

There was nothing very remarkable in the village of Choong-chun. It consisted of a long narrow street of sheds, for the accommodation of the coolies employed in transporting goods across the mountain, and of the usual proportion of public houses of retirement.

Leaving this place, we entered an extensive undulated plain, dreary and barren, and in about four hours reached the suburbs of Nan-hiung-foo. Within a short distance of the city we fell in with a large body of military, who exhibited a solitary instance of something martial in China, even to the eyes of Europeans.

I have not given any account of the different military posts which we passed in our progress through China, because details of this kind may be found in various authors, and because they afforded me no opportunity of estimating the probable amount of the military force of the empire. I may, however, hazard the general observation, that in discipline and costume the Chinese soldiers seemed better adapted to grace the representations of a theatre, and in many instances a mountebank stage, than for the defence of the empire. This observation, indeed, applied less to the body of men who waited the arrival of the British Ambassador, at the suburbs of Nan-hiung-foo, than to any other that we had seen in China. They were generally fine athletic men, and had a soldier's port. Their arms and uniform were simple, clean, and effective. The cavalry, whom I saw dismounted, were armed with bows and arrows, and wore white linen jackets faced with red. The infantry, armed with match-locks supported on cross sticks, wore red, faced with white. But however complete the appointment of Chinese soldiers, they lose all their imposing character in the eyes of a European during their degrading salute to an officer of rank. Let my reader imagine a whole regiment in line, at the word of command, clapping their hands to their sides, falling upon their knees, and uttering a dismal howl, and he will have some idea of this august ceremony.

On approaching the city we passed through a succession of tri-

umphal arches ornamented in the Chinese taste, with various colours. The city proved of great extent, and as far as a passing observation could enable me to form an opinion, was more populous and better built than any that I had seen on the northern side of Meiling. Our Chinese conductors, to impress us with its extent, led us through every street, that could be traversed in our way to the building prepared for our reception. I saw nothing, however, to change the opinion that all Chinese cities are built on the same plan, and that having seen one, a tolerably accurate notion may be formed of all the others. Du Halde has made the same observation, and was so convinced of its correctness as to give, in his History of China, only one general description of a Chinese city. The picture that he has drawn, although highly coloured with regard to beautiful temples and monuments dedicated to the brave and good, is in all other respects so accordant with our experience, that I give it to the reader as a very accurate painting.

“ † The cities of China are generally of a square form, surrounded with lofty walls having projecting towers at regular intervals, and

The most common of these more resemble a gallows, than any other fabric to which I can compare them.

† Elles sont la plupart de figure quarrée, lorsque le terrain le comporte, et environnées de hautes murailles, avec des tours d'espace en espace qui y sont adossées: elles ont quelquefois des fossez, ou secs ou pleins d'eau. On y voit d'autres tours ou rondes, ou hexagones, ou octogones, qui ont jusqu'à huit ou neuf étages, des arcs de triomphe dans les rues, d'assez beaux temples consacrés aux idoles, ou des monumens érigés en l'honneur des héros de la nation, et de ceux qui ont rendu quelque service important à l'état et au bien des peuples; enfin quelques edifices publics plus remarquables par leur vaste étendue, que par leur magnificence. Ajoutez à cela quelques places assez grandes, de longues rues, les unes fort larges, et les autres assez étroites, bordées de maisons à rés de chaussée ou d'un seul étage. On y voit des boutiques ornées des porcelaines, de soye et de vernis: devant la porte de chaque boutique est un piédestal sur lequel est posée une planche haute de sept à huit pieds, peinte ou dorée; l'on y voit écrit trois gros caractères, que le marchand a choisi pour l'enseigne de sa boutique et qui la distinguent de toutes les autres: on y lit quelquefois deux ou trois sortes de marchandise qui s'y trouvent, et enfin au bas on voit son nom avec ces mots *Pou-hou*, c'est à dire, il ne vous trompera point. Ce double rang d'espaces de pilastres placés à égale distance, forme un colonnade, dont la perspective est assez agréable. Du Halde, tome i. p. 107.

are usually encompassed by a ditch either dry or full of water. Distributed through the streets and squares, or situated in the vicinity of the principal gates, are round, hexagonal, or octagonal towers of unequal height, triumphal arches, beautiful temples dedicated to idols, and monuments erected in honour of the heroes of the nation, or of those who have rendered important benefits to the state or to the people; and lastly, some public buildings more remarkable for extent than magnificence. The squares are large, the streets long and of variable breadth, some wide, others narrow; the houses have for the most part but a ground floor, and rarely exceed one story. The shops are varnished, and ornamented with silk and porcelain. Before each door is fixed a painted and gilded board seven or eight feet high, supported on a pedestal, and having inscribed on it three large characters chosen by the merchant for the sign of his shop, and distinguishing it from all others. To these are often added a list of the articles to be disposed of, and the name of the seller. Under all, and conspicuous by their size, are the characters *Pou-hou*, 'No cheating here.'**

Such is Du Halde's description of a Chinese city, and the notion it conveys of the distribution of the temples, streets, and shops, will answer for the greater number of cities in the empire. The modifications are not many, and depend on mere localities. Thus, where stone is readily had, the streets are paved much in the manner of European cities; but in Tong-Chow, built on an alluvial soil remarkably free from all stones, the streets are without pavement, and cut into deep ruts. Another peculiarity of certain Chinese cities, is the quantity of land included and cultivated within the walls.

* A writer not very favourable to the Chinese has observed, that unless they were pre-determined to cheat they would not place these characters before their shops. "Il ne reste donc après tout ceci que l'extreme bonne-foi des marchands Chinois, qui sont assurément de grands moralistes; puisqu'ils écrivent à l'entrée de toutes leurs boutiques, *Pou-hou*, c'est-à-dire, 'ici on ne trompe personne.' Ce qu'ils n'auroient point pensé à écrire, s'ils n'avoient été très résolus d'avance de tromper tout le monde." De Pauw sur les Chinois, tom. i. p. 9 et 10.

Common to many, not mentioned in Du Halde, but described by Mr. Barrow, are the screens thrown across the streets from house to house, affording to the passengers shelter from the sun and rain.

In passing through Nan-hiung-foo, we met with many indications of our arrival in a province where we were known as Hung-mous, or Englishmen, a people looked upon as very little removed from barbarism by the Chinese of Canton. Some of the gentlemen, in riding through the city, were saluted by the mob with the appellation of Fan-qui, or foreign devils, and were much pressed by the crowd. It was in vain to attempt to escape them by hard riding, as every part of the street was filled with people, and those who ran behind cheered and kept up with their game. One or two gentlemen could not quietly endure their insults, but turning their horses, charged into the mob. They at once fled in all directions, and although they did not cease their abuse, kept at a more tolerable distance.

The boats in readiness to receive us at this place, with the exception of those for the commissioners, were, in the state in which we found them, too comfortless to be taken possession of. They had no covering but mats, were open from stem to stern, and were so low that it was impossible to move in them but with the body bent at right angles. Their holds, full of water, were only separated from the cabin by an open bamboo railing. I must confess, that being threatened with a return of my illness in consequence of the fatigue of the journey across the mountain, I shuddered at such accommodation, but was saved from its probable consequences by the kindness of Mr. Ellis, who gave me a share of his boat. The other gentlemen with great difficulty, and reiterated representations to the local authorities, obtained partitions to separate them from the boatmen. These trivial embarrassments encountered by travellers as a necessary consequence of the habits of the country, would have been quietly endured; but in China, where we saw the means of better accommodation at hand, where it was withheld from us by the local authorities from their contempt of our national character, such barefaced

neglect of the common offices of hospitality was in the highest degree irritating.

We went on board on the evening of the 21st, intending to sail at an early hour the next morning.

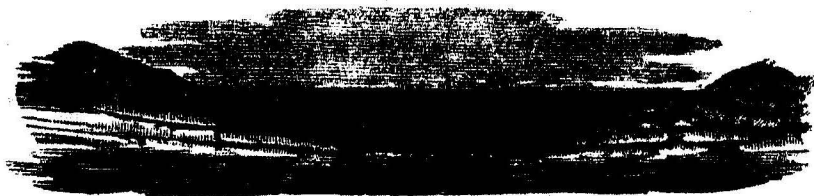
On the morning of the 22d, some time after the Legate had got under weigh, and when the boats of the Embassy were preparing to follow him, it was ascertained that many of them, especially those of the guard and band, had received no provisions. The commissioners becoming acquainted with this circumstance, peremptorily ordered their boatmen to anchor. His Excellency sent word to the necessary authorities that he would not again move till he received information from each boat that it was properly supplied, but would then give the signal for departure. This decision brought the Chinese to a due sense of propriety. They rapidly sent down every thing that was required, but it was two in the afternoon before they had provisioned all the boats. The Ambassador then ordered his boatmen to weigh, and was followed by the whole fleet.

Many of the boatmen on this occasion, opposed in a determined manner the order for halting, by persisting to pole along their boats, but were brought to obedience by a demonstration of personal opposition.

The extreme shallowness of the river prevented our making much progress during the first two days after leaving Nang-hiung-foo; but the forms and structure of the mountains between which we were passing, rendered the voyage very interesting. During the 22d, they were at too great a distance to admit any conjecture respecting their composition during our passage, or of a visit to them during the short continuance of day-light after the anchoring of the boats in the evening.

During our second day's progress, the hills which formed the banks of the river exhibited a breccial formation at their base, covered with beds of ferruginous clay, giving to the soil, through a great extent of country, a remarkable redness. Bricks were making of this, in kilns spread over its surface, which came from the furnace of a bluish color. I have found the same effect to be produced on small

quantities of it, subjected to the heat of a common stove. Towards evening we occasionally passed rocks in an undecomposed state, that exhibited the same colour as the beds of clay. Their strata were sometimes inclined, and had beds of fine gravel interposed between them.



On anchoring in the evening, I examined some rocks similar to those by which we had passed, and found that they changed their red colour beneath the surface, and became of a bluish gray. When disintegrated, they formed the clay soil before mentioned.

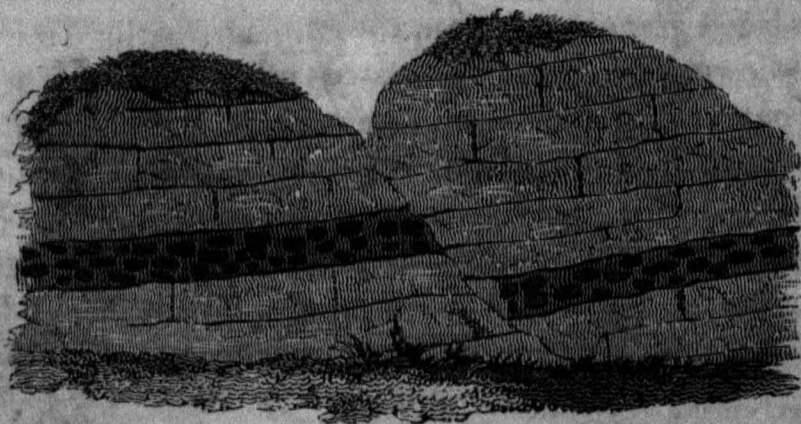
These rocks, which near the surface might be said to be composed of argillaceous sand-stone of a coarse grain, passed lower down into pudding stone, containing rounded fragments of quartz and decomposed crystals of felspar.

On the 24th the country improved in appearance; the rocks which had the day before been uniformly bare, were now clothed with groves of pine. Large rafts of its timber were floating down the stream. In a memorandum attached to a drawing of the *Pinus lanceolata* at the India House, it is stated that the rafts of timber floated down to Canton are formed of this tree. This, I apprehend, is an error. We never found the *Pinus lanceolata* in groves, but scattered amongst the *Pinus Massoniana*; and, as I have before mentioned, generally of a small size. The rafts which we saw both on the northern and southern side of Mei-ling were certainly formed chiefly of the former plant. I use the qualification chiefly, because I am not quite certain that another pine, allied to the *Pinus paludosus*, does not sometimes occur in the groves. The botanic gardener thought so, but did not satisfy me of the fact by any specimens. All the groves I saw in China were of the *Pinus Masso-*

niana, a specimen of which I have recovered through Sir George Staunton, and have examined others in the Herbarium of Sir Joseph Banks, brought over by Lord Macartney from the province of Kiangnan. This tree, it would appear, is one of the most widely diffused plants on the continent of China. We met with it through more than ten degrees of north latitude and six of east longitude.

The rafts are very singular objects in the eyes of a stranger, consisting of an indefinite number of smaller rafts, fastened together and covered with the dwellings of their managers. The smaller rafts are usually ten feet wide, and five above the surface of the water. They are joined together by twisted osiers, and thus extend, as affirmed by Du Halde and other writers, to more than a mile in length, and are numerous in proportion as the timber-merchant is rich, and are so connected that they move as easily as the links of a chain. Four or five men guide them before with poles and oars, and others assist along the sides, at equal distances. They live in wooden houses, and sell their dwellings at the different cities where they sell the timber; but sometimes, it is said, they navigate a hundred leagues in transporting it to Peking.

When the boats anchored in the evening, I again examined the rocks in our neighbourhood, and found them composed of red sandstone of a finer grain than those I have before described. One of them was remarkable for a vein of pudding stone, composed of quartz, pebbles, and the shift which is represented in the sketch.



The next morning I rose early, in the hope of viewing some strange shaped rocks seen at a distance the preceding evening, and was not disappointed. The forms of those which now skirted both banks of the river, partaking largely of the usual grotesque characters of mountain scenery in China, were too numerous to admit any detailed description. Much of the singularity of the scenery, however, was occasioned by very rugged rocks contrasting with others of an uninterrupted surface. Limestone rocks, apparently made up of immense masses heaped confusedly together, were often opposed to others of sandstone, rising with an extensive and even front to a great elevation. Occasionally they formed a channel for the river, so winding and narrow, that they seemed to terminate its course.

Amidst this interesting scenery a marbled rock on the right bank, rising perpendicularly from the surface of the water to the height of two or three hundred feet, particularly arrested my attention. I call it a marbled rock, because its surface was of a fine red colour, covered in places with a stalactitic incrustation of a delicate whiteness. I landed at its foot, and found it resting on a breccia formed of fragments of grey compact limestone, of a calcareous red sandstone, and of rounded fragments of quartz, cemented by a fine grained red and white limestone. Many of the fragments of limestone had the same characters as the rocks in the valley of Mei-ling, and were, perhaps, derived from them. The breccia rose only a few feet above the water. The principal mass of rock resting upon it exhibited no stratification, but appeared to be one entire mass of fine-grained flesh-red granular limestone.

Further down the river we passed other rocks of a breccial character, but having their component parts on so large a scale, that they could be distinguished at a considerable distance. When close to us, many of the fragments appeared to be from forty to sixty feet square, and generally had defined edges and angles: the fragments were of a gray, the connecting medium of a red colour. I have endeavoured to represent their general aspect in the upper

plate of the geological views in China. The surfaces of many of these rocks could not have appeared more bare, even, and perpendicular, had they been formed by the hand of art.

The vegetation on the surface of the hills least decomposed sometimes consisted of a species of *Lycopodium* resembling a tree in miniature. An exaggerated figure is given of this plant in number two hundred and thirty-eight of the botanical drawings in the India House. The head is not so thick as is there represented, but is more umbrella-shaped, and spreading.

A few miles before we reached Chaou-chou-foo the banks of the river became lower, and resumed the red colour arising from disintegrated red sandstone, and were in some places of a blackish hue. This last circumstance arose from a quantity of coal which we here found rising through the surface. Some pits* of coal had been met with by some of the Embassy soon after leaving the Po-yang lake, but I had not been well enough to examine them. However, I received sufficient evidences of coal being abundant in the empire, and of various qualities, in the large supplies of it furnished to our boats, and exposed for sale in different cities that we visited.† The coal which I saw in the province of Pe-tche-lee was a species of graphite; that brought to me from the towns on the Yang-tse-kiang, resembled cannel coal; that observed after passing the Po-yang lake had the characters of kovey coal; that now met with, contained much sulphur.

The last-mentioned coal was used in the manufacture of sulphate of iron, in the neighbourhood of Chaou-chou-foo. The following pro-

* " Foo-hoo-tang appearing an insignificant village, we took a short walk into the country, where we met with some pits of coal that had been sunk like wells; the fragments at the bottom of the hill where they were situated appeared pure slate." — Ellis's Embassy, vol. ii. p. 107.

† " The Missionaries inform us that coal mines are so abundant in every province of China, that there is, perhaps, no country of the world in which they are so common." See Grosier's Account of China, vol. i. p. 402.

cess, in its different stages, was witnessed by several gentlemen of the Embassy. A quantity of hepatic iron pyrites, in very small pieces, mixed with about an equal quantity of the coal in the same state, being formed into a heap, was covered with a coating of lime-plaster. In a short time great action took place in the mass, accompanied by the extrication of much heat and smoke, and was allowed to go on till it spontaneously ceased. The heap was then broken up and put into water, which was afterwards boiled till considerably reduced in quantity, and was then evaporated in shallow vessels. Very pure crystals of sulphate of iron were obtained at the close of the process.

We reached Chaou-chou-foo at four o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th, and anchored on the left of the river: the city is on the right bank, and communicates with the left by a bridge of boats. Here again we were made sensible of our approach to Canton by being prohibited from entering the city. Two or three gentlemen, however, succeeded in reaching it, but found nothing peculiar in the style of its buildings. I also made an attempt, but was less fortunate than my companions. The morning after our arrival, seeing a number of people passing over the bridge, I hoped, by mingling with them, to succeed in crossing the river, but found, on approaching the middle of the bridge, that the central boat had been withdrawn. In the hope that it would be replaced, I sat down on the side of the next, and was soon surrounded by a crowd delayed by the same circumstance, but who were not permitted to pass till they had driven me away by their usual importunate curiosity. I now went to a Canton linguist who attended the Embassy, and requested him to procure me a boat, promising not to enter the city, but to confine my visit to a singularly shaped black rock in its vicinity. After a little hesitation he seemingly assented, and ordered a boat to receive me, but gave the boatmen some directions in Chinese which I did not understand. I soon, however, discovered their import, for when the boatmen had taken me two or three hundred yards up the river, they endeavoured to land me on the same side that I had left. It being in vain to expos-

tulate, I returned to the linguist, not a little incensed at the trick he had played me. He received my complaint very coolly, and frankly replied that it had been necessary to get rid of me, as I gave him "too much a trump," the Canton-English for too much trouble.

At Chaou-chou-foo the uncomfortable matted boats were changed for others which were large, commodious, and handsome. We entered them in high spirits on the morning of the 27th, hoping in a few days to be clear of a people whose character rarely presented itself in any amiable light.

Having passed, during the first day, through a country exhibiting no characters worth noting, the Embassy halted on the morning of the 28th before a temple built in the fissure of a rock, and which is represented, as it appeared when close to us, in the annexed engraving.

With our imaginations warmed by its beautiful and romantic description* by an elegant writer, we were surprised at landing on a

* Those of my readers who have not before read the following description, will thank me for its insertion, although it occupies a long note.

"Before we had proceeded many hundred yards we were attracted to the left by an arm of the river, which, after stretching considerably from the main stream, had bent and elbowed itself into a deep cove or basin, above which enormous masses of rock rose abruptly on every side, agglomerating to a stupendous height, and menacing collision. The included flood was motionless, silent, sullen, black. The ledge where we landed was so narrow, that we could not stand upon it without difficulty; we were hemmed round with danger. The mountains frowned on us from on high; the precipices startled us from beneath. Our own safety seemed even in the jaws of a cavern that yawned in our front. We plunged into it without hesitating, and, for a moment, felt the joys of a sudden escape: but our terrors returned when we surveyed our asylum. We found ourselves at the bottom of a staircase hewn in the rock, long, narrow, steep, and rugged. At a distance a feeble taper glimmered from above, and faintly discovered to us the secrets of the vault. We, however, looked forward to it as our pole star; we scrambled up the steps, and with much trouble and fatigue arrived at the landing-place. Here an ancient bald-headed Bonze issued from his den, and offered himself as our conductor through this subterranean labyrinth. The first place he led us to was the grand hall or refectory of the convent. It is an excavation forming nearly a cube of twenty-five feet, through one face of which is a considerable opening that looks over the water, and is barricaded with a rail. This apartment is well furnished in the taste of the country with tables and chairs highly varnished, and with many gauze and paper lanthorns of various colours, in the middle of

broad platform, a few feet above the water, and at ascending by an easy flight of steps to the first division of the temple; an ample cavern, cold, dark, and dismal. A few grinning bonzes, with bare heads and long cloaks, received us at the entrance, and conducted us through the vault up another flight of steps to the second story. Here we again looked round on the bare rock projecting abruptly into a capacious but gloomy apartment. At an opening in its front

which was suspended a glass lanthorn of prodigious size made in London, the offering of an opulent Chinese bigot at Canton. From hence we mounted by an ascent of many difficult steps to the temple itself, which is directly over the hall, but of much greater extent. Here the god Pusa is displayed in all his glory, a gigantic image with a Saracen face, grinning horribly from a double row of gilded fangs, a crown upon his head, a naked cimetar in one hand, and a firebrand in the other. But how little, alas! is celestial or sublunary fame; I could learn very few particulars of this colossal divinity: even the Bonzes, who live by his worship, scarcely knew any thing of his history. From the attributes he is armed with, I suppose he was some great Tartar prince or commander of antiquity; but if he bore any resemblance to his representative, he must have been a most formidable warrior, and probably not inferior in his day to the king of Prussia or prince Ferdinand in our own. A magnificent altar was dressed out at his feet, with lamps, lanthorns, candles and candlesticks, censers and perfumes, strongly resembling the decorations of a Romish chapel, and on the walls were hung numerous tablets inscribed in large characters, with moral sentences and exhortations to pious alms and religion.

“Opposite to the image is a wide breach in the wall, down from which the perpendicular view requires the firmest nerves and the steadiest head to resist its impression. The convulsed rocks above shooting their tottering shadows into the distant light, the slumbering abyss below, the superstitious gloom brooding upon the whole, all conspired to strike the mind with accumulated horror and the most terrifying images. From the chapel we were led through several long and narrow galleries to the rest of the apartments, which had been all wrought in the rock, by invincible labor and perseverance, into kitchens, cells, cellars, and other recesses of various kinds. The Bonzes having now heard the quality of their visitors, had lighted an additional number of torches and flambeaux, by which we were enabled to see all the interior of the souterrain, and to examine into the nature of its inhabitants, and their manner of living in it. Here we beheld a number of our fellow creatures endowed with faculties like our own, (“some breasts once pregnant with celestial fire”) buried under a mountain, and chained to a rock to be incessantly gnawed by the vultures of superstition and fanaticism. Their condition appeared to us to be the last stage of monastic misery, the lowest degradation of humanity. The aspiring thoughts and elegant desires, the Promethean heat, the nobler energies of the soul, the native dignity of man, all sunk, rotting, or extinguished in a hopeless dungeon of religious insanity. From such scenes the offended eye turns away with pity and disdain, and looks with impatience for a ray of relief from the light of reason and philosophy.” *Journal of an Embassy to China by Lord Macartney, p.574.*

we looked downwards upon the river from the probable height of one hundred feet. Upwards the view was interrupted by overhanging rocks of a stalactical appearance.

This temple, dedicated to Quong-ying, had evidently undergone much alteration since it was visited by Lord Macartney's mission. In vain did we seek for those circumstances of terror and danger so impressively portrayed by his Lordship. The "gigantic image with a Saracen face, grinning horribly from a double row of gilded fangs," had disappeared, and had not been succeeded by any other that struck us either with awe or wonder. We descended, indeed, with those feelings of disappointment which are the general consequence of highly raised expectation. Had we come upon this really interesting temple without warning, had we never read the pages of Lord Macartney, our astonishment and admiration might have equalled his own; but prepared for wonders, painted perhaps, rather in our imagination than in his description, we turned away dissatisfied from a gloomy cave the befitting residence of ignorance and superstition. The vacant countenances of the few monks who inhabited the rock, bespoke no sympathy or participation in the ordinary sufferings or enjoyments of human nature. Arrived at the bottom, I entered with Mr. Hayne, to the left of the temple, a small opening in the rock, apparently leading to its inmost recesses. Having obtained lights we prepared to explore them, but had not proceeded many steps, when certain odours unequivocally revealed their "hidden secrets," and warned us to retreat. A stranger in China rarely experiences a pleasing emotion without its being destroyed by some circumstance offensive to the senses.

The Quong-ying rock is composed of the grayish black transition limestone of Werner, and is remarkable in some parts for its irregular vesicular surface. Some of the hollows were so large that they seemed to have been formed by the falling out of organic remains, but afforded no sufficient evidence of the fact. From the bonzes I procured some specimens of the overhanging rocks resembling stalactites, and found them of the same composition as the rock itself.

It might have been imagined that monks shut out from the

world would be little sensible of the value of money, and still less capable of unfair means of obtaining it. They showed themselves, however, equally prone to impose with any of their countrymen, when they found us inclined to purchase some fragments of rock which decorated a small table or altar placed beneath one of their idols. At first they freely gave us any specimen that we wished to possess, but having received a three shilling piece in return from one of the gentlemen, they no longer made gratuitous offerings, but enhanced the price to each succeeding person that visited the temple.

Having satisfied ourselves with its examination, we again continued on our route through a mountainous country, and halted the next day near a narrow pass formed by rugged rocks projecting from both banks of the river.

The hills in the neighbourhood of our anchorage were composed of grayish yellow argillaceous sandstone of a fine grain, intersected in every direction by veins of quartz. They were more productive in native plants than most that I had before visited, but were entirely uncultivated. The *Myrtus tomentosa* grew to a greater size and in higher beauty than I had elsewhere seen it, and was in great abundance. In scarcely less quantity was the *Smilax China*, famed for its sudorific properties, and a species which I could not distinguish from *Smilax lanceolata*. The gardener brought me a specimen of a *Begonia* resembling *Begonia grandis*, which he had found growing against the exposed surface of a rock to the height of twenty feet. Here also we collected specimens of a *Camellia* growing wild that we had not before met with, but which was probably a variety of the *Camellia oleifera*, yet differed from it in the narrowness of its leaves and smallness of its blossoms. The rocky banks of some small streams were covered with a species of *Marchantia* in full fruit, and one or two species of *Jungermania*. Two *Rhexias* of doubtful species grew in the rocks, and several plants of questionable genera.

Plantations of sugar-cane had been frequent in this part of our route as well as in the southern part of the province of Kiang-si.

The plants were growing to the height of seven or eight feet, and three or four inches in diameter. The mills in which the sugar was expressed appeared to be of a similar construction to one figured by Dr. Buchanan in his work on India.* It consisted of two upright cylinders of wood or stone, worked by buffaloes yoked to a long beam passing from the top of one of the cylinders. It was fed by introducing the cane between the cylinders whilst in action. The juice thus expressed was conducted by a channel into a large reservoir, and was thence transferred into boilers, whence having been sufficiently inspissated, it was conveyed into pail-shaped vessels about three feet deep and two wide, for the purpose of being transported to the refiners or to the market. The sugar thus obtained is very coarse, but undergoes some subsequent process of refinement that we had no opportunity of witnessing. It was sent to our boats of various degrees of purity and colour, but seldom of a very fine quality. A very white powder sugar, much used by Europeans at Canton, is pulverised sugar candy. The manufacture of the last article is said by De Guignes† to be confined in a good measure to Chin-tcheou, the capital of Fokien. A better kind than any made in the country is imported from Cochin-china.

The buffaloes that work the mills live upon the refuse of the sugar cane, and thrive upon it in the same manner as our English dray-horses fatten on the grains of the brewhouse. These animals, like those of Java, betrayed the greatest alarm at our approach.

The sugar cane plantations are irrigated by the mills so well described and accurately figured by the late Sir George Staunton; and are equally remarkable for simplicity, ingenuity, and efficiency. It is impossible to view these machines without giving the Chinese credit for not only using great skill, but much mathematical precision in their

Journey from Madras through Mysore, Canara, and Malabar, by Dr. Buchanan.

† De Guignes, tome iii. p. 261. According to the same author, a picul of common sugar sells for from four to six taels; of China sugar candy, from seven to fifteen taels; and Cochin-china, from eight to fifteen.

construction. They are made entirely of bamboo without any metallic fastenings, and are therefore so light as to turn with the slightest impulse from the stream. When in a state of perfect repair, for the greater number of those which we saw were far otherwise, the hollow bamboos fixed to their circumference and acting as buckets, are set on at so nice an angle, that they deliver the water into the trough with scarcely any loss. The height of these wheels vary with that of the bank over which they raise the water.

The Embassy having been for many weeks passing through a very mountainous country, I had looked with some anxiety for examples of that system of terrace cultivation, for which China has been famed by all its early describers; but saw none that satisfied the expectation which had been raised by the glowing descriptions of various authors. Like one of the missionaries*, I had imagined China to be an immense garden, cultivated with infinite care, and receiving its chief embellishment from mountains cut into terraces productive in all kinds of vegetable food; and, like him, I was disappointed in finding them very frequently barren of the means of subsistence, from the base to the summit. Indeed, I apprehend that no belief can be less founded on fact, than that the Chinese are in the common practice of rendering the surface of mountains naturally sterile, productive by any mode of cultivation. The instances of the terracing of hills which I had an opportunity of observing, lead me to believe that it is in a very great measure confined to their ravines, to their undulations, and to their gentlest declivities; in other words, to those situations where an accumulation of their degraded surface, affords a soil naturally fertile.

That hills formed of alluvial deposit, and having a soil more than a hundred feet in depth, are covered through the medium of terrace

En entrant dans le Kian-si j'appercus à parti de moi, des montagnes arides, et au bas, point ou presque point de terrain à cultiver. Je m'étais figuré qu'elle ressemblait à un vaste jardin cultivé avec beaucoup d'art et de soin." The same author elsewhere states, that in travelling over a portion of China almost equal to France, he saw, "ni bois, ni fontaines, ni jardins, ni arbres fruitiers, ni vignes." Père Burgeois, Mémoires concernant les Chinois, vol. viii. p. 298, &c.

cultivation with a succession of gardens, in some parts of China, as stated by Du Halde, I can believe, because I have found that author generally accurate in his statements of matters of fact; but I equally believe that under the most favourable circumstances, terrace cultivation is not a favourite process with the Chinese, but is only resorted to by them when they cannot obtain the full means of subsistence from the plains. On this subject my experience agrees with that of Mr. Barrow, and with a still later author, M. De Guignes, who accompanied the Dutch embassy. The former has had occasion to observe, that in his whole route, terrace cultivation "occurred on so small a scale as hardly to deserve notice;" and the latter has remarked that, although he certainly saw small fields cultivated on the very tops of some mountains in a certain canton of Kiang-nan, where the mountainous and contracted nature of the country had obliged the inhabitants to do so; yet he had traversed districts filled with mountains, of which no portion was thrown into cultivation. The same author states, that whenever the flat country is sufficient for the nourishment of the inhabitants, the slightest elevations are suffered to remain untilled. I may add on this subject, that we often passed mountains equally capable of cultivation with others that were terraced, but on which we could distinguish no trace of tillage.

Du Halde has given a chapter on the abundance which prevails in China, in which he has assembled in a few pages descriptions of all the various trees and vegetables which supply the wants of its inhabitants, and are scattered through an empire embracing in its range of latitude a temperate and tropical climate. These, displayed in so compressed a view and as illustrative of the general fertility of the empire, have led, I conceive, to very mistaken conclusions respecting the general productiveness of the soil. In some districts, perhaps, in which peculiar causes have operated, as in the neighbourhood of tea countries, for instance, "the whole surface is, with trifling exceptions, dedicated to the production of food for man alone;" but this proposition does not certainly apply to the whole empire.

Of that part of China passed through by the Embassy, I may venture to say that the quantity of land very feebly productive in food for man fully equalled that which afforded it in abundant quantity. In the province of Pe-tchee-lee the banks of the river were often alone cultivated, and even these, when of a sandy nature, were left untilled. In the province of Shan-tung, great part of the land on both sides the canal, especially in its northern part, had "suffered so severely from inundation," that it was impossible "to form a correct opinion of its general appearance."* The quantity of the *Nelumbium* and *Trapa*, however, which continually appeared, renders it highly probable that it is at all times very swampy. The province of Kiang-nan, especially in its northern part, was highly fertile; but towards its southern boundary it became hilly, and more productive in timber than in corn. The province of Kiang-si was mountainous, and although generally affording the oil, tallow, varnish, fir and camphor trees, frequently offered to our view, for several miles, no appearance of vegetable cultivation except in the hollows of the hills, or in the occasional fall of the land towards the river. In the province of Quang-tong, from the time of crossing the Mei-ling mountain till within two days sail of Canton, we met with little else than a succession of sterile mountains, which so much astonished the Père Bourgeois on his first entrance into China.

I have already stated that hills capable of terrace cultivation are often entirely untilled, and I may now make a similar observation, but with greater limitation, respecting the plains. I might here quote the declarations of those authors who assert that whole districts in China are uncultivated and uninhabited, or of those who have with justice pointed out the quantity of land occupied by the burying places of the Chinese; but I shall content myself with observing, that "much land capable of tillage"† is "left neglected," and I mean land capable of that kind of tillage which is understood by the inhabitants.

Ellis's Embassy, p. 264.

† Ibid.

I often noticed portions of land even in the vicinity of cottages and villages, remaining waste for no other conceivable reason than because its culture was unnecessary to the support of the neighbouring inhabitants. These facts, which might be deemed of too little importance for insertion in an account of any other country, are of consequence as they regard China, a country of which it has been asserted that "not an inch of ground is left uncultivated."

With respect to the numerical amount of the population of China, we obtained no new data by which to judge of the relative degrees of probability due to the discordant and irreconcilable accounts of different writers.* The apparent population, however, was not such as those statements had led me to expect. The cities, indeed, were well peopled, and under the circumstances in which we saw them, sometimes over-peopled, but the intermediate land seldom appeared fully stocked with inhabitants. But the multitudes who crowded around us in some of the larger towns and cities were so undoubtedly swelled from sources not contained within themselves, that any calculation which might have been attempted respecting them would have been liable to egregious error. De Guignes asserts that many of the cities which poured forth such astonishing multitudes when visited by Lord Macartney's Embassy, exhibited to the Dutch Mission, in the following year, no evidences of excessive population. The different circumstances attending the two embassies were the probable causes of this contrariety of experience. Lord Macartney's Embassy was, perhaps, the most splendid that had ever appeared in China from a European state: it was from a nation whom the Chinese government especially wished to impress with an exalted notion of

In the year 1743 the population of China, according to the Missionaries, amounted to 150,265,475; in 1761, according to Father Allerstam, to 198,214,552; in 1794, according to the statement given to Lord Macartney, to 330,000,000; in 1817, when Lord Amherst's Embassy was at Canton, the most generally received calculation as applicable to the present state of China, was that of Father Amiot, taken in 1777, which gave the population at 197,000,000. A gentleman highly competent to form an opinion on this subject estimated it much lower.

its resources; and it contained the only foreigners that had ever been seen in many of the provinces which it traversed. The influence of the government, therefore, no less than the curiosity of the people, contributed to depopulate the country in the vicinity of its route, and to concentrate the inhabitants in the cities by which it might pass: Lord Amherst's Embassy was in nearly the same circumstances. The Dutch Embassy, on the contrary, little respected by the government, and following immediately after Lord Macartney's imposing mission, would modify in a much less degree the ordinary appearance of population, and consequently be in circumstances more favourable to a correct estimate of its amount.

I apprehend, however, that any person travelling through a country in a hurried journey, under a suspicious surveillance, must always be unqualified to pronounce on a question that respects a whole nation; and I shall, therefore, make no further remark on this subject, than that the visible population of China did not appear "more than commensurate with the quality of land under actual cultivation."*

In proportion as we approached Canton, the river widened and deepened, and the country opened and became more flat on both sides. Groves of orange trees, of bananas, and of the rose apple, frequently relieved extensive rice fields. The scene had, however, a dreary sameness, which would have been a little irksome to our feelings, had we been further from the termination of our journey; but our near approach to the society of our countrymen, to a re-union with our shipmates, and, above all, to intelligence of our friends in England, gave us prospects too interesting to be relinquished for the soberness of reality.

On the morning of the 1st of January, the trampling and yells of our boatmen getting under weigh at an early hour, which had so often disturbed our rest, and driven us from our beds execrating every thing Chinese, now sounded to us like grateful music, and seemed in unison with the throbblings of elated hope. We arose, and gliding

swiftly down a broad and rapid stream, descried about noon, the British flag flying at some distance, and soon after, a British boat in advance of several others. "Captain Maxwell and the *Alceste's* boats!" was the joyful exclamation through our fleet. Our anticipations were soon verified. Captain Maxwell, accompanied by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe in the Ambassador's barge, preceded the other boats of the *Alceste*, and of all the British ships at that time in the Canton river, containing Captain Hall of the *Lyræ*, and their other respective officers, and many gentlemen of the Canton factory. On this occasion Mr. Wilcocks the American consul, with his usual liberality of character, joined the procession in his own barge, to congratulate His Excellency on his safe arrival at Canton.

The boats having rowed round the different yachts and received His Excellency and the gentlemen of his suite, advanced in two lines till within half a mile of the city of Canton. His Lordship's barge then halted, whilst the other boats went a-head and landed the gentlemen of the factory and of his suite at the entrance to the quarters prepared for the Embassy, at a temple in the village of Honan, on the opposite side of the river to the British factory. They were here joined by the gentlemen of the factory, who had been unable to form part of the procession, and received the Ambassador and the Commissioners on landing.

His Excellency was immediately conducted to a spacious, and, what had been rendered by the exertions of our Canton friends, a splendid and comfortable establishment for the whole Embassy. A temple had been given up for the purpose; and the paraphernalia of idol worship had given place to the commodious furniture of an English house. Leaving what, in our sudden transition from confined boats, seemed little short of a paradise, we passed over the water to partake of a sumptuous entertainment at the British factory; and soon forgot, amidst the hospitality of our countrymen, the inconveniences of our vexatious journey.

CHAPTER VIII.

VARIOUS and deeply interesting were the events which had been experienced by the *Alceste* and *Lyra* during our absence. We had to hear a tale of discoveries accomplished in unknown seas amidst often recurring, and as often conquered difficulties. Much had been expected from the characters of the commanders, but more had been accomplished than either time or opportunity had seemed likely to offer. The gulfs of Pe-tche-lee and Leatong had been surveyed, and communications held with the inhabitants of their shores; part of the southwest coast of Corea had been examined, an enormous geographical error respecting its position rectified, and its archipelago discovered; the Lew-chewan islands had been visited, and their humane and intelligent inhabitants impressed, through the wise conduct of Captain Maxwell, with the highest regard for the English character.

Leaving Lew-chew, the ships made for the coast of China, and arrived off it on the 2d of November, when the *Lyra* was dispatched to Macao and the *Alceste* anchored off the island of Lin-tin. As soon as Captain Maxwell could communicate with any Chinese authorities, he applied to the viceroy for a pass to carry his ship up the Canton river to a secure anchorage, and to a situation where she could undergo some necessary repairs. Evasion after evasion, accompanied by insulting messages, were the only proofs that he obtained of his application having been received. After waiting quietly for some days, he determined, under the pilotage of Mr. Mayne the master of the *Alceste*, to carry his ship to a safe birth up the river; but had scarcely approached the Bocca Tigris, when he received a

peremptory order to drop his anchor, or to proceed on his course at the hazard of being sunk under the batteries at the entrance of the river. He chose the latter alternative, and steered his ship close under the principal fort, followed by a fleet of war junks. Both junks and batteries immediately endeavoured to make good the threat by opening a heavy fire. The return of a single shot silenced the fleet, and when the guns could be brought to bear, one broadside was sufficient for the batteries. After this affair the ship proceeded quietly to her anchorage.

The effect of this decisive conduct was evinced the next day, by the arrival of all kinds of supplies to the *Alceste*, and of a cargo to the General Hewitt Indiaman, before withheld on the plea of her being a tribute ship; and by the publication of an edict, endeavouring to make the action appear to the Chinese as a mere salute. Such is a rapid outline of occurrences which the interesting narratives of Captain Hall and Mr. M'Leod have rendered a more detailed account of unnecessary in this place.

The viceroy having been defeated in his attempts to intimidate or cajole Captain Maxwell, hoped to recover his consequence in the eyes of his countrymen by his treatment of the Ambassador. It was known soon after our arrival at Canton that an imperial edict had been received by the viceroy, giving a fallacious account of the transactions of the Embassy, and directing him to invite the Ambassador to a feast and to point out to him all the advantages that he had lost by refusing to perform the ceremony of the *Ko-tow*. The words of the edict will best explain their own purport. "When the Ambassadors arrive at Canton, you will invite them to dinner in compliance with good manners, and will make the following speech to them: "Your good fortune has been small; you arrived at the gates of the imperial house, and were unable to lift your eyes to the face of heaven (the emperor.) The great emperor reflected that your king sighed after happiness (China), and with sincerity. We therefore accepted some presents, and gifted your king with various precious articles. You must return thanks to the emperor for his benefits, and return with speed to

your kingdom, that your king may feel a respectful gratitude for these acts of kindness. Take care to embark the rest of the presents with safety, that they may not be lost or destroyed."

"After this lecture should the Ambassador supplicate you to receive the remainder of the presents, answer in one word, a decree has passed, we therefore dare not present troublesome petitions, and with decision you will rid yourself of them."

It was also ascertained that the viceroy had in charge a letter from the Emperor to the Prince Regent, in delivering which to the Ambassador, he was expected to follow the instructions of the edict. The letter was delivered to His Excellency on the 7th of January, with much form by the viceroy, but with only a feeble attempt to effect his intention. The ceremony on this occasion was more imposing on the part of the English than of the Chinese, and was chiefly interesting to us, as affording the spectacle of a petty tyrant shrinking under the calm dignity of an English nobleman. It commenced in a small open building that might be called a temple, containing an altar decorated with yellow silk, vessels of incense, and a variety of unintelligible ornaments. Here the Viceroy, Foo-yuen and Hoppoo, received the Emperor's letter, enclosed in a case of bamboo covered with yellow silk, and brought in a sedan carried by thirty-six bearers; and having performed the ceremony of prostration in private, awaited the arrival of the Ambassador. His Excellency in his robes, accompanied by Sir George Staunton and Mr. Ellis, attended by the gentlemen of his suite and of the Factory, by Captain Hall, and several other naval officers, and preceded by the guard and band, left his house about noon for the conference. The guard and band having formed into two lines within a few yards of the temple, the Ambassador advanced between them, somewhat in front of his train, to the steps of the building, and on ascending them was met by the viceroy. A slight salutation having passed, the viceroy took the letter off the altar, and holding it in both hands above his head, gave it to the Ambassador, who received it in the same manner; and with like form transferred it to his private secretary, raised his hat and bowed.

The whole party then adjourned to another decorated building, to continue the conference. Three persons on each side were alone allowed to sit. The Ambassador, Sir George Staunton, and Mr. Ellis, sat opposite to the Viceroy, Foo-yuen, and Hop-poo respectively. The viceroy, by a previous arrangement, had voluntarily ceded the place of honour to the Ambassador, on the left hand side of the apartment.

The Viceroy, whose lowering brow and gloomy visage strongly expressed his character of cunning and his feeling of mortified pride, had endeavoured on first meeting His Excellency, to assume an overbearing port, but he grew pale, and his eye sunk under the stern and steady gaze of the English Ambassador. He in vain endeavoured to regain his self-possession on his way from the temple, by outwalking His Excellency, and thus obtaining the appearance of superior rank in the eyes of the Chinese; and was again disappointed. During the conference he once more attempted to make good his pretensions, by assuming an arrogant tone and insinuating an offensive remark respecting the high privileges enjoyed by the English in China, and their sole dependence on commerce; but this was the expiring struggle of self-importance. The Ambassador having in a decided manner replied that the intercourse between the two countries was equally advantageous to both, he altered his tone, and confined himself to unobjectionable subjects: that he might not recur to others, the Ambassador speedily broke up the conference. On leaving the building in which it had been held, the Viceroy pointed to a large collection of fruit and sweetmeats spread in an opposite tent, as an imperial present to the commissioners. His Excellency requested that the Emperor might be thanked, and returned to his residence.

The contents of the Emperor's letter to the Prince Regent formed a subject of much speculation with the Embassy. There was every reason to expect, judging from the imperial edicts which we had seen in different parts of our route and since our arrival at Canton, that it would give a very false and distorted account of all the transactions of the Embassy. It contained in fact, several unblushing

falsehoods; amongst others, the assertions that Lord Macartney had performed the ceremony of prostration, and that Lord Amherst had promised to do so, but afterwards refused. We felt no regret in learning that with a government so faithless, the delivery of the letter had terminated the Ambassador's official intercourse.

The Embassy employed themselves during the short time they remained at Canton, in visiting its numerous streets and examining the various specimens of ingenuity there displayed in a profusion and excellence no where else to be found in China. A stranger having no other intercourse with the country than through the medium of Canton, would be led to form an inaccurate judgment both of the general ingenuity and luxury of its inhabitants. In looking at the different works in ivory, tortoise-shell, and lacquer, so minutely wrought that great time must have been expended in working them; and seeing them of forms not less calculated for utility than decoration, he might suppose that the interior of Chinese houses would realise the visionary tales of eastern authors. But if he had passed through a considerable portion of the empire, he would conclude, that the accumulation of the beautiful objects that adorn the shops of Canton, must depend upon some cause quite unconnected with the common habits of the people: he would in fact find, on a close inspection, that they are in a large proportion formed on European models. Except in the houses of the Hong merchants, and these formed no wide exception to the rule, we always found Chinese dwellings more remarkable for the simplicity of their interior decoration than any other character.

I have before had occasion to mention that the fans in use amongst the Chinese within our observation, were made of the rudest materials, and I might make the same remark respecting most other articles of Chinese manufacture so much admired in this country. At Kang-cho-foo, a city famed for its lacquered ware, we had hastened into its streets in the hope of purchasing some specimens of its manufacture, but although we found them in considerable abundance, could no where discover any that were worth our notice. The manu-

facture indeed seemed to be confined to utensils of wood, not better varnished than the common tea chests sent to this country.

I have already had occasion to mention the skill of the Chinese in cutting the hardest stones, in describing a vase of exquisite workmanship which I found in a shop at Tien-sing. At Canton I had an opportunity of ascertaining their capability of hollowing them, in a manner quite enigmatical to European workmen. Of these the snuff bottles of rock crystal and of agate were amongst the most puzzling. I have one of each of these now before me, which, through openings in their neck not the fourth of an inch in diameter, have been worked into the perfect hollows of glass smelling bottles.

The Chinese possess a peculiar facility for cutting stone, in the large quantities of adamantine spar or corundum which are found in their shops, and which came, they said, from the neighbourhood of Canton. That they have it near at hand and of easy access, is probable from its profusion, and the low price at which they sell it. For a Spanish dollar I obtained as much as I chose to accept. The only opportunity that I obtained of seeing it used was in the manufacture of lenses made for spectacles, and which are formed from rock crystal, with the assistance of powdered corundum, and a bow with a steel thread. The workman fixes a mass of the crystal, which he has previously worked into a cylindrical form, over a small trough of water firmly before him; and having besmeared the surface of it with the powdered corundum made into a paste with water, cuts it into laminæ by the continued action of the bow, which he assists by adding fresh portions of the corundum paste, and moistening the crystal with water from the trough. The rough segments thus obtained are afterwards ground into lenses of different degrees of convexity, but according to no certain rule.

In the shops of porcelain at Canton, in all respects inferior to those we had seen at Nan-chang-foo, I in vain endeavoured to obtain the materials used in its composition. I had no reason however to suppose that the corundum, as has been suspected, is one of them. Of the other ingredients, the kaolin is well known to be the porcelain

earth of other countries, but the petuntse has not been so well ascertained. The late Sir George Staunton described it as a species of granite, in which quartz seemed to bear the largest proportion. I am rather inclined to think, that pure quartz alone is the petuntse of the Chinese, from having, when off Hong-kong, seen boats laden with quartz evidently taken from veins which abounded in the neighbouring granite rocks.

Although more fortunate in obtaining the minerals said to be employed in colouring the porcelain, I have no other observation to make respecting them, than that their names did not accord with their colours, proving that they undergo some modification before they are applied to the porcelain, or whilst they are exposed to the heat of the furnace. It was not without repeated assurances that I had no intention of establishing a porcelain manufactory in my own country, that I was enabled to procure them from their vender at a considerable price.

Glass shops abound in the streets of Canton, but are chiefly filled with European goods, excepting only those of the mirror makers. All the looking-glasses that we saw in China were remarkable for the extreme thinness of the plate, which was scarcely thicker than common writing paper, but was coated with an amalgam in the manner of our own. According to the Missionaries, the Chinese have for ages possessed the art of glass making; but if this be the fact, it is singular that they should derive no advantage from it; and whilst they set a very high price on all glass articles, make none but from the glass which they obtain from Europeans and re-melt. Till we arrived in the province of Canton, excepting small mirrors and a few baubles, we had met with no glass throughout the empire.

The drug shops in Canton were as numerous as in other cities of China, but did not enable me to obtain much information respecting the pharmacy of the country: they contained an innumerable list of simples, a few gums, and some minerals. Many of the first are sold in small packets; each packet containing a dose or certain

number of doses, enveloped in a wrapper describing the qualities of the medicine and the mode of administering it. Of the gums I could only make out the camphor. This substance, as exposed for sale at Canton, was in very small fragments about the size of a pea, and seemed to have been picked out from the interior of the plant, and no doubt came from Borneo or Sumatra.* It is not †procured from the same plant as the Chinese camphor, and, there is some reason to believe, is of a more volatile nature, and possesses more powerful properties. The Chinese physicians are so persuaded of this, that although the most ordinary kind costs them four hundred taels, or upwards of one hundred and thirty pounds the piccul, they prescribe it in preference to their own, the best of which is exported for twenty-eight taels, or less than ten pounds the piccul.

The Chinese employ camphor largely in a great number of diseases, and to free themselves from vermin, to which I but too well know, from my own experience, that the Chinese are remarkably subject. A very common amusement amongst our boatmen was in searching for them in their clothes, and cracking them between their teeth.

No opium is exposed for sale in the shops, probably because it is a contraband article, but it is used with tobacco in all parts of the empire. The Chinese indeed consider the smoking of opium as one

The plant whence the Borneo or Sumatra camphor is procured has been described and figured in the twelfth volume of the Asiatic Transactions, by Mr. H. T. Colcbroke, under the name of *Dryabalanops Camphora*.

† The mode of procuring the Borneo camphor is thus related by Mr. Marsden. "The tree, when cut down, is divided transversely into several blocks, and these again are split with wedges into small pieces, from the interstices of which the camphor, if any there be, is extracted. That which comes away readily in large flakes, almost transparent, is esteemed the prime sort or head; the smaller clean pieces are considered as belly; and the minute particles, chiefly scraped from the wood and often mixed with it, are called foot, according to the customary terms adopted in the assortment of drugs. The mode of separating it from these and other impurities, is by steeping and washing it in water, and sometimes with the aid of soap." *History of Sumatra*, p. 150.

of the greatest luxuries ; and if they are temperate in drinking, they are often excessive in the use of this drug. They have more than one method of smoking it : sometimes they envelope a piece of the solid gum in tobacco, and smoke it from a pipe with a very small bowl ; and sometimes they steep fine tobacco in a strong solution of it, and use it in the same way. The smokers of opium have a very peculiar, sottish, and sleepy physiognomy, in consequence of the whole visage being turgid with blood. They may acquire this from their mode of inhaling its smoke, of which they seldom take more than three or four whiffs. Having lighted their pipes, they draw into their lungs as large a volume of smoke as possible, and having held their breath for a few seconds, throw it gradually forth through their nose, mouth, and ears, so as strongly to impress these organs of sense. They then fall into a sort of torpor and continue in it for several minutes, and much longer when they can command time for its indulgence.

Tobacco is every where sold, and is considered by the Chinese, next to tea, as the best preservative of health, and is therefore universally used by all ranks : I never saw a Chinese without his pipe. It is used in very different states in different provinces, and has very different degrees of strength, depending in some measure perhaps on the difference of soil and climate where it is cultivated. In the province of Pe-tchee-lee, and probably in all the northern provinces, it is very mild, but in the south it has much more powerful qualities. These different properties may also depend on the various modes of preparing it. In the province of Pe-tchee-lee it is of a pale colour, and undergoes no other preparation than that of drying, and is sold in the whole leaf to the purchaser, who reduces it to a coarse powder, by rubbing it between the hands before using it. After entering the province of Kiang-nan it was always found of a red colour, and cut into exceedingly fine shreds ; but was said to owe its colour to steeping in a solution of opium. We saw the mode of cutting this variety of tobacco in several places. Considerable quantities of its leaves having been acted upon by a powerful

press, and thus formed into a compact mass, are cut by a plane into small shreds.

From the mineral kingdom the Chinese appear to draw some remedies, and especially mercury, which they employ in several forms, and in the diseases for which its specific powers are used in other countries. They employ some of its oxides and its muriate externally in cutaneous diseases; and a very beautiful preparation, consisting of fine flakes, of a pearly white colour, internally in chronic disorders; but fumigate with the sulphuret of mercury when they wish to produce its most powerful effects. To Mr. Pearson's Paper, in the ninth volume of the *Annals of Philosophy*, I may refer my readers for further information on this subject. It is especially curious, as affording illustrations of the complicated and blundering methods by which the Chinese, in their chemical operations, arrive at vague results unaided by the slightest glimmering of science.* Although the Chinese understand the use of mercury they seldom intentionally exhibit it to the extent of producing salivation, and consequently often fail in curing complaints for which they prescribe it. The Hong merchants are so sensible that European practitioners know its qualities much better than their countrymen, that they always place themselves under their care in all cases requiring its use.

The practice of medicine of the Chinese is entirely empirical. Through the kindness of Mr. Manning, who acted as my interpreter, I had an opportunity of conversing with one of the most respectable native practitioners of Canton, and found him entirely destitute of anatomical knowledge. He was aware of the existence of such

* The following is a preparation of mercury peculiar to the Chinese: "On choisit des poulets de six mois, bien forts et bien portans; après les avoir enfermés dans un endroit où ils ne puissent manger que ce qu'on leur donne, on les engraisse pendant un mois, en les nourrissant de bon grain et de sénévé; puis après les avoir fait jeûner un ou deux jours pour les ouïder, on les nourrit avec de la pâte où l'on a broyé du mercure bien purifié, puis on recueille avec soin leurs excréments, qu'on fait sécher, et qu'on donne ensuite d'une manière appropriée à la maladie. Le vif argent ainsi préparé, est admirable pour les maladies de langueur. Du reste, il faut changer les poulets après trois jours." *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, tom. ii. p. 314.

viscera as the heart, lungs, liver, spleen, and kidneys, but had no notion of their real situation, and through some strange perversity placed them all on the wrong side of the body. This man was not, however, ignorant through choice, for he viewed with much eagerness and with an evident anxiety for information, some of the anatomical plates of the Encyclopædia Britannica, which I procured from the library of the Factory; and he with much apparent sincerity told Mr. Manning, that good anatomical plates on a large scale would be the most valuable present that could be conferred on his country. Although ignorant of all rational principles of practice, he had arrived through his own experience, or that of others, at some rules of high utility; making a very clear distinction between those local diseases which can be cured by mere topical applications, and those which can only be acted upon through the medium of the constitution. He had some vague notions of a humoral pathology, which he seemed to have perpetually in his mind whilst answering my different questions; talked of ulcers being outlets to noxious matter; and divided both his diseases and remedies into two classes, the hot and cold. The difficulty of our intercourse, arising from the impossibility of finding adequate terms in the Chinese language for medical phrases, prevented my obtaining much accurate information respecting the details of his practice. The only general fact at which I could arrive respecting it, was, that he depended greatly on purgatives for driving out the "heat of the body," and for producing a favourable change on local disorders.

I endeavoured to obtain some facts from my informer respecting the use of the moxa or actual cautery amongst the Chinese; and found that he considered its application as one of the most effectual remedies for local pain. The moxa is prepared by bruising the stems of a species of *Artemesia* in a mortar, and selecting the finest and most downy fibres. In this state it is applied in small conical masses upon the part affected; the number being proportioned to the extent or severity of the disease. These being set on fire, instantly consume, without, as the physician assured me, producing any severe

pain. From his ignorance of anatomy I could not learn whether the moxa be used amongst the Chinese in any cases of enlarged viscus ; but I have no doubt, from his unqualified statement, " that it is applied in all cases of local pain," that it is resorted to in liver or any other internal diseases, when expressed by external uneasiness. That it is applied in affections of the head I had sufficient evidence, in the number of Chinese whom I saw in different parts of the country, having on their foreheads small round escars, bearing every appearance of having been produced by the action of fire. My informer took great pains to persuade me of the general success of the remedy. To act upon the imagination as well as the body, it is asserted that the part to which the moxa is to be applied is often first pricked with gold pins, and that itinerant practitioners in the north of China, fire it with much ceremony by the assistance of a convex mirror of ice.*

The fibre of the artemesia is also used by the Chinese as tinder, after previously steeping it in a solution of nitre ; and is carried by them in small pouches suspended from their girdles, by the side of their pipes.

The small pox, which for centuries has at different periods made dreadful havock all over the empire, is likely soon to be extirpated by the benign influence of vaccination establishing under the auspices of Mr. Pierson, the principal surgeon of the British factory. The first attempts of that gentleman to introduce it were pertinaciously opposed ; but through his active and persevering humanity, aided by a small publication in the Chinese language by Sir George Staunton and himself, pointing out its peculiar safety, and the security which it gives against the small pox, it has obtained the sanction of the local government of Canton, and the strenuous support of the Hong merchants. Native vaccinators have been appointed and educated under the eye of Mr. Pierson, and are taking from him the labour

* On fait geler de l'eau dans un vase rond et convexe ; la glace présentée au soleil en réunit les rayons et allume l'armoise." Mémoires concernant les Chinois, tom v. p. 517.

of inoculating the lowest class of Chinese. I witnessed their operations, in a temple near the British factory, on some of the children of the hundreds of anxious parents who flocked to procure the preservation of their offspring from the small pox, at that time prevalent at Canton. If the paternal government of China can free itself from national prejudices, it will erect a monument of gratitude to the discovery of Jenner, and the services of Pierson.

In the shops of Canton, and of many cities of China, we saw such large quantities of striated gypsum, as proved its very extensive use. I was neither fortunate enough to obtain any information respecting the places whence it is procured, or the purposes to which it is applied. I am disposed to believe, that after having been deprived of its water of crystallization by heat, and thus reduced to mere plaster of Paris, it is used in the composition of a cement for stopping the leaks of boats. A cement, of a white colour, was exposed for sale in shops, and applied to the leaks of our own boats ; and as it was used under circumstances in which it was necessary at once to keep out the water, it was probably a substance that very speedily hardened.

The gypsum has been supposed to be used as an antidote to the effects of mercury, but as this remedy is very rarely given to the extent of producing salivation, it is not perhaps very likely to be administered with this view.

Our rambles in the streets of Canton were entirely confined to the suburbs ; the city itself being as inaccessible to the curiosity of the Embassy as it is at all times to the members of the British factory. One of the gentlemen not being quite satisfied that it was impossible to enter it, and finding himself one day unexpectedly before its gates, ventured to pass them ; but had not advanced far when he was followed by a Chinese, who ran after him, holding in his hand an areca nut, and urging him to return to his stall to make some purchase ; taking him at the same time so forcibly by the arm, that his obeying him was scarcely voluntary. Having reached the stall, he endeavoured to satisfy the man that he had

no wish to buy any thing, and again left him in the hopes of penetrating into the city. But the Chinese followed him a second time, and seizing his arm still more roughly, led him in a very determined manner, but with an air of mock politeness, to the outside of the gate. It afterwards appeared, that a police officer, in the character of a salesman, had been posted at the gate for the purpose of intercepting any strangers who might attempt to enter the city.

Satisfied with exploring the suburbs of Canton, the Embassy were desirous of turning their steps to the surrounding country ; but this was also prohibited ground, excepting the nursery gardens at Fa-tee, situated on the southern bank of the river about three miles from Canton. The reputed richness of these gardens in rare and beautiful plants raised our expectations, and did not lead entirely to their disappointment. Plants remarkable for their dazzling colours and singular forms were, however, more cultivated than those of great rarity. The *Mou-tan* or peony tree, *Azalias*, *Camellias*, the *Vaccinium formosa*, roses, and a great variety of orange plants in full fruit, were the most general. The mou-tan, also called fa-wang or king of flowers, on account of its beauty, and pe-leang-king or hundred ounces of gold, on account of the enormous price given for it by the curious, was not in flower when I saw it. I could not therefore judge, from my own observation, of the fidelity of those Chinese drawings which represent this plant with yellow flowers, and was unable to meet with any person at Canton who had either seen or believed it to exist. The mou-tan is said never to survive more than three years at Canton or Macao : all the plants of it which I saw were very young.

Of the double flowered *Camellia Japonica**, the varieties were numerous ; but in no respect different to those that are seen in this

I have no doubt that this plant is often confounded with the full flowered *Camellia oleifera*, and that the latter is often sent to this country and cultivated for the former. The *Camellia oleifera* may be distinguished from the *Camellia Japonica* by its more silky calyx, and still more decidedly by its leaves being veinless beneath.

country. They are cultivated in such profusion at Canton, that their petals are sometimes used at feasts to strew upon the table, so as perfectly to cover every part unoccupied by dishes.

The *Azalias* exhibited no striking varieties of colour, being either white or red, of different degrees of intensity; but were certainly the most beautiful plants that I met with in China. A very large specimen which I had on board the *Alceste* bearing blossoms of a light red, was in such profuse flower the day before the wreck, that its leaves were literally hidden.

The *Vaccinium formosa* is a sacred plant; its flowers are gathered at the commencement of the Chinese new year, and placed in all the temples as an acceptable offering to the gods.

The *Lycopodium*, which I had met with on the tops of barren hills in the province of Canton, growing to the height of four or five inches, and which might perhaps be best compared to a fir-tree in miniature, was to my surprise cultivated in pots kept in a tub filled with water; for it had always been found in very arid situations.

Almost all the dwarf plants seen in the gardens were elms, twisted into grotesque shapes. One of the principal methods of checking their growth, and giving them the appearance of age, appeared to consist, in taking up a young plant and putting it into a pot too small to allow the spreading of its roots, thereby depriving it of the means of vigorous growth; and by afterwards wounding the bark in different places, so as to cover it with scars which might seem to be the consequence of decay; and by tying the branches to each other, and giving them all kinds of curves.

Besides the plants already mentioned, I here saw the different varieties of the tea plant, of which it has often been asked me since my return, whether there be more than one species. This question I have not been able satisfactorily to answer, although I had little doubt, when examining the different plants, that there were two species; but I could not at the time define their characters, and have since lost the specimens through which I had expected to

establish them. It may, however, be remarked, that the plants which had been brought from the black and green tea districts, differed in the form, colour, and texture of their leaves; those of the green tea plant being longer, thinner, and of a lighter colour than those of the black, although growing in the same soil: this difference of character I also observed in a large tea plantation near Macao.

I could gain no information in China inducing me to believe that the process there used in manufacturing the leaf differs materially from that employed in Rio Janeiro, and which appears to be nearly the same as that of Japan, described by Kæmfer. From persons perfectly conversant with the Chinese method, I learnt that either of the two plants will afford the black or green tea of the shops; but that the broad thin-leaved plant is preferred for making the green tea. As the colour and quality of the tea does not then depend upon the difference of species, it must arise from some peculiarity in the mode of manufacturing them. Drying the leaves of the green tea in vessels of copper has been supposed, but apparently without foundation, to account for the difference in colour. Without going into the supposition that any thing extraneous or deleterious is used, both difference of colour and quality may perhaps be explained, by considering one of the known circumstances attending its preparation; namely, the due management of the heat used in drying the plant. There can be little doubt, that a leaf dried at a low heat will retain more of its original colour and more of its peculiar qualities than one that has suffered a high temperature. Supposing, therefore, the leaves of the same species or variety of the tea plant to have undergone such different degrees of heat in their preparation, their peculiar properties would be expected to occur of greatest strength in those of the greenest colour; or in those to which both Chinese and Europeans attribute the most powerful properties. I may here add, that by far the strongest tea which I tasted in China, called "Yu-tien," and used on occasions of ceremony, scarcely coloured the water. On examining

it with a view to ascertain the form of the leaves, I found it to consist of the scarcely expanded buds of the plant.

The question whether the tea plant will thrive in any other country than China, has in a great measure been settled by the success of the tea plantations at Rio under very little encouragement. It may be worth, however, considering what are the countries in which it is most likely to succeed, from their relation to its natural places of growth. The green tea district in the province of Keang-nan is embraced between the twenty-ninth and thirty-first degrees of north latitude, and is situated at the north-western base of a ridge of mountains which divides the provinces of Che-keang and Keang-nan. The black tea district, in the province of Fokien, is contained within the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth degrees of north latitude, and is situated on the south eastern declivities of a ridge of mountains dividing the province of Fokien from that of Keang-si. Thus the whole range of the great tea districts of China, from the lowest to the highest degree of latitude, is from twenty-seven to thirty-one. But although these are the two districts from which the tea consumed in Europe is derived, the plant also flourishes in much higher latitudes. According to the Missionaries, it thrives in the more northern provinces of China; and from Kæmfer it would appear, that it is cultivated in Japan as far as forty-five north latitude. All the known habitats of this plant are consequently within the temperate zone. Looking then to the latitudes in which the tea is cultivated with success, and especially to those of the great black and green tea districts, the Cape of Good Hope would seem to be the most eligible geographical situation for its culture; and perhaps would be also found the most favourable with respect to soil.

It appears, from every account given of the tea plant, that it succeeds best on the sides of mountains, where there can be but little accumulation of vegetable mould. Our opportunities of seeing its cultivation were few, but were all in favour of this conclusion. Its plantations were always at some elevation above the plains, in a

kind of gravelly soil formed in some places by disintegrated sandstone, and in others by the debris of primitive rocks. A large and flourishing plantation of all the varieties of the plant brought together by Mr. Ball, the principal tea inspector at Canton, is situated on an island close to Macao in a loose gravelly soil, formed by the disintegration of large-grained granite. Judging from specimens collected in our route through the province of Keang-nan, whence the green tea is procured, its rocks consist chiefly of sandstone, schistus, and granite. As to what may be the exact nature of the rocks of the black tea country in the province of Fokien, I have no precise information. But as the great ridge separating that province from Keang-si is a continuation of the one dividing the latter from Canton, it is perhaps legitimate to conclude, that their constituent rocks are the same; and that the hills and soil on the eastern are the same as we found them on the western side of the ridge, or that they are covered by a soil like that in which the *Camellia* flourishes. If this reasoning be just, the land forming the Cape being composed of the same class of rocks, namely, granite, schistus, and sandstone, and of the same kind of soil that constitute the tea districts of China, would be scarcely less favourable with regard to structure than geographical situation for the culture of the tea plant.

But although the tea plant might for these reasons succeed better at the Cape than in many of our other dependencies, the success of the American plantations proves that it will assuredly flourish on the verge of the tropics. That it will also grow vigorously within them, is sufficiently evinced by the fine plants which thrive in Sir Hudson Lowe's garden at St. Helena. But in both these situations, it seldom experiences a very high temperature. In Rio Janeiro the botanic garden is situated near the sea-shore, and receives the full influence of the land and sea breezes which blow during the greater part of the twenty-four hours. On the hills of St. Helena, freshened by the trade winds, the thermometer ranges from sixty-four to seventy-six degrees. The principal circumstances therefore to be kept in view in cultivating the tea plant are to obtain for it

meagre soil and a moderate temperature; and these may always be found on the mountains of tropical islands, and on the inland hills of temperate continents.

With respect to the management of the plant whilst growing, and the gathering of its leaves, there is not, I apprehend, much that is necessary to be learnt. From the general statement of authors it appears, that after the seed is once committed to a favourable soil, little subsequent attention is required. A few plantations of green tea, seen by the Embassy in Keang-nan, consisted of very low plants, perhaps kept down by pruning; as the Missionaries tell us that the plant of the green tea districts is never allowed to grow to a large size; but that in the black tea country it is suffered to attain its full height, which sometimes reaches to ten or twelve feet. In collecting the leaves the principal circumstances that seem necessary to be attended to are, to gather them at the proper seasons, to select the young leaves for the superior kind of tea, and the older leaves for that of inferior quality. The many varieties of tea seen in this country are doubtless the produce of the mixture of teas of different qualities, after their arrival in England.

But granting that the preparation of tea is more complicated than there is reason to suppose, it might doubtless be obtained from the proprietors of tea plantations who frequent Canton during the tea sales; and is perhaps even now in the possession of many Europeans. If ever it shall suit the policy of this country to derive the tea from any of our own dependencies, there can be no doubt that we shall cease to be indebted to China for an article that enters so essentially into the comforts of all classes of my countrymen. I have heard much of the difficulty of transporting plants from China, in sufficient numbers, and in such health as to give a fair chance to any experiment for their cultivation; but cannot imagine where that difficulty lies. A great number of plants which were on board the *Alceste* for the purpose of being left at the Cape and at St. Helena, were in the most vigorous state the day previous to the wreck, and

there can be no doubt would have arrived thus at their places of destination.

Whether the leaves of many other plants would not attain the same quality as the tea, if submitted to the same process, is at least doubtful. Du Halde has remarked, that all the plants called Cha, or Tea by the Chinese, are not to be considered as the tea plant; and states, that a vegetable preparation sold in Shan-tung as very superior tea, is only a species of moss common to the mountains of that province. That the Chinese drink an infusion of ferns as tea is certain, as these plants were sold for the express purpose at Nan-chang-foo on the Po-yang lake. I cannot help suspecting that they employ the leaves of the *Camellia* in the same way. This plant bears the same name as the tea with the Chinese, and resembles it in most of its botanical characters, grows with it in the same district, and is I suspect cultivated in the same manner: the seeds of both produce oil. Kæmfer informs us, that a species of *Camellia* is used in Japan to give a high flavour to tea.

Whatever observations I have made relative to the probability of the successful cultivation of the tea plant, equally applies to the *Camellia oleifera*, or oil plant. I cannot but believe, from what I have observed of the soil and climate of St. Helena, that many of its present barren hills might be covered with this elegant and valuable shrub.

The time unoccupied by the Embassy in visiting the streets of Canton and the neighbouring gardens, was in some measure spent in exploring the intricacies of the temple in which they resided, and in witnessing the religious rites of the bonzes. It was only during our residence at Canton that we had any opportunity of seeing these on a great scale.

The large religious establishment, of which we inhabited a part, to the exclusion of numberless deities, almost equalled a town in extent. Temples with dormitories annexed and other buildings for the accommodation of bonzes, and ornamented exteriorly with all the

tawdriness that perverted taste could suggest, and containing a host of gilded idols, were distributed over an extensive piece of ground. The different apartments occupied by the Embassy, had been the temples of minor deities and the dwellings of their priests; and communicated with each other by long and narrow passages. These were intricate and mysterious, and often terminated in small enclosed yards, intended for no purpose that courted the face of day; or suddenly opened into squares decorated with a profusion of gay and fragrant flowers. The imagination suggested that fear and pleasure were equally used by the ministers of superstition to operate on the minds of its deluded votaries. On leaving this labyrinth we passed a number of edifices, some open in front, others closed, and all containing idols of various degrees of dignity and influence. To describe their different forms, or to give their several appellations, would not only exceed the limits and objects of this work, but be a waste of time and labour, of which the Missionaries seem to have been little sensible in their elaborate accounts of the minute subdivisions of the religion of Fo. I may leave my readers to imagine the endless sects that must have divided a religion, of which the founder took the following doctrine as its basis: "There is no other principle of all things but a vacuum and nothing; from nothing have all things sprung, to nothing they must again return, and there all our hopes end."*

Four hideous monsters "in form and gesture proudly eminent," occupied, two on the right hand and two on the left, the entrance to an avenue leading from the precincts of the principal temple. Colossal height and proportions, corpulency, the Chinese physiognomy caricatured, profuse gilding, green and red paint, were their leading characters. Incense was burning at all hours of the day on an altar before them. A miserable devotee, generally a female, was often seen deprecating their wrath or soliciting their favour.

On these occasions a taper was lighted at the foot of the idol, and a priest attended to direct the ceremony. Rice for consecration, and a painting of some image on paper as an offering, seemed to be necessary to its due performance. The bonze having received these, and placed the rice on the altar, lighted the painting by the taper, and put it in an earthen vessel standing on the ground, to consume: this vessel was the common receptacle for the ashes of all such offerings. The suppliant now received from him two pieces of wood in shape like a kidney, which she suffered to fall repeatedly from her hand, ejaculating at the same time with much fervour, and lifting up her eyes to the idol. When she had finished the bonze took some ashes from the incense vessel, and having mixed them with the rice, gave her the consecrated mass, and thus finished the ceremony.

In the principal building of the establishment, we had an opportunity of witnessing those rites which, from their general resemblance to the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic church, gave so much offence to the early missionaries. They fully justified the exclamation of Father Premare, that "in no other part of the world has the prince of darkness so well counterfeited the holy manners of the true church." The temple was large, of an oblong square in form, and contained upwards of a hundred idols reputed of various degrees and kinds of influence. In the centre of its area were a group of superior deities exalted on a platform some feet from the ground, leaving on all sides a wide aisle between it and the walls of the building. Along these were arranged the minor deities, or more properly speaking deified men. Vessels of incense stood on altars before all the principal idols. In their vicinity were gongs, drums, a hollow instrument of wood, in form resembling a human skull, and many other musical instruments. Mats were strewn around for the convenience of the worshippers.

Summoned at different hours of the day and night by the tolling of a bell, the bonzes repaired to this temple to perform their devotions. One of the chief ceremonies commenced about four o'clock in the

afternoon. At this hour bare-headed bonzes, clothed in long cloaks descending to their ankles, some of a yellow, and others of a dark brown colour, were seen issuing from all the surrounding buildings. Over these they wore a kind of scarf that crossed their left shoulders, and was fastened by an ivory ring under the right arm; and some of them had on their left breasts pieces of white copper which might have been taken for orders of knighthood. Having entered the temple, they all, excepting one of the principal priests, knelt around the idols. He began the ceremony by lighting a sandal-wood match at a taper that was burning on the altar; and having prayed with it in his hand for a few seconds, carried it to the door of the temple, and fixed it in a small post that stood without. Returning to the altar, he took up a small vessel containing rice, and having also prayed over it, carried it to the door, and placed it before the burning match. He then consecrated a cup of sam-tchoo in the same manner, and placed it by the side of the rice; again knelt before them, and having prayed for some minutes, emptied both cups upon the altar, and rejoined his brethren. During the consecration, the whole company of bonzes chaunted in measured time, and appeared to be regulated in their pauses by a man who every now and then struck the wooden head occasioning a ringing sound. Having continued on their knees for some time, they suddenly arose, and forming into two lines marched chaunting several times round the temple, and then dispersed.

Near the temple was a library of religious books, containing the doctrines of Fo, descriptions of local ceremonial observances, and figures of the idols in very correct outline; and attached to the library was an office in which they were printed. Nothing could be more simple than the method of printing which I saw practised. On a piece of wood about two feet square, carved into the necessary characters, and covered with ink, a thin paper was laid, which having been pressed down by the hand, received the desired impression. The use of moveable types in wood is confined to the printing of the *Pekin Gazette* and a few other periodical works. All others are

printed in stereotype. The use of moveable metallic types may perhaps, at no distant period, become general in the empire, as a manufactory of them in block tin is already established at Macao for the use of the British factory. The casters and cutters are Chinese, who execute their work with great precision and despatch.

About ten o'clock on the morning of the twentieth of January, His Excellency, accompanied by his suite, embarked in his barge; and, attended by the boats of the *Alceste* and *Lyra* and of the other British ships then lying at Whampoa, took leave of the city of Canton.

The Viceroy's curiosity induced him to station himself in his yacht near the spot where he expected they would pass, for the sake of witnessing the procession; but finding the boats taking a direction not likely to give him an opportunity of effecting his purpose, sent his card to the Ambassador requesting him to steer nearer to his yacht. His Lordship returned the card and directed Captain Maxwell to continue his course.

About four o'clock the Embassy reached the *Alceste*, and early the following morning got under weigh, and passing the batteries at the mouth of the river received their successive salutes.

As we passed down the river, a large number of pigs, which formed part of some imperial supplies to the ships, died and were thrown overboard, proving rich prizes to many Chinese, who in small boats attended the ship to pick up any animal or vegetable matter that might be ejected from them. On obtaining a carcase they immediately cut it up, washed and salted it, and no doubt sold it to other European ships as prime meat; not because they disliked such food, for no disease disqualifies the carcase of an animal for the butchers' shambles in China, but because they considered the entrails delicious fare.

The Chinese are less fastidious than perhaps any other people in the choice of their food, feeding on those animals which amongst other nations are considered unclean, and upon the parts of animals which are usually rejected with disgust. They prove indeed that the

means of human sustenance are much more numerous and widely diffused than is commonly supposed. The wealthy, indeed, live upon food which all over the world would be considered wholesome and luxurious; and of the kinds of meat consumed by other nations, like beef the least and pork the most; to these they add venison, sharks' fins, *bêche de mer*, and birds' nests bought at enormous prices. The middling classes live chiefly upon rice and on pork, which we found the best meat in China: horse flesh is eaten by the Tartars, and is sold in the markets at a higher price than beef. It has been justly remarked by some writer, that it would be much more difficult to say what the lower class of Chinese do not, than what they do eat. Dogs, cats, and rats, are exposed for sale in the markets, and eaten by those who can afford to purchase other food. In a shop at Ta-tung the same price, about eighteen-pence, was asked of one of the Embassy for a pheasant and a cat. In a country where a dreadful destruction of vegetable food is sometimes produced by the ravages of locusts, it is fortunate if the inhabitants can find nourishment in the bodies of their plunderers; and that such is the case in China, where, according to the statement of various writers, swarms of locusts in some provinces often eat up every "green thing," is not improbable, as our boatmen considered grasshoppers roasted alive a very delicate repast.* The ordinary nutriment of these people, like that of all the lowest class of Chinese, was what Adam Smith has fitly called the "nastiest garbage." They fattened on the blood and entrails of the fowls killed in our boats, and eagerly seized the vilest offals that could be rejected from a slaughter-house; and when these could not be obtained, ate rice or millet, seasoned with a preparation of putrid fish that sent forth a stench quite

*The species which they were seen most generally to eat was the *Gryllus nasutus*.

intolerable to European organs. The Chinese, as De Guignes has remarked, are utterly insensible to bad smells.

Before I take leave of China, I should be glad to state what is the impression on my mind with regard to the natural character of its people, but find it very difficult to form any conclusion respecting it, even to my own satisfaction. Persons travelling in a country in which they are looked upon by the government as objects of jealousy, and by the people as beings in all respects inferior to themselves, must have continually to contend with prejudices likely to defeat their attempts at forming a correct estimate of the inhabitants. With the higher or better informed classes of society, for they are essentially the same in China, we had very little intercourse that was not purely official or ceremonious; and on all these occasions found them so cased in the armour of form that it was impossible to reach their natural character, or to depend on their information as the simple statement of matters of fact. My own opportunity of conversing with a man of rank, I have already had occasion to mention in the course of this work, and at the same time to point out his proneness to falsify. He seemed only anxious to please the person he was conversing with at the time, with very little regard to veracity. Our most extensive intercourse was with the trading part of the community, of whom I have little to add to what I have before stated, namely, that in their dealings with the Embassy they generally proved themselves cheats when their interest did not compel them to be honest. It is but fair, however, to remark that the principle of cheating is so legitimated amongst them by the general practice and toleration of their countrymen, as to be considered rather as a necessary qualification to the successful practice of their calling, than as an immoral quality. In some instances, I found the love of gain curiously contrasted with a ready disposition to give. Those who had exacted from me with the greatest pertinacity all they could obtain whilst bargaining with me in their shops, would

freely give me their much valued plants that decorated their court yards. On the banks of the Pei-ho, after purchasing of an itinerant salesman, under the usual circumstances, some trifling article, I stopped to examine a well wrought chain apparently of silver, from which his little apparatus was suspended: he immediately unfastened, and begged me to accept, and was evidently much mortified at my refusing it.

Of the middling class of people, if such there were distinct from that of the mercantile, we had no opportunity of judging, excepting as they might form a part of the crowds which surrounded us in the neighbourhood of towns and cities. In these assemblages, an eager curiosity assimilated the characters of the whole mass.

Amongst the lowest orders of Chinese abject penury appeared to have extinguished most of the qualities which distinguish man from inferior animals, save that of national importance, for even these people prided themselves on being members of the "celestial empire."

In the peasantry alone, were we likely to find any approach to what might be called the radical character of the people; and as far as my experience has gone respecting it, it is all in favour of its simplicity and amiableness. Before my unlucky illness, I was often enabled to get amongst them apart from my friends and usual attendant soldiers, and always found them mild, forbearing, and humane.

Respecting the validity of those general charges of inhumanity brought against the whole Chinese people, and founded on their reputed practice of infanticide, and their apathy in withholding assistance to their countrymen when in danger, my information is chiefly of a negative kind. It will readily be supposed, that in our almost linear progress through the empire, we were not in the way of obtaining a sufficient number of facts for estimating the different degrees of credibility attached to the statements*, according as little

*The late Sir George Staunton estimated the yearly amount of infantile exposures in the city of Peking alone at 2000, Mr. Barrow at 3000, and many of the Missionaries still higher.

on the subject of infanticide as on that of population, respecting the causes and extent of the exposure of children in China. But granting that any of these statements are, well founded, it will scarcely be believed, that, in passing over its populous rivers through upwards of sixteen hundred miles of country, we should meet with no proofs of its mere existence; yet such has been the fact, for not even that very equivocal and variously explained circumstance of infants supported above water by gourds fastened to their necks*, fell under our notice, nor indeed any other that could lead to a belief of its practice. The experience of De Guignes, whom I have so often quoted, and of whose accuracy we all had frequent proofs, was of a similar nature. He has had occasion to declare that in his route through the whole extent of China, in travelling by water he never saw an infant drowned; and in travelling by land, although he had been early in the morning in cities and villages, and at all hours on the highways, he never saw an infant exposed or dead.

* As the different modes of accounting for the fact that children are sometimes found in China floating in the water, with gourds round their necks to prevent their sinking, afford an illustration of the difficulty of arriving at precise information respecting infanticide in China, I subjoin the following quotations: "Il faut pourtant que nous disions un mot de ces enfans qu'on jette dans la rivière après leur avoir lié au dos un courge ouïde, de sorte qu'ils flottent long temps avant d'expirer. . . . Ces infortunés enfans sont des victimes offertes à l'esprit de la rivière, d'après des oracles, en vertu d'un sort, ou en exécution d'un dévouement." *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, tom. ii. p. 400.

"Those whose constant residence is upon the water, and whose poverty, or superstition, or total want of sensibility, or whatever the cause may be, that leads them to the perpetration of an act against which nature revolts, sometimes, it is said, expose their infants by throwing them into the canal or river, with a gourd tied round their necks, to keep the head above water, and preserve them alive until some humane person may be induced to pull them up." *Travels in China*, by John Barrow, p. 170.

"Quant à ce que l'on dit qu'elles attachent une calabasse sur le dos des enfans pour les faire flotter plus long-tems, afin de donner le tems à quelque personne charitable de leur sauver la vie, elles ne le font que pour avoir elles-mêmes le moyen de les secourir dans le cas on les tomberoît à la rivière. J'ai été témoin d'un pareil accident; la mère loin d'abandonner son fils à son malheureux sort, ne fut tranquille que lorsque elle le revit dans ses bras." *Voyage à Peking*, tom. ii. p. 289.

The tales of Chinese infanticide had made me very watchful for every circumstance that could illustrate the ordinary state of those feelings that must be violated in its commission; and had certainly led me to look for a lower degree of parental affection in China than in other countries. Under this impression I recorded in my journal many examples of parental tenderness, which now appear almost too trivial to mention. I may be permitted, however, to state, that in the multitudes who often assembled about us, I have repeatedly seen parents in the lowest rank of life expose themselves to the lashes and insults of the soldiers in defending their children from the pressure of the crowd; and that whilst I often witnessed all the acknowledged proofs of the existence of this principle in its perfection, I on no occasion observed an instance of its defectiveness.

That infanticide is practised in China, especially in times of dreadful scarcity, to which, from the nature of the government, and the corruption of local officers, that country is peculiarly subject, the concurring testimony of many authors scarcely admits of a doubt; but that it ever materially affects the amount of population, and still less that it ever depends on any general want of that divine and uncontrollable principle which guards the safety of offspring, the entire absence of all evidence, within our experience, even of its mere existence, does not allow me to believe. From all that I was capable of observing, and from all that I was enabled to learn, I am quite of the opinion expressed by an eloquent writer, "That when the parent has any possible means of supporting his offspring, there is no country where maternal affection is stronger than in China."*

Regarding the alleged indifference of the Chinese to the fate of a fellow-creature struggling for life, of which Mr. M-Leod has had occasion to record a frightful instance in his voyage to Lew-chew, but