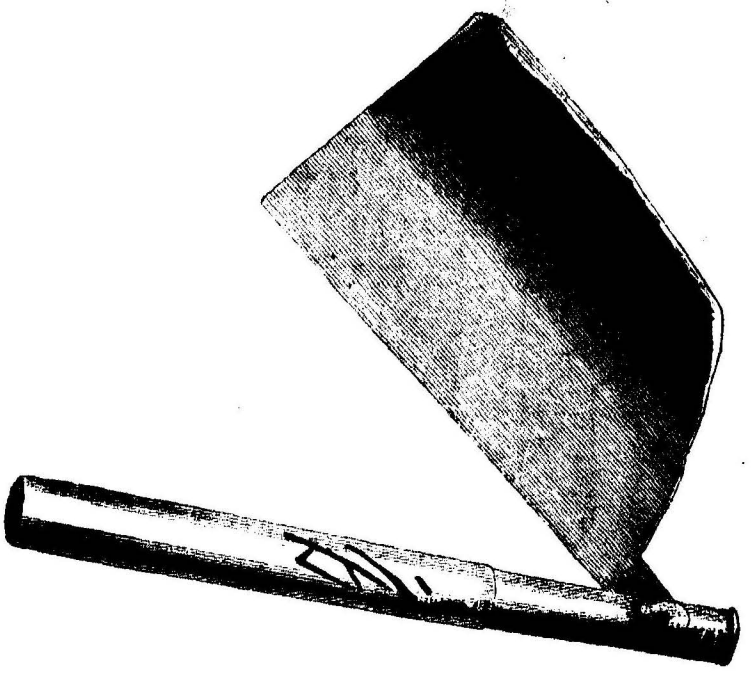
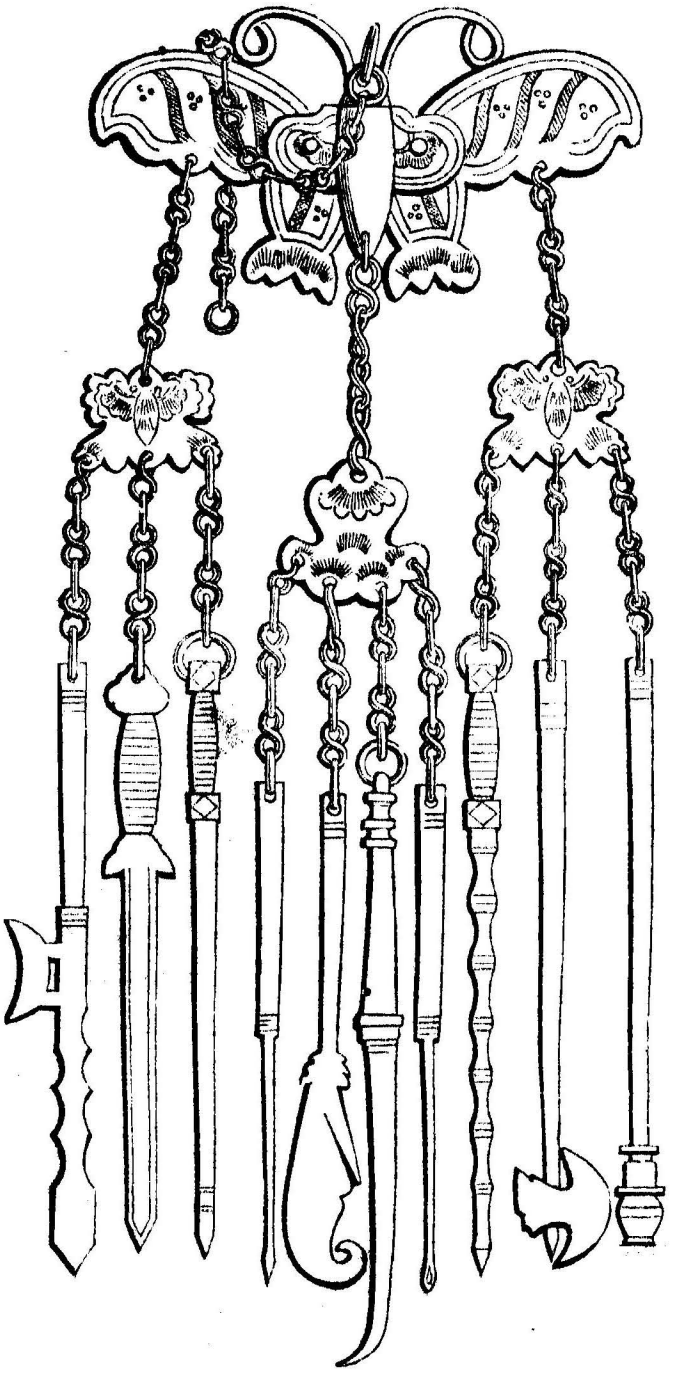
into which I patiently suffered several small instruments to be thrust and turned about, by which operation he brought away half a tea-cup-full of hot, waterish stuff. He next proceeded to scraping, paring, and cleaning the nails of my fingers and toes; and then to cutting my corns. I only wanted to have had a lock of hair plaited, to complete the operation. But after he had spent half an hour with me, it ended here, for which I gave him to the value of a penny. He departed well satisfied, and afterwards called several mornings." *

Their razors looked clumsy and inconvenient; but I can state from experience, that their edge is keen, and that they are used by expert manipulators. At the commencement of an illness that required the shaving of my head, I was induced by curiosity to commit myself to the hands of a Chinese barber; and at a more advanced period of my disorder, put myself for the same purpose under another of the fraternity, after suffering from the inferior skill of one of my countrymen.



* Voyage to the East Indies. 1762. 8vo. p. 226.



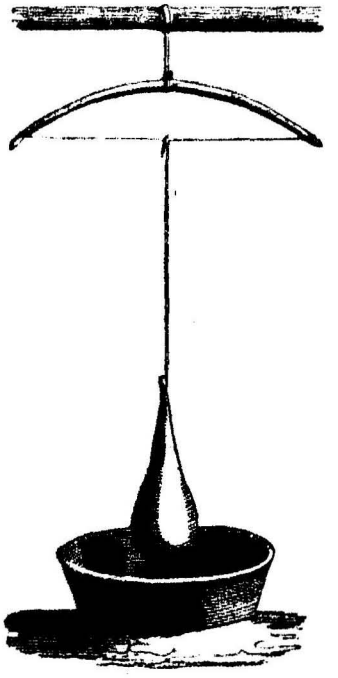
Leaving Tien-sing on the morning of the 8th of September, we quitted the Pei-ho and entered the Eu-ho or imperial river, called also the Yun-Leang-hŏ, or the grain-bearing river. The stream running two miles an hour against us, made our progress very slow for several days. We were forced against it by trackers who were often deserting, and replaced by any passing Chinese whose situation of life did not absolutely exempt them from the authority of our attendant Mandarins.

The country on the banks of the river varied much in character, but generally exhibited a greater number of highly fertile spots than in the same space we had seen on the Pei-ho. The "tall corn" no longer skirted their margin, but was chiefly seen in the back ground. Fields of petsai, garlic, and capsicum, gently sloped to the water's edge, in front of houses built of brick, and covered with a roof of clay. Buildings half-buried in the shade of trees occasionally variegated the distant prospect.

In visiting the cottages within the reach of my rambles, I was much interested by the appearance of the means of independent support possessed by many of their inhabitants. Millet. petsai, and the oil of sesamum, constitute in a good measure the ordinary fare of the lower classes in the north of China. All these were frequently growing around small huts, containing a mill for grinding the corn and expressing the oil, with all the subsidiary apparatus. The mill was put in motion by an ass, yoked to the end of a long arm fixed in the uppermost of the two circular stones of which it was composed.

I witnessed the different processes necessary to the preparation of the oil going on in different parts of the same cottage at the same time. A large quantity of the seed of the sesamum having been put into an iron pan, over a small brick furnace, was constantly stirred with an iron shovel till the whole had been sufficiently roasted. It was then transferred into a conical basket, placed in the centre of the upper stone. Shaken from a hole in the side of the basket by the motion of the mill, it passed through an aperture in the middle of

the upper stone to the surface of the lower one, where, being ground, it gave out the oil. This flowed over the lower stone into a reservoir below it. Here ended the process of expression; but another commenced, the intention of which I could not so well understand: it was probably connected with some mode of purifying the oil. I mention it chiefly as an example of the simple, and what may perhaps be called, domestic methods, sometimes in use with the Chinese, to diminish the degree of manual labour. A quantity of oil recently taken from the mill, and contained in a wide shallow vessel, was continually agitated by a large copper pestle, with which a lad gently struck its surface. The fatigue that would otherwise have arisen from the weight of the pestle and uniform motion of the arm in using it, was prevented by the following very simple contrivance: A small bow of bamboo being fastened to the ceiling immediately over the vessel containing the oil, the pestle was fastened to its string in the manner shown in the wood engraving. Thus suspended, it received from the slightest touch an adequate impulse; whilst the elasticity of the bamboo gave it the necessary recoil.



Near the same cottage, chance led me to the shop of a blacksmith, the manufacturer of various iron instruments, from a sword to a hoe. This man well understood the modifying properties of heat, and took the fullest advantage of them in all the practical concerns of his business. He was forming a reaping-hook at the time of my visit. A large pair of shears, having one blade fixed in a heavy block of wood, and the other furnished with a long handle to act as a lever, stood beside him. Bringing a piece of metal of the necessary dimensions from the forge, at a white heat, he placed it between the blades of this instrument, and cut it into shape with equal ease and despatch. This blacksmith, like all other Chinese manufacturers whom I saw at work, seemed proud of displaying his art to a stranger.

The desire of testifying my sense of the civilities I received by the offer of small presents, was sometimes an irksome feeling, from the difficulty of selecting those which were proper. Silver coin would, in every instance, have been the most acceptable; but the number of claimants rendered it too expensive a medium of general remuneration. Our small articles of hardware did not seem to be much valued. Our pen-knives, especially, were ridiculed as very useless toys. Razors were not much esteemed. Our polished scissars were, however, eagerly received. These were, in general form, like their own, and could be used for similar purposes, but were infinitely more elegantly shaped and finished. I cannot describe the delight of an old woman, an inmate of my boat, on my putting a pair into her hands. She saluted me with the chin-chin for many days afterwards whenever she saw me.* But my scissars were soon exhausted; and I should have been puzzled to substitute any adequate form of donation, if I had not fortunately

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I can have no doubt that the Chinese would much more highly prize instruments made from their own models, but of more durable materials, and of better construction, than any made for European use. They would speak at once to their understanding. The use of our instruments, on the contrary, they cannot comprehend; and what they do not comprehend, they always believe to be absurd.

ascertained the excessive fondness of all classes of the Chinese for snuff. Sir George Staunton having put in my possession several bottles of Brasil snuff, which they prefer to any other, I always started on my excursions furnished with a good supply, in small packets, and found them accepted as a sufficient and grateful reward for any service. It was highly amusing to see the eagerness with which any one who had just obtained a packet was assaulted by those about him. The instant the paper was opened, thumbs and fingers from all quarters speedily emptied its contents. Although the Chinese would in this way take it from their companions, I could never persuade them to do so with me. They would shake it into their hands from the paper or box, but would never take it out of either with their fingers.

It was necessary, in giving any thing to the common class of people, to watch our opportunity when the soldiers who attended us were off their guard. Whenever they observed us offering any thing to their countrymen, they, by some sign or other, informed them that it was their property; and when once their basilisk look had taken effect, the victim durst not attempt to appropriate the gift. Of this influence I had several striking proofs. In passing from one bank of the river to the other, I often employed any poor waterman whose boat I chanced to meet with; but I do not recollect an instance of his being able to secure the slight payment he received from the rapacity of my guard. In one instance I obliged the soldier who crossed with me to land before me, and then gave poor Charon his fare, and made signs for him to push his boat from the shore. I thought he had done so, and walked off, keeping the soldier before me; but had not proceeded far, when my attention having been for a few minutes attracted by some plants, I missed the soldier; and on looking for him, saw him robbing the poor wretch, who had not dared to quit the spot on which I had landed. I could with all my heart have sent the soldier to the bottom of the river. But any violent expression of rage, on such an occasion, would only have been repaid tenfold on the unfortunate object for whose sake it had

been exerted. There could be no doubt, from the resigned manner in which the exactions of the soldiers were endured, and the public manner in which they were committed, that these infamous acts were sanctioned by their paternal government.

I have now reached that part of my narrative at which I must cease, for some time, to depend on my own journal for an account of the progress of the Embassy, and the nature of the country through which it passed.

On the 12th of September, after a long walk in an ardent sun, I was attacked with a sudden affection of the brain, which confined me to bed for several weeks. My suffering was great, but received all the alleviation that friendship and benevolence could bestow. I must not here pause to tell how much I owe to the skill of my medical attendants, my friend Mr. Pearson and Dr. Lynn; or to the numberless kind attentions of His Excellency, and all the gentlemen of his suite; but I must be allowed to declare, that all the purposes of my appointment as naturalist were largely answered during my illness through the exertion of my friends. I may venture to affirm, that no vegetable or mineral production of China occurred within their reach that was not placed in my collection, with such notices as were sufficient to determine their habits and localities. Indeed such was the amount of my collections through these means, that I looked forward to giving a full account of the geological and botanical characters of the soil gone over by the Embassy during my illness, as well as in other parts of its progress. This hope was blasted by the shipwreck of the Alceste. I must now confine myself to such notices of the plants and rocks of China, as are afforded by the memoranda remaining to me, and the few duplicates I have recovered through the kindness of Sir George Staunton and my friend Captain Basil Hall.

With respect to the history of the progress of the Embassy during my incapacity to observe, my readers will have little to regret, if I do justice to the materials which the liberality of my friends has placed in my hands. To Mr. Morrison and Mr. Cook I shall be

chiefly indebted for my facts from the period of my illness to that of my recovery.

The Embassy having continued to pass through a country uniformly flat, but becoming more and more marshy, arrived on the borders of Shan-tung on the evening of the 16th, and anchored at the town of Sang-yuen.

In quitting the province of Pe-tchee-lee, I had added very few specimens to my former collection of plants. The *Salsola altissima*, *Euphorbia tithymaloides*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Hedysarum striatum*, *Lonicera caprifolia*, *Pontederia vaginata*, *Menyanthes nymphoides*, constituted the greater number of the plants brought to me after leaving Tien-sing.

Our conductors, Chang and Yin, left us at Sang-yuen, relinquishing their charge to other officers. They had both ingratiated themselves so far in our good opinion, that we parted from them with regret. They were men of different characters. Chang, under an appearance of indifference for every thing European, was anxious to become acquainted with some of our most useful manufactures. He particularly admired our glass and plated goods; and in a conversation with me, through the medium of Mr. Morrison, asked many questions respecting them. After satisfying him on these points, I took advantage of this opportunity to tell him that we had metals which, on coming in contact with water, burst into flame. I had some potassium with me, and was desirous of showing its properties to him. He immediately inquired respecting its uses; and when these could not be very satisfactorily explained to him, looked too contemptuously to induce me to venture an experiment.

In return for my answers to his questions, Chang freely gave me true or false statements on any subject that excited my curiosity. After his evasion respecting the sick, I could not avoid receiving his information with much suspicion, and soon found fresh reason to suppose him fallacious from principle. Having put many questions to him about the localities of several stones, amongst others, the Yu which he wore in his girdle, he rightly concluded that I should con-

sider any specimen of the kind a very interesting present; and sent me, the next day, what he wished me to suppose a stone snuff-bottle, but which was only a very rude imitation of blood-stone in glass.

Yin, an old soldier, with ruddy complexion and laughing eyes, cared very little about the arts or sciences of his own or any other country. The only produce of Europe that seemed to interest his attention was port-wine or cherry-brandy; differing, in his taste for the former, from most of his countrymen.

The judge of Pe-tchee-lee, who had accompanied the Embassy from Tung-Chow, also left it at Sang-yuen. This man, a Tartar by birth, professed a great knowledge of Europe, obtained from books published in the Chinese language by the Missionaries; and took an opportunity of displaying it, in a conversation with Mr. Morrison, the day before he took leave of the Embassy. England, he said, was divided into four parts; and wished to know if it had four kings. He was rather supercilious in his remarks on the small extent of Great Britain, compared with other countries; and especially with China. "Your country is very small; our's (appealing to Chang, who was present,) is too large; it is very difficult to govern: my civil jurisdiction alone extends to the Gourkas." Wishing to impress his auditors with his intimate acquaintance with the domestic affairs of England, he observed, "All your teachers of religion wear beards; and you have loaves of bread three or four cubits in diameter." My reader will require no further illustration of the soundness and extent of this gentleman's information. He was, however, better informed respecting the geography and history of European states, than any other Chinese with whom the Embassy became acquainted.

Several gentlemen, in walking through the streets at Sang-yuen, fell in with three blind men playing on a dulcimer, a guitar, and a violin. Two of them accompanied the instruments with their voice, singing a duet, and keeping exact time with the tune. The harmony was pleasing. The performers were rewarded with a small gratuity; and on some soldiers crying out "Ko-tow," prostrated themselves, and bowed their heads nine times to the ground.

The Embassy left Sang-yuen before day-light the next morning, and entered a country generally swampy, but occasionally relieved by small houses surrounded with plots of cultivated ground, on which the tobacco began generally to appear. The boats anchored, at night, at a village within a short distance of a large lake on the east bank of the river.

On the 19th and 20th, the country assumed a more picturesque character from the quantity of a cypress-like tree, *Thuja orientalis*, which surrounded the houses and villages within view from the river. Willows of large size also broke the monotony of the scene.

On the 21st, the Embassy passed the city of Woo-chang-hien, the suburbs of which were remarkable for a handsome temple; and halted, on the 22d, at the pagoda of Lin-tsing. This pagoda is situated a mile to the north-east of Lin-tsing, and four miles from the entrance to the grand canal. It is called, by the Chinese, Shay-le-paou-ta *, or "a precious monument to Shay-le," or "the reliques of Foo." This building has been restored since it was visited by Lord Macartney's Embassy. At that period, the gentlemen who endeavoured to examine it, "mounted with some difficulty upon the first of its nine stages or roofs (for the little door on a level with the ground was walled up with bricks); but it contained only the bare walls; not even a staircase remained, nor any possible means of ascending to the top; and the lower part was choked up with rubbish." † The gentlemen of Lord Amherst's Mission ascended it by a winding staircase of one hundred and eighty polished stone steps, leading through its different stories. Each of these had eight windows, corresponding with its eight sides. Their floors projected two or three feet beyond the body of the building, forming a platform for walking above, and a roof to the compartment beneath. The architraves and angles of

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* "Les *ta*, espece de tour sépulchrale ou superstitieuse qui est massive, pour l'ordinaire, comme une pyramide." Mémoires des Chin., tom. ii. p. 565.

† Barrow's China, p. 503.

the roofs were ornamented with wood richly carved. Idols were placed in niches of the walls, but were in a state of decay. Its height was estimated at one hundred and twenty feet.* From an inscription on a tablet over the door of the building, Mr. Morrison ascertained the date of its erection to be the 13th year of the Emperor Wan-lech, of the Ming dynasty, answering to the year 1584 of the Christian era.

In the vicinity of the pagoda some buildings were seen, of a different style of architecture to any before met with. They were of a quadrangular form. The sides were equal, supporting a sloping roof. This was somewhat cone-shaped; had also equal sides going off from the corresponding walls, and rising in a point, surmounted by a round ball. They proved to be Mahommedan mosques, called, by the Chinese, Le-pee-tze. *

The Embassy passed the pagoda at two in the afternoon, and anchored at the entrance of the canal about four o'clock, leaving Lin-tsing to the north-east. The Eu-ho continued its course southward across the mouth of the canal.

On the 23d, the boats entered the canal, or Cha-ho, "river of floodgates," which at first took an easterly direction, but gradually swept towards the south; in this respect corresponding with the course given to it on the map of the Jesuits. It was wide at its entrance, but after a few miles, became covered with rushes, which closed the prospect on both sides.

On the 24th, the Embassy passed through several floodgates, often contracting the width of the canal to twenty-two feet; and, occasionally, scarcely permitting the passage of His Excellency's boat, whose greatest breadth was about nineteen feet. All these were of the simple construction described by former writers, being formed of "planks sliding in grooves that are cut into the sides of two stone abutments." In the evening, the boats anchored under the suburbs of Tang-chang-foo, distinguished by its handsome gates, square

* For a notice respecting the Mahommedans in China, see Appendix.

towers and great extent. Early the next morning, the first hills that had been seen since the Embassy left Tung-Chow, were observed rising in the south-east, and bounding an uninteresting plain of great extent. Continuing their progress, the boats passed, on the morning of the 28th, the mouth of the principal river which feeds the canal. The name of this river, called by the writers of the former Embassy Luen, is, according to Mr. Morrison, Wan; and is said to arise from seventy-two springs in the mountain called Tae-shan, in the province of Chan-tong. "It falls into the canal with a rapid stream, in a line which is perpendicular to the course of the canal. A strong bulwark of stone supports the opposite western bank; and the waters of the river striking with force against it, part of them follow the northern and part the southern course of the canal." This last circumstance has given the name of Fan-shang-Meaou, "the temple of the division of waters," to a religious edifice erected near the bulwark. It is also dedicated to Lung-Wang, the dragon king, and god of seas and rivers. From this point, as has been conjectured by Sir George Staunton*, whose supposition is borne out by Du Halde†, the canal was probably commenced. Whether the Wan-ho originally wound towards the north or south, or in a line with its present direction, cannot perhaps now be determined; but there can be no doubt that the natural course of its waters has been altered and directed northward through a channel cut to the Eu-ho, and southward, through a succession of swamps, (in rainy seasons, lakes,) to the Yellow River. Previous to crossing the stream of the Wan-ho, the boatmen prostrated themselves in the temple before a table covered with yellow silk, ornamented with the figures of dragons.

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* Embassy to China, vol. ii. p. 387.

† Dans la province de Chan-tong est une médiocre rivière nommée Ouen-ho, dont on a sçû diviser les eaux..... La plus grande quantité a été conduite dans la partie du canal, qui va vers le septentrion, où, après avoir reçu la rivière Ouen-ho (Eu-ho), il se jette près de la ville de Tien-tsing de la province de Pe-tche-li, dans la rivière de Peking, qui passe le long de ses murailles. L'autre partie de l'eau, qui n'est guères que le tiers, en coulant au midi vers le fleuve Hoang-ho, ou fleuve jaune, &c. Du Halde, tom. i. p. 33.

Having entered the southern division of the canal, the Embassy proceeded, with the stream in its favour, through a succession of what the Chinese call *Hoo*, or "lakes." These, which in ordinary seasons are little else than swamps, had been swelled and united, by late heavy rains, into a waste of water, bounded in one direction by the horizon, in another by distant mountains. The embankments of the canal, supported, in the time of the former Embassy, by "retaining walls of coarse grey marble, cut into large blocks, bound together with clamps of iron," no longer giving it the appearance of an aqueduct much elevated above the adjoining country, were broken down by the inundation.

Cottages half submerged, or raised on little platforms of soil, occasionally interrupted the uniformity of the scene, which derived a very peculiar character from the Nelumbium in fruit, which every where appeared. Inhabitants of all ages were seen paddling about in search of it, in small machines, more like baskets than boats. Here and there, indeed, a more picturesque view was obtained, and enabled Mr. Cook to take the accompanying characteristic sketch of the lake Nan-wang.

The Embassy crossed a corner of the province of Kiang-nan on the 30th of September, and re-entering the province of Shan-tong, they next day crossed the mouth of the Shĕh-tze-ho or "letter ten river;" the Chinese characters for ten being two crossing lines.

Leaving the inundated country, and passing the mouth of the river Koo-shan-yin, whose waters accelerated the current of the canal, we reached, on the 3d, the borders of the province of Kiang-nan. The country now, for some distance, altered its character. Fields highly cultivated, and interspersed with innumerable hamlets buried in the shade of trees, covered undulating ground on both sides of the canal.

On the 5th, the masts and sails of vessels were seen, at no great distance, navigating the Yellow river, parallel with the course of the canal. This being the day of Chung-tswe-Tsee, or "full harvest moon," the boatmen made propitiatory sacrifices to their idols. Mr.

Cook has described the ceremony that took place on board his boat. "The Captain having placed two portraits of his deities, in wooden frames, on the forecastle, and arranged three cups of tea and two bundles of lighted sandal-wood, before them, fell upon his knees, and after thrice bowing, bent his head three times to the ground. He then arose, and taking a lighted torch in his hand, walked round the bow of his boat, exorcising all evil spirits. Returning to the idols, he took up the cups, and emptied them over the side of the vessel. He then placed his deities on a small pile of paper, and having set the whole on fire, beat the gong till they were consumed; an assistant at the same time discharging a volley of crackers. Resuming his torch, he again traversed the bow of his boat; and thus terminated the ceremony."

On the morning of the 6th, the Embassy anchored within half a mile of the junction of the canal with the Yellow river, intending to cross the latter on the following morning. But a favourable breeze having sprung up soon after mid-day, the boats got under weigh, and entering the Yellow river on the north-east side, crossed its stream in an oblique direction, and gained the mouth of the channel destined to receive them on the opposite shore. That part of the river crossed by the boats was calculated to be about a mile broad, and flowed at the rate of three miles an hour. It had its characteristic colour and proverbial turbidness.

The boats advanced up the channel called by the Chinese boatmen Tae-ping-ho, about four miles, passing a large sluice-gate on their right, through which the waters of the lake Hung-tse were rushing with great violence, and anchored for the night. On the following morning His Excellency and the gentlemen of his suite landed, during the passage of the boats through a floodgate with a dangerous fall. This floodgate was a short distance beyond a pro-

* "When they (the Chinese) speak of things that are never likely to happen, they say, *When the Yellow river shall become bright.*" Ogilby's China, p. 617.

jecting bulwark that divided the river at right angles; one branch going to the eastward, the other directly south, and forming the canal on which the Embassy proceeded. The sluice was formed of very compact masonry, and was called Tean-fei-Chă, "the lock of the celestial lady." The fall was not more than three or four feet. The larger boats were gradually let down by ropes, the smaller darted down, and rushing over the opposing water, dashed up a milk-white foam to the height of several feet. The boats advanced only six or seven miles during the day, being delayed by the passage of the locks.

On the 8th, the Embassy passed a large town called Tsing-Keang-poo. Near the middle of the town was a large floodgate, with an imperial pavilion on each side of the abutment. Over their gates, Mr. Morrison read, "The pavilion of the imperial ode;" and supposed it probable that some of Kien-Lung's odes, made during his journies to the south, had been cut in stone and deposited in them. They were now used as store-houses for ropes employed in repairing the floodgates.

Below the town, the banks of the canal were so high, and the surrounding country so low, that the tops of houses and trees seemed to be on a level with the eye of the spectator. The land in its neighbourhood was well cultivated with a red and white species of rice, millet, wheat, and vegetables, and was often variegated with groves of beautiful trees. The population seemed to be crowded. A military mandarin observed to Mr. Morrison, that the wars which had preceded and determined the ascendancy of the reigning family thinned the population so much that the earth produced for some time great abundance for the remaining people; but that their numbers had since increased to a degree producing scarcity and poverty. The officer seemed of opinion that another war would be beneficial to the country.

About two o'clock the Embassy passed the city of Hwae-gan-foo, whose walls stretched about three miles along the banks of the canal. They were not above the level of the water, and were in some places in a miserable state of decay. It was impossible not to shudder at

the consequences that would ensue by the giving way of the banks of the canal.

On the 9th the Embassy arrived, early in the morning, at the suburbs of Kaou-yen-chow. Several gentlemen with some difficulty obtained an entrance to a large temple, and found two or three hundred miserable wretches who had been confined in it all night. An attendant mandarin stated, that the boats having been expected the night before, these poor fellows had been pressed to track them; and from the apprehension that they would not come back if permitted to return to their homes, had been put in confinement the preceding evening.

The temple is dedicated to the Ming-keen-ship-wang, or "ten judges in Hades," consisted of ten apartments; a judge presided in each, surrounded by the ministers of punishment in the form of demons made of clay, variously coloured and distorted into hideous forms. Before him appeared the former inhabitants of this world, awaiting their doom. The visit was too hasty to permit a more minute examination of this interesting edifice.

On the night of the 10th, the Embassy passed the city of Yang-chou-fou, and anchored, on the morning of the 11th, before the pagoda of Kao-ming-tsee. From the top of this pagoda a delightful prospect was obtained of the surrounding country. To the northward was seen the walls and pagodas of Yang-tchoo-foo, and the canal winding in one place through a fertile country, in another through a succession of lakes; to the southward appeared the city of Kwa-tchow, and the celebrated Yang-tse-kiang stretching from east to west, covered with a multitude of vessels, and receiving the waters of numerous streams.

The Embassy remained at Kao-ming-tsee till the 14th, when, having changed the boats in which they had navigated the still surface of the canal, for others more adapted to the sea-like waves of the Yang-tse-kiang, dropped down to the city of Qua-tchow, situated at the entrance of that river.

A short distance above Qua-tchow, Mr. Cook and other gentlemen

visited the Woo-yuen, or "the five gardens," formerly a favourite imperial residence, and found them much in the state described by De Guignes.* They covered a large space of ground, one part of which was filled with pavilions, either grouped or isolated, and communicating together by an infinite number of corridors and smaller buildings. These were all in a ruined state. The roofs had fallen in, and the window-frames and floors were rotten. One apartment alone contained any thing to interest curiosity. In this a pedestal of white marble supported a white slab inscribed with a sentence composed by the Emperor Kien-Lung. A serpentine river had in former times meandered through the gardens, but its bed alone remained. The remains of several bridges still existed, one of which had been of a curved form. Factitious rocks, of grotesque forms, the delight of the Chinese, were scattered about in all directions, and were still in a state of good preservation. These gardens, when in perfection, must have exhibited a good example of Chinese pleasure-grounds."

Surpassing the gardens in beauty and interest was a view obtained of a part of the Yang-tse-kiang, in the neighbourhood of Qua-tchow. Standing on a point of land projecting into the river, you see the Kin-shan, or "golden hill," rising like the summit of a mountain above the waters of the Yang-tse-kiang. Its appearance verifies the fidelity of those singular landscapes, given in Chinese books, of mountains insulated in the midst of rivers or lakes, and covered with houses and temples, and trees and flowers. The sides of the Kin-shan were clothed with trees shading houses and temples of light and fantastic forms. On the summit a grove of pines surrounded a magnificent pagoda which rose above them. Beyond the Golden hill is seen the city of Chin-Keang, situated at the foot of hills stretching away southward. Their dark-green declivities, when seen by the Embassy, formed a beautiful contrast to a camp of white tents scattered among them, and reflecting the rays of an unclouded sun.

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* De Guignes, tom. ii.

The Yang-tse-kiang, a league in breadth, covered with numerous vessels of every shape and size, some laying at anchor, others plying in all directions, forms the fore-ground of the picture.

The city of Qua-tchow did not answer the expectations raised by its advantageous situation. Its streets exhibited no characters of opulence, and its walls were in ruins. In the days of Kien-Lung, it flourished under imperial favour; being situated between the Five gardens and the Golden hill; which were places of his frequent resort. A canal had been cut through the city to the point of land opposite and nearest to the Kin-shan, to facilitate his visits. A bridge also, if Chinese vanity could be believed, was in former times thrown from this point to the hill itself, but had left no remains as a monument of its existence. Since these golden days in the history of Qua-tchow, as its governor informed Mr. Morrison, the Tung-shway, or "fortune of the place," had gradually declined.

At Qua-tchow, the Embassy ceased to navigate the imperial canal. The descriptions given by Sir George Staunton and Mr. Barrow of its extent and structure, and of the characters of the country through which it passes, correspond so well with the observations of the persons of Lord Amherst's Mission, that I have not thought it necessary to use the details on these points given in the Journals submitted to my inspection.

This famous monument of industry, considered simply as a channel of communication between different parts of the empire, appears to me to have been somewhat overrated as an example of the immense power of human labour and of human art. In every part of its course it passes through alluvial soil, readily penetrated by the tools of workmen, and is intersected by numerous streams. It would be difficult to find any part of it carried through twenty miles of country, unaided by tributary rivers. The sluices which keep its necessary level, are of the rudest construction: buttresses formed of blocks of stone, with grooves fitted with thick planks, are the only locks of

the imperial canal. It is neither carried through any mountain or over any valley.

As a vast drain to marshes and lakes, and to the destructive overflowings of the Yellow river, it has higher claims to our admiration. Previous to its construction, the greater part of the provinces of Shantong and Kiang-nan, filled with lakes and marshes, from the Wan-ho to the Yang-tse-kiang, must at all seasons have been an uninhabitable swamp; and during the inundations of the Yellow river, one enormous lake. The canal being carried through their lowest part, and communicating by numerous floodgates with the surrounding water, has rendered them more or less subservient to the purposes of man.

During our route from Tien-sing to Qua-tchow, the banks of the canal had exhibited no production of much interest, excepting the peculiar aquatic vegetables afforded by the swamps to their almost amphibious inhabitants. Besides the Nelumbium, the *Trapa bicornis*, resembling in most respects the European plant of the same generic name, was extensively cultivated, and afforded a considerable vegetable support to the Chinese peasants. Its roots are sold in the markets as nuts are in Europe, and were constantly supplied to our tables. The root of the *Scirpus tuberosus* was also sold in this part of China, and was more highly esteemed than the *Trapa*; but the plant was not seen growing.

The rice fields on the banks of the canal had in some places abounded with snakes of two species, the largest of which resembled very closely the common snake of this country. It was found from three to six feet in length. The smaller one was transversely striped

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Ce canal qu'on appelle *Yu-leang-ho*, c'est à dire, canal à porter les denrées, ou bien *Yu-ho*, qui signifie Canal Royal, est sans doute merveilleux par sa longueur, qui est de plus de 160 de nos grandes lieuës, et encore plus par l'egalité du terrain où il a été fait. Dans une si grande étenduë de pays il n'y a ni montagne qu'il ait fallu applanir ou percer; ni carrières de pierres, ou de rochers, qu'on ait été obligé de couper ou de creuser." Du Halde, tom. i. p. 33.

with black and white, and did not exceed eighteen inches in length. Shells in considerable quantities were also found on the banks. These were chiefly of a species of *Paludina*, which, Dr. Leach has observed, is allied to *P. tentaculata* of Lamark, or *Helix tentaculata* of Linnæus; and which he has proposed to name *Paludina sinensis*. For specimens of these shells, I am indebted to their collector, Sir George Staunton.

The latitude of Qua-tchow Dr. Lynn determined by observation to be 39° 40′ north. The same gentleman found the mean temperature at noon, whilst he remained at this place, to be about 67·5.

CHAPTER VI.

On the morning of the 19th of October, the Embassy entered the Yang-tse-kiang, and took leave for some time of the route pursued by Lord Macartney. Keeping close to the left bank, which was covered with high rushes used for fuel, the boats proceeded up the river with a scanty breeze, and anchored on the morning of the twentieth, after a progress of not more than twenty miles, in one of the many creeks which afford shelter to vessels navigating this river. In the evening the boats again moved with a favourable breeze, and passed on the following morning two hills, connected by a stone arch, called Quan-yin-mun, "The Gate of the Goddess Quan-Yin." On one side was a picturesque rock, overhung with shrubs, and crowned with trees surrounding a pavilion; on the other was a romantic temple, built against a perpendicular rock, called the "Iron-bound solitary Hill."

At six o'clock the Embassy reached the suburbs of Nankin, and anchored opposite the western gate of the city, at the distance of two or three miles. This city, so famed for its extent, that the Chinese declare, if two horsemen start at break of day from any point of its walls, in opposite directions, and gallop round them, they will not meet till sun-set, is, according to authors of definite language, enclosed by a wall fourteen * leagues in circumference. In earlier ages the sovereigns of China made it the capital of the empire; but when they transferred their residence to Pekin,

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* Mémoires concernant les Chinois, tom. ix. p. 437.

they changed its name of Nankin, or the southern court, for Kiang-ning-foo. Its older name is still retained in common discourse, but its later one appears in all the public acts of the empire.

Known to Europeans by the writings of the Missionaries, and more generally by the peculiar manufacture which bears its name, the city of Nankin was an object of much interest to the members of the Embassy. On approaching it, every eye endeavoured to obtain a general view of its more elevated buildings, but could only trace the appearance of a wall skirting a distant hill. The lateness of the hour when the boats anchored, prevented any attempt to reach it that evening.

Early the next morning a party entered the suburbs, and following the direction of a paved road which led through them, reached the desired gate, and entered, not a city thronged with people, but a thick coppice bounding their view on all sides. Turning to the left, they ascended a hill three or four hundred feet in height, and overlooked an extensive space intersected with paved roads, probably the remains of streets, now leading through plantations of bamboo surrounding detached buildings and cultivated fields, interspersed with hills of different elevations; the whole being enclosed by a wall whose limits they could not precisely define. Its form seemed to be an irregular polygon of the computed area of thirty miles.* Near one of its angles appeared what might be the inhabited part of the city; but, seen at the distance of five miles, was only marked by confused buildings surrounded by a wall, and the celebrated porcelain pagoda which stood in its immediate vicinity.

The following morning four gentlemen reached, by a paved road, a hill that overlooked the inhabited part of the city; and commanded a view of a common Chinese town, surrounded by an

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* The area under our view could not be less than thirty miles, throughout diversified with groves, houses, cultivation, and hills; this expanse might be said to be enclosed within the extensive wall, and formed an irregular polygon." — Ellis's Embassy, page 304.

inner wall, but exhibiting no characters of any peculiarity. They were prevented entering it, partly by the representation of the soldiers, but chiefly by a numberless crowd that assembled about them. Their disappointment was the greater, as they had hoped to reach the porcelain tower, which was not more than two miles off. Its appearance, at this distance, accorded with the description given of it by different writers.

Of all the describers of the Porcelain Pagoda, Le Comte, copied by Du Halde, and referred to by other authors, is the most authentic.* From his account, it appears that it is an octagonal tower two hundred feet high, divided into nine stories, the base resting on a massy foundation of brick-work raised ten feet from the ground, and surrounded by a flight of twelve steps; that the lowest story, which is the largest, has a circumference of one hundred and twenty feet, giving to each face fifteen feet; that the other stories are of smaller dimensions, and decrease in breadth as they ascend, but are of equal height throughout; that the whole building is terminated by a large pole, which, rising from the centre of the eighth story, passes through the ninth, which it exceeds thirty feet; that this is surrounded at the distance of three or four feet by the convolutions of an immense iron hoop, sufficiently remote to appear in the distance like rings, diminishing as they ascend, in the manner of a cone, and surmounted by a gilded ball; that each story has projecting roofs, with tiles of a green colour highly varnished; that the walls are faced with coarse porcelain slabs; that in the interior, one hundred and ninety steps lead through its different compartments, which are filled with gilded idols, placed in niches of the walls. Drawings of the Pagoda, with descriptions annexed, were sold in the suburbs of the city. These state that it was begun in the sixteenth year of the reign of Yung-lo, of the last dynasty, and

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* See Le Comte.

finished in the sixth year of Scun-tih, having been nineteen years in building; and that it cost more than two millions, four hundred thousand of taels of silver, or above eight hundred thousand pounds. They add a legend, that the God of Thunder, in pursuing demons to the Pagoda and there destroying them, has injured the fabric: it has probably suffered by lightning.

In visiting the suburbs of Nankin, the Embassy found little to interest their attention, excepting some public hot baths near the gates of the city. To Mr. Poole, whose journal has often been of great use to me, I am indebted for the following description:— "We entered a square building divided into three compartments; the outermost lined with closets for the reception of the clothes of the bathers who undressed in this division of the establishment. The closets were all ticketed, perhaps with the names of their proprietors, or with some recommendatory sentence: Mr. Morrison read on one, 'The Bath of fragrant Waters.' The two other divisions of the building were beyond the first: the large, on the right hand, containing three baths, about six feet in length, and three in width and depth. At the time of our visit, they were filled with Chinese, who, rather washing than bathing themselves, stood upright in the water, which was only a few inches deep, and threw it by turns over each other's backs. There appeared no intention of renewing the water thus become saturated with dirt, for the use of many other Chinese who waited their turn in the outer apartment. The steam arising from it, however fragrant to the senses of the Chinese, was to mine really intolerable, and drove me away before I could ascertain in what manner the baths were heated. I just looked into the adjoining room, and found it furnished with matted benches, and that it was used by the bathers to dry themselves in before going to dress in the outer apartment."

Baths, it would appear, are by no means in common use amongst the Chinese, as we met with no others in our journey through the empire. Neither are they often mentioned in the accounts published

of China by the Jesuits. Du Halde*, indeed, says, that there is a large establishment of them in the neighbourhood of Pekin, resorted to by the Emperor; and Mr. Bell † states generally that they are used as a remedy; but neither writer induces the belief that they are used as a means of cleanliness.

In the suburbs of Nankin, the cloth which bears its name was exposed for sale. The raw yellow cotton, from which it is supposed to be made, was in vain looked for; but the white, was seen dressing in several places.

Amongst many other plants that grew on the walls of Nankin, the *Rosa Banksiana*, *Cotyledon spinosa*, of Linnæus and Murray ‡, *Hamamelis Chinensis* of Sir Joseph Banks' herbarium, and the *Ficus repens*, were the most abundant. The *Ficus repens* almost hid the walls by its profusion. The *Hamamelis*, which much resembled it in habit, was in less quantity, but also grew in the enclosure. A description of this plant, by Mr. Brown, accompanied by a figure, enriches the Appendix to this work. The expressed juice of the *Cotyledon spinosa* is said to be used by the Chinese women for dying their hair of a black colour, and preventing baldness.

Amongst the larger plants, the *Pinus Massoniana* of Mr. Lambert, and the *Ginko* of Kæmpfer, *Qua-tchow* of the Chinese, and *Salisburia adiantifolia* of Smith, were found in the enclosure and without the walls; but in no great number. The fruit of the *Salisburia*, however, was exposed for sale in such quantities as to prove its

L'Empereur logea dans une maison qu'il a fait faire exprès: cette maison n'a que trois petits pavillons fort simples; dans chacun de ces pavillons il y a des bains, outre deux grands bassins quarrés qui sont dans la cour assez proprement bâtis; l'eau qui est dans ces bassins, a quatre à cinq pieds de profondeur: la chaleur en est modérée: on m'a dit que ces bains étoient fort fréquentés.—Du Halde, tome quatrième, p. 288.

† Bell's Travels, vol. ii. p. 123.

‡ Nov. Comm. Gott. tom. vii. p. 33. I venture to adopt Murray's name in preference to the last Linnæan one of Crassula, because I find my specimens not only possessing ten stamina, but a monopetalous corolla, although its divisions are very deep.

extensive use amongst the Chinese; but whether as a fruit, a vegetable, or a medicine, could not be ascertained.

The walls of Nankin, judging from a specimen now in my possession, are built of a grey compact limestone which frequently occurs in quarries in its neighbourhood.

Leaving this city on the twenty-fourth, the Embassy proceeded on their route through a country becoming every day more interesting from the approach of mountains to the banks of the river, and arrived on the 30th at the city of Woo-hoo-shien, remarkable for its cleanliness, the size of its shops, and for a temple lately erected. The entrance to this was through a succession of arches, supported on columns of solid marble highly polished. Their vaults were richly carved into figures of the same form as those seen in temples established for ages. The building was dedicated to the god Fo.

On the first of November, the Embassy halted at the village of Tung-ling-hien, and first gathered the tallow tree, *Croton sebiferum* of Linnæus, which here seemed to be used merely as fire-wood.

The banks of the river near the village were very high, and exhibited a remarkable stratification. Close to the water was a bed of pudding-stone, above this was a bed of red gravel, then a dyke of solid rock four or five feet in thickness, and then the soil composing the surface, also of red gravel.

On the third, the Embassy arrived at the small town of Ta-tung, and remained there in consequence of unfavourable winds till the seventh. During this delay, they were much annoyed by a great number of public retiring houses, which lined the outskirts of the town, by which the boats anchored. These, which we saw in most cities in China, seem constructed rather for exposure than

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* Kæmpfer tells us, that the kernel of the fruit is supposed to assist digestion: "Nuclei à prandio adsumpti, coctionem promovere, ac tumentem ex cibo ventrem laxare dicuntur: inde nunquam ex mensâ secundâ solennis convivii omittuntur."— Amœnitates Exoticæ, p. 812.

concealment, being merely open sheds, with a rail-way over the necessary reservoir, and seldom without several occupiers.

The proprietors of these establishments derive great profit from the sale of their contents, called by them *ta-few*, which they use extensively as a manure. It is prepared in several ways. Sometimes it is mixed with a large quantity of mould, and made into cakes. In forming these, a layer of a few inches in thickness is spread out in the open air on an even surface, and, when dry, is divided into pieces of the requisite dimensions, generally about a foot square. These, which it is asserted not only lose the odour of their principal ingredient, but acquire that of the violet, are conveyed all over the empire, and find a ready sale. Before being used, they are dissolved in large quantities of water, or broken into small pieces, and are then applied to the land. When, however, the *ta-few* is to be employed near the place in which it is accumulated, a different mode of preparing it is pursued and generally preferred. In pits lined with plaster, it is diluted with a large proportion of water, and suffered to remain several days before it is used. It is then either poured into small channels that traverse the fields in every direction, or applied directly to the roots of the plants, or scattered over them with a small bucket. For its more convenient distribution, the peasantry have usually a tub for its reception sunk in the centre of their small gardens, in the neighbourhood of their cottages. To the use of this manure is in a good measure to be attributed the surprising productiveness of small plots of ground about Chinese huts, especially in their favourite vegetable the Petsai. It is not, however, confined to this plant, but largely used in their cotton fields, to young plants of which it is applied in considerable quantities. That it is used also in their rice-grounds, and in all cases in which manure is required, there can be little doubt.

A writer* has observed respecting the latter mode of preparing

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* Mémoires concernant les Chinois, tom. ii. p. 613.

the *ta-few*, that as it is the most offensive, we are justified in supposing that it is the most efficacious; and adds generally, with regard to the kind of manure, that it is demonstrated by experience that the *ta-few* is the most useful and the most efficacious of all manure, especially upon wet and greasy lands. Its extensive use by the Chinese may perhaps be the consequence of much fewer animals being used in the cultivation of the lands in China than in other countries, and of the poorer class living not more on corn than on vegetables; for the cultivators of these are generally small cottagers, who are obliged to employ the means most within reach for raising their crops.

In the village of Ta-tung, many workmen were employed in freeing the white cotton of its seed. The mill used for this purpose was very simple in its construction, and resembled in most respects that employed in the same operation in the East Indies, which has been described and figured by Dr. Buchanan. * It consisted of two wooden cylinders, placed horizontally one above the other, on a stand a few feet from the ground. The cylinders, very nearly touching, were put in motion by a wheel acted upon by the foot. The cotton, being brought to one side of the crevice, intervening between them during their revolution, was turned over to the opposite, whilst the seeds, being too large to enter, fell at the feet of the workmen. The instrument used in freeing it from knots and dirt, is equally simple, and is the same as that used, I believe, in most countries for the same or a similar purpose. It is a very elastic bow with a tight string. In using it, the carder places it in a heap of the material, and, having pulled down the string with some force, he suddenly allows the bow to recoil: the vibration of the string scatters

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* A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara, and Malabar, vol. iii. p. 317.

the cotton about, and separates it into fibres freed from all knots and impurities.*

The country about Ta-tung was hilly and picturesque, and productive in rare plants. It was here that some of the trees and shrubs, peculiar to China, were first met with. A small plantation of tea, from its extent, seeming rather to be cultivated for experiment than for the purpose of manufacturing, was seen on the side of a hill. It was of the large-leaved variety.

The plants most interesting to the finders, were several species of oak, occurring in large plantations. This tree, equally prized and used in China as in other countries, has been described and eulogised in the ancient books of the empire, and is designated by the appellation of the Tree of Inheritance.† The same works assert, that oaks, upwards of a hundred feet in height and twenty-four in circumference, are frequent in China; and that others have existed whose foliage covered an acre of ground. That for building, dyeing, and fuel, they are in general use. That their various parts used in medicine in other countries, are employed with similar views in China. That acorns are in some provinces an efficient article of food; that some are esculent without preparation; that others must be deprived of their crudeness, after being denuded of their husks, by grinding them in a mill, and subsequent immersion in water for several days; and that both afford a farinaceous paste, which, mixed with the flour or corn, or by itself, is made into cakes.

Such is the history of the Oak given by those who had the best means of arriving at information about it. I cannot learn that the gentlemen who visited the plantations of the tree near Ta-tung met with any circumstances either confirming or contradicting it.

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* This instrument scarcely at all differs from that figured in Sonnerat.—Voyage aux Indes Orientales, tom. i. p. 108.

† Mémoires concernant les Chinois, tom. xiii. p. 484—490. This work contains a very interesting account of the oaks of China.

Of the oaks seen at this place, many were remarkable for their beauty, few for their size. The largest seen did not exceed the height of fifty feet. They seemed to be used chiefly as pollards; considerable quantities of their branches being accumulated for firewood, or perhaps for charring.

One of the largest and most interesting of these trees, which I have called *Quercus densifolia*, was an evergreen, closely allied to the *Quercus glabra* of Thunberg, and resembled a laurel in the shining green of its foliage. It bore its branches and leaves in a thick head, crowning a naked and straight stem. Its fruit grew in long upright spikes, terminating the branches. Another species, *Quercus Chinensis* *, growing to the height of fifty feet, bore them in long pendulous spikes. Of this I have fortunately preserved a good specimen, through Sir George Staunton, and have given the accompanying figure. The leaves of some were distinguished by red prominent veins on the under surface; others by their size, and some by the hair, like processes, which fringed their margin. Five distinct species were found in a short walk.

Growing with the oaks, were some dwarf chesnuts; the fruit of which was exposed for sale at the village, and were not larger than the common bon-nut of this country.

From the shops of the same place I received several species of fern, which are used as vegetables, infused as tea and administered as medicine. The most general was the *Pteris piloselloides.* Ginger was also much grown among the hills, and sold in the shops in a green state as a common vegetable.

The country in the vicinity of Ta-tung owed its chief interest to its plants. The people continued to display the same curiosity in observing the strangers as elsewhere, but exhibited few traits of character worth recording. The only interesting circumstance that

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* See Appendix.

seems to have been observed is told by Mr. Morrison, who, in one of his walks, fell in with a family of four generations, amounting to about twenty persons, in the same house. At the feet of the Patriarch, who was only seventy years of age, stood his great grandchild, whilst at one end of the room his son was working at his father's coffin. The old man, on being asked why he now prepared his coffin? answered, that he felt his health declining, and wished to have a resting-place prepared for him after death. When asked if the sight of the coffin did not excite mournful ideas, he replied, "No." A mandarin, who was by, remarked, "His mouth says no, but it does not speak the language of his heart."

The Embassy left the village of Ta-tung on the morning of the seventh, and, continuing their route, arrived on the eleventh at the village of Hwa-yuen-chin, no otherwise remarkable than as being the scene of a fatal accident to one of the Embassy. William Millidge, one of the guard attached to Mr. Morrison's boat, in passing along its gang-way, fell into the water, and, in spite of every exertion made to save him, was swept under the boat by the current and was drowned. The Legate halted the boats till his remains were interred, and a tomb-stone placed at the head of his grave with the following inscription in Chinese characters:—"The Tomb of Millidge, one of the Body Guard of the British Ambassador, November 12th, 1816."

The boats having quitted Hwa-yuen-chin immediately after the interment of the body, passed in the afternoon of the twelfth a conical rock, two hundred feet in height, called Seaou-koo-shan, or the little orphan hill, rising in the middle of the river. This rock is composed of pudding-stone, and resembles in most respects the Kin-shan.

Early on the 13th, the Embassy reached the borders of the province of Kiang-si, and entered it on the following morning.

By noon the next day, the Embassy quitted the Yang-tse-kiang, whose broad expanse was seen far away to the westward, and entered the Po-yang lake.

The entrance to this lake was grand, from the immense chain of mountains forming its western boundary, the most conspicuous of which was distinguished by its five peaks. On entering the lake, the Embassy passed the Ta-koo-shan, or great orphan rock, less interesting in all its characters than the smaller one of the same name.

On the 14th, the boats reached the small town of Ta-koo-tang, and were detained there by boisterous weather till the sixteenth. During this delay, parties visited the neighbouring country, and found it abounding in several plantations of oaks and firs; to which were now added occasional plants of the *Pinus lanceolatus*, brought to Europe by the former Embassy. A very distinct new genus also rewarded the pursuits of my friends, with a description of which Mr. Brown has enriched this work, and called *Abelia Chinensis*. This plant, which was not met with after leaving the Po-yang lake, is a straggling shrub with pendant branches. Its flowers were, for the most part, faded when it was found; but its permanent pink calyces, clustered into thick heads, gave it a beautiful appearance. The tallow-tree also grew here in abundance, and was a most magnificent plant. I shall have occasion to describe it elsewhere.

Leaving Ta-koo-tang on the morning of the 16th, the Embassy arrived the same day at the city of Nan-kang-foo, situated at the base of a lofty mountain forming part of an extensive ridge. Snow covered the summit of the mountain, which, according to the Chinese, would remain till the fourth moon of the ensuing season, but melted before a bright sun the next day.

The city of Nan-kang-foo scarcely repaid those who visited it the trouble of the walk. The appearance of the walls, which had lately been repaired, had promised a populous and thriving city; and such it had been in former ages; but it now contained very few houses, compared with its extent; and was filled with beggars. A number of stone archways still remain, that appear formerly to have been superior specimens of their style of architecture: men, quadrupeds, and birds, are sculptured upon them in relief: they bear the dates of

Han-lish and Kean-tsing, of the last dynasty. There are two temples in the city dedicated to Confucius, and a Woo-meaou, or temple, dedicated to the military demi-god of China.

The neighbourhood of Nan-kang-foo contains some of the most romantic scenery seen by the Embassy in China. Of this the founder of the Pih-luh-tung-shoo-yuen, or "College of the white stag valley," had taken the fullest advantage, and built it at the farther end of a deep ravine shaded by trees, and watered by a beautiful spring. This temple is famous in China, as having been anciently a national seminary in which Choo-foo-tze, the favourite commentator of Confucius, taught about six hundred years ago. Those who were conversant in Chinese literature took the first opportunity of visiting it, in the hope of meeting with some books containing the doctrines of the sage. On reaching the temple, they found no difficulty in persuading the priests, after previously wiping their face and hands with a wet towel, to lead them to a well-stored library; but on this occasion could not bribe the priests to dispose of any of the sacred volumes. The valley in which the temple stands, derives its name from a white stag; the image of which is placed in an arched recess of the temple behind a statue of Choo-foo-tze. This animal, according to the chronicles of the place, was employed by the sage as his caterer at the market of Nan-gang-foo, at the distance of seven miles; money and a note having been attached to his horns, he was despatched to the city, and always returned with the wished-for supplies.

The neighbourhood of Nan-kang-foo being rocky, afforded fewer species of trees and flowering plants than many other parts of the country through which we had passed; but abounded in rare and undescribed ferns and mosses. Amongst many other ferns, I have it now in my power to name the following only: *Adiantum flabellulatum*, *Asplenium lanceum*, *Aspidium varium*, *Blechnum Orientale*, a species of *Davallia* very closely allied to *Davallia Canariensis*, a species of *Hydroglossum* very common in the south of China, *Polypodium lineare*, *Pteris semipinnata*, *Pteris biaurita*, and another species of *Pteris*, between *Pteris caudata* and *Pteris aquilina*, and a new species of *Wood-*

wardia allied to *Woodwardia Japonica*, but differing from it, in having acute lobes.

An Ilex was brought me, which I have been unable to distinguish from the *Ilex aquifolium* of this country. A species, I believe, of mulberry, with fruit of the colour and general appearance of a strawberry, but clustered around the branches, was also gathered in this part of our route.

Leaving Nan-kang-foo on the 20th, the Embassy arrived the same day at Woo-ching-chin, situated, according to Mr. Morrison, on the left bank of the Tan-ho, which flows by the capital of Kiang-si, and enters the Po-yang lake. Woo-ching-chin is a great depôt for the commodities of various provinces, and is distinguished by its numerous Kwung-kwan, or halls of merchants. At Woo-ching-chin, the boats quitted the Po-yang lake, and, proceeding on their route, reached Nan-chang-foo on the twenty-third.

My readers may, in this part of my work, complain of the rapid manner in which I have hurried them over upwards of two hundred miles of one of the finest rivers of China, and across one of its largest lakes. I have done so, because I believed that a short and general description, accompanied by a map of our route, rendered as expressive as circumstances will admit, would be more interesting than a detailed account of the different towns and temples visited on their banks. Every thing artificial in China has nearly the same characters in every province. A person who has seen one of its cities has in a good measure seen them all. The materials of which they are formed differ as their situation affords clay or stone, but their style of building is always the same. Such also is the case with their pagodas: they differ in height, and the number of their stages; but a pagoda at Pekin, at Nankin, or at Canton, would each afford nearly the same description. The features of the country, however, are infinitely varied. China, from the great extent of latitude contained in its boundaries, and from its extensive plains and lofty mountains, partakes of the advantages and defects of many climates. The weather and the season during the passage of the Embassy, prevented them from forming a correct judg-

ment in what degree the Yang-tse-kiang partakes of either. Enough, however, was observed to vindicate its claim to its high-sounding appellations: Yang-tse-kiang, "Son of the Sea;" Ta-kiang, "Great River;" Kiang, "The River;" the pre-eminent titles given to it by the Chinese: its great depth has occasioned the saying, that "as the ocean is boundless, so is the Yang-tse-kiang fathomless." There can be little doubt, indeed, that for the extent of country which it traverses, and the number of streams by which it is fed, it may be considered one of the finest rivers of the Old World. The concurring testimony of the Chinese and the charts of the Missionaries, show that it flows from west to east, in a devious course, through the whole breadth of China. Of its numerous tributary streams and lakes, the reader may form some comprehension by examining the more general map which accompanies this work, bearing in mind that its scale is necessarily so small as to exclude the insertion of many. To have an accurate conception on this point, he must consult the great chart of the Missionaries.

I have scarcely an observation to make on the Po-yang lake. The Embassy entered it with the expectation of seeing an expanse of water thirty French leagues in circumference, but passed rapidly along its western shore without gaining a single view of any very great extent. Their disappointment was perhaps the consequence of the haziness of the weather, and the many islands which cover it. Ranges of high mountains, which chiefly skirt its western shore, supply, no doubt, many of the rivers which feed it. The same mountains must often give rise to sudden gusts of wind, and may sometimes occasion the hurricanes which, the Missionaries declare, often sweep the surface of the lake.

The general cultivation on the Yang-tse-kiang and Po-yang lake was in rice, wherever the nature of the land allowed it. The *Arum esculentum*, petsai, and ground-nut, *Arachis hypogæa*, were also exceedingly abundant, and afforded a vast quantity of vegetable food. Deer were seen, and pheasants, partridges somewhat resembling grouse, snipes and wild fowl were common in the markets; geese

and ducks occurred in large flocks on the river and lake, and were so tame that they could be approached within a few yards. A woodcock was pursued by a gentleman at Qua-chow. Both the Yang-tse-kiang and Po-yang-ho are profusely productive in excellent fish. Carp and mullet abounded in the markets of all the towns visited on their banks by the Embassy. A few porpoises were observed in the river, and were called river-pigs by the Chinese.

The scenery of the Yang-tse-kiang and Po-yang-ho combined that of every river and lake enclosed in a mountainous and verdant country, and a peculiarity arising from numerous islands, often rising abruptly two or three hundred feet above their surface, covered with the grotesque buildings of the Chinese, surrounded by groves of bamboo and pine. They, for the most part, exhibited the same characters as the Kin-shan, or Golden Hill, and like it verify the accuracy of many Chinese landscapes.

The *Pinus Massoniana*, and several species of oak, mingled occasionally with the tallow and camphor trees, were the chief ornaments of the shores of that part of the Yang-tse-kiang and Po-yang lake gone over by the Embassy. The Pine was often in considerable groves, and appeared to grow at a great elevation.

A bluish grey compact lime-stone was found amongst the debris of the shores of the Yang-tse-kiang, and in quarries in the neighbourhood of Nankin. The islands which were examined consisted of an agglomerate, composed of round and angular fragments of quartz, of lime-stone, and of felspar porphyry, either united by a very thin argillaceous cement, or imbedded in sand-stone. The banks of the river sometimes presented a similar formation. The Leu-shan mountains, near the junction of the Yang-tse-kiang with the Po-yang lake, were composed of small-grained granite, containing milk-white felspar, smoke grey quartz, and greyish black mica; and of a micaceous schistus with scarcely any quartz. Very large perfect crystals of felspar were also brought to me from the same place: many of them were three or four inches in their largest diameter, and

were often conjoined with masses of light grey mica, of nearly equal dimensions.

The map which introduces this chapter will convey to the reader some idea of that part of the Yang-tse-kiang gone over by the Embassy, and of the extent and form of the Po-yang lake as laid down by the Missionaries. I have marked on it the height of the barometer, thermometer, and hygrometer, at noon every day during our passage, and the productions of the country as far as I could obtain accurate information respecting them.

The barometer varied very little during our route from Quachow to Nan-chang-foo, but the hygrometer rose or fell with every change of the wind. The thermometer often fell below 50° of Fahrenheit. The prevailing wind was north-easterly, which depressed the hygrometer, whilst southerly winds raised it; an effect contrary to what I had observed in the Yellow sea. This difference of result is obviously explained by the consideration, that in the Yellow sea the north-easterly wind was from the land, and therefore a dry wind, and on the Yang-tse-kiang, a sea wind, and therefore a moist wind, and *vice versa* with respect to the southerly winds. These circumstances are further conclusive of the delicacy of Leslie's hygrometer as a meteorological instrument. For the details of the experiments, I refer my reader to the Appendix.

CHAPTER VII.

At Nan-chang-foo, where the Embassy re-entered upon the route pursued by Lord Macartney, I went abroad for the first time after my illness, and had regained sufficient power of observation to be interested in the scenery and productions of the country through which we were passing. For the conclusion of this work, I depend chiefly on my own journal.

The city of Nan-chang-foo is famous for shops of porcelain, and gave us many opportunities of examining splendid vases formed of the finest quality of this celebrated ware. Many of these were four feet high and two in their largest circumference, of various colours, and covered with an immense number of raised figures of plants well executed. This imitation of sculpture was also practised on smaller pieces, as cups, basins, and especially snuff-bottles. On one of these, whose surface could not be more than six inches square, the forms of a crowd of Chinese executed with precision and taste, were beautifully grouped. I have repeatedly seen on articles of this kind a display of skill and accuracy in the delineation of the human form for which it is not usual to give the Chinese credit. The porcelain most valued by the Chinese was not in our eyes the most beautiful; being covered with lines intersecting each other in all directions, occasioning a cracked appearance on its surface. This is done perhaps to give it an appearance of antiquity, as antique porcelain is in the highest degree valued in China.*

The Missionaries give a different account of the *Porcelaine Craquelée*: — L'eau qui se glace en hiver, dans certains vases, a exactement la forme de la porcelaine craquelée. Il est tout simple que, voyant la forme d'un vase en eau glacée de cette

Some of the representations on the cups and other vessels sold in Nang-chang-foo, gave us the lowest opinion of Chinese sentiments of decency. Although infinitely too gross to admit any description, they were not only exposed in the most open manner on the shelves of the shops, but were handed about by the salesmen as objects of peculiar interest.

The shops in which the porcelain was sold were capacious, and very neatly fitted up. Indeed I scarcely recollect seeing any spectacle in China that gratified me more than a first-rate porcelain warehouse. The various articles of all forms, dimensions, and colours, were so arranged as to produce the best effect. Our purchases were inconsiderable, in consequence of the difficulty of transporting such brittle goods, and of the usual exactions of the soldiers. The prices asked for the large vases were from fifty to eighty Spanish dollars.

A fire broke out in the suburbs whilst we remained at this city; which, although it raged at first with great violence, in the midst of houses, built chiefly of wood, was speedily extinguished. Two engines, brought over as a present to the Emperor, were offered by His Excellency to the legate on the occasion, but were refused. Our senses, indeed, soon informed us that they were not required. Although our boats were anchored on the opposite side of the river, we could distinctly see water pouring in streams upon the flames; but had no opportunity of seeing the machines which raised it.

Leaving Nan-chang-foo on the 27th, the Embassy re-commenced their route, and entered a country highly ornamented with useful and beautiful plants. Of these the species of *Camellia*, which produces much of the oil consumed by the Chinese, was the most remarkable. Its figure given in the next page, will convey a correct notion of its appearance to the general reader. This beautiful shrub, which I have called *Camellia oleifera*, is the *Tcha-Yeou* of the Chinese;

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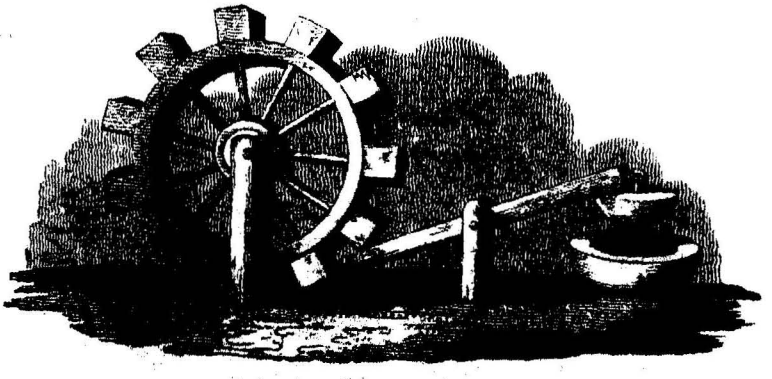
façon singulière, on y ait donné quelque attention, et qu'on en ait fait usage ensuite pour imaginer une nouvelle façon de porcelaine.

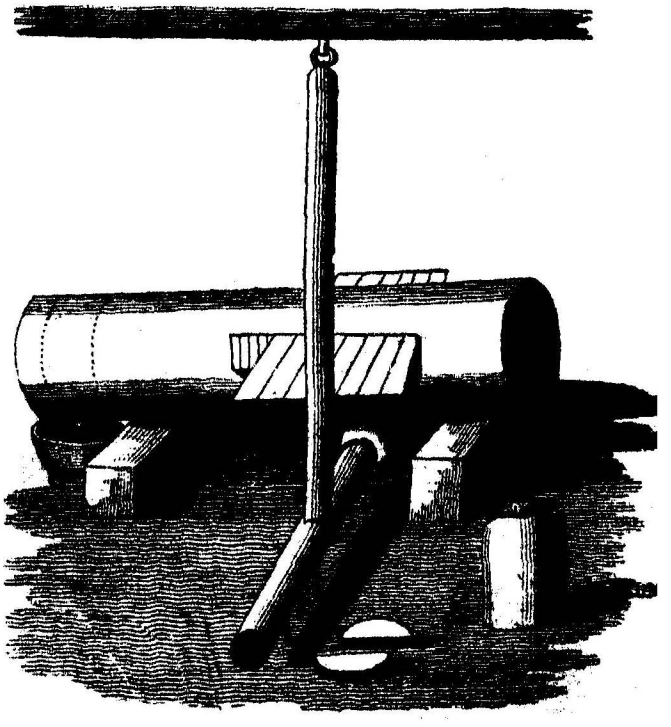
which might be translated, "the oil-bearing tea plant;" a very expressive name, as the plant, in general appearance, closely resembles the tea, and yields oil. It was brought into this country by the former Embassy, and considered as the *Camellia sesanqua* of authors, from which, however, I apprehend it is very distinct.* We sometimes found it of the magnitude of a moderate sized cherry-tree, and always that of a large shrub, from six to eight feet in height, and bearing a profusion of large single white blossoms. This circumstance gave an interesting and novel character to the places which it covered. They often looked in the distance, as if lightly clothed with snow; but on a nearer view, exhibited one immense garden.

The *Camellia oleifera* seems to flourish best in a red sandy soil, on which few other plants will grow. The Chinese cultivate it in large plantations, and procure from its seed a pure esculent oil by a very easy process. The seeds are first reduced to a coarse powder by one of several methods. Sometimes they are pounded in a large mortar, by a weight at the end of a lever, acted upon by the cogs of a water-wheel. At others, they are crushed by a horizontal wheel, having small perpendicular wheels, shod with iron, fixed to its circumference, and acting in a groove lined with the same metal.



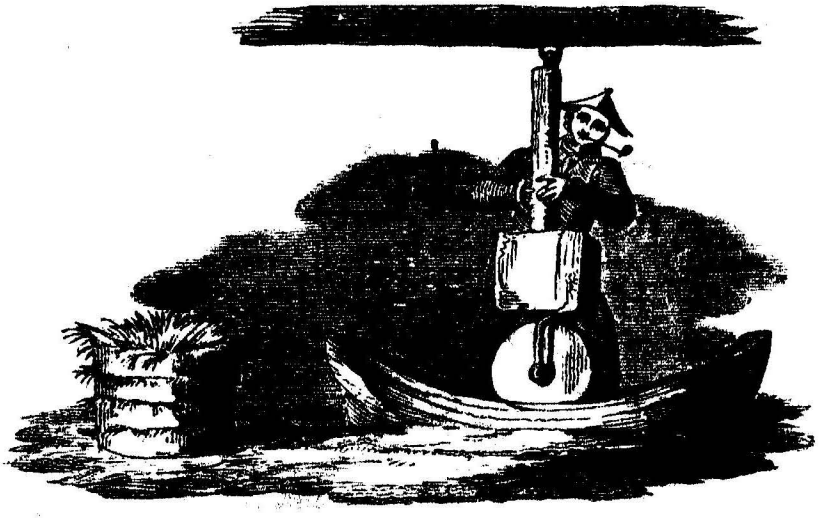
* See Appendix.

When sufficiently ground, they are put into bags and boiled, or rather stewed, a short time, in a vessel containing a small quantity of water; and are then transferred to a press, where they yield the oil. This press is of very rude construction. It consists of the hollowed trunk of a tree open at one end, and having two square holes mortised in its sides, opposite each other. It is so supported that the open end is higher than the other. When the oil is to be expressed, one of the bags is put into the trunk, and pushed back to its depressed end. Semicircular pieces of wood are then introduced through the mortices on each side, and meeting, form a circle, which is equal to the circumference of the hollow. Several of these are successively introduced, and fill up the interval between the bag and the mortices, and some space beyond, as shown in the figure. They are then driven back with great force upon the seed, by the means of bars and wedges of wood forced in by an immense hammer in the form of a battering ram. The oil runs from the press through a small opening in its depressed end.



The tree producing tallow, *Croton sebiferum* of Linnæus, was one of the largest, the most beautiful, and the most widely diffused, of the plants found by us in China. We first met with it a few miles south of Nankin, and continued to remark it, in greater or less abundance, till our arrival at Canton.* We often saw it, imitating the oak in the height of its stem and the spread of its branches. Its foliage has the green and lustre of the laurel. Its small flowers, of a yellow colour, are borne at the ends of its terminal branches. Clusters of dark coloured seed vessels succeed them in autumn; and, when matured, burst asunder and disclose seeds of a delicate whiteness.

The fruit of the tallow tree goes through nearly the same process in yielding its extract as the seed of the oil plant. The machine in which it was seen to be bruised, differed indeed from those employed for pounding the seed of the *Camellia;* but was, no doubt, often used for both purposes. It was ground by a wheel moved backwards and forwards in a trunk of a tree, shaped like a canoe, lined with iron, and fixed in the ground. To the axis of the wheel was fixed a long pole, laden with a heavy weight, and suspended from a beam, in the way illustrated by the wood engraving.



The tallow tree has many names in China; amongst others, Ya-Rieou, because crows are fond of its fruit; *Ya* being the character which signifies a crow; the other

The seed, after being pounded, was formed into a thick mass, by heating it with a small quantity of water in a large iron vessel. It was then put hot into a case formed to receive it. This consisted of four or five broad iron hoops, piled one over the other, and lined with straw. The seed was pressed down with the feet, as close as possible, till it filled the case, which was then transferred to the press.

Pressure, however, is not the only, or, perhaps, the most common method of obtaining the tallow; for it is sometimes procured by boiling the bruised seed in water, and collecting the oily matter which floats on its surface. This tallow, which has all the sensible properties of that from the animal kingdom, is used in the manufacture of candles. Du Halde informs us, that every ten pounds is mixed with three of some vegetable oil, and a sufficient quantity of wax to give it consistence. The candles also receive additional support from a coating of wax. They burn with great flame, emit much smoke, and quickly consume.

In giving some account of the magnificent plants which often adorned the banks of the river, during our progress through the southern provinces of China, I must not omit to mention the camphor tree, *Laurus camphora*, growing to the size of our largest elms or oaks, in the provinces of Kiang-si and Canton. The Chinese affirm that it sometimes attains the height of more than three hundred feet, and a circumference greater than can be embraced by the extended arms of twenty men.* We saw no instance of its magnitude that at all justified this description. The largest that was measured by the persons of the Embassy was twenty feet in circumference, and about fifty feet high, and was chiefly remarkable for the size of its branches; many of them being nine feet in circumference.

The camphor obtained from this tree is less valued by the Chinese

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character, *Ricou*, signifies a mortar for separating the husk from rice, and enters into its name, because when the tree grows old, its root decays within, and becomes hollowed in the form of a mortar.—Du Halde, tom. iii. p. 504.

Lettres Edifiantes, tome xxii. p. 192.

than that which they procure from Borneo. This preference probably depends on the adulteration of the article by the Chinese manufacturer, since the mode of refining it is well known. The process pursued in many respects resembles that used in Japan*, and has been described by the Père d'Entrecolles.† Fresh gathered branches of the tree having been steeped for two or three days in water, are then boiled in a proper vessel, being the whole time continually stirred about with a stick, till the gum begins to adhere to it in the form of a white jelly. The fluid is then poured off into a glazed vessel, and after being at rest for some hours, is found concreted. The crude camphor is then purified in the following manner. A quantity of the finely powdered materials of some old wall, built of earth, is put as a first layer at the bottom of a copper basin; on this is placed a layer of camphor, and then another of earth, and so on till the vessel is nearly filled; the series being terminated with a layer of earth. Over this is laid a covering of the leaves of the plant *Po-ho*, perhaps a species of *Mentha*. A second basin is now inverted over the first, and luted on. The whole, thus prepared, is put over a regulated fire, and submitted to its action for a certain length of time; it is then removed and suffered to cool. The camphor is found to have sublimed, and to be attached to the upper basin. It is further refined by repetitions of the same process.

Besides the *Laurus camphora*, I found another species of laurel highly impregnated with the pungency and flavour of the gum, and which is probably used by the Chinese for its extraction. It so nearly resembled its congener when growing, as to require a close examination to distinguish. It is, however, distinctly separated by the form of its leaves and the distribution of their nerves. The camphor tree is

* Lettres Edifiantes, tome xxii.

† "Extractio camphoræ rusticorum opus est in provinciâ Satzuma et insulis Gotho, qui radices et ligna in festucas comminuta, cum affusâ aquâ coquunt in vesicâ ferreâ, impositoque capitello fictili amplo, et (ne ex vapore rumpat) rostrato, sublimatam resinam, excipiunt, stramini quod capitellum repletat, adherentem." Amœnit. Exotic. p. 772.

one of the principal timber trees of China, being used in building, and in the fabrication of articles of furniture.

A species of *Ficus**, called *Yung-shoo* by the Chinese, much resembling the banyan in habit, grew very commonly in sandy soil on the banks of rivers from the Po-yang lake to the mountain of Mei-ling. Its form gave a singularly grotesque character to the scenery. Its trunk is made up of a series of small stems always close together. Its branches are wide and straggling, but scarcely overshadow its arching roots rising above the soil and covering a considerable space of ground.

But although the land on both sides the river was favourable to the growth of many beautiful and useful plants, it was seldom very productive in any of those which afford the essential vegetable support of mankind. Between the Po-yang lake and the Mei-ling mountain, the quantity of land cultivated in corn bore no proportion to that which was entirely barren or covered with plantations of Camellia.

We proceeded on our route up the Kan-Keang, whose stream was clear as crystal, without meeting with any circumstance worth noticing till the 6th of December. On that day the boatmen sent a petition to the Ambassador, requesting a pecuniary gratuity to enable them to perform the usual rites before passing the She-pa-tan or eighteen cataracts, an appellation little applicable to what are only rocky shoals in the bed of the river. We had great difficulty indeed, but little danger in passing them, not even the most perilous, called Tien-san-tan, or the pillars of heaven.

The rocks forming the shoals, when first met with, were of granite, and afterwards of a dark-coloured compact schistus much resembling the killas of Cornwall. The river seemed to have worn away the superincumbent formation of sandstone, which narrowed the channel of the river into a mere ravine, and to have been checked in its de-

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* It is very closely allied in the outline of its leaves to *Ficus benjamina* of Wildenow, but differs from it in a less equal distribution of their nerves, and in wanting the white prominent spots on their upper surface.

grading process by the harder rocks. The soil on the surface in this part of our route was generally of a dark red, and seemed peculiarly favourable to the growth of pines. Large plantations of these covered the hills in the neighbourhood of See-chou, where we anchored on the 8th of December.

The *Pinus Massoniana* of Mr. Lambert still continued to be the most general species of fir, but was occasionally mingled with the *Pinus lanceolata* of the same author. We usually found this last tree a young and flourishing plant, seldom more than eight or ten feet high, rarely reaching to twenty or thirty. Here also we gathered the tea-plant, apparently in its native habitat, near no plantation. It was a small shrub of what has commonly been considered the green variety. The *Dryandra cordata* of Thunberg, *Tong-choo* of the Chinese, grew in the same place. From the seeds of this plant the Chinese extract an oil which they use as a varnish for their boats and coarser articles of furniture. They often mix it with the more valuable varnish obtained from a species of *Rhus*, and sell the compound as the superior article. I did not see the true varnish tree growing, but judging from specimens brought to me by my friends, have little doubt of its being an undescribed species of *Rhus*, and not the *Rhus vernix*. In the remainder of our route through the province of Kiang-si, the most striking productions of the soil were those which I have already described; but every day brought me some new and very rare species of smaller plants. Of these, a new species of *Eugenia*, which as it is perhaps the smallest of its genus, has been named *Eugenia microphylla*, covered the declivities of almost every hill in the province of Kiang-si. It is a very elegant plant, strongly resembling a myrtle, and grows to the height of one or two feet.* It bears thick terminal clusters of dark purple berries, which were eaten by our Chinese attendants.

On the 18th the Embassy reached the city of Nan-gan-foo, situated at the northern base of the Mei-ling mountain. This city differed

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* See Appendix.

in no respect from many others which we had visited. Its environs were picturesque from the mountain ranges, which formed a magnificent amphitheatre around them. These were too distant to be approached in any of our limited excursions. Our curiosity was therefore obliged to rest satisfied till we crossed the Mei-ling mountain, which formed the centre of a ridge that swept from east to west, bounding and separating the provinces of Kiang-si and Canton.

The rocks in the neighbourhood of the city were nearly horizontally stratified, and consisted of shistus of a very close texture, and dark gray colour. Similar rocks had formed the immediate banks of the river for several days before our arrival. The hills were rich in rare and beautiful plants, of which I can only name the *Eurya Japonica** of Thunberg, which covered them in the greatest profusion.

Much of the cultivation about Nan-gan-foo was in the ground-nut *Arachis hypogæa*. This plant, so remarkable for its wide geographical distribution†, is cultivated by the Chinese for the oil extracted from its seeds, and for the nourishment they afford to the common people as a fruit and a vegetable. We had been supplied with them in all parts of our route, but first met with the plant cultivated in fields on the banks of the Yang-tse-kiang, and continued to observe it through the whole province of Kiang-si and of Canton. Before the seeds, which ripen under ground, are collected, the stems of the plant are cut by a hoe close to the earth. The seeds are then taken up and put into a large sieve, suspended between three poles set up in a triangle: one man feeds the sieve, whilst another shakes it, and separates the dirt. It what manner the oil is procured from the seeds we had no opportunity of learning. They are roasted before

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* See Appendix.

† Of this plant, which was found cultivated along the banks of the Congo as far as they were examined by Capt. Tuckey, Mr. Brown has observed, "There is nothing very improbable in the supposition of *Arachis hypogæa* being indigenous to Asia, Africa, and even Armenia; but if it be considered as belonging to one of those continents only, it is more likely to have been brought from China through India to Africa, than to have been carried in the opposite direction."—Botanical Appendix of Capt. Tuckey's Journal of the Expedition to explore the Congo.

they are eaten as fruit. A Canton linguist who attended the Embassy, took some pains to teach me their mode of growth, and seemed quite aware that they were not the roots of the plant, but had been part of the flower. The *Arachis hypogæa* bears in China from two to four seeds in each capsule.

We quitted our boats at Nan-gan-foo for a short land journey across the Mei-ling mountain, computed to be a thousand feet above the level of the plain whence we ascended.

Chairs and horses being provided for our conveyance, we set out early on the morning of the 20th. Having passed through a cultivated flat of some extent, we began about an hour after leaving the city, to ascend the acclivity of the mountain. It soon became very steep, but was rendered practicable by a paved road that wound over it, and which in the most difficult part was formed into broad and gentle steps. Groves of fir trees skirted our way, forming in some places vistas, through which we overlooked the surrounding country: a valley of great extent was bounded by lofty mountains. The scene derived its chief interest from its moving objects. Looking back on the road we had passed, we saw a long train of chairs, horsemen, and porters, winding up the steep. Forwards the road narrowed in a defile, leading through the mountain, and near its termination became so precipitous as to oblige the horsemen to dismount. Our steeds were small, but spirited and powerful, and climbed with great perseverance and effect. The bearers of the sedans moved with a quickness and apparent ease which surprised me. Four carried each of the chairs of the principal mandarins who attended us, and moved in measured but quick time, in an oblique direction, avoiding the direct steepness of the path. The soldiers who accompanied us were equally active. Many of them were fine athletic men, and would in themselves have induced me to think well of the physical efficiency of the military in China. One attended each of the gentlemen who were on horseback, and kept up with him at whatever pace he rode, without giving any signs of fatigue.

In our way we overtook a herd of porters transporting the presents

which had been intended for the Emperor, and were highly amused at their ridiculous care of two fire engines, which they supported by the assistance of poles a few inches from the ground. When, by any chance, the wheels of these machines, sanctified by their first destination, touched the earth, a loud shout from the bearers testified their alarm lest they should have been injured by the shock.

Arrived on the summit, we entered a narrow pass cut through the solid rock, a work only to be accomplished at the expense of great time and difficulty. The rock is argillaceous sandstone of a compact structure. The narrowest part of the ridge had probably been chosen to cut through, as it did not appear to be more than forty or fifty feet in length, and might be as many in height, and half as many in width.

The pass was formed during the dynasty Tang, about a thousand years ago, by a private individual. An arched gateway stands in the centre, marking the boundary between the provinces of Kiang-si and Quang-tong. Mr. Morrison decyphered several inscriptions cut on the sides of the rock. One of these Teen-le-jin-tsing, "Heavenly principles and humane feelings," probably applied to the man who formed the pass, and was engraved in very large characters. Near the entrance to the pass on the Canton side, we saw a species of *Prunus* in full flower, called by the Chinese Mei-hwa-shoo, "Mei flower-tree." Hence the name of the mountain, Mei-ling, signifying the mountain of the mey-flower.

The top of the mountain is distinctly and horizontally stratified, but is divided into stair-like masses. The sandstone is small grained; in its fresh fracture has almost the dark gray colour of clay slate, but where it is exposed to weather is reddish.

We descended by a very steep declivity on the southern side of the mountain, into an extensive plain. The scene was wild and strange. Innumerable "rocks piled on rocks as if by magic spell," of forms too fantastic for language to paint, covered its surface and every where bounded the view. Immense square blocks, seemingly piled on each other by art and rising to a great height, gave to some a castellated, to

others a pyramidal form. Worn by the action of the elements, their surface had become vesicular, and their angles, from the same cause, often represented the most grotesque profile. They presented forms, indeed, so at variance with any which I had ever before seen, that I could not help suspecting that their composition would be found equally peculiar. But they proved, on examination, to be a very fine granular, approaching to compact limestone. Of their internal colour, for they were covered externally with lichens, I can make no positive mention, as I have not recovered any of the specimens to which I have referred for this character in my journal; but judging from others collected in their neighbourhood, and probably of the same formation, I have little doubt that it is reddish gray. The distinct blocks of which they were composed seemed to be the remains of a horizontal stratification.

The lower plate of the geological views in China is given rather with a view to assist the description, than as approaching to an accurate representation of these rocks: it would have been hopeless to have attempted an imitation of their varied shapes. These rocks are quarried for limestone. Kilns for burning it were interspersed amongst them; and seen smoking in all directions, increased the singularity of the scene.

Following the course of a small stream which rose in the Mei-ling mountain and flowed through the valley, we arrived at the small village of Choong-chun about half way on our journey from Nan-kan-foo. At this place we found refreshment prepared for us at a comfortable house. I here found myself too fatigued with the first strong exercise that I had taken since my illness, to continue my journey on horseback. A mandarin who accompanied us saw my situation, and immediately procured me a chair. The horse was put in charge of a soldier, who was directed to follow me, that I might re-mount in any part of the road for the sake of examining the country. This man proved a true Chinese. He mounted the horse, and having gradually fallen back out of reach of our observation, rode off, and no more appeared.