rendered its immediate precincts productive, whilst all beyond was untouched by the hand of the cultivator. At this early period, I was enabled to observe, that much as the Chinese may excel in obtaining abundant products from land naturally fertile, they are much behind other nations in the art of improving that which is naturally barren.

On my return, I passed through the village, and was presently surrounded by its male inhabitants. Dirt, squalidness, and extreme poverty, were as usual their leading characteristics. Their habitations were miserable beyond any thing which England can exemplify. Built of mud, and divided into unfurnished rooms, ventilated by several apertures, they looked more like the dens of beasts than the habitations of men. The state of these huts, and the want of clothing, may produce little human suffering during the summer; but as the winter of this part of China is long and severe, its inhabitants must, without better provision against cold, endure great misery. In the midst of so much poverty, I was astonished at meeting with three women not only decently, but handsomely clothed, whom I surprised in turning suddenly the corner of a house. They were standing in an angle formed by the projection of two walls, and could not well escape me; indeed they showed little inclination to do so, but appeared much pleased with an opportunity of examining one of the



horse-faced men.\* These women were of low stature, had faces longer in proportion than those of the men, but so covered with a flesh-coloured paste, that I could not distinguish the tint of their complexions. There was a general air of languor about them, which was especially marked by the drooping of their upper eyelids, the interval between which and the lower ones was so narrow, as scarcely to appear sufficient for the purposes of distinct vision. Their internal angles were more deflexed and lengthened than in the eyes of the men. Their hair was black, and neatly rolled up on the crown of the head, and ornamented with flowers. Their dress consisted of a loose blue cotton robe with long sleeves, and a pair of loose trowsers of the same material, but of a pinkish colour. The robe was fastened before by several buttons from the chin downwards, and fell below the calf of the leg. Its sleeves covered the hands. The trowsers were fastened about the ankle, and almost covered with their folds the small and tight shoe which peeped from beneath them. I had contemplated these curious objects for some time, when our mutual admiration was broken in upon by the appearance of some soldiers, who caused the fair ones to hobble off as fast as their crippled and stunted feet could carry them.

No manners could be more simple and obliging than those of the villagers, when they were satisfied that there was nothing mischievous in my disposition; for, in their first deportment towards me, they evinced the same sort of feeling which is sometimes experienced in approaching an animal whose temper is unknown. This was strikingly displayed by the children, who, observing me much employed in collecting plants, immediately began to gather them. They then approached with caution, step by step, holding their offerings at arms' length, and running off the instant I attempted to take them. When, however, I had once received any part of them,

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\* By this appellation we were frequently known in China, in consequence of our comparatively long faces and large noses.

all restraint ceased, and I was presently laden with bundles of flowers, which although of no great variety, I could seldom refuse ; as, in doing so, I occasioned very evident chagrin to my young friends.

On the morning of the 17th, the Ambassador having had another conference with the Legate, the boats quitted their anchorage, and again proceeded with their heads towards Peking. In the evening, I walked along the banks of the river, accompanied by Mr. Amherst and Mr. Poole, till we were very disagreeably pressed by a crowd of Chinese who collected about us. We then stopped before the boat of a Mandarin, and being invited in, went on board. This gentleman, a Colonel in the Chinese army, was sitting, when we first saw him, on the bow of his boat, naked to his waist, reclining on a chair with a sloping back, and smoking his pipe. He quitted both on our entrance, and immediately clothed himself. We were hospitably entertained, and treated with fruits and wine. The wine was heated in a small kettle over a basin of boiling water, and drunk from small porcelain cups, not much larger than a thimble.

Having remained as long as we wished, I proposed rejoining our companions ; but on rising, we were rudely, the Chinese would say politely, replaced on our seats, and now found that our boats were not in sight. The vessel in which we were, had moved from the shore without our knowledge, and was now very far ahead of the barges of the Embassy. It was eight o'clock, and very dark. I began to fear that His Excellency would be alarmed at the absence of his son ; but in vain endeavoured to impress the same apprehension on the mind of the Mandarin : he insisted that we should remain, and ordered his servants more than once to lead me back to the cabin, which I had left to ascertain if the lamps of the Ambassador's barge were visible. It was ten o'clock before we again anchored, and twelve before the boats of the Embassy arrived, which had been delayed by the grounding of several, in consequence of the shallowness of the river. As soon as the Mandarin was informed of their near approach, he ordered his servants, dressed in their costume of ceremony, to conduct us to the Ambassador's yacht ; on reaching

which, I was glad to find that no alarm had been excited, as we had been seen to enter the Chinese boat.

On the following day, we arrived within fifteen miles of Tung-Chow. The face of the country varied much during the last few miles of our progress, the banks of the river becoming higher, more sandy, and less fertile. The millet disappeared, and no cultivation was to be seen but in the distance. In the back ground, on both sides, small houses, surrounded by trees, were frequently distinguished, and were more numerous in proportion to our advance. No village was near the place of anchorage for the night, but a great number of Chinese formed a kind of encampment about us, having a variety of provisions for sale. These consisted chiefly of small round flat cakes, hard-boiled eggs, walnuts, areca-nuts, and tobacco. The venders of these articles carried them about on small wooden stands, suspended from the ends of bamboo, which they bore across their shoulders. Our boatmen, who bought nothing that was not repeatedly weighed, gave us no very high opinion of the honesty of their countrymen. Different kinds of refreshment were also to be obtained in a large booth erected within a few yards of our boats. This was formed of matting, and divided into two unequal partitions: the larger served as a room of general accommodation, and was fitted up with tables and benches; the smaller was used as a kitchen. Our trackers occupied this building, partaking largely of their favourite Sam-tchoo and hot millet cakes. The *tout ensemble* had so much the appearance of a resort of gypsies, that I did not look for much cleanliness in its culinary arrangements; but on visiting the interior of the kitchen, found the different utensils for cooking arranged with great neatness and order. The cook, a plump and sleek old man, naked to the waist, seemed from his complexion to have passed all his life within the influence of a furnace. He had supplied himself with an ample store of charcoal, with which he kept up fires in small stoves of baked brick placed on a table before him. Over these were set large iron bowls, in which he baked, and preserved hot, cakes formed of flour, sugar, and the oil of Sesamum: these materials were kept

ready mixed by his side. He was much pleased by my visit ; showed me all the secrets of his art, and begged me to partake of its produce ; but this was too much impregnated with the oil of *Sesamum* to be at all agreeable to my palate. This favourite ingredient in Chinese dishes, is expressed from the baked seed of the plant, and has a highly empyreumatic flavour.

Leaving this place, I passed, on the way to my boat, the tents of our Chinese soldiers, arranged along the shore, and forming a scene of much interest. Each was lighted by a blood-red lamp suspended from three sticks set up in a triangle in front of its opening. Groups of soldiers were sitting around them, either smoking their pipes or playing at dominos. I placed myself in the midst of one of them, and at once drew their attention towards me. They examined every part of my dress, and seemed especially struck by the fineness of my linen, and the apparent richness of my gilt buttons. Not satisfied with a superficial examination, they pressed me to take off my coat and other parts of my dress, and did not appear altogether contented at my non-compliance with their wishes. They were less fastidious on their part ; not only removing any part of their clothes which they thought me desirous to examine, but urging me to keep it ; and would not be satisfied until I had accepted a white linen badge inscribed with large Chinese characters, which was worn by each soldier about his neck. The largeness and length of my hands also occasioned them some surprise and amusement : theirs, like those of all the Chinese, when compared with the hands of Europeans, are very small. When placed in mine, (which are not excessively large,) wrist against wrist, the ends of their fore-fingers scarcely extended beyond the first joints of mine.

At an early hour on the following morning, we were again in progress towards Peking, and reached Tung-Chow, twelve miles from Peking, at four o'clock in the afternoon. Crowds of people on the shore, and in boats, assembled to witness our approach, exhibiting the same general characters as those whom we had seen at Tien-sing : but a greater number of them bore the marks of extreme poverty.

## CHAPTER IV.

THE quarters prepared for the British Embassy at Tung-Chow were scarcely capacious enough for the accommodation of its principal members, consisting chiefly of a small suite of apartments, composing a long building of one story, having a colonnade before it, and situated at one end of an enclosed yard, which was entered by a gate at its other extremity. These were occupied by the Ambassador and one or two of the principal members of the Mission: the others preferred sleeping in their boats, but assembled at meals in the Ambassador's house.

Report having informed the unofficial part of the Mission, that at Tung-Chow the question respecting prostration was to be finally determined, they looked anxiously for events which should speedily decide their fate. On the afternoon of the 21st, the arrival of Imperial Commissioners of very high rank was announced by some Mandarins who waited on His Excellency. We were at dinner when the coming of these persons was made known, but the Ambassador immediately prepared to receive them. The guard was turned out, and the band ordered to play on their entrance. Sir George Staunton, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Hayne, waited for them at the gate of the court-yard, while His Excellency remained a few steps in advance of the door of his apartment. They did not keep us long in expectation. Six Mandarins, all of whom wore either the clear or opaque blue button, and three of them peacocks' feathers, soon entered, with an air of haughtiness that it is impossible to describe. They pushed rudely past the gentlemen at the gate, without returning their salutation; scarcely noticed His Lordship, and hastening into his apartment, took the seats of honour before he entered. Such a prelude to a conference predicted the shortness of its continuance. It did



not last ten minutes; and at its termination, the Mandarins were dismissed with every mark of contempt. The band was silenced; and the guard, which had been drawn out, was ordered to withhold the intended salute on their return. The despicable presumption of these men gave a foretaste of the treatment that His British Majesty's Representative afterwards experienced from their superiors.

The Imperial Commissioners proved to be very exalted personages: their names Ho\* and Muh. Ho was brother-in-law to the Emperor, had distinguished himself by his personal bravery in a late rebellion which had shaken the Chinese throne, was now one of the chief ministers of state, and might be considered in rank equal to a Duke, by which title he was usually distinguished in the Embassy. Muh was the President † of the Le-poo, or Tribunal of Rites and Ceremonies. They differed from each other in age, person, and manners, but were both Tartars. Ho, in appearance between thirty and forty years of age, was in stature about the middle height, of a robust form, and dark ruddy complexion. In his deportment he was strikingly frank, but impetuous and overbearing. Muh, on the contrary, venerable in years and in person, was gentle in manner, and chiefly remarkable for unyielding taciturnity. These men had come to instruct the Ambassador in the correct mode of performing the Tartar ceremony, not only in the presence of the Emperor, but before every piece of yellow rag which they might choose to consider as emblematical of the presence of His Chinese Majesty. The Duke seemed disposed to carry his point by a violent and threatening manner; the

\* Ho's name at full length, according to Mr. Morrison, was Ho-she-tae; which translated is "Ho great in his generation." He held several important situations, the principal of which was the Presidency of the Board of Foreign Affairs.

† Mr. Morrison has observed, that in China there are only seven persons who hold the office of Shang-shoo, or Presidents. Three of these were now with the Embassy: Ho, le-far-yuen shang-shoo, President of the Board for Foreign Affairs; Muh, le-poo shang-shoo, President of the Board of Rites; and Soo, (who had met the Ambassador at Tien-sing,) kung-poo shang-shoo, President of the Board of Public Works.

President had been too often drilled into the habits of passive obedience, to support his colleague otherwise than by silent acquiescence.

The morning following the impudent visit of their envoys, His Excellency, accompanied by the other Commissioners and his suite, visited them both at a small public building in the middle of the city of Tung-Chow, at the distance of rather more than a mile from his residence. The Commissioners went in sedan-chairs; the suite in carts. The sedans were not uncomfortable conveyances; but the carts fully merited the character given of them by different European writers, who have experienced the effects of their motion; being in fact the most execrable machines imaginable. They were made of very strong materials, firmly fastened together. The wheels, frequently without spokes, were low, and fixed to very short axletrees. The bodies, covered with tilts of matting, open only in front, were just wide enough to admit two persons wedged close together; had no raised seats, and were in contact with the axles. Such a construction, in no way lessening the force of the shocks to which they are perpetually liable from the nature of Chinese roads, although of little consequence to the Chinese, who through habit readily accommodate themselves to their motion, was to us a serious evil. The only method used to render these vehicles at all tolerable, is in moving the wheels so far back as to throw the weight between them and the horse; but of this contrivance we had no opportunity of experiencing the comfort. Yet, however inconvenient, they were well defended from the weather by coverings of mats; and a screen, extending from the top, defended the mules which drew them.

The road through which we passed, on our way to the place of audience, was cut into deep and unequal ruts, filled with fluid mud, which threw off, when agitated by the passage of the carts, an offensive exhalation nearly equalling that of the fish-market of St. Sebastian. We were obliged to bear it, being unable to cover our nostrils with our hands, which were employed in supporting us against the concussions that our machines every instant received. We were indeed

so bruised, as to feel no desire for a repetition of the same discipline. Little did we expect what was awaiting us in our Yuen-Ming-Yuen expedition.

The Duke received the Commissioners and Mr. Morrison in a small hall, in front of which was a court-yard. As usual, no accommodation was provided for the other members, who were permitted to take their choice between a drenching in a heavy rain, and suffocation in a crowded room of ill-savoured and importunate Chinese. Fortunately for us, the audience soon terminated. The Duke had insisted on the performance of the ceremony of prostration, and the Ambassador had peremptorily refused to comply with it. •The Duke had threatened to send him from the empire without seeing the celestial face of the Emperor, and His Excellency had declared his readiness to depart. The latter, however, put into the hands of the former a letter addressed to His Chinese Majesty, containing his reasons for declining to perform the ceremony. This letter was readily received by the Duke, who appeared glad of a plea for moderating the high tone he had assumed. On this letter now seemed to depend our only chance of visiting Peking. During the conference, the voice of the Duke was heard very high and decisive in all parts of the court-yard.

We returned from the hall of audience in the same manner as we went to it, again undergoing the cart exercise, but were unable to observe much order in starting. The Chinese muleteers hurried us into the vehicles; and as soon as they saw their respective passengers fairly seated, carried them off without waiting for their companions. On this, and on every other occasion in which the British Embassy appeared in public, the Chinese seemed to imagine, that the only persons necessary to accommodate or oblige, were the heads of the Mission. When they were induced to attend to the convenience of its other members, they were generally influenced either by fear or interest.

In returning to the Ambassador's house, we were obliged to content ourselves with a mere passing glance at the city and its inhabitants.

Shut up in our tomb-like vehicles, we could see little that was not straight before us, but that little in a good measure satisfied our curiosity. The interior of the city, of all the places which I ever beheld, was the most filthy. The rain, which fell in torrents on the morning of our visit, had perhaps rendered it more so than usual; but heaps of dirt, which every where strewed its streets, marked their usual uncleanness. In one lane the horses were knee-deep in mud, and the bottoms of the Commissioners' chairs touched its surface. The smells which arose from these sources were sufficiently noisome in themselves, but received an increase of offensiveness from the peculiar odours which were thrown off by numerous cook-shops that lined our road, aided perhaps by the dead animals, too closely resembling cats and dogs, which hung in their front.

Tung-Chow is similar in the general arrangement of its streets to Tien-sing; but in the cleanliness of the houses, and the appearance of its inhabitants, is much inferior to it. To Captain Cooke, who was on horseback, and had better opportunities of observation than those who travelled in carts, I am indebted for the following remarks on its walls and gates. "To reach the outer wall we passed over a bridge thrown across a ditch of sufficient width and depth, if kept clear, to form a considerable obstacle to besiegers. The wall appeared to be from sixty to seventy feet high, and judging from the length of its arched gateway, fifty feet thick. When beyond this, we passed another at right angles to it, in a second wall of about thirty feet in thickness. The gates were of wood, seven or eight inches thick. There were numberless embrasures in the walls and gateways for arrows or musquetry: I saw no great guns."

For two or three days after our visit, communications took place between His Excellency and the Duke, the result of which was only known to the diplomatic part of the Embassy. But the movements of the Chinese soldiers, and the report of a person in the Embassy being obnoxious to the Chinese government, kept us in a state of uneasy feeling. The guards round our quarters were doubled, and a

caution published that the Chinese should avoid conversation with the strangers. These measures were adopted by the Chinese in the hope of influencing His Lordship's decision, respecting the performance of the ceremony of prostration, in their favour. It is almost needless to remark, that they were ineffectual.

On the morning of the 27th, His Excellency sent a note to the Duke, definitively declaring his intention not to perform the ceremony; and requesting that the necessary arrangements might be made for his departure. We therefore looked for our immediate return; and it was with equal surprise and satisfaction that we witnessed a visit from the Duke to the Ambassador in the afternoon of the same day, to acquaint him with the Emperor's intention to wave the ceremony of prostration, and to receive him on his own terms, at the palace of Yuen-Ming-Yuen. The Duke was now all smiles and graces, and seemed as urgent for our instant departure for the Imperial Presence, as he had before been to keep us from it. Orders were immediately given for landing the presents and baggage, and the next day was named for our journey.

So much expedition was used by the Chinese, in providing the necessary means of transport, that by three o'clock in the afternoon of the 27th, every article had been put into waggons, or on machines to be carried by hand. An elegant barouche was at the same time unpacked for the conveyance of the Ambassador, his son, Sir George Staunton, and Mr. Ellis. To draw this, four mules were provided, but so small, that they were almost lost in the splendid harness brought from England for their equipment; the collars especially being so large, as to require considerable ingenuity to fit them to their necks. Four sedans were directed to follow, to be in readiness in case of accident, a circumstance not unlikely to occur, as coach, mules, and roads, were unadapted to each other. The whole equipage, however, exhibited a good appearance, and excited great astonishment in a crowd of Chinese who assembled to see it.

Carts and saddle-horses were provided for the conveyance of the gentlemen of the suite, and waggons for the servants, band and guard.



The carts, drawn each by one mule, resembled those which I have already described. The horses were miserable looking animals, both in themselves and in their caparisons. That on which I rode was about thirteen hands and a half high, of a bay colour, having all his bony points extremely prominent. Accustomed to follow *en train*, and of an obstinate temper, he would seldom pass any of his kind; and always chose his own pace, which was something between a trot and an amble. His equipment perfectly harmonised with his personal properties. Two pieces of board forming the saddle, met at so acute an angle, that his bare spine would have afforded a more pleasant support. Behind and before it had two high projections, on the former of which I occasionally sat, to relieve myself from the effects of its central portion. A piece of scarlet cloth was indeed thrown over; but as this was continually slipping, it rather increased than remedied the inconvenience arising from the bare boards. A piece of old cord formed the girth, and permitted the saddle to turn, when I endeavoured to mount. The stirrups were suspended by strings, so short, that they scarcely hung beneath the animal's body, occasioning some danger of collision between my knees and nose. The bridle was of no better materials, and had a bit which the animal totally disregarded. A piece of cord attached to the reins served as a whip. Such an outfit would not have excited dissatisfaction, had it been similar to that of equestrians of respectability in the country; but I did not witness an instance of the poorest Chinese being more miserably mounted. Remonstrance was in vain; the mandarins insisted that no better means of conveyance were to be obtained, and many of the gentlemen preferred any other mode of travelling to that of the carts.

One of the servants and one of the guard being too ill to travel without the means of more convenient transport, application was made to the Chinese for litters. Two were brought, but of a description that it was impossible to use. They were nothing more than two straw or wicker baskets, three feet and a half long and two broad, having the half of their bottoms out, and the remainder so rotten,

that there was every probability of its giving way. In these machines the Chinese proposed to place the invalids, unsheltered from the weather. On their being pointed out to His Excellency, he declared that he would not quit Tung-Chow till others of a better description were provided. Several of our Chinese attendants immediately pretended to seek them; but in their peculiar spirit returned with a cart, appointed to convey one of the gentlemen, but of which they had taken possession during his absence. Lord Amherst now directed that two of the sedans intended to follow his carriage, should be given up to the sick, and thus secured to them more easy vehicles than any which the Chinese seemed disposed to afford.

Every thing being at length ready, our journey commenced at four o'clock in the afternoon. The gentlemen on horseback went in advance of the carriage, the sedan chairs followed immediately behind it, then the carts, next the servants, band and guard in waggons, whilst the rear was closed by our baggage. Every point of the procession was surrounded by mandarins and soldiers in chairs and carts, on horseback and on foot: the whole moved at a foot-pace. We soon reached the gates of Tung-Chow, through which we expected to pass; but the ways proving too narrow for His Lordship's carriage, we took a road under its walls. These are of an oblong square, as stated by Du Halde, and are built of an ill-burnt brick of a blue colour. No masonry could be less expressive of strength, or in a state of greater dilapidation. Leaving the city, we soon reached a handsome bridge of one arch, built of a granular limestone, and ornamented with figures of lions. Having left this, we came to the paved road which extends from Tung-Chow to Peking. The pavement consisted of large blocks of granite, so irregularly laid, that large chasms from long wear had intervened between them sufficiently deep for the overturn of carriages. These continually occurred through its whole extent, and occasioned the greatest annoyance to those who travelled in carts. That part of the country through which we passed whilst day-light continued, was on each side

of the road well cultivated with millet; but exhibited no scenery with any claim to description.

We travelled so slow, that night came on before we had advanced five miles. My horse I very soon abandoned; and having with no unintelligible marks of contempt yielded him up to a soldier, endeavoured to prosecute my journey on foot, and was instantly surrounded by a crowd of Chinese soldiers and porters, who accompanied us, and peasants who had assembled from the neighbourhood. Their usual importunity was growing exceedingly troublesome, when the coming up of the black drummer of the band suddenly relieved me. This man, of a fine figure, six feet in height, of a jet black complexion, was an object of irresistible curiosity with the Chinese. Wherever he went, crowds followed, and left every other person of the embassy to gaze upon him. To feel his hands, and to compare their colour with that of their own; to endeavour by signs to ascertain from what part of the world he came, was their frequent and eager employment. We always thought ourselves fortunate in our excursions when he had preceded us, and carried off the mob. I continued my walk till after dark, when having suffered two or three severe falls from the holes in the road, I took refuge in the cart of a friend.

About nine o'clock the procession halted at a small village distant five miles from Pekin. The Ambassador was conducted to a building more resembling a shed than a house, and ushered into a large apartment intended for the accommodation of all the persons of the Embassy, and some of their horses. At its further extremity, a long table was spread for the Ambassador and gentlemen of his suite; in the centre, benches and tables were placed for the servants, guard and band; and at a short distance beyond these, horses received their fodder. Our repast consisted of fowls served up whole, but without any instruments to carve them. We were consequently obliged; much to the amusement of the bye-standers, to separate the limbs with our fingers. Water, and spirits in taste and strength like alcohol, were given us to drink. The room was filled by Chinese, who

were present for any purpose, rather than that of attending on the Embassy. In short, a more disagreeable entertainment cannot be imagined. But all fared alike; for in this instance, the Chinese made no distinction in the accommodation of the Ambassador and the lowest of his train. After the delay of about an hour, His Excellency readily yielded to the solicitation of the attendant Mandarins to hasten our departure for Peking. These gentlemen, of whom Quang and Soo were the principal, urged Lord Amherst to depart, with much anxiety of manner, alleging as an excuse for their importunity, that the Governor of Peking was waiting his arrival at the gates of the city.

When preparing to leave, I found that the sick had suffered much from the journey, and that their number had been increased by one of the band who had fallen ill on the route. For these, who were all suffering from acute disease, and liable to severe pain from slight motion, application was again made to the Chinese for comfortable litters, but without effect. The only relief that could be afforded to them was in large doses of opium, larger indeed than, under ordinary circumstances, it would have been prudent to administer, but which fortunately diminished their sensibility so much as to enable them to complete the remainder of the journey without severe suffering.

The Ambassador having again taken possession of his carriage, the different persons of his suite went in search of their respective carts, but had the greatest difficulty in finding them. They had been removed from the neighbourhood of the shed in which we had supped, into a sort of stable yard, in its neighbourhood. Not being acquainted with this circumstance, the gentlemen in vain wandered about for some time in the dark, without receiving any assistance in their search from the numerous Chinese who surrounded them, and who only grinned on witnessing their dilemma. Accident at length relieved them from their embarrassment; but few I believe re-possest themselves of the same carts that had brought them thus far on their journey.

I was more fortunate than many of my companions. The manner in which I had relinquished my horse on the road induced the Chinese, who always watched minutely the actions of the persons of the Embassy, to replace him at our halting-place by another of a very different character. He was respectable both in condition and equipment, and soon enabled me to overtake the Ambassador, leaving the carts with the other gentlemen far behind.

Having given my horse to a servant, I mounted the box of the carriage, which was now escorted by men carrying large flambeaux, a precaution necessary to prevent its overturn by the inequalities of the road. The carts were lighted by small paper lanterns of a red colour, which in a long line produced a singular effect. About twelve o'clock we reached the suburbs of the city of Pekin, and found even at this late hour Chinese curiosity fully awake. Thousands of people crowded the road, holding up their small oval lanterns to gain a view of the procession. The light of these was sufficient to discover the faces of the crowd and the style of the buildings by which we were passing. It was a strange scene. The eye, after wandering over numberless naked and illuminated heads, rested on gilded Piazzas stretching in front of the houses, and reflecting the light of the torches.

We were in constant apprehension of driving over the people ; but were saved from this misfortune by a band of Chinese soldiers, who flourishing whips on all sides, cleared the way with great dexterity. After proceeding some time, we became anxious to reach the city gates ; but were soon mortified, by observing that the carriage was quitting their direction, and that our conductors' tale of the Governor of Pekin waiting our arrival, was only an instance of Chinese falsehood. The carriage being now directed to the

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There can be little doubt from our subsequent experience, that the confusion and difficulties which embarrassed the suite, after the departure of His Lordship, were planned by the Chinese to separate them from each other.



outside of the walls, all the skill of the coachman was required to prevent its overturn. The danger arose from the narrowness of the ways, being only suited to the short axles of the Chinese carts. We first passed through a lane having a high bank on one side and a deep ditch on the other, and when clear of this, entered upon a succession of bridges, overhanging deep ravines, and formed of planks without parapets, and with scarcely sufficient width to admit the wheels of the carriage. Beyond these, we gained a road passing between the walls and a ditch, which seemingly encircled the city. This road being rather good, we were congratulating ourselves upon a termination of our difficulties, when the carriage became fixed in a deep mire. All the efforts of the mules could not for some time move it, although assisted by several Chinese, who put their shoulders to the wheels. Whilst we were thus circumstanced, Mandarins continually went by, without paying any attention to our unpleasant situation. The Commissioners having alighted, the carriage was at length drawn out, and proceeded without further obstacle, till it reached at the dawn of day the celebrated gardens of Yuen-Ming-Yuen.

The morning was fine, and opened to us a scene of novelty and beauty. After travelling, since leaving Ta-koo, through an uninterrupted flat of two hundred miles, remarkable neither for its productions or cultivation, we beheld unusual charms in the hills, trees, and flowers which surrounded us. Fields of *Nelumbo* rearing high its glossy leaves and gorgeous flowers, edged by trees with the foliage of the *Cassia*, spread at our feet, whilst the Tartar mountains approximated by the haze of the morning rose in the distance. All the descriptions which I had ever read of the paradisiacal delight of Chinese Gardens occurred to my imagination; but in imagination only was I allowed to enjoy them. Acts of fraud, tyranny, and violence speedily effaced the first rising of pleasurable emotion.

Arrived within a short distance of the imperial palace, the Ambassador's carriage was stopped by some Mandarins in their

dresses of ceremony, who from a crowd of others advanced to meet it. Several of these, amongst whom were Soo-ta-jin and our conductor Quang, immediately requested His Excellency to enter the imperial place. His Lordship at first refused, pleading fatigue and illness, and begging to be led to the quarters prepared for him; but after repeated solicitations and assurances that he would only be detained to partake of refreshment, he alighted, and, accompanied by his son, Sir G. Staunton, Mr. Ellis, and a few of the gentlemen of his suite who chanced to be about his person, passed through a multitude of Mandarins to the palace. Repeated attempts appeared now to be made to separate His Lordship from his attendants, by carrying him rapidly forward; obliging them to use considerable exertion to keep up with him, by pressing through a host of opposing Chinese. At length the whole party reached the palace, and were pushed into a room, which, if a fair specimen of other parts, might induce the supposition that His Chinese Majesty was king of the beggars. On entering, it was impossible not to be reminded of Van Braam's exclamation under similar circumstances, *Nous voila donc à notre arrivée dans la célèbre résidence impériale logis dans une espèce d'écurie. Nous serions nous attendus à une pareille aventure.* This room was perhaps twelve feet in length and seven in breadth, and was surrounded on all sides by windows, or rather openings furnished with shutters in the same manner as the port-holes of a ship. Its roof was a tattered paper sky-light. The shutters were thrown open, to gratify the curiosity of the lower class of Chinese, whilst crowds of Mandarins and Princes of the blood satisfied their's by filling the room almost to suffocation. As soon as His Excellency entered, he threw himself upon a bench, much exhausted by fatigue, watching, and agitation of mind. All followed his example, and pretended to sleep in the hope of avoiding the ceaseless importunity of the Chinese. But they would in no respect suffer our repose. In a few minutes after our arrival, came Soo-ta-jin, stating to the Ambassador the desire of the Emperor to see him and the other Commissioners. Lord Amherst replied, that

fatigue, illness, and the want of the necessary attire, rendered his compliance with the Emperor's desire almost impossible; and requested that His Majesty would allow him that day to recover himself, begging at the same time to be conducted to the dwelling appointed for him. His Lordship's excuses were not received. The Emperor's wish was again and again urged, as not to be rejected; but His Excellency adhered to his former remonstrance. Soo-ta-jin was strongly supported in his solicitations by the legate, Quang. Finding, however, that their entreaties were unavailing, they retired; but were immediately succeeded by the Duke, who entered the room with a determined air, and going up to the Ambassador, repeated the Emperor's desire to see the Commissioners; adding, that they would only be required to perform the English ceremony. On receiving the same answer that had been given to Soo and Quang, he caught His Lordship rudely by the arm, beckoning at the same time to some surrounding Mandarins to assist him. They obeyed the signal, and stepped forward; but before they reached the Ambassador, he started up, and advanced towards him, when in the act of shaking off his unmannerly assailant. This sudden movement stopped the Duke, and alarmed his attendants; the former quitted his hold, and the latter fell back, with countenances full of astonishment. His Lordship, freed from the grasp of the Duke, protested, with great firmness and dignity of manner, against the insult which he had received, and claimed to be treated as the representative of a great and independent Sovereign; declaring, that force alone should carry him into the Imperial presence. The Duke at once altered his tone, endeavouring to make it appear, that what we had considered as an attempt to force the Ambassador from the room, was only the Chinese mode of assisting a person unable to walk; adding, that a sick man had no will of his own; and in the most persuasive manner, entreated His Lordship to wait on the Emperor, who, he said, merely wished to see him on his arrival, and would not detain him. Persuasion, if it could have

availed at first, was now too late. Defeated in his purpose, the Duke left the room in high displeasure.

It was now that His Excellency appealed to us, as witnesses of the violence which he had suffered; and looking to the probability of its recurrence, cautioned those who were armed, against using their weapons in resisting it. Our reflections at this period were not of the most pleasing nature. We could not but be sensible, that we were in the hands of a despotic and capricious government, whose ministers had been repulsed in an attempt to carry a point of the deepest interest to themselves, and who were obviously free from the restraint of courteous feeling. Indignation, however, was our predominant emotion; and was in no small degree increased by the annoyance that we experienced from the number of eunuchs, mandarins, and princes who infested the apartment. Notwithstanding the strongest appeals made by Mr. Morrison to their sense of propriety and civility, they continually pressed upon us; examining our persons with the most uncereemonious closeness. They even wished the Ambassador, who was reclined on the bench, to rise, that they might the better view his person. It was plain that they looked upon us as a strange species of animal, whom it was curious to observe, but as beings without the pale of civilised treatment. They also seemed to suspect that we might not be perfectly harmless. Had they again attempted to carry their first intention into effect, they would probably have discovered that Englishmen had not been trained in the habits of non-resistance to tyrannical insult.

Our speculations were soon interrupted by the arrival of a messenger from the Duke; who acquainted His Lordship, that his visit to the Emperor would be dispensed with, and invited him to the Duke's apartments, that he might be free from the pressure of the crowd. His Lordship, looking at this invitation as a mere feint to draw him into the Imperial presence, at once refused it; observing, that if he were well enough to visit the Duke, he could have no reason for refusing to see the Emperor. On receiving this reply,

Ho became again impatient, and again waited on His Excellency. In this visit he was all civility, and used every motive that he could imagine to induce the Ambassador to meet his wishes. His importunity being too suspicious to be complied with, he again left the room without attaining his object; but only to harass His Excellency with message after message, to which he always received the answer, that "the Ambassador wished to be led to the house prepared for him." After some time the messages became less frequent, and then altogether ceased. Mandarins and soldiers, who had been drawn up in the front of the palace, were observed to disperse; and intelligence was soon after brought to the Ambassador, that he was at liberty to go to his own apartments, and that he would be attended by the Emperor's physician.

His Lordship immediately quitted the palace, and endeavoured to reach the carriage, which had remained in the place where we had left it. At first, great difficulty was experienced in getting through the Chinese who surrounded us. Several soldiers, armed with whips, attempted to open a passage; but as they only struck the ground, their efforts were unavailing. We had, however, more effectual aid at hand. The Duke, who had followed us closely, seeing our impediment, seized a whip, and striking furiously all the Chinese who did not fly before him, speedily cleared our path; the nobles of all ranks, in their dresses of ceremony, sprawling over each other in their efforts to escape him. We now soon reached the quarters prepared for the Embassy, in the village of Hai-teen, and found our companions, who had been purposely separated from us, perplexed at our absence, and overcome with fatigue.

The Ambassador was immediately visited by the promised physician. This gentleman, who appeared to be something beyond the middle age, was dressed as a Mandarin. He felt His Lordship's pulse in both wrists; and having observed that his stomach was probably disordered from the use of a Chinese diet, recommended repose and an emetic, and retired. The report of this person to the Emperor, materially influenced, as it afterwards appeared, our subsequent treatment.



The house intended for the accommodation of the Commissioners was sufficiently comfortable, both in itself and its situation, and had been the residence of Chou-ta-jin, one of the worthy conductors of Lord Macartney's Embassy, who was now on the frontiers of Russia. It consisted of apartments communicating by door-ways covered with rolling screens formed of rattan. Its furniture, exclusive of tables and chairs highly varnished, consisted of large couches covered with embroidered scarlet silk. It stood in an enclosed space of some extent, laid out in a tasteful manner, and ornamented with showy and interesting plants. Suites of rooms for the accommodation of the other members of the Embassy were comprised in detached buildings in its neighbourhood. These had not much to recommend them, being little better than counterparts of our reception-room in the palace. We passed to them through archways and circular openings \* in walls surrounding small gardens. In one of these, a large building, open in front, and supported by pillars covered with yellow silk, was prepared for the reception of the presents.

Having partaken of a splendid breakfast, consisting of the choicest Chinese fare, we retired in search of the repose which should enable us to enjoy the inviting scenes in our neighbourhood. We were too much fatigued by the journey of the preceding night, to wait the unlading of our cots, but throwing ourselves on benches or chairs, were soon in a deep sleep. But scarcely had we begun our dreams of all the beauties of Yuen-Ming-Yuen, when we were roused by the noise of preparation. It was the preparation for our instant return to Tung-Chow. The Emperor, incensed at the Ambassador's refusal to visit him, had commanded our immediate departure. Chang brought the order, and was soon followed by a Mandarin, who, in a loud

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It is very common in China to see the apartments of dwelling-houses and temples, and the out-door enclosures, communicating with each other by round door-ways. De Guignes observes, "*La porte du bonheur est celle de forme ronde, celle ci a la vertu, suivant les idées Chinoises, d'arrêter les génies malfaisans et de garantir le propriétaire du logis de leur malignes influences.*"

voice and imperative gesture, called for the principal interpreter. Mr. Morrison appeared. "I am a messenger," said this pompous gentleman, "from the Keu-mun-te-tuh, governor of the nine gates of Peking, the greatest military officer of the empire; commander of a million of men. He orders the Ambassador instantly to quit the limits of his command."\* Such a mandate was not to be entirely disobeyed; we therefore prepared to depart, but not with all the expedition that the Chinese wished. They proposed sending our baggage after us, but could not induce His Excellency to set out till he was satisfied that every article which had been removed from the carts was replaced.

Although now in circumstances the most disgraceful in Chinese estimation, being under the displeasure of the Emperor, we experienced some sympathy in our misfortunes. Yin, the military Mandarin who had accompanied us from the Gulf of Pe-tchee-lee, walked from person to person, condoling with each as well as he could, and attributing our difficulties to the will of heaven. Many of the inferior Chinese attendants had also more of compassion than of triumph in their countenances, and endeavoured by signs to induce us to eat, before we undertook our troublesome journey. And let me not here pass over the humane conduct of a poor Chinese towards myself. He was a young man who belonged to Mr. Morrison's boat, and acting as that gentleman's servant, had been often employed for me in collecting plants, for which he received a small recompense. Seeing me at this time in search of a cart, he led me to the best he could

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\* This gentleman did not confine himself to the strict purport of his message, but took occasion to give his opinion of the conduct of the Ambassador. "The Ambassador," he said, "has behaved rudely. Your King is respectful and obedient, but your Ambassador is not: he has used disrespectful language. The Emperor will write to the King, and complain of him." On being told that the Ambassador had only begged His Chinese Majesty graciously to defer the audience, he exclaimed, "The ceremonies of the Celestial Empire are unalterable." "This is no time to talk of ceremonies," observed Mr. Morrison. "Nor am I sent for any other purpose than to order your departure," rejoined the other, and went away.

find, recommended me strongly to the care of its driver, and during the journey brought me refreshments, when no exertion of my own could have procured them.

Before leaving Yuen-Ming-Yuen, a request was once more made in behalf of the sick, whom it appeared quite hazardous to subject to the inconveniences of another night-journey, that they might remain behind under the care of their medical attendant till the next day. This application being made to our conductor Chang, he readily answered, that "as they would only have to travel twenty lees, less than seven miles, that night, they had better go with the other persons of the Embassy." This answer is a good illustration of the falsifying disposition of the Chinese. They seldom directly refuse a request which they do not intend to grant, but evade it by a lie which is not immediately palpable. Chang knew that the Embassy were to be hurried as fast as possible to Tung-Chow; but by speaking the truth, he could not have freed himself so easily from our importunity. Another attempt to obtain litters having no better success than that made at Tung-Chow, the invalids were put in possession of the carriage of His Lordship, who determined to return to Tung-Chow in a chair.

As soon as the Ambassador entered his sedan, the different vehicles containing the persons of his train were hurried off at a rapid pace. The pomp of imperial favour no longer attended us. The confusion and haste of a forced journey took place of the slow movement and orderly arrangement of a procession. The crowd of Mandarins and soldiers that had hitherto attended us, disappeared, and were not replaced by a single responsible person.

We reached the city of Pekin at the close of day, stepped from our carts to steal a piece of its walls, had just time to observe that they were built of a sun-dried brick of a blue colour, resting on a foundation of blocks of granite, and were hurried round them to its suburbs. It was dark when we entered them. A numberless mob again surrounded us, thrusting their lanterns, hanging from the ends of short staves, into the carts, to obtain a view of our

faces. As we were not in a humour to indulge their curiosity, many of their lanterns coming in contact with our feet, were sacrificed to our irritability. Beyond the suburbs, we again got upon the paved road, and travelling along it at a fast trot, felt the sensation of continual dislocation and replacement in every joint of our bodies. About twelve o'clock many of the Embassy halted in a heavy rain at the house in which we had received our strange entertainment the night before. Neither shelter nor refreshment being now provided, we took refuge in our carts; and during their delay of an hour, obtained some sleep, and then proceeded on our journey. At four in the morning we reached Tung-Chow, and gladly entered the boats; which, in our present circumstances, had the attraction of homes. The buildings that had been occupied by the Commissioners were closed against us.

The boatmen were much surprised at our sudden return, but received us joyfully and kindly. These men, who, in their ordinary habits of life, often suffer from hunger, and at all times feed on a meagre diet, had fared sumptuously on the redundant supplies of the Embassy. They had also experienced the liberality of individuals, and were for these reasons glad to see their benefactors so soon in a situation to renew their services. They did not, however, fail to speculate amongst themselves on the cause of our sudden appearance, and to express their surprise at our escaping the wholesome correction of the bamboo, for our insolence in opposing the will of their mighty Emperor. Lord Amherst, Sir George Staunton, and the other gentlemen who travelled in chairs, did not arrive till some hours after the carts. The carriage with the sick was obliged to stop all night on the road, near Peking, in consequence of not being supplied with either guides or torch-bearers. Many casualties had occurred on the journey. Several of the baggage-waggons had been upset, and much of the baggage was injured. But this was a slight grievance. One of His Lordship's servants was nearly killed by the overturning of his cart, through the carelessness of his driver; receiving in the fall a severe concussion of the brain, the effect of which still incapacitates him for his usual avocations.

When we were somewhat recovered from our fatigues, and looked back on the occurrences of the last two days, we seemed rather to have awakened from a dream, than to have experienced any circumstances of real existence. It was impossible to link them together in any probable chain of cause and effect. We could only conjecture that we had been hurried to and from Yuen-Ming-Yuen, and subjected to all kinds of indignity and inconvenience, to suit the will of a capricious despot. It would have been in vain to calculate on the next events. The same will might load us with fresh insults, or again call us to the imperial presence.

Before night, our suspense was in some degree relieved by reports, from authentic sources, that the Emperor had been deceived by his ministers respecting the real cause of the Ambassador's refusal to visit him, and lamented his hasty dismissal. Early the next morning these rumours were confirmed by the arrival of Soo and Quang, with presents from the Emperor to the Prince Regent, consisting of a sceptre cut from a siliceous stone, of a greenish white colour, and called by the Chinese Yu; a necklace of agate, and other beads; and several embossed silk purses. In return for these, they selected from the British presents portraits of the King and Queen, a painting of Doncaster horse-races, several engravings, and some maps of China; manifesting, as an Imperial Edict afterwards expressed it, "the idea of giving much and receiving little!"

It was about this time verbally communicated to Mr. Morrison, that the Emperor had been kept in ignorance of the circumstance of our having travelled all night, or being without the costume necessary to appear in before him; and that the only plea that had been alleged for the Commissioners' refusal to enter the presence, was the Ambassador's illness; which there was reason to suppose the Chinese physician had declared to be feigned. It was also stated, that all the Chinese officers who had been connected with the Embassy, were degraded. It was, in fact, afterwards ascertained, that Soo had been condemned to lose his situation of President to the Board of Works, together with his peacock's feather, and to be



reduced to a button of the third order ; Ho to relinquish his title of Kung-Yay or Duke, to be mulcted in a heavy penalty, and to lose his privilege of wearing a yellow riding-jacket : Mub to lose his Presidency ; and Quang his situation of Salt Commissioner. After the interchange of presents, no doubt remained that our early departure was decided on.

Having now given an account of the most interesting public transactions of the Embassy, as far as they fell under my own observation, up to the period of its leaving Tung-Chow, I shall conclude this chapter with a few remarks on the environs of this place, and their inhabitants.

It has been remarked, by the author of an Essay entitled, "*Idée générale de la Chine*," that it might be concluded, from the relations of travellers who have only visited the sea-ports of China, that in this country, as in Lacedæmon, theft was permitted, if successfully practised. If giving false weight, charging centuple prices, and substituting bad articles for good, form a species of theft, it is not confined to the sea-coast, but is practised all over the empire of China, and is not only tolerated but applauded, especially when foreigners are its victims.\* It was constantly practised upon us in the most barefaced manner at Tung-Chow, and indeed every where else in

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I might readily show, that in this statement I only accord with the generality of writers who have had occasion to consider the general character of the Chinese. They are too numerous to be all quoted ; but the opinions of Le Comte and Du Halde, two writers best able to appreciate them, I cannot avoid giving : — "*Leur qualité essentielle c'est de tromper quand ils peuvent. Ils falsifient presque tout ce qu'ils vendent. Il est sur qu'un étranger sera toujours trompé, s'il achete par lui-même, quelque précaution qu'il prenne.*" — *Nouveaux Mémoires sur la Chine*, par Louis Le Comte, tom. i. p. 362.

" Quoique généralement parlant, ils ne soient pas aussi fourbes et aussi trompeurs que le P. le Comte les dépeint, il est néanmoins vrai que la bonne foi n'est pas leur vertu favorite, sur tout lorsqu'ils ont à traiter avec les étrangers ; ils ne manquent guères de les tromper s'ils le peuvent, et ils s'en font un mérite ; il y en a même qui étant surpris en faute sont assez impudens pour s'excuser sur leur peu d'habilité.

" Cette adresse à tromper se remarque principalement parmi les gens du peuple, qui ont recours à mille ruses pour falsifier tout ce qu'ils vendent ; il y en a qui ont le secret d'ouvrir l'estomac d'un chapon, et d'en tirer toute la chair, de remplir ensuite le vuide, et de fermer l'ouverture si adroitement, qu'on ne s'en apperçoit que dans le temps que l'on veut le manger." — *From p. 77. tom. ii. par le P. du Halde.*

China. A kind of balance is used by the Chinese in weighing that enables them readily to deceive the unsuspecting; and gave us many opportunities of witnessing their frauds. It is formed of a long rod or beam, of wood or ivory, with a scale at one end and a moveable weight at the other. The rod is intended to be suspended in equilibrium by a piece of string passing through it. The Chinese, by having two strings at some distance from each other, can alter at pleasure the length of the lever, proportionably increasing or diminishing the weight. Of this construction they never failed to take advantage, at our expense, whenever an opportunity presented itself. I ought, however, to observe, that the soldiers, who accompanied us in our excursions, would have obliged them to act thus, if they had not been prompted by their own disposition. These harpies followed us in all our rambles, and, entering the shops, desired the tradesmen to overcharge us; and when a bargain was completed, received the whole of the extra profit.

Nothing could better illustrate the contemptible and pusillanimous policy of the Chinese towards the Embassy, than the jealous manner in which they watched our visits to some stalls on which arms were exposed for sale. They had so great an objection to our purchasing any weapon of the country, as to seize a sword, bought by a gentleman, at the moment when he was carrying it openly into the Ambassador's quarters.

European silver coins were much sought after at Tung-Chow, but less for their intrinsic value than as curiosities. English eighteen-penny and three-shilling pieces were particularly in request, and seemed to be as highly prized as the Spanish dollar. Indeed, so far did the inhabitants carry their anxiety to possess a coin with a perfect device, as to offer me handful after handful of their small copper money, called Tchen \*, for a few silver Java coin with

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\* This coin, the only figured money in China, is of a round form, has a square hole in the centre for the convenience of stringing, and has the name of the Emperor in Chinese on the face, and two Tartar words on the reverse. This coin is melted, not struck.—Vide Mem. concern. les Chinois, tom. iv. p. 307.

the figure of a horse on one side. The same coin was valued by their money-changers at seven Tchen. This estimation of the value of small silver pieces could only be the consequence of their rarity, as all silver passes with the Chinese by weight. The smallest portion of a dollar goes for its relative worth, as readily as the whole coin. Silver, for a medium of circulation in China, is melted into conical masses, having the form of the crucible in which they have been formed. For large payments, the entire masses are used; for smaller, bits of these are cut off, and weighed on the spot. For this purpose, a Chinese usually carries about with him a pair of scissars and a small balance, of the nature just described, and very sensible, the rod of which is usually of ivory.\* Gold, in China, is purely an article of merchandise.

Whilst the Embassy remained at Tung-Chow, we were not permitted to enter the city, but to visit its suburbs at pleasure. These afforded, however, little that was worth the labour of toiling for, under a hot sun, through a crowd of Chinese, being composed of long dirty streets, lined with paltry shops and houses of public entertainment. Much the greater number of the former were filled with the winter dresses of the Chinese. The skins of every species of animal within their reach, from the ermine to the mouse, had been converted into apparel. The most common were deer, dog, goat, and squirrel skins. Rat and mouse skins sewn together, and formed into long cloaks, were also frequent, and had in the eyes of a stranger a very singular effect. Indeed, there was nothing that gave so peculiar a character to the streets, as the fur cloaks with

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*Cette sorte de balance est assez semblable à la balance Romaine : elle est composée d'un petit plat, d'un bras d'ivoire ou d'ébène, et d'un poids courant. Ce bras qui est divisé en de très-petites parties sur trois faces différentes, est suspendu par des fils de soie à l'un des bouts en trois différens points, afin de peser plus aisément toutes sortes de poids. Ces balances sont d'une grande précision. Ils pesent depuis 15 et 20 tael jusqu'à un sol et au-delà, et avec tant de justesse, que la millièame partie d'un écu fait pancher la balance d'une manière sensible. — Du Halde, tom. ii. p. 163.*

long sleeves hanging up before the doors, and looking like so many decapitated Chinese. Many of these dresses had been handsome; the ermine cloaks having sometimes collars of sable, and linings of silk richly figured. They were all, however, second-hand, and possessed the true Chinese smell. It was impossible to obtain their common prices, as the salesmen, through the influence of our attendant soldiers, always asked of us more than their real value. I gave fourteen Spanish dollars for a deer-skin cloak.

These furs were formerly chiefly brought from Siberia, in caravans. These, according to Mr. Bell \*, were allowed by the Emperor's favour to remain in free quarters during their stay at Peking, and have the liberty to dispose of their goods, and buy others, without the exaction of any impost. The value of one of them was reckoned to amount to four or five hundred thousand roubles, and yielded a return of at least double that sum. The Chinese also obtained a large supply of sables from the Tonguese, who inhabit the southern branch of the river Amoor. † They still derive them from these sources, but also obtain a large supply from North America. ‡

Next in number to the fur-shops, were those of the druggists. These were remarkable for their superior cleanliness; and, in the arrangement of their various drawers and jars, greatly resembled

*Journey to Peking, vol. i. p. 326.*

† The river Amoor is one of the largest rivers in Asia; it takes its rise in the country of the Mongalls near the river Selenga, and running from thence eastward, it makes the frontier of these parts between Eastern Siberia, and the Oriental Mongalls; and after a course of more than 300 German leagues, it discharges itself into the sea of Japan, in long. 144 degrees. — Bell's Travels.

‡ In the season of 1811 and 1812, the Americans imported into Canton,

Beaver and Land Otter Skins	-	-	29,995
Sea Otter	-	-	6,403
Seal	-	-	35,002
Neuter	-	-	142,000
Minx	-	-	6,151
Fox	-	-	2,532
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			222,083
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those of Europe. The medicines vended in them appeared to be all from the vegetable kingdom.

The public houses were large open sheds, fitted up with tables and benches, and afforded the means of gambling and drinking to the lower class of the Chinese; and were generally filled with players at dominos or cards, who seemed to enter with intense earnestness into their game. The cards were small pieces of paste-board, about two inches in length and half an inch in width, having black and red characters painted upon them. The beverage most largely partaken of in these houses was tea and wine; but sam-tchoo was also drunk. This liquor, which, from the quantity we met with in China, must be in general use, more resembles alcohol in flavour and strength than any other spirit with which I am acquainted. It sometimes, indeed, has a smoky flavour, resembling that of whiskey. It is distilled from rice or millet, and flavoured, the Chinese said, by the seeds of the bamboo. The wine, according to De Guignes\*, is nothing more than water in which rice or millet has been fermented. All the guests in these houses were smoking from pipes of various length, from two to five feet, formed of the young and slender twigs of bamboo, fitted with bowls of white copper, about the size of a thimble.

Having seen so many people on the banks of the Pei-ho exhibiting all the exterior marks of sordid poverty, we felt no surprise that many of them should be driven to mendicity for the means of existence. At Tung-Chow we met with the first of the many proofs which occurred to us in China, that it extensively prevails in that country. Beggars frequented the suburbs, some of whom were miserable objects of deformity, and all exhibited the marks of extreme penury. One man, who occasionally crossed my path, was withered in his thighs and legs, which he writhed about for the purpose of extorting charity. Those who were not prevented by



disability of body, followed us through the streets and into shops, not quitting us till they were relieved or driven back by the soldiers. On some occasions they prostrated themselves before us, exhibiting vile examples of human degradation, and knocking their heads to the earth, exemplified the nature of the *kotow*.

My observation on the extent of mendicinity in China is, I am aware, at variance with the remark of the learned author of "Travels in China," that he "did not observe a single beggar from one extremity of China to the other, except in the streets of Canton." Our opportunities of visiting the cities of China being more frequent than those possessed by that gentleman, may perhaps explain the contrariety of experience; or the opposite characters of Kien-Lung and Kea-king, the emperors who filled the Chinese throne at the respective periods of Lord Macartney's and Lord Amherst's embassies, may have occasioned a very different management of the internal affairs of their empire. Kien-Lung, of an active mind and enlarged policy, making frequent journeys through his empire, examining in his own person the state of his people, or employed in his palace in scrutinizing the reports and actions of his ministers, would be infinitely more competent to prevent the extremes of poverty among his subjects, than Kea-king, the victim of jealous fear, struggling against rebellion\*, and unacquainted with the condition of his people, except

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\* Kea-king, the present Emperor of China, a man of a timid and vacillating temper, sufficiently proved by his conduct to the British Embassy, was almost shaken from his throne by a conspiracy which broke out in his capital, and penetrated to his palace, in the year 1813. It was subdued in a great measure by the personal bravery of his brother-in-law Ho-she-ta, who slew several of the principal ringleaders with his own hand. Seventeen persons were ordered for execution as rebels, at Peking, in the following year, some to be cut into minute pieces, others beheaded. Thirty-five were by the tribunal sentenced to transportation; but His Majesty changed their sentence to strangling, after a certain period of imprisonment.

The year following the rebellion, an imperial edict was published in Peking, a translation of which, made at Macao, affords so excellent a specimen of the style of these royal compositions, for they are supposed to be written by the Emperor's own hand, that I have given it, with others of a similar nature, in the Appendix.

through the representation of his favourites, whose falsehood or truth he is from all accounts too weak to estimate.

But whatever be the true explanation, there can, I apprehend, be little doubt that mendicity has been common in China, at various periods, from the earliest ages of the Christian era. In the reign of the Emperor Tay-tsoung, of the dynasty Chong, occupying a part of the fourth century, it was formally reported to the Emperor by one of his counsellors, that "men were found in the country and in cities who could only obtain the means of existence by begging."\* From Nieuhoff we learn, that at the time of his visit to China, beggars, "bold and troublesome," "ill-featured and mis-shapen," "covered with sores, mangled, and deformed," frequented the towns and cities of the empire.† Mr. Bell's work‡ affords similar evidence; and De Guignes, who attended the Dutch Embassy, declares, that in his journey he met with them in towns and cities; and Huttner, according to the same author, affirms that the city of Peking is filled with them.§ Such are the benefits of the boasted patriarchal government of China.

The reader will readily imagine, that my visits to streets displaying no other objects than those which I have just described, were not very frequent. I should have been glad to direct them to the neighbouring country, but it was forbidden ground; whenever I was tempted to penetrate only a short distance beyond the space covered with houses, I was hurried back by the soldiers who attended me. It was not till after we left Tung-Chow that our conductors thought it proper to bring us into good humour, by giving greater latitude to our researches. I therefore restricted myself to forming acquaintances with the occupiers of houses which stretched along that bank of the river by which our boats were anchored. These people being all timber-sellers, with whom I could not deal, had no self-

\* *Memoires concernant les Chinois*, tom. v. p. 163.

† Nieuhoff, *Embassy to China*, 2d edition, page 163.

‡ *Bell's Journey to Peking*, vol. ii. p. 43.

§ *De Guignes, Voyage à Peking*, tom. iii. p. 135.

interested motive, the main spring of Chinese actions, to abuse my confidence, and proved, in fact, a most civil race. They dwelt in small, neat houses, surrounded by enclosed yards, ornamented in the Chinese taste with gay rather than fragrant plants. The enclosures, whilst they gave the advantages of privacy, were of sufficient extent to admit the freest circulation of air. They opened towards the river by a gate in a fence at right angles with the houses, which looked towards the south. The inmates of these dwellings, whenever they saw us at the entrance-gate, invited us in. We frequently found them at meals in the open air, and were always on these occasions pressed to partake of their fare, and on all others, supplied with tea. They permitted me freely to examine the yards and outer apartments of their houses; but never allowed me to enter those of the interior, which were probably appropriated to their women. Those which I had an opportunity of seeing, formed the front of the house, and consisted of two of unequal size. The larger, of twice the size of the other, served for general purposes; it was an apartment for the reception of company, a temple, and a sleeping room. Its walls were covered with white paper, on which hung some rude sketches of mountain-scenery, and some moral sentences written on silk, in large Chinese characters. The bed places at one end of the room were large massive benches of brick-work, having a small furnace beneath them, by which they are warmed during winter. On these, with no other defence from their hardness than a felt mat, the Chinese sleep. But the most striking piece of furniture, if it may be so called, was a temple in miniature. It much resembled at first sight cases of shell-work, which are sometimes seen in houses in England, and are called grottos. It was seldom more than two or three feet square, and was generally placed against the wall a few feet from the ground, nearly opposite to the entrance-door. In its centre was a figure of an ill-proportioned, corpulent old man, plentifully besmeared with gilding, and red and white paint, and surrounded with strings of round pieces of tinfoil, which the Chinese

burn in their sacrifices. Chairs and tables of varnished wood clumsy in form and materials, completed the furniture of the apartment.

The smaller room was a kitchen, which did not display a very complicated apparatus, having only a square brick furnace supporting two large iron bowls, that served for baking, boiling, or any other similar purpose.

The Chinese appeared to have confined their attempts at ornament to their yards, which contained plants of various species. The elegant *Ipomœa quamoclet*, trained on small frames of trellis work, was, from its frequent culture, obviously a favourite. The *Begonia Evansiana*\*, *Largerstrœmia indica*, *Hemorocallis japonica*, *Punica granatum* dwarfed, *Cassia sophora*, *Nerium oleander*, *Lychnis coronata*, *Tradescantia cristata*, were abundantly cultivated in pots, together with a species of *Dianella*, with purple flowers, of *Hibiscus*, and of *Plumbago*, which I could not determine. But cultivated and prized above all others, appeared the *Nelumbium speciosum*, the *Lien-wha* of the Chinese. This splendid flower, celebrated for its beauty by the Chinese poets, and ranked for its virtues among the plants which, according to Chinese theology, enter into the beverage† of immortality, flourished in the greatest vigour in the gardens of Tung-Chow. It was raised in capacious vases of water, containing gold and silver fish, supported on stands a few feet from the ground. These were surrounded by steps of different elevation, supporting other plants mingled with artificial rocks, representing a hilly country and covered with diminutive houses, pagodas, and gardens. In this situation the *Nelumbium* was certainly an object of exceeding beauty. Its tulip-like blossoms of many petals tinted with the most delicate pink, hung over its fan-like leaves, floated on the surface of the water, or rising on long footstalks of unequal height, bent them

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Plantes rares.

† Memoires concernant les Chinois, tom. iii 137.

into elegant curves, and shaded with graceful festoons the plants beneath.

The *Nelumbium* is used by the Chinese to decorate lakes and other ornamental water, and to give a charm and productiveness to marshes otherwise unsightly and barren. Near Yuen-Ming-Yuen, and under the walls of Peking, I saw it covering with pink and yellow blossoms large tracts of land, and could sympathise with the enthusiasm of the Chinese bards, who have sung of the delight of moonlight excursions on rivers covered with the flowering *Lien-wha*.\* Its seeds, in size and form like a small acorn without its cup, are eaten green or dried as nuts, and are often preserved as sweetmeats: they have a nut-like flavour. Its roots, sometimes as thick as the arm, of a pale green without and whitish within, in a raw state are eaten as fruit, being juicy and of a sweetish and refreshing flavour; and when boiled, are served as vegetables. Both seeds and roots were frequently sent with the dessert to the Ambassador's table: the former were relished by us, but the latter were too fibrous to be eaten with pleasure. The leaves are said to possess a strengthening quality; the seed vessel to cure the colic, to facilitate parturition, and to counteract the effects of poison.

The *Nelumbium* is readily raised by the Chinese in all parts of the empire through which we passed, but seemed to flourish better in the northern than the southern provinces; and, according to the Missionaries, grows most luxuriantly beyond the great wall. I was unable to obtain much information respecting its culture, and none that was new. It does not appear that much art is used. Its leaves are watered in the summer, and cut down close to the roots on the approach of winter.

The inhabitants were very liberal in their gifts of cultivated plants, allowing me to select specimens for drying; and whenever I expressed a wish to possess living ones, they readily gave them to me.



Presents in return were always acceptable, and sometimes expected; and of these, black-lead pencils, and common English writing-paper, were much valued.

From the gardens I obtained the greater number of the botanical specimens that I collected in the neighbourhood of Tung-Chow. No country could be more barren in uncultivated plants. The species of *Polygonum*, before-mentioned as growing on the banks of the Pêi-ho, were here also common, together with the *Hibiscus trionum*, *Lycium Chinense*\*, *Tribulus terrestris*†, and a species of *Artemesia*. The *Sophora japonica*†, growing to a large size, was seen in the gardens, and often by the road-side, and was obviously prized for its beauty.

The plants cultivated for their esculent or other useful properties, were numerous in proportion to those which were wild. As Chinese corn, the *Holcus sorghum*, and a species of *Panicum*, were the most abundant. The former frequently grew to sixteen feet in height. Its large bunchy panicles were ripening fast whilst we remained at Tung-Chow. The seed of this plant is sown in rows on the margin of rivers, in a stiff soil; and when it begins to rise through the ground, the more humble *Panicum*, which ripens after its tall neighbour is cut down, is sown between them. Its seeds are fully developed

\* I have called this plant *Chinense* because it appears to be the same which has received that specific appellation from botanists; but I was entirely unable to observe any difference, except in the occasional size of the leaves, between it and *Lycium barbarum* of Linneus. It is a most abundant plant on the banks of the rivers in the province of Pe-tchee-lee.

† This plant is equally abundant on the banks of the Pei-ho and Eu-ho, in the province of Pe-tchee lee. The character, "*foliola sex-jugata*," given to this plant by its describers, does not at all apply to it as found by me in the north of China. Like *T. cistoides*, it has always "*foliola octo-jugata*," and only differs from that plant in the smallness of its corolla.

‡ Most of the trees which I observed in the precincts of Yuen-Ming-Yuen, had pinnated leaves, and were, I suspect, chiefly the *Sophora japonica*. I may here observe, that in giving some account of the plants which I found in China, I by no means wish it to be understood that I mention all that I either saw or collected. I only name those of which I have some memorandum, which I distinctly recollect, or of which I have recovered specimens.

before the tall corn is reaped, and only requires the solar light and heat, till then excluded, to ripen. The *Polygonum fagopyrum* is also cultivated as grain, but generally occurred in patches in the neighbourhood of cottages. These three plants seemed to afford the principal farinaceous support to the people inhabiting the banks of the Pei-ho. The *Sesamum orientale*, and the *Ricinus communis*, or Castor oil plant, were much cultivated for the esculent oils extracted from their seeds. The Chinese use, I suspect, some means of depriving the oil of this plant of its purgative properties; but that they do not entirely succeed, Chinese habits enabled me to observe, in every field or pathway that I entered between Tien-sing and Tung-Chow. The seeds, which are also eaten, occasion, no doubt, the same effects as the oil extracted from them.

Of the plants cultivated as vegetables, the principal were the *Solanum melongena*, two species of *Capsicum*\*, the Sweet Potatoe, several species of Gourds and Cucumbers, one or two species of *Phaseolus*, or kidney-bean, of which they boil the young plants, and above all, the vegetable called by the Chinese *Petsai*†, a species of cabbage.

The *Petsai* is quite a national plant. The quantity consumed of it all over the Chinese empire, but in Pekin especially, is immense; the nine gates of this city, according to some authors, being frequently choked by various vehicles laden with it, which pass through them daily from morning till night during the months of October and November. This vegetable may in fact be considered in relation to the Chinese what the potatoe is to the Irish. It is prized by all classes, and esteemed by them as a necessary of life. It is cultivated all over the empire, and receives a greater share of horticultural labour and skill than any other plant. In rearing it, the Chinese consume an enormous quantity of their celebrated

The *Capsicum Sinense*, and *Capsicum Annuum*, the latter quite as commonly as the former.

† *Pe*, white, *tsai*, vegetable; so named, probably, because the Chinese blanch the plant, naturally green.

manure, called by them Ta Few\*, composed chiefly of human ordure.

This plant, which I have eaten as a salad, and found equal to any lettuce, has somewhat the flavour, when boiled, of asparagus. It often weighs from fifteen to twenty pounds, and reaches the height of two or three feet. The Chinese preserve it during the winter by different methods: many pickle it in salt and vinegar; others keep it fresh, either by planting it in large quantities in wet sand, at the bottom of trenches cut for the purpose, or after drying it in the sun, by burying it deep in the earth. Those who wish to preserve it for a short time only, place it two or three feet beneath the surface, covering it with a layer of straw and earth.†

Of the many species of fruit brought to the Ambassador's table at Tung-Chow, I saw very few growing. Indeed, I can only mention a very fine white grape, generally cultivated in the gardens, water and other melons, the *Lien-wha*, and peach. We were, however, amply supplied with apples and chesnuts, an esculent seed of a pine said to come from Tartary, and the seed of the *Taxus nucifera*.

Among the plants raised for other purposes than those yet named, the *Sida tiliæfolia* ‡, the *Xing ma* § of the Chinese, was the most conspicuous. This plant is extensively cultivated on the banks of the Pei-ho, in the neighbourhood of Tung-chow, for the manufacture of cordage formed of its fibre. It is not indeed the universal cordage-

Of this manure and its application I shall elsewhere give some account.

† A full account of the manner of rearing and preserving this vegetable is given in *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, tom. iv.

‡ Willdenow has described the *Sida tiliæfolia* under the division of the genus "*pedunculis unifloris*," a character not at first sight belonging to it, since the peduncles often divide into several others, each bearing a flower; but each subdivision has a small leaf, which, in a more advanced age of the plant, renders the character strictly applicable.

§ Xing ma. The character *ma* signifies any plant whose seed is esculent, and whose fibre can be made into rope.

plant of the Chinese, but seems to be chiefly confined to the northern provinces. They have another plant also used for the manufacture of rope, called by them *Gě ma*, which is, I believe, the *Cannabis sativa*. The cordage made from the *Cannabis* is most prized by Europeans, but that formed from the *Sida* is, I suspect, preferred by the Chinese. I am led to this conclusion by having observed the two plants cultivated together at Tung-Chow, the *Sida* in long ridges or in fields, like the millet, and the *Cannabis* in small patches. I had no opportunity of seeing the manufacture of the *Sida*; but the rope made from it, in colour, softness, and fineness, resembles the dressed fibre of several West Indian *Sidas* prepared by Dr. Wright, and placed, with their respective plants, in the herbarium of Sir Joseph Banks. The root of the *Sida* is used according to the Missionaries\*, as a powerful sudorific; but as their information is derived from the Chinese, who attribute medicinal properties to almost all plants, it cannot in this instance be much relied on.

From the number of plants cultivated at Tung-Chow, my readers may be disposed to imagine that every foot of ground was rendered productive. This, however, would be an erroneous conclusion. Variety seemed to have taken place of quantity. It appeared as if the soil was capable of bearing no extensive crop of any one kind, but was of a different quality in different spots, and adapted to the growth of different kinds. Thus, on the borders of the river, I often found millet; and not a hundred yards beyond, the *Sida*; and, still farther, the *Gossipium*, and then a barren marsh; but this series had no fixed law except with respect to the millet, which always lined the banks of the river when not of a sandy nature. In this mode of cultivation the Chinese had shown some ingenuity and industry; but I could never find, here or elsewhere, that they throw extensive tracts of land into general cultivation; still less, that

they modify its surface by any complicated process of a durable result. In short, whatever observations I have been able to make on the state of their land, lead me to the conclusion, that, "as horticulturists, they may perhaps be allowed a considerable share of merit; but, on the great scale of agriculture, they are not to be mentioned with many European nations."

Circumstances have deprived me of the power of giving any detailed account of many insects which I had an opportunity of collecting at Tung-Chow. My memory only permits me to state, generally, that the *Scarabæus molossus*, *Cerambyx farinosus*, frequented the corn-fields; and that the mole cricket *Gryllus gryllotalpha* of a large size, entered the windows of our boats as soon as candles were lighted in the evening, and was occasionally found in our beds.

During our stay at Tung-Chow, much sickness occurred in the Embassy, but its severe forms were confined to the band and guard. The complaints were chiefly dysenteric and inflammatory; the former arising, I apprehend, in a good measure, from the nature of the waters of the Pei-ho; the latter, from the habits of the men and the nature of their situation on board the boats.

The water of the river had, from the time of leaving Ta-koo, given unequivocal proofs of its noxious effects on the digestive organs of every one, but especially of those who were at all prone to their disorders. To its effects in this respect I attribute, in some measure, the death of one of the men of His Lordship's band, whose name was Pybus, and who was remarkable for a mild and grateful disposition. He had been attacked with dysentery on board the *Alceste*, had been in great danger, but had so far recovered as to join his companions with eagerness on His Lordship's disembarkation. After entering the Pei-ho all his symptoms returned with increased severity, and terminated his existence on the day previous to our departure for Yuen-Ming-Yuen. He was buried with military honours in a Chinese burial ground, which had received the remains of his countryman Eade, one of the followers of Lord Macartney.



The difference of temperature and moisture of the day and night, which was considerable whilst we remained at Tung-Chow, had a direct tendency to induce inflammatory disease; and, aided by imprudence in bathing at mid-day under a hot sun, and too great, though by no means intemperate potation, of the ardent spirits of the Chinese, occasioned two or three severe cases of inflammation of the bowels and lungs in the guard and band. Should any circumstances ever again carry an Embassy to Tung-Chow, it would be better for all its members to sleep, if possible, on shore. The exhalations of the river, charged with all kinds of effluvia produced by the uncleanly habits of a large population living on the water, and the decomposing vegetable and animal matter ejected from the boats, will thus be avoided. Those also who are too ignorant correctly to estimate the effect of any particular habit will be thus within the reach of persons who may be able to control them. No sufficient accommodation having, on our arrival at Tung-Chow, been provided for the whole of His Lordship's guard and band, many of them were obliged to live in their boats, and were in consequence enabled to indulge their propensities to what they considered enjoyment, without fully benefiting from the intelligent regulations of their commanding officer. His Lordship's guard deserve, however, this tribute of praise, that they conducted themselves, from the time of entering the Chinese empire to that of leaving it, with undeviating propriety in every duty connected with their particular situation; and were only untractable in what concerned their own health.

The water of the Pei-ho, when first taken up, is of a milky colour, and holds a considerable quantity of earthy matter in suspension. The Chinese precipitated this, in some degree, by agitating the water with a piece of alum enclosed in the end of a bamboo, but did not deprive it entirely of its noxious properties. Drip stones, under these and similar circumstances, would have been invaluable to us. We often considered a draught of pure water, in the interior of China, as great a luxury as it usually is to those who have been some weeks at sea.

Fahrenheit's thermometer, whilst we remained at Tung-Chow, from the 20th of August to the 2d of September, stood frequently in the shade during the day at 88°, once rose to 93°, and never fell below 83°. In the night it generally sunk to 72° and 70°, giving rise to a sensation of cold quite inexplicable by a reference to the absolute temperature.

## CHAPTER V

ON the morning of the 2d of September, the boats of the Embassy having quitted their anchorage before Tung-Chow, we commenced a four months' journey through the Empire of China to Canton. On retracing our way to Tien-sing, we had few motives and little inclination to keep within the bounds prescribed to our rambles by the Chinese, and soon found, in exceeding them, that they quietly acquiesced in what they could not, without some trouble, prevent. But we met with little novelty by extending the range of our investigation. The same description of inhabitants, dwellings, and produce that I had occasion to describe on our route to Tung-Chow, was found equally on the banks of the river and beyond them, when all was not marsh. I added but very few plants to my former meagre collection, and of these I am only able to mention the *Ulmus pumila*, growing in dry barren places; a species of *Orobanché*\*; and the *Viola tricolor*.

The apprehension of the junior part of the crowds, who as usual assembled about me from the huts or villages in the vicinity of my walks, was in a great degree worn off; but their anxiety to assist me in my pursuits was undiminished. Their elders, especially when they were peasants, afforded a pleasing contrast in their simple manners and civil treatment of strangers, to the cunning designs of the salesmen of Tung-Chow, and the brutal importunity of the courtiers of Yuen-Ming-Yuen. When they have accompanied me along the banks of the river, far in advance of my boat, and have beheld me overcome by fatigue and heat, they have always appeared anxious to relieve my distress. One has hastened to the nearest house for a seat,

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I had no doubt at the time of gathering this plant that it was the *Orobanché cœrulea*, but I have since had no opportunity of verifying the specific name.

another has brought me water, and a third has held an umbrella over my head to defend me from the sun, whilst their companions have at some distance formed a circle around me. We were to these people as the inhabitants of another world. Our features, dress, and habits were so opposed to theirs, as to induce them to infer that our country, in all its natural characters, must equally differ from their own. "Have you a moon, and rain, and rivers in your country?" were their occasional questions. Comprehending no other rational object for the collecting of plants than their useful qualities, and seeing me gather all indiscriminately, they at once supposed that I sought them merely as objects of curiosity, and laughed heartily at my eagerness to obtain them. They pitied my ignorance, and endeavoured to teach me their relative worth, and were anxious for me to learn the important truth, that from one seed many might be obtained. A young man having shaken some ripe seeds from the capsules of the *Sesamum* and the *Sida*, described to me, with much minuteness, that if I took them to my own country, and put them into the ground, they would produce many plants, and I might thus in time obtain the blessing of good rope and oil.

We arrived at Tien-sing on the 6th. During the delay of the Embassy for two days at this city, Mr. Griffith and myself obtained permission from our conductor Chang to enter a part of it, from which, during our former visit to this place, we had been excluded. An officer who superintended our boats was appointed to attend us, to guard against the imposition of tradesmen; but he gave us great reason to suspect that he either wished to partake of the profits resulting from our bargains, or to prevent our purchasing altogether, by inducing the people to put an exorbitant price on their goods.\*

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The conduct of the Chinese soldiers, in enhancing the price of goods to a stranger, resembles that of the Janissaries in Turkey. Dr. Clarke tells us, that strangers visiting the shops of Constantinople, attended by a Janissary, pays for every article a price augmented in the proportion of the sum "privately exacted by the Janissary as his share of the profit."—*Travels in various Countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Part the Second*, p. 34.

It appeared, indeed, as if the people of Tien-sing, having observed us carrying scarcely any other money about than dollars, supposed them of as little value to us as their copper coin; for they offered no article to our purchase whose price was not given in dollars, although its real value was only a few Tchen. This circumstance was the more provoking, as we met with several specimens of Chinese ingenuity which we were not likely to obtain elsewhere. Those contained in the shops of the lapidaries tempted us the most, and raised our admiration the highest. In these we found a variety of the hardest stones, cut into singular and sometimes rather beautiful forms. The stone called by the Chinese Yu was, in their estimation, the most precious. It has been famed in China from the earliest ages, having, according to the antiquarians of the country, been distinctly described a thousand years before the Christian era.\* It is of various colours, passing from white, with the slightest tinge of green, through green of every degree of intensity; and also occurs, according to the Chinese, of a clear blue, sky-blue, an indigo-blue, and of a citron-yellow and orange-yellow colour. But I suspect that they confound several species of stone under the name Yu. Their blue stone may be lapis lazuli, and their yellow, varieties of chalcedony and carnelian, all which I have frequently met with in China.

The Missionaries tell us, and I received precisely the same account of its green varieties, that the Yu is found in the form of nodules in the bottoms of ravines, and in the beds of torrents, in mountainous countries, and in larger masses in the mountains themselves, especially in Yu-nan.† The nodules are more prized by the Chinese than the large masses, which have the coarsest grain. Whatever specimens are found must be subjected to the selection of the Emperor before they are carried to the market. Of the green, the Chinese prize that

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\* *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, vol. vi. p. 258.

† One of the most northern provinces of the empire. According to Du Halde, it is one of the richest and most extensive; containing twenty-one cities of the first order, and fifty-five of the second and of the third. Du Halde, *Fol. tom. i.* p. 243.

most which is whitest : of this was formed the sceptre sent from the Emperor to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

The Yu, although of the hardness of rock crystal, is worked into an endless variety of forms ; into beautifully carved rings, worn on the thumbs of archers to defend them from the friction of the bow-string ; into fine chains, cups, and vases. Yet so refractory is this substance to the tools used in its manufacture by the Yu-tsiang, or workers in Yu, who succeed each other in their labours night and day in the imperial palace, that many of the forms into which it is wrought require, according to the Missionaries, ten years for their completion. That much time, infinite patience, and great ingenuity are sometimes expended in working it, I could not doubt, when I held in my hand a small vase which I found in a shop at Tien-sing. It was formed from one entire mass of greenish white Yu.\* The handle represented a lizard, with all its characters minutely displayed. Figures of the same animal were sculptured in high relief on its sides, some crawling up, and others overlooking the rim of the vessel. Whatever part of the exterior surface they left unoccupied, was filled with ancient Chinese characters deeply engraved. Its price was one hundred and twenty Spanish dollars ; or, according to the value of silver in China, upwards of thirty guineas. The partiality of the Chinese for this stone seemed to me quite unaccountable, from any quality that it exhibited to my observation. It is generally of a dull, sometimes of a muddy colour, and does not admit so high a polish as agate.

The greenish white variety of the Yu has long been known in this country under the name of Chinese Jade or Nephrite, but has lately been classed with Prehnite.† I am disposed, however, to believe that it will be found an undescribed species, but closely allied to axestone. Its analysis, which can alone determine its nature, I have had no

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\* Of their manner of working this stone I could obtain no information in China ; but there can be little doubt that they use largely the powder of the Corundum, or Adamantine Spar, which they employ in Canton in cutting lenses for spectacles from rock crystal.

† Jameson's Mineralogy, 2d edition, vol. i. p. 505. note.



opportunity of making ; but such of its characters as I have been able to mark, are given in a note at the foot of this page.

The other stones which I observed in Tien-sing were chiefly agate and pudding-stone, worked into large rings for the wrists, ornaments for the women's hair in shape like a skewer, and snuff-bottles. These last, formed also of amber, porcelain, and imitations of stone, resemble in shape the smelling-bottles of the ladies of England ; but have a small spoon, like that of a Cayenne pepper-bottle, fastened to the stopples, for the purpose of taking out the snuff.

The curiosity of the people of Tien-sing seemed to have been in no degree diminished by their first opportunity of seeing the English tribute-bearers, and was manifested, much to our annoyance, in our visit to the city. The crowds who had been so orderly and silent during our procession to partake of the imperial banquet, being now unrestrained by authority, flocked about us, and were not more forbearing than others of their countrymen.

No circumstance arrests the eye of a stranger in the cities of China more than the great number of barbers, who are met with in its streets and form a considerable proportion of every crowd. Why they are so numerous, is readily explained by a reference to the universal custom amongst the Chinese, of shaving all but the crown

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\* Its colour is greenish white passing into greyish green, and dark grass-green. Internally, it is scarcely glimmering. Its fracture is splintery : splinters white. It is semi-transparent and cloudy. It scratches glass strongly ; and is not scratched by, or scratches, rock-crystal. Before the blow-pipe, it is infusible without addition.

*Specific Gravity.*

1. Whitish green, marbled with dark-green variety,	-	-	-	3.38
2. Dark-green variety,	-	-	-	8.19
3. Whitish green variety, off the same specimen as No. 1.	-	-	-	3.4
4. Light-coloured greenish-white variety,	-	-	-	2.858

The specimens of which the specific gravities are as above, were all, except the last, furnished to me by the kindness of Sir George Staunton. The last is precisely of the same nature as the sceptre sent to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and was put into my possession, for the purpose of examination, by the Honourable Mr. Amherst, to whom it was presented by one of our attendant Mandarins.

of the head, and of eradicating every straggling hair from the face, especially from the ears, eyes, and nostrils; and to their practice of shampooing: a single operation, consequently, occupying so much time, that one man cannot serve many employers in a day. The barbers carry about with them all the necessary implements of their avocation; a stool, a small furnace, water, razors, and brushes, comprised in two small stands, suspended from the two ends of a bamboo, supported across the shoulders. Besides these, they have a variety of small instruments made of white copper, the forms of which tell little of their appropriate uses. My readers may amuse themselves in conjecturing them, from their fac-simile representation in the annexed engraving. I could only observe that they were flourished with great rapidity about the face of the patient. They were probably used in the process of shampooing, of which the following curious account is given by one who underwent it: "Shampooing is an operation not known in Europe, and is peculiar to the Chinese, which I had once the curiosity to go through, and for which I paid but a trifle. However, had I not seen several China merchants shampooed before me, I should have been very apprehensive of danger, even at the sight of all the different instruments that were arranged in proper order on the table before the operator began. He first placed me in a large chair; then began to beat, with both his hands, very fast upon all parts of my body. He next stretched out my arms and legs, and gave them several sudden pulls that racked my joints; then got my arm upon his shoulder, and hauled me sideways a good way over the chair, and as suddenly gave my head a twitch or jerk round, that I thought he should have put my neck out of joint. Next, he beat, with the ends of his fingers, very softly, but very quickly, all over my head, body, and legs, every now and then cracking his fingers with an air; then he stroked up my ears, temples, and eye-lashes; and again racked my joints. After he had gone through this process, he proceeded with his instruments to scrape, pick, and syringe my ears, every now and then tinkling with an instrument close to my ears. The next thing was my eyes,