
SKETCHES
OF
CHINA

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WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS.

BY W. W. WOOD.

PHILADELPHIA:
CAREY & LEA.

1830.

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PREFACE.

SOME reasonable excuse will in all probability be expected for the perpetration of a work on China, when we have already the ponderous volumes of Du Halde, De Guignes, Grosier, Staunton, Barrow, and several minor works by other authors. In extenuation, it may be said that in the possession of these works we doubtless have all the leading features of the country and its inhabitants faithfully and impartially given, but in order to attain this information, it is unfortunately necessary to wade through such a mass of comparatively uninteresting matter, and tediousness of detail, that few choose to purchase their knowledge of China at the price of so much patient research. To the historian or the antiquary, these folios of Jesuitical labours are invaluable, but to one who is anxious to be made acquainted with the prominent traits of Chinese manners and customs, they are by no means calculated to afford a speedy gratification. The sketches which are contained in the present

volume are simply notes taken on the spot, and illustrative of the ordinary scenes which are presented to the stranger at Canton, and in its environs. No pretensions to elegance of style or composition are made. The object is simply to present, in a moderate compass, the result of a careful observation of this extraordinary people, and to place within reach of every one a work which may convey correct, and I hope unprejudiced ideas of China and its inhabitants.

Few return from a visit to the "Celestial Empire" without evincing considerable annoyance at the multitude of questions, (many of them inconceivably absurd,) with which they are afflicted by their acquaintances. Such persons will doubtless feel grateful to a brother traveller who endeavours, imperfectly it is true, to relieve them from the distressing inquiries of these curious catechists, which they may in a measure avoid by referring them to the "Sketches."

It must be remembered in perusing the works of the Jesuit missionaries, that few of the notices which they have given us relate to the southern provinces of the empire, and consequently the traveller must not be astonished at finding a difference or modification at Canton of the details which re-

late to Nanking or Peking. The general customs of the Chinese are the same in every department of the country, but in minor particulars the inhabitants of the provinces differ considerably from each other. All this must be remembered in reading works relative to China, and no author accused of carelessness or inaccuracy whose accounts of Canton do not correspond with those relating to other, and distant portions of the country.

In the composition of the following pages, my endeavour has been to explain and describe, as clearly as possible, the peculiar habits and manners of the Chinese of *Kwang-tung*, (Canton,) avoiding to repeat the hearsay particulars relative to the neighbouring provinces, none of which I visited. If therefore I have not succeeded in making these matters as intelligible as might be wished, the fault must be attributed rather to an inexperienced pen, than to a premeditated intention of mystifying my readers. A residence of more than common leisure in China, enabled me to devote much time to the collection of notes and memoranda, which I now present to the curious nearly in their original form, written at the moment of the occurrences which they describe. By arranging them as detached notes, instead of a continuous narra-

tive, the work may be read in the most desultory manner, and closed at the termination of an article without affecting the thread of the recital. The only arrangement which has been made, is in placing the notes as nearly as possible in the same order as that in which the objects are presented to the notice of the traveller in the progress of his researches.

The sphere of observation to which foreigners are restricted, is, comparatively speaking, very limited, yet even within the range which is presented to us, the most curious and remarkable customs may be noticed.

Prejudiced originally in favour of the Chinese, and very much influenced by the missionary travels, I was, as may be imagined, infinitely mortified to find on my arrival, that instead of exceeding the expectations which I had indulged, they fell considerably below the standard which I had formed of their moral and physical character. Although obliged to abandon my very favourable ideas of this people, and to reduce my estimation of their worth to a very low grade, yet I can by no means agree with those who deny them the possession of any good quality and declare them gifted with such dispositions, and vicious propen-

sities, as to degrade them below the ordinary degrees of evil intention which characterize the most uncivilized nations.* I have endeavoured to be impartial, how I have succeeded, my readers must determine. Much of the romantic illusion with regard to China is now dispelled; the accounts of the early missionaries and travellers are found on investigation to have been enormously exaggerated. The Chinese, though an extraordinary people, do not merit the extravagant praises which their laws, morals, and general talent, have elicited. Those who have derived their sole information on this subject from the travels of the Jesuits, will regret to have their good opinions destroyed by my relations; but in the present day, truth on all subjects is eagerly pursued, and in relation to so important a portion of the globe as China, will no doubt be the more acceptable from the mystery which has so long obscured it.

Of the trade I have given a slight sketch, not intending to offer a guide to Chinese commerce, but simply to explain in general terms the peculiar customs which regulate mercantile transactions at

* Vide "Character of the Chinese," and consult "Morrison's View of China."

Canton. The descriptions are, I think, in every instance the fruit of my own immediate observation, and therefore I am able to vouch for their correctness. The illustrations are from original sketches from my own pencil, and have nothing but their fidelity to recommend them.

The limits which I have prescribed to the work, compel me to give a selection only from my note-books, and I am reluctantly obliged to omit many very interesting circumstances.

SKETCHES OF CHINA.

THE ISLANDS.

The mouth of the *Ty-ho* or Canton river, constitutes a bay of considerable size, thickly studded with rugged and barren islands. Owing to their abruptness, the channels between them are very deep, and the passages, generally speaking, free from obstruction. At the time the river was infested with pirates, the island called by the natives *Ty-man-shan*, and the adjoining smaller one, were the rendezvous of these freebooters, and from thence acquired the title of *Ladrones*, which name is still given them; the larger island being laid down in the charts as the *Great Ladrone*, and the smaller as the *Little Ladrone*. Beside these, are many others varying in size, as *Poo-toy*, *I-chow*, *Sam-chow*, the *Lem-mas*, *Lan-tao*, &c. all well known and accurately surveyed by Lieutenant Ross of the Bombay Marine.

In a geological point of view these islands present few features of interest. The formation is granite, much decomposed on the surface, and intersected by deep veins of quartz, affording some

pretty crystals. None of the islands are formed by accumulations of sand, earth, and vegetable matter, as is frequently the case in the channels of rivers flowing with great rapidity.

Lan-tao and *Hong-kong* exhibit the highest land, the summit of which in dull weather is always shrouded in clouds. The vegetation consists of grass and shrubs, growing upon a barren soil; but in the valleys, the industry of the husbandman has overcome the difficulties presented by nature, and patches of highly cultivated land frequently occur. Such green and smiling spots afford an agreeable and striking contrast to the arid and desolate appearance of the hills. Wild animals are scarce, and of small species, although upon some of the large islands, *Lan-tao*, for instance, tiger cats are occasionally seen. The monkeys are very shy, and difficult to approach, and, even when the sportsman has succeeded in wounding one of them, he is seldom fortunate enough to overtake it before it has concealed itself in the almost impenetrable underwood; where pursuit is both difficult and dangerous, from the nature of the ground, and the numerous large snakes which inhabit it.

The natives are in most cases more civil and obliging than their brethren up the river, and little difficulty or risk is incurred in landing on the islands, except from crews of the native man-of-war boats; which are heartily detested by the people for their cruelty and merciless extortions.

A ship approaching the islands is usually board-

ed at some distance from the land by a *comprador's boat.** These people cruize outside constantly, for the purpose of engaging themselves as pilots to the anchorage at Lin-tin, (from whence a boat is despatched to Macao for the river pilot,) and securing to their employers the office of comprador or purveyor to the ship while lying at Whampoa. They are regularly licensed, and to them solely belongs the right of supplying the ship's provisions while in harbour, and her stores for the voyage when preparing to depart. The boats employed in this business are long, narrow, and very fast, usually two-masted, with large mat sails, and manned with from ten to twenty men. As a defence against the ladrones or pirates, which sometimes lurk among the numerous small islands at the river's mouth, they are provided with pikes, spears, and large stones, in the use of which they are very skilful, throwing with great accuracy. A man from one of these boats is usually engaged to pilot the ship up to *Lin-tin*, where it is customary to anchor, and send an officer to Macao, to make application for a pilot, which he is usually able to return with in twenty-four hours, and frequently in a shorter time. The Chinese pilots are vulgar and illiterate men, who, from traversing the river in every direction for many years, in the capacity of fishermen, are eventually enabled by their earnings

* The Portuguese word, which signifies a *purveyor of food.* It is used for the purveyor, or steward, of a house or ship.

to purchase a commission for foreign ships entering the river. The regular pilot is accompanied by one or two fishermen, whose small boats are anchored on the bars, to point out the proper passage for the ship. The fee to the outside pilot is about ten dollars, but they frequently take advantage of the circumstances of danger in which a ship may be placed, to extort a much larger sum for their services. The distance from the outside islands where they are taken on board varies from twenty-five to forty miles. The fees to the government pilots are established by law, at sixty dollars, two-thirds of which becomes the prey of various mandarins at *Macao*, *Chuen-pee*, the *Bocca Tigris*, and *Whampoa*. In addition to this they depend on the captain for a douceur of salt beef, biscuit, and whiskey, which is great or small in proportion to their skill and good conduct.

The anxiety manifested by the outside pilot boats to board a vessel coming in, has frequently been an unfounded cause of alarm to commanders who arrive in China for the first time, while, on the other hand, a want of proper caution in permitting boats to approach, has betrayed vessels into the hands of pirates, as in the unfortunate case of the ship *Wabash*, and several others, at various periods, when the ladrones infested the neighbourhood of Macao. The comprador boats cruizing in company, the men exert every nerve to outstrip each other when a sail is discovered, and many ridiculous scenes have taken place from their haste and anxiety to be

the first on board. An incident occurred in one of the Company's ships which is very illustrative. Two boats much swifter than the rest were coming up rapidly to the ship then standing in under easy sail; the headmost boat dropped the other sufficiently to run alongside before her, and the captain rushed up the side confident of success, when to his confusion and dismay he saw his adversary just making his bow on the quarter-deck, he having run under the stern and thrown himself into one of the ports, ran up the hatch, while the other came in at the gangway, and thus obtained the preference, which is given to the first who gets on board.

The many small bays and coves among the islands give shelter to these boats in stormy weather, where they remain perfectly secure, except in the dangerous hurricanes which sometimes occur. The approach of these gales is preceded by changes in the atmosphere, &c. with which the sailors are conversant, and on observing them they usually run for Macao.

Kow-Chow, or Nine Islands,

A group of small, barren, rocky islets, lying on the west shore, a few miles above Macao. They are the retreat of fishing boats, which find abundant occupation in their vicinity. The geological features are similar to those of the other islands in the neighbourhood.

MACAO.

THE approach to Macao from the sea is very beautiful. The town is situated on a peninsula running about N. by W. and S. by E. and the front of the town, which is built on the shore of the outer harbour, looks out east towards the islands and the China Sea. The walk, or esplanade, is called by the Portuguese the *Praya Grande*. The town extends across the peninsula, and the back or western side runs along the shore of a branch of the river which forms what is called the inner harbour, where the Portuguese and other ships trading to Macao are moored. The shallowness of the outer harbour, and the want of protection from the strong gales which sweep it from the eastward, compel ships to shelter themselves in the channel between two islands to the S. E. called the *Typa*, where the water is deep, and the anchorage good. Heavy vessels are obliged to discharge a portion of their cargoes here previous to going in, in consequence of the want of water at the entrance of the inner harbour. Aided by the neighbouring scenery, Macao has a very pleasing appearance, as it is approached from the eastward, and in fine weather the view of the town and neighbouring islands is extremely beautiful. A nearer inspection, however, is sufficient to dissipate much of the favourable opinion which a distant view may

create, but in spite of many faults and disadvantages, it is, for a place of so mongrel a description, less offensive than the filthy habits of the Chinese and carelessness of the Portuguese inhabitants, would lead one to imagine.

That part of the peninsula on which the town is situated, is not more than half a mile in length, and less than a quarter broad, but the limit prescribed to the Portuguese territory is the barrier or wall which runs across the isthmus at about two and a half miles distance from the opposite end of the peninsula. A few Chinese soldiers, and an officer, are stationed here, for the purpose of guarding the boundary, and preventing any one of either nation passing it. They are very careless, and it is not difficult to bribe them, or land below the barrier if curiosity leads one to examine it. This barrier was constructed in the reign of the Emperor *Wan-leih*, A. D. 1573. When the grant of land upon which the town of Macao is built, was first made to the Portuguese, the heaviest penalties were threatened to any one who passed this line. The law extended both to the foreigners and natives, none of which latter were permitted to remain in the town after the closing of the gates at night. By degrees, however, this discipline relaxed, and at the present day the number of native inhabitants considerably exceeds the Portuguese in the town of Macao, and some little villages very thickly populated have even been built upon the beach within the walls.

The long-continued and scarce-resisted insults and exactions of the Chinese, have at length reduced the Portuguese power here to a mere name, and so long a period has elapsed since these oppressive measures have been patiently endured, that it would now be almost impossible for them to resume the privileges and immunities which their imperial grant originally entitled them to.

The government of Macao is vested in a senate or council, a governor, and minor officers. The principal negociations with the Chinese are conducted through the *Procurador*, to whom application is always made, for permission to proceed to Canton in a licensed Chinese boat. The license is obtained from the proper Chinese officer, by him, and transmitted to the parties desirous of going, they having previously made application either personally or by letter. A regulation exists in relation to arrivals, which is but little attended to; every foreigner landing in Macao with an intention of remaining, is ordered by law, to report himself to the governor, and state the time, &c. of his arrival. Owing to this, when a report has not been made, it is necessary in making the application, to assume the name of some other person who has reported himself on his *arrival*, but who has gone off irregularly, that is in a ship, or in a smuggler's boat, by the outside passage. No questions are asked, and of course no difficulty experieneed, as I have always succeeded without the least trou-

ble,* by representing myself to be Mr. ——, whose name was still on the register, although he probably was not in the country at all, having departed without reporting himself to the authorities.

The garrison of Macao, which is composed of a number of natives of Goa, Macao-Portuguese, &c. consists of about four hundred men, exclusive of officers. The troops are, when on parade, tolerably well-looking, but their arms and accoutrements are in indifferent order, and neither the men nor the arms at all calculated for active service. Several forts at Macao are furnished with the heaviest artillery, and in the St. Francis, on the left arm of the bay are some old brass guns of uncommon length and weight, but which are nearly useless, from the bad quality of the powder, which is made at Goa, and the ignorance of the gunners. During the period of the Ladrone war, when the Chinese pirates were so formidable, the junks of these marauders would pass within half gun-shot of the forts with impunity, the balls from the guns always falling short.

The principal fort, which commands nearly the whole town and approaches, is that of our Lady of the Mount, generally known as "*the Monté*," mounting upwards of forty guns of large caliber, and from its situation very strong. The *Gier*,

* In one instance only, was my application for a *Chop* or license, returned, and the servant stated the reason was, that it was sealed with a wafer instead of wax! This important matter was instantly adjusted.

the "*Bishop's Fort*," "*St. Francis*," the *Water Battery* at the guard-house in front of the town, and a *Semicircular Battery* defending the entrance of the inner harbour, complete the defences of Macao, and would render it in proper hands a post of the greatest strength.

The shallowness of the bay prevents the near approach of heavy vessels in front of the town, and the natural advantages of the positions which command the entrance of the inner harbour, would make an attempt to land a perilous undertaking, if the defence were scientifically conducted.

The college of St. Joseph is the only public institution for the cultivation of learning, and at present, enumerates a respectable number of students, who are distinguished by a peculiar dress, consisting of a long black frock, square cap, and narrow white muslin band or collar round the neck. The professorships are all filled by clergymen, with the exception of the sinecure office of English instructor. I was informed that the library, though considerable, consisted chiefly of old theological works of little value, and that the manuscripts preserved there, were of no interest, but I now regret that I did not apply for permission to examine them, as my labours might have been rewarded by the discovery of something valuable, in relation to the early history of Macao.*

* The late discoveries of Mr. Washington Irving, in the old Spanish libraries, increase the regret at my own carelessness and indifference to so interesting a subject.

Churches are very numerous in Macao, and one of them is of great antiquity, its name however I have unfortunately forgotten. In addition to the regular churches, there are chapels in all the forts, and nunneries, so that the good people of Macao, have no lack of religious instruction, and so frequent are their religious feasts and fasts, that it is jokingly said the school boys have two hundred and twenty-five holidays during the year! Bigotry and intolerance, are assiduously cultivated and cherished by the inhabitants, who are, with a few exceptions, priest-ridden, and ignorant to the last degree.

Various estimates of the population have been made, the most accurate of which is that which gives the number of Portuguese* at about three thousand, and Chinese four thousand, which does not include the villages near the town, but merely the persons who dwell within the walls.

The houses of the Portuguese are mostly very spacious, but dreary and uncomfortable, from the scanty furniture and want of carpets, which are not used except in the houses of the richest citizens. In place of carpets or mats, the floors are covered with several coats of smooth paint, varied in imitation of marble. Fires are not used in the winter, although many days occur during the season, in

* Portuguese, Caffre slaves, and half casts, of which latter the proportion is very large.

which a warm room is very desirable, and even necessary, to those who are suffering from indisposition. Stoves or grates are always placed in the houses occupied by Americans, English, &c. but either the poverty or avarice of the inhabitants induces them to dispense with this comfort. More care is taken in constructing the buildings of Macao, than those of Canton; the materials are generally better chosen, and the work performed with greater neatness. Some of the private residences are handsome houses, such as the *Casa*, as it is called, in the garden where the cave of *Camoens* is situated, and some others.

The market of Macao is tolerably supplied with provisions; the fish are exceedingly plentiful, and in great variety. Among them are several species of *grouper*, *sole*, and many delicious kinds peculiar to the river and the China Sea. The price is very low, and necessarily so, from the inconceivable quantities which are daily captured by the fleets of fishing boats. Upon the *Praya Grande*, is a native custom-house, where all the fish are landed previously to their being sold, and the government duty laid on them by the Chinese officers stationed there for the purpose. In favourable weather the bay is crowded with fishing boats, and the scene at this little custom-house is the most noisy and bustling imaginable, as every one is anxious to have his fish weighed as soon as possible, in order to avail himself of the first opportunities of the market. As

soon as the weight of each boat-load is noted, it is immediately sold in portions to the small dealers, who are waiting in crowds at the landing, and by them carried off in large round baskets, suspended from the ends of a pole or bamboo, across the shoulder, to supply the inhabitants.

Foreign merchandise imported in European vessels is dutiable at the Portuguese custom-house, which faces the inner harbour, and is really one of the most respectable buildings in the town. The extent to which smuggling is carried of late years, has made considerable inroads into the revenue of this establishment.

On coming within sight of the numerous small boats or *sam-pans* which lie moored in front of the town, a race commences among the amphibious damsels who navigate them, for the honour and profit of conveying one ashore, as the water is too shallow at low water to admit a near approach of large boats. These *sam-pans*, as they are called,* are short, broad boats, very flat, drawing but a few inches water, and *manned* by a brace of Chinese ladies! who are quite dexterous in managing them. In addition to a fee of a dollar to these sunburnt viragos, for rowing you perhaps twenty yards, a further extortion of a dollar, as a landing fee, is suffered from the mandarins; besides unconscion-

* *Sam-pan*, Chinese for three planks—a term used to denote the simple construction of these boats, which were built originally of three boards, one for the bottom and two serving for sides.

able demands for baggage. To experience these enormities it is necessary to land from a native boat, as in coming on shore in one belonging to a ship, no attempt is made to exact this plunder. No carriages of any kind, except palanquins, are used here, and horses only by a few of the foreign residents. To this and the indefatigable labours of the Chinese scavengers, who collect the filth for manure, the cleanliness of the streets may be attributed.

*Camoens' Cave.**

This celebrated little spot is situated in the large garden grounds of the house called the *Casa*, at the northern extremity of the town, and forms one of the interesting sights of Macao, from the historical recollections connected with it, and the intrinsic beauty of the locality. Travellers in their narratives have described this as a cave, but in reality it is simply a narrow passage between two masses of rock, covered at the top by a deep layer of soil, surmounted by a pretty summer-house of modern date, and encircled by a thick growth of trees. A modern Vandal has caused a place to be cut in the rock for a seat, on the spot where the exiled poet is said to have reposed, and added a most dazzling

* A beautiful sketch of Camoens' Cave is now exhibiting at the Academy of Fine Arts. This delightful little picture is from the pencil of George Chinnery, Esq. of Canton, whose exquisite taste in landscape sketches is unrivalled. The picture was painted in 1828, for N. Dunn, Esq. by whom it has been kindly loaned to the Academy.

coat of whitewash to the tablet and bust which is placed against one side of the interior! From the summer-house the view is very beautiful, and embraces a large portion of the most striking points of scenery in the neighbourhood. A walk which leads to the highest part of the grounds overhangs the inner harbour, and the view from thence extends further up the river. The house has been lately rented to an English gentleman, with a proviso, that no proper application to visit the cave and grounds should be refused. No difficulty is experienced when permission is requested in proper form, and those who have been disappointed, will thank their own carelessness for the mortification.* Much good taste is exhibited in the disposition of the grounds, and in laying out the walks, which were arranged in the English style by a former occupant. Large snakes, and some of them very venomous, are said to have been repeatedly killed in the garden; but no mischief has happened in consequence of their being there, except the destruction of the poultry. In various other parts of Macao they abound, and I have myself taken some very dangerous serpents near my own residence.

The wall by which the town is surrounded, is composed of stone, covered with a thick coat of coarse mortar, furnished with a parapet, and having square bastions at intervals. Tradition relates that the northern

* The proprietor was one of the Pereira family, and the tenant, at the time of my last visit, Mr. Fearon, one of the firm of Ilbery Fearon & Co. watchmakers, &c. of Canton.

portion, which runs over the steepest hills, was built by the Dutch prisoners taken by the Portuguese, when they landed and endeavoured to take the town, in which villainous intention the good people of Macao report they were miraculously prevented by the good offices of Saint Anthony, the patron saint, who very condescendingly came down from heaven, and put the presumptuous Hollanders to flight! In commemoration of this miraculous interference, a stone cross was erected on the spot, and the saint unanimously elected colonel of the Macao regiment, the pay and rations being received by his faithful stewards, the priests of the Chapel of St. Anthony. This anecdote will give some idea of the state of ignorance and superstition in which most of the inhabitants are plunged.

The greatest exertions are made by the Catholic clergy to convert the Chinese, and a few nominal Christians are to be found among them, but the indulgences of their own religion, or rather the want of any religion at all, prevent their submitting to the comparatively austere precepts of Christianity. Added to this, the prejudices of the government, which discountenances such foreign innovation, render it dangerous for a native to be known as a Christian, and if successfully detected, it almost always entails a punishment for what is called a mask, concealing political machinations with discontented foreign barbarians! At Malacca and Singapore, the Protestant and Presbyterian missions appear to have succeeded somewhat better, but still

the number of converts in proportion to the unceasing labours of these clergymen, is small indeed. The indulgences of the Romish church are more agreeable to Chinese taste, as the rigid observances which are enjoined by other sects, are not likely to be favourably received among a people with such uncommonly violent prejudices, to overcome which it appears almost necessary to change their very natures.

Temple at Macao.

There is at Macao a temple which faces the inner harbour, which, in addition to its very picturesque situation, possesses an interest as the object of a singular superstition. It consists of several edifices of various dimensions, built on points of the very abrupt and elevated rock, surrounded by trees, which conceal them in a great measure from sight. The naked roots cover the rock in many places, penetrating the crevices to seek nourishment from the small accumulations of soil which they contain. Stairs cut in the rock lead in various directions, winding round the large masses, to terminate at the entrance of these shrines. Large inscriptions are deeply cut in the rocks, and filled with vermilion. The superstition which has rendered this temple celebrated is as follows:—"A fleet of boats being about to sail from *Fŭh Këën*,*

* The next province to the eastward of Canton, (*Kwang-tung*,) called in the Canton dialect *Fo-Kien*.

a lady appeared in one of them, and advised the fishermen to defer their sailing, for that in spite of the favourable appearance of the weather, a storm was certainly approaching. Regardless of the warning, all the boats composing the fleet sailed, with the exception of a single one—all, save this one were lost, and every one on board perished. The boat on board of which this lady made her appearance sailed when the tempest had subsided, and with her safely reached Macao, where, on landing, she immediately disappeared." This temple is built on the spot where the lady vanished, and is called "*neang-ma ko*," "a temple of the queen of heaven." She is esteemed the protectress of mariners, who invoke her in distress, crying, *a ma! oh! mother*. At the landing place are constantly to be seen fragments of vessels, anchors, spars, &c. which have been left there in grateful recollection by sailors who have escaped danger by her supposed assistance.

On returning from sea, it is customary for sailors to repair to this temple, return thanks, and make an offering of odoriferous matches, gilt paper, &c. which is burnt before one of the altars. The whole neighbourhood is inhabited by the lowest classes of the Macao-Chinese, whose collections of houses are the most dirty and offensive that can be imagined. The houses being very small, and the inhabitants in most cases very numerous, the army of fowls, pigs, and children, which appertains to each is little conducive to cleanliness or quiet.

INSIDE PASSAGE TO MACAO.

Going to Macáo from Canton on the route used by the ships is prohibited, and no one goes by it except in a ship, private sail-boat, or native boats, used expressly for this unlawful mode of travelling. The price demanded for taking a foreigner from Whampoa to Macao, or from Macao to Whampoa, varies from twenty to forty dollars. The inner passage, as it is called, is the one appointed for boats which carry foreigners down to Macao by a passport or travelling license. In order to go in this manner, application is made through a linguist two days previous to the time of departure, to the department from whence the passports are obtained. A single boat is hired for about forty dollars, which includes every expense, and gives a privilege to as many as can be conveniently accommodated of going in it, thus making the expense light when distributed among several. A commodious cabin, with a raised platform around it, covered with mats to sit and sleep upon, a centre table, and other conveniences, render these boats very agreeable to travel in, the servants, cook, and boatmen living on deck, and not at all interfering with the passengers. In the narrow passages, and in adverse winds, or calms, the boats are tracked by the crew, who run along the shore, harnessed to a line which is attached to the mast head, while the course is

governed by the helmsman, with a broad and powerful rudder. To a stranger this mode of travelling is novel and interesting; the shores abound with objects of curiosity or in beautiful scenery, and it is only as he approaches the sea, that the country begins to assume a less inviting appearance, the hills being generally very high, and either barren or covered with pines. The boat is detained at the town of *Hong-shan* for the indorsement of the passport and inspection of the boat by the officers. This town derives its chief importance from being the place of rendezvous for the numerous boats employed in the fisheries at the mouth of the river. The repairs and fittings out are conducted here, and employment thus given to a considerable population. During the period when the ladrones or pirates were most formidable, they committed many acts of violence near this place, and as a protection against them, a number of piles were driven across the channel, for the purpose of preventing the passage of their vessels. A small portion of the channel was left open, but guarded by an iron chain. The remains of this defence still remain, although in a ruinous condition, the cause of alarm not having recurred for many years. There is a regulation here that if a boat having foreigners on board arrives after sunset, it must remain at anchor until the next morning, as no officer will come off to examine it after dusk. It is also required of the European passengers to sign their names on the passport, but ridiculous or fictitious names are generally sub-

stituted, as the Chinese officers are quite ignorant of any language but their own, and depart with the autograph of Julius Cæsar, or Napoleon, to say nothing of others more absurd, quite unconscious of the joke which is practised on them. Sometimes just before reaching Macao, in a part of the channel called the Broadway, a war junk is found at anchor, and the captain of the boat is obliged to board, in order to show his permission to proceed. No further stoppage occurs during the passage. The distance is difficult to estimate correctly, owing to the very numerous bends in the river, but it cannot be much less than an hundred and twenty miles. Many pagodas are observed on the hills, differing from those on the outside channel in having but *seven* stories, while those at Whampoa, Second bar, &c. all have *nine*. Much less insolence and abuse is experienced from the country people than in the neighbourhood of Canton, and it is probable that many civilities would be freely offered, were it not for the fear the people entertain of the native magistrates, who seize upon any demonstrations of kindness to the "foreign devils," as good grounds to accuse them of disaffection and treasonable intentions!

Plantations of mulberry trees occur frequently along the banks. The trees are kept cut down to a pretty uniform height of ten or twelve feet, and the leaves are principally produced by the suckers which spring up around the stem or main trunk which is cut off. Great quantities of the leaves are

consumed by the silk worms, the plantations of mulberry being cultivated for this purpose alone. Large fields of rice are the principal feature in agriculture, though small plantations of different trees and vegetables occur in the neighbourhood of the villages which are situated along the shores of the river. In some places the rice fields are of extraordinary extent, intersected in every direction by canals, in which the small boats of the labourers are continually plying. Upon this route there are some very picturesque views, and portions of beautiful scenery, which it would be delightful to sketch, did not the rapidity of travelling prevent it by continually changing the view.

ISLAND OF LIN-TIN.

This place derives its celebrity entirely from the circumstance of being the station of the opium fleet, and the temporary anchorage for ships while waiting for their pilots. The island is extremely barren, and consists chiefly of masses of granite, which form a mountain of considerable altitude. The village is situated in a valley on the N. W. side of the island, and consists of a few houses inhabited principally by fishermen and small farmers. Lin-tin peak is visible at the distance of forty miles in fine weather, being probably seven hundred feet high. Being rather difficult of access, it is only

now and then ascended. Myself and two other gentlemen reached the summit in May, 1827, after considerable scrambling and scratching, and found the apex of the peak to consist of an immense mass of granite, on which were several species of curious insects, plants, &c. We encountered in our progress, several buffaloes, and many goats, but they did not interfere with us. The monkeys we observed, were not numerous, but very large, active, and shy, being very difficult to approach within gun-shot. The view from the peak is really magnificent, embracing the islands on the coast, the neighbouring highlands of *Lan-tao*, and the shores of the river above Lin-tin. From this elevation, the rocks and shoal water in various places were very distinctly visible. Shrubs of various kinds, and pine trees cover the sides of the island wherever there is soil enough to nourish them, and many curious ferns are to be found in the rocky parts of the ascent.

Owing to the frequent intercourse between the people belonging to the ships and the Chinese villagers, they are very civil, and seldom interfere with foreigners who go on shore to walk, bathe, or shoot. Occasionally there has been a difficulty with drunken sailors, and once or twice the matter became serious. Latterly no such scenes have taken place, and it is perfectly safe and agreeable walking in every part of the island. On the north-east end of Lin-tin there is a fleet of Chinese junks anchored for the ostensible purpose of putting a stop to the

illicit trade in opium, but they lie there quite passive spectators of the hourly deliveries of opium from the ships, and the only effort made against the trade is an occasional chase of the Chinese smugglers. Periodical reports of their having destroyed and routed the "foreign barbarians," are sent regularly up to the authorities of Canton by the commanders of these vessels, and they frequently get under way and sail by the fleet with colours and streamers flying, gongs beating, and a vast deal of ridiculous parade, and after a few equally vain manœuvres return to their moorings, and despatch a most bombastic letter to Canton, announcing the annihilation of the "foreign theives," who come to poison the subjects of his celestial majesty with this filthy drug. The anchorage in very heavy weather is not esteemed secure; and when strong gales commence, the vessels run into a passage to the eastward, called the *Cap-sing-moon*, where they are perfectly sheltered. When in need of careening, this place is frequently selected, as the situation is well calculated for it—water and other conveniences being close at hand. In the vicinity of Lin-tin are many large piles or pieces of heavy timber driven into the mud for supporting the nets, which are of great weight and very long. Against these fishing stakes vessels have sometimes struck when running up in the dark, and received considerable injury. Caution and a good look out are indispensable at night, as the stakes are numerous, and the situation shifted

from time to time. Having no machines to drive these piles with, the method resorted to by the fishermen is curious. After having driven the piece of timber as deeply as possible into the mud, by striking it on the top with large logs of heavy wood, furnished with handles to lift them by; at the top of high water two heavy fishing boats are lashed against the stake by the bows, and secured; the tide then falls, and the weight of the boats thus fastened to the head of the stake, drives it sufficiently deep in the bed of the river in two or three tides. There is also a small net, a kind of scoop, used at Lin-tin—a net of about eighteen feet square is suspended by the corners to four long poles, which are so struck into the bottom of the river as to have considerable motion. A windlass on shore, with ropes fastened to these poles, raises the net after it has remained a sufficiently long time below the surface, when a man goes out in a small boat, and takes the fish out by a hand-net on the end of a long bamboo. The fish caught in this manner are generally small, and of comparatively little value, but the extreme poverty of the persons engaged in the fishery induces them to try every expedient to gain a living. Large quantities of these small fish, and of several kinds of shrimps, and other crustaceous animals, are prepared for market by drying them on mats exposed to the sun; the smell of them is disgusting in the extreme, but in spite of this they are eaten with considerable relish by the natives. Vegetables are cultivated on the spots of fer-

tile land, and some fruits. An attempt has been made to introduce the cocoa-nut tree, but the requisite number of years has not yet elapsed to determine its success. Several young cocoa-nut trees were in a thriving condition on the side of Lin-tin opposite to the anchorage in 1827, and 1828. They were then six or seven feet in height, and being planted in a sheltered situation, will in all probability succeed.

Abundance of good water is obtained on shore, from several fine springs, by which the fleet at the anchorage is constantly supplied.

A regulation of the Honourable East India Company, will exhibit their shuffling policy in a light, which shows too plainly the duplicity and equivocation for which it has been so famous. Notwithstanding, that the greater part of the opium cultivated in India, passes through the hands of this monopoly, and most of it is sold at public sale, and under its immediate inspection and sanction; yet, in order to shift the blame of encouraging the manufacture of this destructive poison from themselves to the regular opium merchants, they forbid it to be carried in *their* ships to Lin-tin, and also prohibit the ships touching at Lin-tin, or *holding any communication with the fleet of opium vessels lying there.**

* Vide Government order in Canton Register.

LAN-KEET, *(Lung Yue.)*

So called from a peculiar rock, in which there is a large perforation, fancifully entitled, "the Dragon's eye." This is at the entrance of the river, below the Bocca Tigris, on the left hand side in going up. A large flat, partially dry, at low water, runs out from it, bearing the name of *Lan-Keet flat*. On shore the rocks are covered with inscriptions, left there by Europeans who have visited the place.

CHUEN-PEE,

Is situated on the opposite shore, a few miles below the *Bocca Tigris*. Foreign ships of war anchor here; the Chinese forbidding their further progress up the river. Little regard is paid to the insolence of the natives, and, as in case of the Alceste, it will always be better to take a determined stand, if a cessation of their overbearing conduct is expected. The shore of the river begins here to assume a pretty appearance, and exhibits the peculiar characters of Chinese scenery.

THE BOCCA TIGRIS.

THE passage through the narrow part of the main channel above *Chuen-pee*, is called by the Chinese *Hoo-mun*, by the Portuguese *Bocca Tigre* or *Bocca Tigris*, "the tiger's mouth." The position in a military point of view is excellent, and by proper fortifications, could be rendered impassable. The river is commanded by high hills, on the summits of which, works of great strength might be erected, but the natives with their usual obstinancy, have placed the batteries close to the water's edge, and on the *side* of the hill! leaving it exposed to every shot at point blank, and allowing no retreat for the garrison, except up an abrupt hill, where all the shot, which miss the works must necessarily strike. In consequence of this most unskilful arrangement, and the imperfect knowledge of gunnery possessed by the natives, the passage might be forced by a single sloop of war, with comparatively little risk. The action between H. B. M. Frigate Alceste, and the batteries on shore, was a mere farce, as it was impossible to keep the Chinese at their guns, officers and men being in a dreadful state of consternation and dismay. This will prove the fallacy of the argument, that an invasion of China would be a rash and inevitably fatal enterprize, as the natives make up in numbers what they want in individual courage. But it

would be found, that these very numbers would prove the surest means of their destruction. A panic once struck, the multitudes would retreat upon each other, and the masses of men would be mutually destructive; as I feel confident, and am convinced that every unprejudiced traveller to China will agree with me, that, it would be entirely vain to persuade the native soldiers to stand a second charge, from American or European troops, well officered, and disciplined.

The first fort is on the small island called *Wang-tong*, where the pilot lands to deliver the permit or chop, for the passage of the ship; the other two large batteries are the *Ananhoy*, or *Anunghoy*, celebrated for the Alceste affair; and the Tiger Island fort, on the left hand side of the channel, situated at the base of a hill, which is an immense mass of granite covered with short grass, &c. This hill is perhaps three hundred feet in height, and the summit is unexceptionable as a post, provided water can be obtained. Its eligibility does not appear to strike the Chinese, who conceive any improvement of the defences impossible, and presumptuous. The guns of the Ananhoy fort are apparently twelve pounders, and thirty or forty in number. The port lids are painted with hideous representations of tigers heads, intended to strike terror to the enemy. The material used in building is granite. The forts consist of a very high wall or breast-work, pierced with ports, which having little or no flare, or obliquity within, admit of

small lateral motion to the guns. Behind this work are placed the Commandant's house, flag-staff, and barracks, all very much exposed to shot from a high vessel, and completely commanded by guns in the tops. A fleet of war junks generally lies below the forts, and numbers of small cruizers are constantly passing through the various channels behind the islands, for the purpose of boarding Chinese vessels, and preventing contraband trade.

Second Bar.

The first bar which is crossed in coming up the river, is called *Second Bar*, as it is the second from Canton. At this place the heavy ships complete their ladings, as there is not water enough to permit a ship of twelve or fourteen hundred tons to pass when full loaded. The station for the ships is a short distance below the bar, generally nearest the west shore. The village of *Ho-tun*, the nearest of any consequence, lies on the other side, higher up. The land on the west shore is high, and very abrupt, covered with trees and shrubs. The summit of the hill is crowned with a large pagoda of nine stories, and the remains of an ancient fortification. The land is the property of one of the hong merchants, and foreigners are allowed to go on shore to shoot or walk, without molestation. The view from the summit of the hill is very fine, extending a long way up and down the river. The hill itself is several hundred feet above the water, and the pagoda is visible in

particular directions, sixteen or seventeen miles. The river is here of considerable width, and during the winter months, is the resort of innumerable wild fowl, which are taken in vast quantities, by fowlers, in nets, and decoys. Ducks are most abundant; wild geese are not uncommon, and divers, coots, and other aquatic birds, are found feeding on the duck weed, in plenty, during the cold weather. The birds after being caught, are enclosed in covered cages, and carried to Canton, and the neighbouring towns, where they are fattened by poulterers, who feed them constantly, in dark rooms. They become very fat, and free from any fishy or sedgey taste.

The flat shores of the river here are almost entirely devoted to the culture of rice, which is produced in immense quantities.

First Bar.

By a singular perversion, this obstruction of the channel is called the first, instead of the second bar, for such in fact it is, being the second which is crossed by vessels in coming up the river. The bar consists of rocks and sand, the channel being toward the right shore. Small fishing boats are hired by the pilots to mark the stations, and guide them in steering the ship. When the reach of Whampoa is crowded with ships, the fleet extends down to within a short distance of the first bar, and the scene is remarkably cheerful and active; in the summer, on the contrary, the appearance of the

river with five or six vessels lying at a distance from each other is indescribably dreary.*

In the neighbourhood of this place lies the wreck of the "Royal George," one of the East India Company's ships burnt at Whampoa some years since. Portions of the wreck are still visible at very low tides. There is a chop house, or excise office here, on the north bank, and numerous men-of-war boats are constantly cruizing about the river in pursuit of plunder.

Bamboo Plantations.

Patches of this useful plant may be observed along the shores of the river in many places, and sometimes considerable tracts of land entirely devoted to its cultivation. The greatest quantities of bamboo come from the neighbouring provinces, particularly from *Che-keang*, floated down the rivers in enormous rafts, which are managed with the greatest skill by the persons who dwell upon them, accidents seldom occurring in their progress through the narrow and crowded parts of the river. Bamboos are found twelve inches in diameter at the base, and in some cases larger; they taper gradually to their extremities, and are seldom perfectly strait; this however is remedied by the applica-

* There is a regulation which prohibits junks, or other Chinese vessels, from anchoring among the foreign shipping, except in a calm, or with an adverse tide, and at such time all communication is avoided from fear of the mandarins.

tion of fire to the joints, which renders them flexible. All bamboo poles used in the boats are observed to be charred at the knots or joints, by which process they are made quite straight without impairing their strength or durability. Numberless uses are made of the bamboo in works requiring the greatest strength, and in the simplest toys; in fact, there is no purpose to which it can possibly be applied in which it is unemployed. Scaffolds, and houses themselves, furniture of every description, nets, baskets, hats, paper, mats, &c. are all made of this eminently useful plant. As a pickle, preserve, and vegetable, the young shoots of bamboo are well known; it is also used in medicine, and in the formation of arrows, and other warlike implements. Large joints are tied to the backs of children in the boats, to serve as a support or float in case of their falling overboard. Cups are made of it, and *pen-holders*. Of these last, some splendid specimens have passed through my hands. They are made of a single large joint, the lower end closed, ornamented with the most ingenious devices, beautifully carved in *alto-relievo* on the outside, the interior being left quite smooth. From the nature of the material, the carvings are much superior to the beautiful works in ivory which are frequently brought to this country, and the prices they command are frequently very great.

Screens of small pieces of bamboo joined together so as to form a kind of delicate gauze-work, decorated with moral sentences, cut from particu-

larly fine pieces of this wood, are frequently offered for sale in Canton. The time necessary to complete one of these beautiful ornaments, is of course very great, and, in spite of the low price of labour, they are always very expensive. Birds, flowers, and animals, are occasionally used as the ornaments, in lieu of the moral sentences and maxims, of which the Chinese are so fond.

In gardens and summer-houses, fences, trellises, and screens are common, and extremely neat, mostly composed of the *black bamboo* tastefully arranged.

As an instrument of punishment, the bamboo is justly dreaded. It is a penalty for minor offences, and is freely resorted to by the magistrates as a remedy in cases where the regular punishment of whipping by an executioner is too severe. From this circumstance the term "bambooing" is used to signify a flogging of any kind.

WHAMPOA.

The foreign ships are moored in the branch of the river situated between Bankshall or Whampoa Island on the north, and Dane's and French Island on the south. This part of the river is called Whampoa Reach, and in the business season is filled for more than two miles by American, English Company, and country ships, some French, Da-

nish, and other vessels, always excepting Portuguese, who are not suffered to come up the river, though the regulation is sometimes evaded by putting them under English colours for the time. The channel is narrow, and being much crowded, is seldom used by the Chinese junks, which usually pass up or down a parallel branch to the north of Whampoa, called Junk River. As the tides are strong, and heavy squalls frequent in the autumn, they are moored with a swivel, one anchor up, and the other down the stream; in spite of which, however, they are occasionally driven from their moorings, by the violent gusts of wind from the hills. As the shores are muddy, serious accidents rarely occur, the following flood-tide floating a ship off again, with a little assistance. The right shore of the reach, (in going up,) is formed by a large island, called in Chinese *Hwang-poo*,* or Whampoa, on which stands the walled town and large suburbs of boat-yards, comprador's houses, &c. bearing the same name. On this island, which is principally reclaimed from the river, considerable plantations of sugar-cane, rice, and other vegetables, are situated; and some of the finest oranges to be had in the neighbourhood, are the produce of groves near the pagoda.

The town of Whampoa is of considerable size, having numerous large buildings, which are visi-

* *Hwang-poo*—"The Yellow Anchorage."

ble at a considerable distance. Some of these are said to be granaries, or public depositories of rice, purchased annually by government, as a security against famine, which in districts so populous is much dreaded. Numerous flag-staffs belonging to the mandarin houses, and temples, are seen above the trees; and, on a range of small hills, at a little distance from the town, is the cemetery, in which some handsome tombs are situated. Foreigners are prohibited entering the walled town, and are seldom induced to inspect the suburbs, which are exceedingly dirty. The rudeness of the inhabitants is another reason why they are avoided by visiters at the anchorage, it being unsafe to walk about the street unaccompanied by a Chinese of some respectability. The most attractive object on shore at Whampoa is the pagoda, one of the largest near Canton, nine stories high, and of great antiquity, so much so that few vestiges of the external decorations remain, and the mere shell is now standing covered with brushwood and trees growing in crevices of the eaves that divide the stories. The summit is crowned by the remains of a conical roof, nearly as high as another story. This pagoda I have never been close to, as it stands at some distance from the shore, and a visit to it is generally rewarded by a pelting with stones by the natives, who use the same mode of annoying passing boats, having foreigners on board, at the same time using the most abusive language and gestures,

especially one significant of decapitation, which is esteemed one of the more disgraceful punishments.

Dane's Island.

The lower island on the south side received this name from its being the place of burial for Danish sailors, and the spot where the crews of Danish vessels were permitted to go on shore for amusement. The upper, or French Island, derives its name from a similar arrangement of the French. The people of different nations were kept separate, in order to prevent quarrels and difficulties, which too frequently occurred when they were intoxicated by the Chinese on shore.

The hills of Dane's Island are covered by a growth of pine trees, and the valleys are highly cultivated. In many places the high grounds and hill sides are terraced for the purposes of agriculture. The graves of the English sailors, Lascars, &c. are mostly on this island; and here are to be seen some very large and costly Chinese tombs, which are much visited by strangers. Difficulties seldom occur with the villagers, except when provoked, and as this is frequently done by thoughtless persons, a little care is requisite in going on shore. Upon one occasion only did I meet with any hostile demonstrations, which consisted in pelting the party, of which I was one, with small stones, from a considerable distance, by which no

one was injured. I have shot whole mornings on shore without molestation, accompanied only by a small boy. It may be here remarked of the country people, that their civility increases in proportion to the distance they are situated from cities or towns. The people in parts of the country rarely visited by foreigners, are observed to be better disposed to accommodate strangers, less insolent, and more inquisitive, than those of the districts in which Europeans are frequently seen. The timidity of the natives has often induced strangers to presume too far, and the return has been the cordial hatred of this oppressed nation, to foreigners generally.

The island of Whampoa is also called, upon the charts of the river, Bankshall Island, from the circumstance of its having been customary in former times for ships to send their stores and spars on shore here to bankshalls, or temporary store-houses, let to them for the purpose. It is a long while since this has been discontinued, and the spars, spare casks, &c. are now sent up to the comprador's houses at Whampoa to be taken care of.

The embankments are planted with banana, lichee, peach, and other trees; and the entrance and retreat of the water from the river is regulated by sluices, much in the same manner as with us.

Embankments, ditches, or hedges, constitute the divisions by which tracts of land belonging to different persons are separated, and where these are

wanting, land marks of granite, or other stone, decide the respective limits. Numbers of these may be seen in the large meadows along the shores of the river, with short inscriptions engraved on them.

French Island.

Here are to be seen the tombs of such gentlemen as have died in Canton, or at Whampoa, constructed like our own, and bearing suitable inscriptions. Some very old Danish and Dutch tombs are also here, and the graves of American sailors. There is a propensity of the Chinese to be buried in elevated situations, and consequently the price of the place of interment is regulated by the height on the hill. When a death occurs, the ship's comprador is notified—he purchases the ground, provides the coffin, and the body is taken on shore in a ship's boat, and the ceremony sometimes performed by the officer. At the death of a commander or officer, the funeral is accompanied by boats from the other ships, and frequently by many of the residents of Canton.

The cultivation of the land is similar to that of the neighbouring islands. The soil is sandy, and well adapted to the culture of sweet potatoes, yams, &c. A fine vegetable, much used in the Sandwich Islands, called *taro*, is abundant here. It requires a wet situation, and considerable care. The root, which is the edible portion, resembles a

yam, but is more glutinous. The *li-chee*, an evergreen about the size of an apple tree, is common, and produces a delicious fruit in the spring, which is dried and preserved in large quantities during the whole year. The lung-an, the wam-pee, banana, orange, &c. are delicious, abundant, and cheap. Boats loaded with fruit row about daily from ship to ship, and thus a supply of wholesome fruit is always at hand. The peaches are worthless, owing perhaps to improper cultivation; the flavour is bad, they are of a small size, and ripen with difficulty. A few of the palms, from the leaves of which fans are made, grow here, and sugar-cane is cultivated in considerable quantities.

The river abounds with fish of various kinds; and above the town of Whampoa there is a *river-muscle* fishery. The boats employed in dredging for them, have several persons on board, two of whom can act at once, the boat being suffered to drift slowly, while the dredges are pressed against the bottom; the mud is washed out, and the muscles thrown in a heap on the bottom of the boat. The animal cooked in various ways constitutes a staple article of food among the lower classes, and the shells are burnt into excellent lime. These shells are seldom more than an inch in diameter, wrinkled and black, the interior frequently with a blue tinge—the animal is very soft and insipid.* A few species of larger size are occasionally dredged

* The *Cyrena* of naturalists.

up with them.* There is another singular fishery for a species of amphibious fish, *(Gobius,)* very common on the mud-flats, where they crawl about so much like lizards that they are at first invariably mistaken for such. They are hunted by women and children, who are seen wading through the mud and water at low tide, with baskets fastened behind them to contain their prey. These fish are agreeable to the taste, but the cruel way in which they are cooked is sufficient to disgust the feelings, the cooks invariably frying them alive!

The Pagoda and Hou-qua's Fort.

On the right, in passing up the river, at about half the distance from Whampoa to Canton, stands a pagoda of nine stories, on a small mound or knoll upon the margin of a narrow canal cut for boats through one of the islands. This specimen of ancient architecture is perhaps more decayed than that at Whampoa, and trees of a much larger size are flourishing on its mouldering cornices. The pagoda is surrounded by cultivated land, and there are farm-houses and sugar-mills in the neighbourhood, while a large assembly of boats on the canal constitutes a considerable water village. This passage is sometimes used by boats from the ships, but at particular times of tide it is impassable, and the

* Symphynota bi-alata. Lea, &c. Trans. Am. Phil. Society.

consequence of a boat's getting aground, is generally an attack from the people on shore, with mud and stones. On the main branch of the river, and commanding the approach in certain directions, stands a square fortress built of granite, but injudiciously constructed and placed on an insecure foundation. Report says that this building was erected at the expense of the Hong merchant, *Hou-qua*, by an order of the viceroy or governor, soon after the difficulty which occurred with H. B. M. ship Alceste, Captain Maxwell, in 1817, afterwards wrecked in the Straits, on her way to Europe, with the gentlemen of the last embassy on board.

APPROACH TO CANTON.

In coming up the river, a stranger is completely absorbed in contemplating a scene, without a parallel in any other country. When he has just escaped from the confinement of a ship, the beautiful scenery and luxuriant appearance of vegetation, is delightful beyond measure; added to this, the extraordinary sight of the multitudes of boats, vessels, and craft of every description, swarming with the water population, contributes to amuse and astonish him. Myriads of boats moored in long, regular streets, no one interfering with the other, and fleets of them moving in every direction, and yet without confusion, the bustle of business visible every where, the salt junks discharging their

cargoes into the canal boats, the vessels from the interior of the country laden with wood, and immense rafts of timber and of bamboos floating down with the tide, managed by a few miserable little wretches, who dwell in huts built upon the raft or in small boats attached to them. Revenue cruizers rowing in every direction, painted with the brightest colours, the men protected from the sun and wind by a kind of moveable thatched roof, and the large triangular white flag with vermilion characters inscribed upon it floating over the stern, while a cannon, with a red sash tied round its muzzle, projects over the bow. Thousands of small ferry boats cover the river, laden with passengers of every age and rank; in one a dozen coolies or day labourers, in another a brace of Chinese beaux, luxuriating on the clean mats with which the cabin floors are covered, their heads resting on curious bamboo pillows, pipe in mouth, regarding with a lazy eye the active scene without, or possibly contemplating the portrait of some celebrated belle, with finger nails six inches long, dependant from the screen-work of the cabin. Immense junks of four or five hundred tons, and even larger, moored in the stream, and gorgeously embellished with the fascinations of dragons, paint, gold-leaf, and gingerbread-work, with a huge eye painted on either side of the bow, to enable the vessel to see her way, as the lower classes term it! In the evening, when the actual bustle begins to decrease, the tremendous din of a thousand gongs, and the glare of flaming

papers, which are set on fire in the boats, and thrown blazing into the stream,* as an evening sacrifice, keep up the excitement of the scene, and the night until a late hour, is disturbed by the shouts of the boatmen, and the discordant music from the flower boats, in which the women of the town reside. The number, variety, and arrangement of the boats, is the most surprising matter to an American or European, and it is long after arriving in China, that a foreign eye learns to observe uninterested the gay and active scene perpetually passing on the river.

In an arm or branch called Salt river, formed by a large island, just below the commencement of the suburbs, are numbers of fishing stakes, which extend across and almost block up the channel. These stakes support long nets, arranged in parallel rows, which are lowered at particular times of tide, and when not in use are drawn up by cords to dry. Numbers of small boats in which the fishermen live, are moored near the nets. The fish taken in this manner, are small and very abundant, forming a principal article of food with the water population. In the mud and ooze at low tide many small fish are found buried, and when the flats

* This ceremony, which is by no means to be omitted, is called in the Anglo-Chinese slang of Canton, *Chin-Chin Jos*, meaning a sacrifice to the divinity. *Chin-Chin* is a corruption of *Tsing-Tsing*, a word used as a compliment, as *Tsing tso*, "pray sit." Jos is a corrupt pronunciation of the Portuguese *Dios*, God.

are dry, at low water, numbers of women and children may be seen wading knee deep along the shore, intently searching for their game, which is preserved in a wicker basket, fastened at the back. Shrimps abound in all parts of the river, and are caught in great quantities by people who make it a business. Baskets of bamboo are used to take them in, and are constructed in such a way as to admit the shrimps easily, but not to suffer them to escape. Forty or fifty of these baskets attached to a line are put down at a time, and hauled in every fifteen or twenty minutes, generally loaded with very fine shrimps of large size. Those which are taken in salt water are dried in the sun, but the fresh water shrimps are generally consumed in Canton.

Upon the embankment large cedar vats are placed, in which the nets are dyed or tanned, for the double purpose of making them less visible to the fish, and to preserve them from rotting. The colour they acquire is a very deep brown. Casting nets are much used in small boats, and a kind of basket which is somewhat like our eel-trap. When the tide is up, portions of the flats, covered with water may be seen enclosed with a fence, formed of a very coarse bamboo mat, which as the ebb flows out, confines the fish within its limits, but suffers the water to escape.

THE FOLLIES.

Two forts lying in the river, one near the Factories, and the other at the lower end of the town, have been called from some absurd and unfounded tradition, the Dutch and French Follies. The story current in relation to the former, which I believe has no foundation whatever, is as follows: At a time, when the Dutch had a large fleet lying at Whampoa, and a great number of sick men on board, they solicited and obtained leave from the Chinese authorities, to construct this large building for the accommodation of the invalids. Actuated by sinister motives, the hospital was built, to serve also as a fortified post, and guns were sent into it, concealed in large casks, which were reported to contain medicines for the use of the sick. Unfortunately, however, in hoisting one of these casks from the boat, the weight of a gun concealed in it forced out the head, and discovered the design of the Dutch. Very much astonished, the Chinese declared a cannon to be "very curious physic," and forthwith sent the foreigners back to their ships, turning the hospital into a regular fort, and such now remains. Never having heard the story which dubbed the lower fort, the French Folly, I cannot of course relate the origin of its title. The Dutch Folly is an oval fort, built on an island of small extent in the river, near the

north shore, and separated from it by a narrow channel, constantly crowded with innumerable boats. A chain of rocks from the fort crosses the river, and makes the south channel very narrow and difficult at low water. The bed of rocks also extends up the river, and is perfectly dry, to a considerable extent, when the tide is out. To these rocks numbers of people resort to wash clothes, which is performed by beating them violently with a wooden club, or striking them on the rocks, by which they are speedily worn out. No junks lie higher up the river than the Folly, as a regular anchorage, and there, the water being deep, the largest Chinese vessels moor head and stern in great numbers, arranged as nearly as possible in parallel lines. Here also is one of the stations of the *flower-boats*, large barges, with a house built over them, and highly ornamented with carving, gilding, silk streamers, and other showy decorations. Most of them are occupied by prostitutes, who, as in Paris, are regularly licensed. Flower-boats are kept also for the use of pleasure parties, and may at any time be hired for such purposes. They are very roomy and convenient, divided into two portions; the kitchen and people of the boat occupy the after-part, and the rest is appropriated to a very handsome cabin furnished with screens, lanterns, &c. in the Chinese taste.

The Follies are now in a ruinous condition, and being totally inadequate to purposes of defence, are only used as a rendezvous for the revenue boats

belonging to this division of the river. Stone steps from the water lead to the gate or principal entrance, and at the foot of the landing the boats are secured. Measuring lengthwise, the space enclosed by the walls of the Dutch Folly, is perhaps two hundred and twenty feet, the diameter one-third of the length. Within the walls are houses serving as quarters for the officers, flag-staff, barracks, &c. with several very lofty and venerable trees. The walls are of brick, built on a stone basement founded on the rocks. All the lids of the port-holes are decorated with very frightful paintings of tigers heads, as is usual in most Chinese fortifications. In size, the French is very inferior to the Dutch Folly, resembling it generally, but differing principally in being circular, while the latter is oval.

RICE FIELDS.

The land composing the islands between the *Bocca Tigris* and Canton, is for the most part, flat, with occasional and very abrupt hills. These tracts, which are overflowed by every spring-tide, except where the embankments protect them, are admirably adapted to the cultivation of rice, and are devoted chiefly to that purpose. The soil is prepared by a very simple plough drawn by a buffalo, and is afterwards hoed by hand. The plough is a

most primitive implement, sometimes consisting of three pieces of timber very clumsily joined together. The hoe is also peculiar, being made of hard wood, the edge shod with iron, and provided with a very long handle, by which the strength of the blow is increased.

Men, women, and children, work indiscriminately in the fields, and nothing is more common than to see females labouring in the mud, with their wide pantaloons rolled up as high as possible, in the warmest weather, each having an infant strapped on her back, while every motion causes the head of the unfortunate child to roll and jerk about, to the apparent peril of its neck. Others may be seen busily engaged in setting out the young rice plants, which are at first sowed at random, and when they have attained the height of five or six inches, they are taken up, and reinserted in the ground at regular distances—where they remain. In this operation all assist, and it is really curious to observe the celerity with which a little urchin of eight or ten years of age will go through this fatiguing process, running along with the body bent down to the ground, one arm sustaining a bundle of the young rice plants, and the other employed in thrusting them into the soft soil.

There are two crops of rice obtained every year from these marshy lands, but in spite of the enormous produce, the fears entertained by government of scarcity, have induced encouragements to import it from Manila, and elsewhere. The rice is

of good quality, but inferior to that of Manila, which is nearest resembled by the Chinese upland rice, of which only a small quantity is raised.

These lands are let out by the proprietors to persons who cultivate them, at yearly rents, the exact proportions of which I was not able to ascertain. In fact, the deception and evasion by which the questions of foreigners are answered, make it almost impossible to ascertain the terms of private agreement with any degree of certainty.

DOCK YARDS.

The lower part of the suburb, on the south side of the river, is the station of the man-of-war junks, and the royal dock yards. Here the repairs of his majesty's ships are conducted, and new vessels built, in *dry* docks. In making these docks, little attention is paid to appearance; the space allotted for the purpose is rudely excavated, and the portion toward the river preserved strong enough to prevent the ingress of the water. Pumps and buckets are employed to drain the water from the leaks, which is much increased by heavy rains. In these docks the junks are built, and when entirely completed, and ready to float, the embankment which separates them from the river is broken down, and the vessel towed out into the stream. Launching

is only practised by boat-builders, and no vessel intended for sea-service is ever built upon stocks as with us. It is to be remembered that this observation relates only to vessels built in Canton; the customs of the other provinces may possibly be somewhat different. Accidents of little moment are repaired by grounding the vessel at high water, and working on it when left dry by the retiring tide. This operation is also resorted to when the bottom of a junk requires a fresh coating of the composition used in lieu of copper, or cleansing of barnacles, sea-weed, &c.

THE FACTORIES.

The misrepresentations with regard to China, and especially Canton, are incredible, particularly as that city is now more visited than ever, and by a great number of persons from whom accuracy and intelligence are expected.

Among other erroneous impressions which have been made, is that of the consequence and importance of the English East India Company. Many suppose that the Company's factory is the only one, or, rather that all the factories are the Company's, and other nations visiting Canton are under the protection and controul of this monopoly. As the Hon. Company endeavours on all occasions to lay claim to any meritorious or spirited proceeding of

the foreigners resident at Canton, it has by its improper interferences, and assumptions of superiority, earned the same dislike and unpopularity which a despotic and tyrannical government has entitled it to, in all other places to which its influence extends. The unity of the members as a body has enabled them to carry measures which depended on the unqualified co-operation of the parties concerned. This has been impossible among Americans and others, inasmuch as the many conflicting interests of the residents do not admit of unity in a measure which is likely to be unequally beneficial in its effects. Success with the pusillanimous Chinese induced the Company to interfere seriously in the seasons of 1827–8 in the American trade, but fortunately for us their efforts were successfully opposed. The result of the scheme will probably prevent them again annoying us. The extensive importation of British goods in American vessels had been materially detrimental to the Company's trade in China, and, as they found it impracticable to prevent the exportation from England by Americans, they resolved to thwart them, by using their influence to affect their sales in Canton. This controversy has already been made public, and I omit any further mention of it here, as not bearing directly on our subject.

By the following description it will be seen that the Company's houses compose only a small portion of the factories, and that its controul extends only to those occupied by the members.

The factories occupied by the residents at Canton, form a range of perhaps eight or nine hundred paces in length, and extends to a Chinese cross street behind them, various distances from four to six hundred feet. The houses are built in parallel lines facing each other, each hong or passage resembling a small street. The house at the entrance is transverse, and faces a large square to the south. This, previous to the great fire of 1822, was enclosed by a railing round the central portion of it, but on the rebuilding of the factories, the railing was not replaced, and the square now remains entirely open. The want of the enclosure has rendered this vacant space a positive nuisance, for beside containing a Chinese market, which in itself is disgustingly offensive, it is the rendezvous of all the idle men and boys of the neighbourhood, and the theatre of action of conjurors, quack-doctors, barbers, thieves, and vagabonds of every description. The bricks and rubbish of the factories destroyed by the fire, formed for a long time an offensive mound of earth and filth, the gradual accumulations of the scavengers for several years, and latterly was considered so serious an annoyance, as to induce the residents to petition the city authorities for its removal. In process of time it had increased to such a degree as to encroach upon the square, and was receiving daily formidable additions from the labours of the collectors of street dirt, in the savoury precincts of Hog lane and old China street. This petition after much solicitation was received, and the nuisance re-

moved in 1828, and preparations were making once more to enclose the square and ornament it with shrubbery, in order to render it a pleasant promenade for the imprisoned foreigners.

The East India Company constructed long stone piers on wooden piles in the river, the tops of which were covered by broad slabs of granite, and they were intended to project far enough to be in a line with the artificial ground formed by the rubbish above mentioned. Earth was to have been placed on the top of these granite foundations, and a continuation of the Company's garden formed. The Chinese authorities permitted the work to proceed until *half finished,* and *one* side wall was built up, and then prohibited any further operations, stating as a reason, that it was an unlawful encroachment on the river, which at this point is narrow and rapid. A considerable sum was paid to a small custom-house mandarin, or tide-waiter, to remove his house nearer the water-side; this was done, and, as soon as these fellows were comfortably established in their new quarters, in a well-built, neat, and convenient house, the superior mandarins came down and razed it to the foundations, compelling them to return to their former station, but entirely omitting to return the money. As a determination to prevent the foreign residents from being made comfortable was evident in these proceedings, the matter was dropped, to be resumed when a more favourable disposition of the local magistrates seemed to warrant it.

The hongs or ranges of factories face the river and the south; the entrance of each is secured by a strong gate, attended by a porter, who finds ample employment in guarding it from the intrusions of the natives, who are perpetually loitering in the vicinity. Some of the front houses have small enclosures before them, which serve to keep persons from lounging against the wall, and are frequently used to air clothes in, &c.

The first or eastern hong is situated on the edge of a creek which penetrates far into the town, from whence it has been named the Creek Factory. Adjoining this is the Dutch, the front house of which is occupied by the Dutch East India Company. This factory joins the English new hong, the first house of which is very spacious, containing the state apartments, chapel, &c. The front is decorated by a handsome portico verandah, which gives it a fine and imposing appearance. The verandah of the Dutch hong is an humble imitation, in very bad taste. A terrace which has been lately placed upon the East India Company's factory has materially disfigured it, but the elevation renders it a delightfully cool retreat in the heat of an autumn evening.

The *Chow-Chow* hong, occupied principally by Parsees, Moors, and Arabs, is separated from the English by a narrow street called Hong lane, in Chinese *Tow-lan*. The excessive filth of this place, which contains the lowest shops possible, and the public *Cloacæ*, has warranted the change of title

from *Hong* lane, to *Hog* lane, by which it is universally known.

Next to the *Chow-Chow*, stands the *old English hong*, entirely inhabited by members of the East India Company. The *Swedish hong* adjoining is now entirely tenanted by American residents. The *Imperial* or *Austrian hong* still preserves its name, although the trade is almost entirely discontinued. The houses are inhabited by various persons, as is also the next, or *Pow-soon* hong. The *Man-yune*, which is connected with the American, is the last hong to the eastward of China street. This street, which is about twenty or twenty-two feet in width, is exclusively occupied by tradesmen, with whom business is transacted on a small scale, in comparison with the commercial operations by the *hong merchants*.

The opposite side of the street at its commencement, is formed by a house of business of the hong merchant, *Chung-qua*, and immediately adjoining is the *French*, the houses being let to various residents and visiters in the business season. A small factory called the *Spanish*, stands between it and the Chinese street named after the merchant *Ponkei-qua*, and the line of hongs is terminated by the *Danish*, on the other side of the street.

This was the disposition of the factories in March, 1829, at which time several improvements were projected, some of which may possibly ere this have been completed. The jealousy of the Chinese, and

their fear of a permanent footing being obtained by foreigners in the Celestial Empire, will militate very strongly against any very extensive additions or conveniences, as they in every instance discountenance an arrangement by which the residents may be made more comfortable.

The internal construction of the houses is very similar to our own, with the exception of large rooms, purposely made for storing merchandise, and called, as in Bengal, *Go-downs*. In these, goods are deposited on wooden frames or sleepers, raised several inches above the floor, and the supports surrounded by rice-chaff, tar, or quicklime, as a defence against the white ants, which are very destructive. The insects refuse to pass any of these substances, and tolerable security is thus obtained, though care is taken frequently to air and examine the warehouses.

The fronts of many of the houses are furnished with *verandahs*, a kind of balcony defended from the sun by Venitian blinds. Many of the roofs are crowned with terraces, which are delightful retreats during the excessively warm evenings of September and October. Tea and refreshments are served, and several hours pleasantly consumed, while in the hongs or houses the heat and closeness are almost insupportable.

During the summer, a large fan, composed of painted muslin stretched on a wooden frame, and suspended from the ceiling, is kept in constant motion over the table during the meals, by a cord

passing through the wall, and pulled by a servant in an adjoining room. By this means a pleasant air is produced, and any insects which may be there, kept off. It is a curious fact that the most annoying insect by which we are persecuted, is there extremely rare, and never troublesome—I mean the domestic fly. In spite of the disgusting accumulations of filth, which are to be found in every street, still we find scarcely any flies, and they are never troublesome in the houses, as they are with us.*

The cold of winter is not of long duration, and is in comparison extremely mild. Grates are used for the purposes of warmth, and a proportion of Chinese coal added to the English, produces an agreeable and very manageable fire. The Chinese coal which I have examined, resembles what is called by dealers, *egg-coal*, but appears to contain more sulphur.

As no foreigner is acknowledged by the Chinese law to hold real estate of any kind, all these factories are nominally the property of the hong merchants, although *bona fide* belonging to the residents. This is universal with a few exceptions, in which houses are actually owned by Chinese, and rents paid to them by the occupants.

The ground on which the factories are built, is land reclaimed from the river, as the buildings all

* The absence of flies is however fully atoned for in millions of most vindictive mosquitos, against whose attacks patience and nankin boots are the only antidote.

stand on piles, and the tide flows up into the sewers which run the length of each hong.

The walls of the houses are covered with white plaster, which gives them a very neat appearance from the river; the roofs are tiled, as is always the case in the native houses, except in very small tenements, which are thatched with rice straw, or covered with bark, or the dried leaves of the fan-palm, which, though apparently insignificant protections against the tremendous autumnal rains, are in fact perfectly well adapted for the purpose, and have an additional recommendation, of being extremely cheap, which, with a people so economical, is not a trifling one.

The bricks, composed of a kind of sandy clay, are of a leaden colour when burnt, easily broken, and not very durable. A fine granite, which is abundant in the province, is much used for foundations and basements, being of a good grain and colour, and acquiring great hardness on exposure to the atmosphere.

White cedar is the material of joists, floors, &c. but is objectionable on account of its extreme softness. Teak is sometimes substituted for it, but as it is very expensive, and more difficult to work, is only occasionally used. Numerous kinds of hard wood are employed in the ornamental works, which the workmen are not so skilful in as our own. The screens, and other decorations of their own dwellings, are however infinitely more curious and elaborate. The carving in particular strikes every

one, not only on account of the beauty of the devices, but the neatness and intricacy of the work. The wood is generally cedar, or the camphor, which resists the attacks of insects.

Generally speaking, the houses are very ill built as to durability, and could only last as long as they do in a climate so mild as that of Canton. The made ground on which the factories and a great portion of the south suburb stand, is very difficult to build a good foundation on, and in some of the houses, the failure of the walls has been consequent to the settling of the earth.

The factories are commodious, some of them being very large, and furnished with every necessary of a comfortable dwelling. The expenses of building are moderate, but the work is but indifferently executed, the builder generally fearing to construct too solid an edifice, lest it endure too long, and thus deprive him of a chance of rebuilding it.

WALLS OF CANTON.

The walls which surround the city are constructed of various kinds of stone, and are about forty feet in height, very thick at the base, and decreasing gradually to the summit, which is embattled, and has a wide foot-path on it. Bastions are placed at intervals, and through a gate in each are

the entrances to the city. These entrances are wide, low, and arched, protected by thick gates, covered with iron studs, and other defences. Passing through the outer gate, which has a wicket, at a short distance the way is closed by another, much slighter, composed of round wooden bars, secured by very indifferent chains, and padlock. Cavalry and infantry are posted at each bastion, which forms a kind of guard-house. At nine o'clock the gates are closed for the night, and ingress or egress is forbidden by law. Bribery is resorted to, and for a trifling compensation, the guards are repeatedly seduced from their duty, and permit persons to pass. Many of the officers at the different gates were displaced by the *Gan-cha-sze,* (on-chat-sze, of the Canton dialect,) or criminal judge, in 1828, in consequence of his having successfully bribed them at night, when disguised as a common citizen, to allow him to enter the town after the proper hour. This worthy and incorruptible magistrate was removed to Pekin and promoted, at the instigation of the officers of government at Canton, who, constantly dreading a discovery of their infamous dereliction from duty, solicited the Emperor to promote him. He was a most extraordinary man; revered by the people for the impartiality of his decisions, and hated by his compeers in office for his justice and immoveable probity. At his departure much regret was expressed by the populace, and their indignation would have exhibited it-

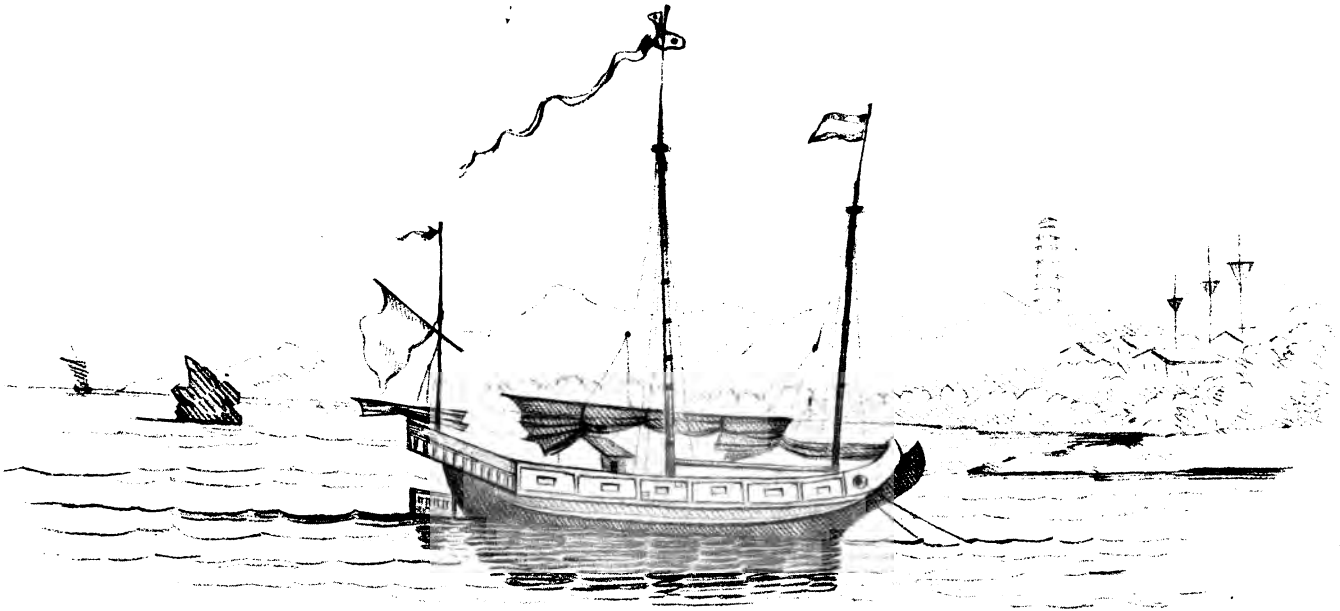
self in a more marked manner, but they were restrained by fear.

The walls are covered by a coat of plaster, much damaged in many places by age and accident; having stood since the last year of the reign of *Keayew*, A. D. 1067.

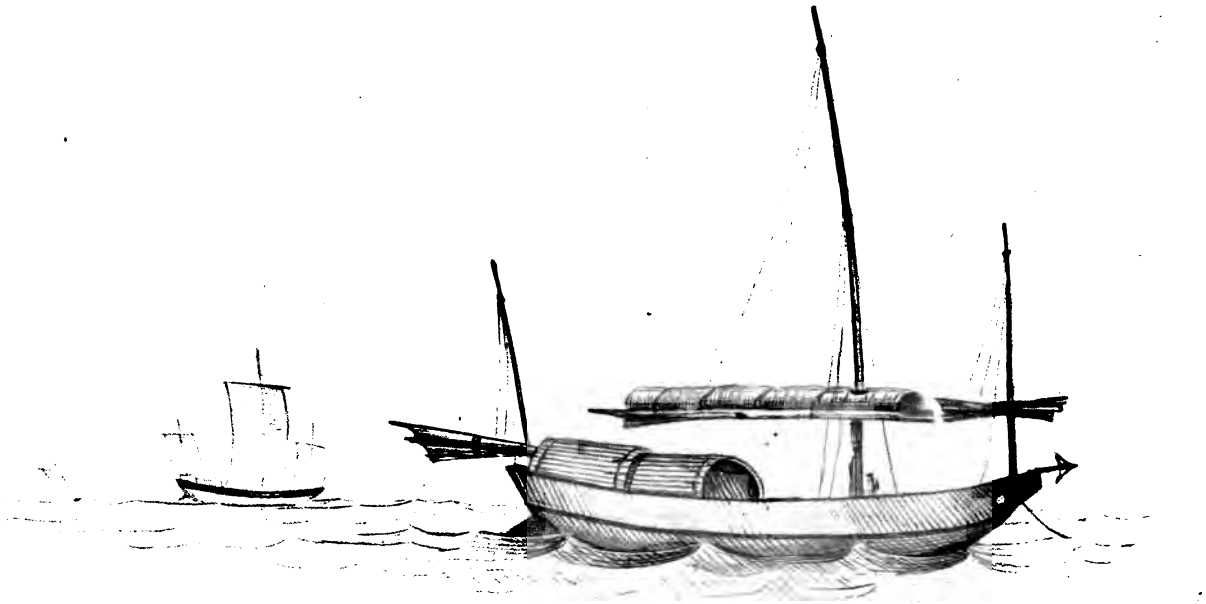
Large vacant spaces are enclosed within the city walls, and the houses are more spacious, less crowded, and loftier than those of the suburbs. All the offices of the magistrates and government are within the walled town. Formerly no objections were made to foreigners entering the city, and the prohibition which is now in force, was said to have been occasioned by the irregular conduct of the Dutch many years since. As an object of curiosity, there is little to be seen within the walls which has not its counterpart without, and the principal cause of the desire to visit it, is simply because it is forbidden.

JUNKS.

The same lamentable disregard of fitness and proportion which has influenced the Chinese in the construction of their fortifications is likewise remarkable in their naval architecture; and yet while we wonder at the excessive awkwardness of their vessels, we are compelled to admire the consummate skill



Junk



Boat of the Eastern Provinces.

with which they are managed. The larger junks are curious specimens of depraved taste in ornament, and misconceived ideas of the form and character of the requisites of a vessel calculated to sail swiftly and securely. They are built with considerable curve, or sheer, as it is termed by sailors, and sit upon the water like huge half moons. A great beam in proportion to their length, and a very full build, added to numerous projections of timber heads, &c. from the sides, are all calculated to retard their progress through the water. These remarks apply principally to the vessels employed in the trade of China, and not to the ships of war, which are constructed with more attention to swiftness, and many of the preposterous decorations and appendages, which deform and endanger the trading junks are dispensed with. The plate will give a better idea of one of these specimens of naval architecture than any description. All vessels, except boats and river cruizers, belonging to the imperial marine, are to be distinguished in Canton by the plain manner in which they are painted, by their superior neatness. Red and black are the usual colours. The guns are imbedded in carriages without trucks, or else lashed on spars which cross the deck transversely; in consequence, no aim can be taken except by yawing the vessel with the helm.

Vessels from the provinces are always easily distinguished from those of Canton, by some marked peculiarity of their build, or in the cut of the sails. A difference of character is observed in the physi-

ognomy and costume of the crews, especially in those of the *Füh-Këën* vessels from *Amoy*. In all cases the sails are of matting, sometimes having a topsail of coarse cloth. Trading junks are not permitted to carry guns, and the only arms with which they are provided, are pikes, halberds, and sometimes swords. In size they vary from near a thousand tons to forty or fifty. The hold is well constructed for the safety of the vessel, by having several partitions, or bulkheads across it at certain distances, and dividing it into distinct portions. By this arrangement, the vessel, in the event of a leak is in little danger of sinking; the water only enters a part of the hold, and is prevented from penetrating further by the tight caulking of the divisions. Merchants sometimes hire one of these chambers in the hold of a junk, and appropriate it to the reception of their own goods. The number of the crew is proportioned to the size of the vessel; one of the largest size, which trade to Batavia, having two or three hundred men, and sometimes as many passengers. A remarkable feature is the huge rudder, which projects from the stern, and which, by means of a windlass, is capable of being hoisted up, on coming into shoal water. Unlike our rudders, those of the Chinese vessels are very broad, and pierced with numerous holes, to lessen the resistance in moving through the water. Some years since a large junk was provided with a rudder on the European principle, and had its stern altered in such a way as to render it more safe in case of a

sea striking it. In order to obtain permission to make these alterations in the established mode of ship-building, it was necessary for the owners of the junk to purchase a written permission from the mandarins, for which they paid twelve hundred taels or about one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three dollars. This sum, though large, was soon found to have been well expended, as the junk made several voyages without meeting with any accident, in consequence of the improvement in her build and steering.

CANALS AND CANAL BOATS.

Much of the internal commerce of China is conducted by canals, some of which are most stupendous works of art. The only knowledge we possess in relation to them, is that which is found in the works of the French Jesuits, or the later Journals of the English Embassies. They are described as vast attempts, the construction of which would scarcely have been practicable in any other country than China, where the multitude of labourers, and the trifling remuneration they receive, enables the government to project works which would end in the bankruptcy of any other. The boats used for the inland transportation of merchandise on the canals, are built in a peculiar manner, and are many times larger than those of Europe or America, the largest being estimated at four to five hundred

tons burthen, and having a crew of forty or fifty persons. They are constructed like long narrow scows, drawing six or eight feet water, and having covered cabins or holds, the roofs, or covers, about six feet high, and rounded on the top; on this, supported by cross pieces, which rest on lateral uprights, are placed boards which form the real deck, as in the safety barges used in the United States. The sail is very large and heavy, composed of mats, suspended between two very stout masts, springing one from each side, and lashed together at the top, very much like the sheers used for masting ships. These masts are purposely constructed in this manner, in order that they may be easily struck, or lowered, when passing the numerous bridges which cross the canals. They are very deeply laden, so much so as to bring the tracking boards, which run round the outside of the boat, level with the surface. On these boards the crew walk, pushing the boat along by long bamboo poles shod with iron. The sail is only used in rivers previous to entering canals, where the boat is dragged, or tracked along. These boats come to Canton in considerable numbers, laden with tea, raw silk, and other articles of export which are raised in the northern provinces, and return with cargoes of salt, skins, and foreign dry-goods, beside numerous articles of minor importance. The quantities of salt which these boats carry, make them frequently draw so much water as to endanger them on the rocks in the river at Canton,

where, if they are so unfortunate as to strike, it seldom happens that they are got off uninjured, and in some cases are totally lost, owing to the narrowness of the channel, and the rapidity of the stream. A boat having on board thirty or forty thousand dollars worth of salt, beside other articles of cargo, was lost on the rocks during my stay in China, and the lading in great part destroyed—the loss entirely falling on the owners, as there is no insurance effected on goods among the native merchants. These boats, when loading with salt, lie some distance down the river in an arm of the stream, called *Salt River*, from the numbers of salt junks which anchor there, and discharge their cargoes. The boats lie moored in the stream side by side, when waiting for freight, about half way up the town, with their tall mast struck, and every thing made snug, in order to occupy as little room as possible. When they are ready to depart, the crew tow the canal boat out into the stream, and entirely clear of the boats, previous to making sail; poles and sculls are used to aid the tow-boats in propelling it forward, and they move tolerably fast with this assistance.

GARDENS AT FA-TEE.

On a small branch of the river two miles above Canton, and on the opposite side, are situated the Chinese gardens, called Fa-tee, "*the flower*

grounds," the property, it is said, of the hong merchants. At the time when flowers are most abundant, the most beautiful varieties are to be obtained here in great perfection, and at moderate prices. Delightful pic nic parties are occasionally got up by the residents, who, leaving Canton in large boats with every convenience for a party, find the summer-houses at Fa-tee admirably calculated for a rural fête. The servants precede the party, and by the time the boats have reached the gardens, every thing is in readiness. Dinners, by the native merchants, are sometimes given to foreigners here, but on account of the distance from Canton, are by no means to be compared with the entertainments given in their own houses. Stagnant ponds, in which a species of carp are fed, and some fanciful temples and summer-houses are the principal objects next to the immense collection of beautiful plants. The gardens are separated from each other, and the name of each is inscribed over the gate of entrance, fronting on the border of the canal, or branch of the river. During some of the native seasons of festivity, great numbers of flower-boats filled with the unfortunate females of *Shaming** are seen here, accompanied by bands of the most discordant and clamorous music. The passage is narrow, and always crowded with canal and

* *Sha-ming*, or *Sha-meen*, a part of the suburb on the water's edge above the factories, the dwelling place of great numbers of women of the town.

passage boats, and not unfrequently by large rafts of timber from the interior.

The arrangement of the gardens is very precise and formal, and but little attention is paid to neatness: fish ponds, filled with stagnant water, in which quantities of the lotus grow, have a disagreeable appearance, and doubtless an unhealthy effect in the warm season. I am unfortunately not botanist enough to enumerate the valuable and scarce plants which are cultivated at *Fa-tee*, but the display of the varieties of *oranges*, *camellias*, *daphnes*, and *roses*, struck me at the different seasons in which they bloomed, as curious and beautiful. Yellow roses, so rare with us, were abundant; and in the winter the collections of the *chrysanthemum* were very large, and covered with flowers of several colours almost unknown to our horticulturists. All the ordinary fruits of China are to be purchased at Fa-tee, and some uncommon species, for instance, orange trees bearing the *Cum-quat*, which, although uneatable in its unprepared state, is made into a most delicious preserve. The citron, or *finger fruit*, arrives at great perfection here, the size exceeding those of any other garden near Canton. Here also are numerous specimens of the *air plant*, an extraordinary vegetable production, which flourishes, suspended in small wicker baskets, without a particle of earth. Dwarf plants are in great favour, especially such as are distorted or deformed, and great pains are taken in cultivating them as chamber ornaments. Porcelain jars,

boxes, and fanciful pieces of rock-work, with all the crevices occupied by odd-shaped shrubs, are common in the gardens. Collections of seeds are put up here in small Chinaware jars for sale, but they seldom vegetate on their arrival in America. The bulbous roots, which are purchased at the gardens, succeed much better.

SUBURB OF HO-NAM.

THAT portion of the town built on the south side of the river, forms a very populous suburb, called Ho-nam. Here are the private residences of some of the hong merchants, who have their hongs or places of business near the Factories, and retire in the evening to their houses on the opposite shore. The lower part of this suburb is filled with small houses and shops, crowded together very closely, chiefly tenanted by the lower classes. Along the shore are the dock-yards, and stations of canal-boats, and other vessels from the interior, as well as large rafts of timber, which come down from the northern provinces. Gambling houses, and many others of still worse reputation, are built on piles along the shore, and numbers of boats devoted to the same purposes, are constantly anchored on this side of the river, as well as at *Shaming*, above the factories, on the opposite bank. At *Ho-nam* there are several very curious tem-

ples, especially the great *Hoe-chong-sze*, which no foreigner should omit to visit. The shops of the coffin makers are also here, and in them may be seen the large slabs of cedar of which ordinary coffins are made. Foreigners are permitted to walk without molestation through this suburb, into the country beyond it, where afternoon excursions are frequently made by strangers, and residents of Canton. A temporary interruption of this privilege occurred, from the misconduct of some Parsees, but the restriction was soon removed; at present, with the exception of an occasional pelting from idle boys, no annoyance is met with. The low land is used almost entirely for cultivating rice, and the dry portions for sugar-cane, and vegetables. Upon one occasion, we observed a large field of fine barley, the first and only time it occurred under my observation, in China. Buffaloes are often met with when walking in the fields. A small native boy is considered sufficient to govern several of them, but the sight of a foreigner alarms and irritates them exceedingly, making it always desireable to avoid a near approach.

The country is crossed in every direction, by narrow roads, paved in many places with slabs of granite. By the road sides, small oratories are observed, containing either a painted tablet, or a pair of stone idols, before which, matches and small red candles are burnt, as propitiatory offerings by travellers. Numbers of healthy, but very dirty children swarm in every direction; generally con-

gregating in the vicinity of a temple, or village, for the purpose of gazing at the foreigners who pass, and rewarding their notice by a shower of stones, and vollies of abuse.

Much of the ground in the rear of the great temple, is occupied by common graves, which differ from the tombs of the rich, in being simply a hillock of earth, with a curved bank at the sides, and a small engraved stone tablet imbedded in the mound, bearing the name, &c. of the deceased. No enclosure separates a Chinese grave-yard from the surrounding country, and paths traverse it in every direction; the passengers uniformly avoiding to tread on the graves. Plantations of indigo are common; the plants being defended from the sun by a species of thatch placed above the ridges. Ponds afford water for the purposes of agriculture in dry seasons, but from being offensively stagnant, are doubtless very unhealthy. Travellers on numerous roads, cross the canals and creeks, either by ferry boats, or bridges, some of which are beautiful specimens of Chinese architecture. Upon one, at the distance of a mile and a half south of the landing, there are slabs of granite of extraordinary length, and no other material is used in its construction. The two piers project from the bridge in an acute angle, by which arrangement, the force of the stream is much broken. Bananas and *Li-chees* are planted on the embankments, which defend the fields from overflowing of the canals.

Boats are found wherever there is water to float them, collected together in fleets, which lie in the most commodious spots. The men are, in most cases, employed as labourers on shore, while the women and children are engaged in fishing. Accidents, and loss of lives, frequently occur among such numbers of people living entirely on the water, and the bodies of drowned persons are often seen lying on the overflowed flats, or floating in the river. In my shooting excursions, I have occasionally stumbled over the remains of some poor wretch, half devoured by dogs, in the marshes. Great caution is used by the natives in removing the bodies of persons found dead, lest the imputation of murder should attach to them, which would afford an admirable opportunity to the mandarins, of extorting money from the accused.

HOE-CHONG-SZE,

Or Great Temple, at Ho-nam.

This magnificent establishment is one of the principal "lions" of Canton, and the facilities which are afforded to visiters, leave no excuse to the traveller for not having seen it. The *Hoe-Chong-Sze* or Ho-nam Jos house, as it is commonly called, is a monastery of the sect of Fŭh, or Buddha, and is certainly the most gorgeous specimen of Chinese

architecture to be met with. The buildings occupy a space of several acres, including the approaches, in addition to which, there is a very large garden, the whole enclosed by a high and substantial wall. Trees of various kinds are planted within the enclosure, the foliage of which is very luxuriant, and evergreen, concealing the buildings from view without. Among them are several banyans, remarkable for the pendant branches, which in Bengal, penetrate the earth, and take root, while the Chinese trees merely give out long pendulous filaments, like old ropes, which seldom reach the ground. The garden of the temple is the asylum of thousands of birds, especially white herons, and wild doves, which roost in perfect security on the lofty trees, protected by the priests, who never destroy animal life, or permit any one else to do so on their premises. Domestic animals are kept here, deposited by pious persons, to save them from slaughter, and the enormously fat pigs which luxuriate in an enclosure purposely provided for their accommodation, are objects of especial wonder to most visiters. Sheep, &c. are kept in another part of the establishment, protected in like manner. In relation to the remark of Mr. Ellis, in his account of Lord Amherst's embassy, that the sacred pigs kept at this temple, "wallow in the filth and stench of years," it can only be said that at present these animals are kept as clean and free from offensive appearance as possible, and certainly do not deserve the epithet of a disgusting sight.

The entrance to the temple is near the ferry stairs. Under a large gateway, guarded by strong wooden bars, the visiter passes along the stone pavement, which leads through a court-yard of about two hundred feet in length, to where another gateway or barrier arrests his progress. This entrance is through a house which is placed transversely across the passage, and contains two immense clay statues of Chinese gods, placed one on either side, and separated from the passage by a wooden paling. Before them are odoriferous matches constantly burning in pewter censers. The wall is covered with pieces of written paper, pasted up by devotees. After passing another court, crossed by a similar granite pavement, a larger house of the same kind is entered, which contains four similar statues with their respective attributes. These gigantic figures are twenty or twenty-five feet high, placed in a sitting posture, coloured and gilt very fantastically. At the back of this building are two large tablets of black stone, covered with precepts and prayers, very neatly engraved. They are said to be an imperial present, from *Kĕen-lung*, to the monastery. In front of the first gateway there are two wooden tablets, covered with similar inscriptions.

There are two small temples in this space, one on either side, containing statues of a civil and military demigod, about eight feet high, highly gilt and ornamented with carving.

A flagged walk leads to the first great temple,

which is built upon a raised platform, ascended by granite steps. The eaves of the roof project several feet, and are supported by wooden lacquered pillars on granite bases, forming a covered walk all round it. Dragons and other quaint devices decorate the angles of the roof, which is covered with coloured tiles and highly ornamented. This temple is about one hundred and ten feet wide, and is nearly square. Here the daily religious ceremonies of the priests take place at about four o'clock, P. M. before three gigantic gilt statues of Buddha, enthroned in a sitting posture. In front of these idols is placed a long altar, upon which odoriferous matches are kept constantly burning in metal vessels, flanked by large flower jars. Many handsome lanterns of painted silk, glass, and horn, hang from the roof, from which also are suspended boards covered with gilt inscriptions, and some singular ornaments peculiar to the penetralia of Chinese temples. The pillars which support the roof are of wood, highly lacquered with red varnish, and bear inscriptions in gold. Numerous small figures of minor divinities and deified mortals are arranged on the east and west sides of the temple, each one with a perpendicular tablet and inscription before it.

The ceiling is painted very fancifully, but with an agreeable effect, well relieved by the varnished rafters which sustain it. Circular mats upon which the prostrations are performed, lie in front of the principal altar, and during the daily ceremonial,

long mats or pieces of cloth are arranged in parallel rows, on the tiled floor, upon which the priests kneel.

Immediately in the rear of this temple, and at a distance of about seventy feet, is another, in the centre of which stands a beautiful white marble obelisk, highly ornamented with sculpture, and bearing bas reliefs on the four sides of the base. A number of presses or cases filled with religious books, are deposited here for the use of the members of the monastery. In form and disposition these two temples are very similar. The doors are kept closed except during the exercises; but being formed of a kind of open wood-work, permit a view of the interior. A small fee to the keeper, seldom fails to procure admission to the whole establishment, which, from its great extent, requires some time to examine thoroughly.

Another temple, in the rear of the last, terminates the monastery to the south. It consists of a centre, and a small apartment on each side.

The cloisters form the sides of a large hollow square, which contains the buildings just described. The cells are small, opening towards the inside of the enclosure, the entrance of each defended from the weather by a projecting roof supported by lacquered pillars. Numerous tablets covered with engraved characters are inserted in the wall of the cloisters, and in a conspicuous place there is a large tub, containing a metal vessel, filled with tea, for the use of the native visiters who are constantly

lounging about the court-yard of the temple, or reclining on the seats against the wall.

The right wing of the establishment is occupied by a smaller temple of two stories, filled with idols, the enclosure for the sacred pigs, a printing-office, and smaller domestic buildings. A part of the cloisters is also appropriated to the shops of tailors, &c. who make the clothes worn by the members of the institution.

On the left is the reception room for strangers, the refectory, a large apartment filled with long tables and benches, smelling most abominably, several temples, kitchen, and servants offices. A passage leads to the garden, where the oven for burning the bodies of the deceased brethren is situated. Close to it are the vaults where the ashes are deposited, enclosed in earthen jars. Several acres of good land surrounded by a high wall, form the garden of the monastery, in which most of the provisions used by the members are cultivated; their creed prohibiting the use of animal food.

By numerous donations the *Hoe-chong-sze* has become very rich, and the superior is now considered a person of consequence. Foreigners who visit the place are always treated with kindness if they do not provoke the anger of the inmates by improper conduct.

Sometime previous to my departure, I went with a party, by invitation of the superior, to breakfast at the temple, where we were treated to a feast of vegetables, dressed in a very singular manner.

Quantities of oil were used in every dish, and many of them were far from pleasant to the taste, while those which were endurable were very insipid from the want of salt. Tea was served in the Chinese style, without milk or sugar, in covered cups. Preserves of many different kinds, some of them very palatable, terminated one of the most cheerless feasts at which I ever assisted; for, in addition to the simple nature of the fare, a very cool morning, and tiled floors contributed very much towards making our revels dull and uncomfortable. I observed several strange kinds of food, such as dried cabbages and mushrooms, with some roots of peculiar flavour, smelling so powerfully as to be very disagreeable. After returning home and refreshing ourselves with some more substantial comforts at our own table, we received a present of winter flowers, preserves, &c. which elicited a suitable return.

This disposition to be civil to foreigners has demonstrated itself very lately, and it is sincerely hoped that nothing may occur to interrupt an intercourse which is certainly very pleasant. The monastery gardens are a delightful resort during the hot months; foreigners are permitted to range freely through them, and as I have observed, a trifling fee will procure a view of the whole institution.

Beside the great temple, there are several smaller ones in the *Ho-nam* suburb, but none which can be compared to it in point of size or magnifi-

cence. In fact, it is said to be the most extensive and well-regulated establishment in the province. A large monastery of the sect of *Taou*, in the west suburb of Canton, is a very large and curious establishment. The view from the upper stories of the central building is excellent, embracing a great portion of the city and surrounding country.

The character of the inmates of the Buddhist monasteries is very disgraceful. They are accused of every description of immorality, and are spoken of generally as most depraved and abandoned men, who, unrestrained by any fear of present disgrace or future punishment, give themselves up to the unrestrained indulgence of the most vicious propensities.

Such of the fraternity as are not attached to any regular monastery, wander about as mendicants, and in the wild districts of distant provinces, herd together as banditti; robbing and murdering travellers, plundering villages, and bidding defiance to troops sent against them by the officers of government. In 1826, a band of several hundred were discovered in the province of *Shan-tung* and routed by the imperial forces.

THE EXECUTION GROUND.

The place appropriated to public executions is situated without the walls, in the south suburb of

the city, and is literally a portion of a public and much frequented street. The numerous persons who pass and repass continually, appear to be little affected by the revolting spectacle of numbers of human heads which are decaying in an enclosure against the wall. At the time I visited this place, there were perhaps forty heads, in various stages of decay, most of them shut up in small cages, in which they were suspended for a certain time at the place where the crime was committed for which the culprit suffered.

The place is surrounded by shops and dwelling-houses, and the numerous inhabitants, inured to this shocking sight, view it in the coolest and most indifferent manner possible. On this spot sixteen men were decapitated at one time, for the murder of the crew of the French ship *Navigateur* in 1828. The executioners performed the task with great skill, and the unhappy culprits exhibited no symptoms of suffering, expiring apparently in an instant. One only appeared moved by his approaching fate, and he appealed in his provincial dialect to the foreigners present, in a very earnest manner, but of course in vain. After the execution, the bodies were thrown into a pit with a quantity of lime, and the heads, enclosed in small cages, were suspended against the wall on the inner harbour of Macao, in full sight of the sailors, to act as a warning.

The parties were tried at Canton, and the foreign residents were present by invitation. A scene such as this, is seldom witnessed, and being

curious and uncommon, I have described it separately.

Torture is frequently adopted to extort confession, and many crimes are punished by torments of the most horrible kind. Scalding with hot oil, cutting to pieces slowly, mutilation, &c. are the penalties assigned for crimes of the most atrocious character, while strangling, decapitation, and banishment are the rewards of minor offences. The number of executions annually is very great, as many crimes are there punished with death, which elsewhere are thought undeserving of it. Many unfortunate men perish victims to the influence of their enemies, and innocent of the crimes imputed to them, while, on the other hand, bribery and corruption effect the release of criminals, for whom, frequently, death is too mild a punishment.

STREETS OF A CHINESE CITY.

Foreigners are particularly struck by the narrowness of the Chinese streets. In Canton, the widest of them certainly does not exceed one of our lanes, and the mass of people which constantly fills them, renders the passage difficult, and disagreeable. The pavement consists of slabs of granite placed transversely, and cut roughly on the surface, to prevent slipping in wet weather. Boards are mostly thrown across from the roofs,

on either side, by which means, the rays of a burning sun are in a measure excluded. There are no side paths, or trottoirs, as wheeled carriages are never seen in Canton, and no horses, except those belonging to the military. A kind of tacit agreement exists among people, to prevent as much as possible confusion in a crowded passage, by all who are going the same way, keeping one side of the street, and those who are progressing in a contrary direction, the other. Without some such arrangement, a passage through the streets, crowded as they are, would be almost impossible. Scavengers are constantly employed in removing the dirt, which collects in great quantities, but in spite of their labours, the streets are frequently disgustingly filthy, and abound in the most abominable smells imaginable, especially in the rear of the factories, and near the butchers', and poulterers' shops. So dirty indeed, are some of them, that the names have become proverbial, as for instance, *Hong-lane*, as it was originally called, has by a very apt and significant corruption, degenerated into *Hog-lane*, by which, it is now generally known.

The name of each street, is in most cases, written over the gateway which separates the squares, one from another, and by the most ridiculous perversion, some of the most disgusting thoroughfares in Canton, are distinguished by most *fragrant* titles. In fact, the flowery style of the East occurs here in connexion with such places and things as to make the matter supremely ridiculous. Nothing can be

more pompous and absurd than the literal translation of the names of streets, districts, and of the various chops of tea, which accord perfectly with the hollow and superficial habits of the natives.

At the extremity of each square, is a gate or barrier, which is closed about ten o'clock, and guarded by a watchman, who walks upon his beat, striking a heavy bamboo club against the stone pavement. The noise thus created, may be heard at a great distance, and serves to assure the inhabitants of the watchman's vigilance. Every one desirous of passing these street gates after the hour of closing them, must carry a lighted lantern, having his name and residence painted on it. In the event of a robbery, or alarm, the entrance of the street is immediately secured, inclosing the offenders, and rendering their detection almost certain. Look-out-houses are placed in various parts of the suburbs, elevated above the houses, on bamboo scaffoldings. In these are stationed men, who watch over the city, and give the alarm of fire, by striking gongs. The trust appears any thing but an enviable one, for in high winds, these little edifices though firmly built, are certainly very insecure and dangerous stations, raised as they are, thirty or forty feet above the tops of the surrounding houses.

Good order is further maintained by the police, who are stationed at guard-houses in different districts of the city and suburbs.

POLICE.

FEW countries can boast of a more widely-spread and effective police, the ramifications of which appear to reach every where, and whose agents are dispersed among every class of people, all acting as spies upon each other. In addition to the usual police officers, there is a kind of interior police, composed of numbers of men kept in pay as secret agents, who are not distinguished by any peculiarity of dress, and who, by mingling constantly in all crowds, assemblies, &c. keep a careful and vigilant watch on the actions of suspected individuals. A number of these men may be seen sauntering about the squares in the most indifferent manner possible, and in an instant they rush among a knot of people, and seizing one of the number, bind, and bear him off, with great rapidity. The police runners are much dreaded by the populace, as they occasionally seize innocent persons, and accuse them falsely of criminal proceedings, in order to extort money; the individual generally preferring to submit to the exaction, rather than run the risk of being formally accused by these wretches, before corrupt magistrates. By the excellent regulations of the police, criminals seldom escape punishment for any length of time, as they are subject to the scrutiny of police spies wherever they go; and no ceremony is used in taking a man

into custody, whose conduct is in the slightest degree suspicious. In the neighbourhood of the factories, numbers of the police are constantly mingled with the crowds, which are daily collected there, watching the motions of suspected persons and not unfrequently arresting them, while very busily employed in plundering the unwary country people, who resort to the open square, to gaze at the *Fan-Kwei's.**

Persons in the police service, usually carry whips, or short swords, concealed in the large sleeves of their jackets, in order to prevent a rescue, and to defend themselves, if necessary. The populace very rarely interfere with the officers of justice, and the criminal is generally carried away without opposition. All riotous assemblies in the streets, are speedily dissolved by a vigorous application of the whip, which is bestowed unsparingly on all concerned in the disturbance, and sometimes on those who are merely spectators. Remonstrance is in vain, and submission in such cases is the only plan.

* This very flattering epithet, which means literally "Foreign devil," is the common term by which we are designated by the Chinese, and so frequent is the use of it, that it is no longer regarded as a title of abuse, but received as a matter of course.

THE FINE ARTS.

In sculpture, the Chinese have attained considerable skill, though in most cases it is misapplied, in creating imaginary monsters, rather than imitations of nature. A great taste prevails for extraordinary carvings in wood, stone or metal, and especially for figures composed of the finest white porcelain. Such figures are in most cases, either ludicrous and deformed representations of men, or figures of particular divinities. The business of carving in granite is extensively carried on, by persons who employ themselves in the manufacture of decorations for houses or tombs, and in sculpturing the small figures of deities, which are found placed at gateways of streets, and large houses. The larger figures, which are found in temples, are either modelled in clay, afterwards gilt and painted, or cut in wood, which is another branch of sculpture very much encouraged, as almost all the interior ornaments of the Chinese dwellings, temples, or palaces, are of carved screen work, very tasteful and elegant in design. Sculpture in ivory, metal, and tortoise shell, from China, has been long prized by lovers of foreign varieties, although certainly little deserving of admiration, further than as objects of curious labour, the design and execution being generally very stiff, and without regard to proportion or perspective. Boys are the prin-

cipal workmen in ivory and tortoise shell, cutting with considerable rapidity, after having traced the pattern carefully in India ink. The instruments are simply small iron rods, with points of various kinds, ground very sharp, and kept in order by a common hone. With these rude implements, the most elaborate specimens of ivory work are completed, such for instance as the celebrated concentric balls, which are ornamented with such ingenious devices. As most of the boys who are thus employed, receive no compensation for their labours, further than their clothes and provisions, it is easy to understand how these pretty specimens of patient skill are sold at prices comparatively low.

Painting has not kept pace in China with the sister art of sculpture, for we discover few specimens in which light, shadow, or perspective are properly applied. The style of European pictures is imitated with considerable success, in copies ordered by foreigners, but when painting for his own countrymen, the artist returns to the same dull and ineffective style, in which he has been originally instructed. As in other branches of art, the remuneration is comparatively small, but many of the pictures on which the greatest labour has been bestowed, are in reality, those to which the least real value can be attached by a connoiseur.

ARCHITECTURE.

The peculiar style of Chinese architecture, is familiar to every one, from the representations which occur on their porcelain, and painted wares. The large flat roofs, carved gables, and fantastic decorations of the summit, are striking and picturesque. Ornaments are dispersed without any regard to what we esteem good taste, and yet the general effect of their buildings is pleasing, colours are brought in strong opposition, without offending the eye, and in fact, it seems that the originality of the edifices, entirely reconciles us to the palpable absurdities of their construction.

The materials which are used by builders, are brick, a kind of fine granite, and sandstone, the latter principally for basements, for which purpose the exterior surfaces are carefully dressed by the mason.

The clay used for making bricks, is of a lead colour, and appears unchanged in the process of baking, which is much less carefully done than with us; the Chinese bricks being of a loose texture, and easily broken. Timber of various kinds is in use for building, but a kind of white cedar is principally employed, on account of its durability, and cheapness. A kind of wood called *China teak*, is also used for rafters, and other heavy work, while the floors are almost invariably of cedar.

In comparison with the ancient Chinese buildings now extant, the modern edifices are very slight and indifferently built, with the exception of fortifications, and similar works, which are constructed with much care, and of very solid materials. When about to raise a building, the Chinese prepare a scaffolding, somewhat higher than the intended edifice, and cover the top and most of the sides with a thatch of dried palm leaves, in order to protect the workmen and building from the weather.

PAGODAS.

The pagodas of China are immense octagonal towers, which are built of brick, and are generally located on a hill, or in some very conspicuous situation. They are usually of nine stories, but are found with seven. Those in the vicinity of Canton which are situated on the main branch of the river, are all nine stories in height; those in the inner passage which leads to Macao, are of seven. The stories are divided by a broad projecting cornice of brick work, upon the angles of which, in the perfect buildings, bells are suspended, and when agitated by the wind, produce a tinkling sound. All the pagodas near Canton are in a perfectly ruinous condition, and no trace of the ornaments which are said to decorate the perfect ones in other provinces

remains, except in some, a huge mast projects from the ruined roof, many feet above it. Upon this, balls of great size were formerly placed, and these balls, and the chains which descended to each angle of the upper-story roof, were represented to have been generally gilt only, but in some of pure gold! On those which we saw in our neighbourhood, trees of considerable size are found, and bushes and long grass are growing from the crevices of the brick work.

A number of accidents have happened from the loose bricks falling on people who were induced to go into these buildings, and many of them have their doors walled up in consequence. A small temple is usually found at the side of them, built of brick, and in no very flourishing state. These curious specimens of architecture are one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty feet high at present, and are built of a lead-coloured brick, which is much decayed. The pagoda of Nankin is stated to have floors at each story, but those of Canton have no trace of them, being quite hollow throughout their whole height.

There is a small kind of pagoda, very common along the river shore, which is of brick, and either octagonal or square, with a pointed roof, and a glazed porcelain or gilt ball upon the summit; they are of recent date, and are said to be occupied as temples. They are about sixty to eighty feet in height, and are of four stories generally. A very fine one is to be seen in going down to Macao by

the inner passage. Large trees are always to be seen near these edifices; sometimes the banyan, so celebrated in Bengal for its immense size.

HOUSES.

The aspect of a Chinese house from without is very cheerless. In front of each dwelling there is a court-yard, separated from the street by a high wall, usually pierced with a gate and two large windows, furnished with fancy screens of glazed earthenware. The house is approached through this court, and in it the palanquins of visiters are set down. Chinese dwelling-houses rarely exceed two stories in height, but many of the temples and other public buildings have several. The interior arrangement is neat. The blinds of the verandahs protect the rooms from the immediate influence of the sun, allowing at the same time a circulation of air.

The floors are almost always covered with red earthenware tiles, which, as fires are not used in the cool season, make the rooms extremely uncomfortable. Wrapped in several suits of clothes, one over the other, and wearing shoes with soles two inches thick, the natives are not inconvenienced by the cold, which, though never very great, is notwithstanding a sufficient contrast to the long summer to be disagreeable. In the northern provinces, where the winter

is severe, fires are used perforce, while in Canton, the short period of cool weather is not considered to require any other defence than additional clothes. Much ornamental carving is observed in the interior of the better kind of Chinese houses, in partition screens and cornices—the vacant spaces of which are filled with stained silk, or linen, tastefully painted. Long scrolls, bearing moral sentences or maxims, hang from the walls, occasionally flanked by a large painting of birds, bamboos, or flowers. A table bearing vases of flowers, an incense burner, and perhaps a curiously distorted fragment of wood or stone stands at one end of each room, while the other is occupied by a kind of divan covered with cloth, and furnished with cushions to repose on. A dark wood, resembling mahogany, and acquiring a deeper tint from age, is the material of which the best furniture is composed. Mat cushions are placed upon the chairs, and between every two seats stands a small tea-table, and a metal or China spitting-jar. Light is afforded by glass or silk lanterns of various forms, some of which are of tasteful shape, and covered with well-executed drawings in oil or water-colours. In the verandahs and passages are placed seats of China, and green stands of glazed earthenware, sustaining jars of flowers, and here and there a stone of singular shape, mounted on lacquered wooden legs, intended as a chair.

The beds are placed in recesses, defended by gauze curtains, which in the day time are confined

by silver or brass hooks, at the head and foot. A mat spread upon the wooden platform, constitutes the bed. The pillows are either of mat stuffed very hard, of leather, or bamboo, in shape resembling a log of wood, and quite as hard and unyielding. Quilted counterpanes and European blankets are laid up in neat folds at the side, or on a shelf raised a few inches above the bed. Long poems cover the silk or muslin tops of the curtains, and a gay picture or inscription decorates the recess in which the bed is placed.

Circular doors and windows are often to be seen in large establishments. The windows are filled with carved wooden or green earthenware screens, of beautiful patterns, and sometimes with an ingenious lattice of black bamboo. In country residences, where it is not an object to economize room, the gardens are handsomely laid out, and small temples or summer-houses at intervals, contribute to render the effect very pleasing. The *nelumbium* or water-lily of China is a great favourite; it is cultivated in large stagnant ponds, which are seen in all the gardens near Canton. Carp and other fish are also kept in these ponds, where they are fed, and become very tame. Gold-fish are preserved in earthen jars, or in globes of glass, where they attain a great size. As an article of food they are unknown, and are only prized for their gentleness and beautiful colour.

PUBLIC SQUARES.

ALTHOUGH the streets are arranged in such a manner, as to compress them as much as possible, yet in the vicinity of some large temples, situated in the suburbs, there are some open squares of considerable size. These are chiefly used for market places, and the sites of temporary theatres, where plays are performed during seasons of festivity. Shops and dwelling-houses are built round them, facing the interior, and during these public exhibitions the upper stories are let to spectators at a moderate price. The populace occupy the centre of the square gratis. Flag-staffs are raised in most of these places, and upon certain days, colours are hoisted, bearing peculiar devices. In China, the method of displaying a flag, differs essentially from our own. Instead of attaching the flag to the cord by which it is raised, the Chinese suspend it from one end of a pole; the haliards are made fast to the centre, and a cord from the other free extremity goes down to the foot of the staff to steady it by. By this arrangement, the flag hangs out straight, and displays itself in calm weather, while with us, the contrary effect takes place. The persons belonging to the temples have charge of these flags, except where there is a guard-house, and the colours are military.

Conjurors, quack doctors, and innumerable va-

grants swarm in all these public places, surrounded by crowds of idlers, all anxious to witness their exhibitions. The market people, seated by their baskets, occupy the sides of the square, while the passages to and from the neighbouring streets are by common consent kept tolerably clear.

BARBERS.

The custom of shaving the head, with the exception of a portion of the crown, from which the hair is suffered to fall down in a long plaited cue interwoven at the end with a silk string, originated at the Tartar conquest, and is a badge of servitude imposed upon the natives by the conquerors of their country. So long a time has elapsed since the overthrow of the last Chinese dynasty, that they no longer look upon this appendage as an insulting or disgraceful mark, but, on the contrary, cultivate the cue with great assiduity, and pride themselves particularly on its size and condition. It consequently happens that barbers are very numerous, and quite indispensable, but differing from their European brethren in a remarkable point, viz. silence. During the operation of shaving and regulating the hair, scarcely a word passes from the barber to his patient, and at the close of the business he rises silently from his seat, and depositing a small sum, according to his means, as a remuneration for the services of the tonsor, stalks

off without having opened his mouth, or having been asked a question. There is said to be a regulation prohibiting barbers from any regular demand on their customers, and leaving them to depend very much on the generosity of those who require their services; this is only the case with natives, for on being called upon to practice on a foreigner, they by no means forget to insist on a satisfactory equivalent for their labours. The streets of Canton and Macao are filled with these people, who, with a kind of stool fitted with drawers, to contain their apparatus, and a wooden vessel for holding a small charcoal furnace, hot water, and a small tub, sit for hours in the open squares and streets, plying their vocation.

A peculiarity of the Chinese may be mentioned here. They have a great aversion to sit upon a seat which has been recently occupied by another, and is warmed by the heat of the body, and consequently they are observed, previously to sitting down, to turn over the cushion, in order to avoid this annoyance; and for this purpose the barbers have a loose board on the top of their bench, which is taken off on the arrival of a customer, and a cool seat offered him.

COSTUME.

The dress of persons belonging to the various provinces, as well as individuals in different ranks

of life, varies exceedingly, but the general model is not departed from. The usual articles of Chinese dress, are a shirt, drawers, a long shirt-gown, or pelisse buttoning in front over them, stockings and shoes. The quality and number of these garments is regulated by the weather. In summer, for instance, the thinnest grass-cloth robe over a light shirt of the same material, thin silk drawers, stockings and shoes, constitute the entire clothing of most persons of respectability met with in the streets, while in winter, jackets of fur or cloth thickly wadded, are piled on over all, to the number of four or five, giving the wearer the appearance of being very hump-backed and deformed, as he walks along, his head sunk between his shoulders, and the full, long sleeves of the outside jacket covering the hands, and hanging several inches below the tips of the fingers. The dress of the higher classes in the winter is very magnificent, and expensive. The finest silks, and most expensive furs, broadcloths, and other costly materials are lined, quilted, and embroidered in the most beautiful mannner for the jackets and coats, and all the other parts of the full dress are in a corresponding style of expense and elegance. And yet with all this gorgeous display of externals, it is by no means uncommon to observe beneath all these splendid cloths, a shirt of quite a coarse fabric, and generally abominably dirty! It has been my fate to see some Chinese gentlemen, whose dresses were of immense value and per-

fectly spotless without, wear linen beneath their gorgeous trappings, which our poorest people would be ashamed of, in such a state of disgusting filth.

The poorer classes wear blue nankin quilted with cotton, almost entirely, the colour being dark and little liable to soil, and the material very durable and cheap. The plate exhibits the form and cut of the dress, which is very simple. In the warm months, boatmen, labourers, and coolies or porters wear nothing while at their work but a pair of drawers, made very wide, and fastened round the waist with a silk string, the body in other respects entirely uncovered, and when in the sun only partially protected by the immense circular bamboo or straw hat. When the rains are severe, they throw a cloak over the shoulders, made of dried rush leaves, which turns the rain very effectually, but is a most extraordinary wild and savage looking vestment. Occasionally, in the hottest part of the day, it is also worn by the labourers in the fields, as a protection against the fierceness of the sun. Umbrellas and fans are used by the richer people, for the purpose of protecting their heads from the sun, as it is not customary to wear a cap during the warm season, except on occasions of ceremony. The head is covered in winter, by a black silk skull-cap, fitting very close, with a silk knot on the top to take it off by. As the dress of ceremony differs slightly from the ordinary costume, a description of it will be necessary. Over

the shirt and drawers, is worn in *summer*, a long coat or robe, buttoning down the side, or in front, the buttons being gold or gilt, and deeply engraved, fastening with silk loops. This coat is of very thin transparent silk, or China linen, fastened round the waist, by a silk girdle, the clasp of which is generally set with a valuable stone. The cap is of bamboo, very finely woven, of a conical shape, the apex crowned by a button of gold, or coloured stone, according to the rank of the wearer. A tuft of hair dyed red falls down from the button, over the outside of the cap. A cover of white silk is sometimes put over the cap by rich persons, and crimson silk substituted for the hair.

The alteration in the dress of ceremony for winter, consists in substituting silk over-coats, wadded with cotton, or lined with fur, and a cap of black silk, the rim turned up all round, and faced with velvet, with crimson silk, dependent from the button on the summit of the crown. The full dress boots are always of black satin, the edges of the soles painted white. In addition to the badge of rank worn on the cap, in form of a globular button, there is an embroidered ornament on the breast of either a square or circular form, according to the rank of the wearer. The embroidered figure is either a bird, a dragon, or a tiger.

The buttons worn on the cap, are as follows:—1st. Transparent red. 2d. Opaque red. 3d. Opaque blue. 4th. Light blue. 5th. Crystal, or white

glass. 6th. Opaque white glass, or stone. 7th. The same. 8th. Flowered gold. 9th. The same. Of all these, there are divisions in rank not distinguishable by the decoration of the cap alone. The privilege of wearing these insignia is either conferred as a reward for meritorious service, or is purchased by the wearers. Persons cannot have corporal punishment inflicted on them, unless previously deprived of the button distinctive of their rank.

Very beautifully embroidered pouches or pockets are worn in front, attached by a silk cord, passing round the waist; they are frequently decorated with devices in gold thread, very tastefully worked. They are closed by a flap in front, fastened by a button and loop. In addition to this ornament, the watch cases, and sheaths for fans equally pretty and curious, deserve notice. The watch is enclosed in a case, in which there is a circular hole, which permits the dial to be seen without drawing out the watch. They are worn at the side of the purse, and sometimes one on each side; the watches for the Chinese market being almost always sold in pairs. The face of the watch is always turned from the body, so as to display it. The fan-cases are worn at the side, and look like short swords at a distance.

The dress is completed by the pipe and tobacco-pouch. Those who are connoisseurs in pipes, prefer those which have been smoked a long while, and the age of a pipe stem is a pretty certain proof

of value. Bamboo, metal, and various kinds of wood are used for stems, and for many kinds prices are given quite ridiculous to us. White copper or silver is the common material of pipe heads, though they are often seen of wood, wood lined with copper, glass, or even earthenware. Precious stones, amber, metal, or glass mouth-pieces are used, except in the most common kind of pipes, which are destitute of either bowl or mouth-piece, being simply a bamboo pierced with a hole; the tobacco is put in at the large end, and the other placed in the mouth. The *hookah*, which is erroneously supposed to be a Chinese pipe, is not used there by the natives, but by the European residents. Formerly it was much more fashionable in Canton than at present, though in Bengal and other parts of India, it is constantly used both by natives and strangers. The effort of smoking is oppressive to novices, and it also affects the head with a tendency to apoplexy, according to the experience of physicians in the East. The pipes used in China for smoking *opium* are on an entirely different principle, which will be fully described in its proper place. A small kind of segar, made of chopped or broken tobacco enclosed in paper cylinders is much used by the poor people, the price being very low, and they are more portable than a pipe, which cannot always be used when the hands are employed.

Many Chinese figures and drawings which are brought home by travellers represent dresses of peculiar kinds which are never seen there, as they

are the ancient costumes now discontinued. Such for example are the dresses in which the figures of the demigods and great men are represented in. The favourite attitude is standing or sitting, the hands closed in front, and holding a flat baton or sceptre. The head-dress called *Mëën* is usually observed on deified civilians. It is a kind of cap, on the top of which is a flat board, something in the manner of a collegian's cap, with strings of pearl or other gems, dependent from before and behind. According to Dr. Morrison, the rank of the wearer was denoted by the number of gems, the Emperor having two hundred and eighty-eight. These were called *Lew*. The ancient covering for the head on occasions of state and ceremony, was simply a linen crown.

Priests of the Taou sect are occasionally seen in the streets of Canton, wearing the cap called *Mëën*, of blue nankeen, without the decorations; as it is seldom observed, it is not improbable that it is confined to particular persons of the sect.

The natives of the northern and eastern provinces are sometimes very singularly attired, having over the outer coat a surcoat or jacket without sleeves, of a light colour, having a broad, dark binding, and decorated with large flat buttons.

Among the ancient Chinese, the dress was of a looser and more dignified description, more resembling the early draperies of other nations in volume and in gracefulness. Now, however, the ancient costume of China is only to be seen among the in-

habitants of the peninsula of Corea in the Yellow Sea, a nation tributary to China, and but little visited by strangers.

SHAVING THE HEAD.

Previous to the conquest of the Chinese empire by the *Manchoo* Tartars, the hair was worn long, but in the reign of the first Tartar Emperor, *Shunche*, A. D. 1643, an imperial edict was issued, commanding the subjugated Chinese to conform to the Tartar custom of shaving the head, with the exception of one long lock on the crown, which is worn as a cue, neatly plaited, and interwoven at the end with a silk string. Upon the institution of this curious custom, much resistance was experienced from the natives, and many of the Chinese nobles, rather than undergo this disgraceful operation, perished by the command of the conqueror. At the present day, the loss of this very badge of servitude, is considered, next to death, one of the most serious misfortunes that can happen, as the distinguishing mark of convicts and criminals is the deprivation of this long and carefully cultivated tail. Those whose hair is not uncommonly luxuriant, have, as with us, recourse to artificial means to supply the deficiencies of nature, and wear an appendage of hair interwoven with their own, to increase it to a reputably fashionable size. The universal

prevalence of this *tonsure* gives employment to a great number of peripatetic barbers, who occupy a corner in every street, and abound in all the open squares of the city and suburbs.

TAKING A PETITION INTO THE CITY.

It often occurs that requests are made by the foreigners which are contrary to the interests of the hong merchants. Through the members of the Co-hong, all petitions should, according to law, be transmitted to the governor, but when a favour is desired which is productive of evil or inconvenience to them, they of course endeavour to avoid the office of presenting it, and in some cases positively refuse to do so. Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary for the petitioners to go themselves to the city gates, to enter and surprise the guard, and to remain within the walls until an officer of becoming rank arrives to receive the document, and transmit it to the proper authority. Great secrecy is required when such a measure is under consideration, as the slightest hint of an intention of the kind would instantly be reported, for the system of domestic *espionage* is perfect, and discovery inevitable, without this precaution. The servants about the houses are all paid spies of government, or are bound in some way to communicate to the magistrates any suspicious circumstance which may

occur. The members of these *storming parties*, as they are facetiously called, generally rendezvous in one of the hongs or warehouses near the *south gate*, through which the attempt is made. The narrowness of the streets enable them to prevent the passage of any of the natives, to carry information, and by proceeding very quickly, and in silence, seldom fail in effecting an entrance.

The pusillanimity of the soldiers stationed as guards at the city gates, renders an attack a safe and positively ridiculous adventure, for the confusion, cries, and loud but ineffectual remonstrances of the natives, are only calculated to excite laughter and ridicule, instead of inspiring fear.

Orders are given to punish foreigners severely who presume to intrude themselves within the forbidden limits, but experience has taught us that nothing is to be feared in insisting on an entrance, when backed by a reasonable demand. Sixteen persons, of whom I was one, forced a passage with very little trouble, although opposed by a large guard, well armed, and fully justified in using force to repel us. Their fears, however, were sufficient to prevent an effectual resistance, and the gate was stormed and carried in the most decisive manner. After remaining quartered within the gate for some time, the proper officer arrived, and the petition was delivered into his hands. A good deal of noise and blustering is frequently to be contended with, but these vapouring gentlemen seldom proceed further than words and silly menaces, which

are known to be absurd, and as such, entirely disregarded. Upon another occasion we experienced the same reception.

LITERATURE—HISTORY—FICTION.

The labours of some ingenious Orientalists have given us of late years a considerable insight of Chinese literature. So great a length of time, and such uninterrupted application are indispensable in the study of the Chinese language, that few have been encouraged to pursue it, and most of those who have made a reputable progress, have deserted it at the period when the harvest of their perseverance was about to be gathered. Dr. Morrison, the interpreter to the English East India Company, and M. Abel Remusat, of Paris, are now perhaps the first Chinese scholars living. M. Remusat has distinguished himself by his translations and works relating to China, and the Dictionary of Morrison is a monument of patient labour and acute philological research, which will rank its author among the most celebrated lexicographers. No one who is unacquainted with the theory of the Chinese language and the imperfections of previous works on the subject, can form any idea of the task of compiling a dictionary such as Dr. Morrison's. Each article, when necessary, is illustrated by copious explanatory and critical notes from the most approved native authors, translated with great care, and the

original text added. In addition to this, the various forms of the characters are given with great fidelity. The work is divided into a Chinese and English and an English and Chinese Dictionary, and a volume of tables of characters, &c. The work was published by the East India Company at Macao, at an enormous expense, and copies of it are now very difficult to procure, although it is stated that the major portion of the edition is lying in the Company's warehouse in London. To return to the subject of Chinese literature. Their works of science have been mentioned, and the department of history also touched upon. With regard to their works of fiction, they are decidedly inferior in interest and variety to other Oriental romances. There is generally too much of the cool, sedate manner of the nation about them, and in cases where this artificial manner is dispensed with, they too frequently descend to coarseness and indecency. This objection is also made very properly to most of their dramatic entertainments, which are in some cases very offensive, and quite unworthy of the pretensions to a high degree of civilization in which the Chinese indulge. There is none of that delightful poetical feeling or romance about the Chinese novels which distinguishes the Persian or Hindu works of fiction, and independently of peculiar charms of style, there is little in the incidents to excite our curiosity or fix our attention. The moral sentiments of the Chinese sages, when stripped of the illusive charms with which they have

been decorated by the Jesuits, present us with nothing but dull and dry sentences of morality, alike undistinguished for depth of thought or originality of manner.

As this assertion may be considered a bold one, unsupported by proofs, the admirers of Confucian wisdom will pardon the insertion of the following quotations.

"*Chee*, (that is Confucius,) says, a cornered vessel without its corners, how is it a cornered vessel? how is it indeed a cornered vessel?"

"*Nim Yaou* says, does *Hoo-chee* approve of the present ruler of Wye? Chee Kong, (Confucius,) replied, humph! I must inquire."

"Chee being upon a river, says, in this manner does the river perpetually flow. It stays not day or night."

"The stable was on fire, *Chee* coming from the palace, says, 'are the men injured?' He did not inquire respecting the horses."

"*Gnan-in* and *Qui-loo* one day ministering to *Chee*, he said, why do not each of you mention his particular desire? *Qui-loo* says, I wish for a carriage and horses, robes light and beautiful, then lending to a friend, if he spoil them, I would not be angry. *Gnan-in* says, my desire is neither to publish my virtues, nor to boast of my labours. *Qui-loo* says, I wish to hear *Chee's* desire. It is, that the aged be placed in a state of ease, that friends be faithful to each other, and orphans nourished."

The above is from Mr. Marshman's translation of the works of *Confucius*, and will give a good idea of the wisdom, and "laconic sublimity," so highly lauded by the Jesuit missionaries.

The style of the Chinese historians is less exceptionable, but nevertheless does not accord with our ideas of the manner in which historical events should be recorded. The *San-kwo-che*, a history of the Empire, when divided into three kingdoms, each governed by a Monarch independent of the others, is considered by the natives, as a model of historical style, and quoted upon all occasions, as a standard of elegant language and perspicuity.

Those who study the Chinese language, in hopes of being recompensed for the prodigious labour which it requires, by discoveries in its history, or charms in its lighter literature, overlooked by their predecessors, will be disappointed. As a commercial end, the Chinese is unquestionably useful, but as an accomplishment by no means equal in value to the time which must be expended in its acquirement.

THE ART OF PRINTING.

The means in use among the Chinese for producing an impression of letters, appear to be nearly the same with those invented in the infancy of the art. Blocks of hard wood, or masses of metal

forming a kind of stereotype, are printed from, by a very simple and expeditious process, and solely by manual labour, as presses for the purpose are entirely unknown. The Canton Gazette, a kind of court journal of appointments, arrivals, and departures, is one of the few publications which are printed from *moveable types*. The blocks which are mostly used for engraving these stereotypes upon, are made of a hard and well-seasoned wood, divided into slabs, in the direction of the grain. The subject to be engraved is carefully written or drawn on thin paper, and pasted *reversed* upon the board, the wood is then cut from around the characters, and the letters remain in low relief. Much care is used in adjusting the written pattern, as it is not possible to rectify a mistake on wood, as on copper or other metal. The cost of engraving depends entirely on the size and delicacy of the letter, the price increasing in proportion to the smallness of the type. The works written in the *Mantchoo* Tartar language, are sometimes beautifully executed, and I now have in my possession, religious works of the Füh sect, containing very curious and elaborate specimens of wood engraving, both in the letter press, and illustrations. The equipments of a printer are very simple and cheap, and the operations less complicated than almost any other mechanical process. The board or slab of wood is placed on a table before the workman, and a pile of dry paper cut to the proper size, at his side, when, with a rude bamboo bush, a coating of

liquid Indian ink is put upon it, a sheet of paper is then placed on the top, and the impression completed by rubbing it over once or twice with a kind of vegetable fibre. The sheet is then lifted off, and the process repeated with the next. The paper used, is very thin, and is only printed on one side, the sheet is folded with the blank side in contact, and the two edges are bound into the back of the book, making it resemble a volume, the leaves of which are uncut, the paging, &c. is on the external margin. In this simple manner, all books and engravings on wood are printed, and a skilful workman is able to produce the impressions with as much celerity as our own, with the use of the press. Adjoining the room in which the printing is performed, is another, filled with racks, or open cases, on which the blocks are arranged in regular order. Every block contains matter for four pages, so that the number, and bulk of the set composing a voluminous work, is very great. Works of minor consequence, are generally executed in a flimsy and imperfect manner, the printing of some, being very indifferent at first, and nearly unintelligible by the time a full edition has been taken off. The price of books is low, and there are numerous book shops and stalls in all the principal streets. The binding is very different from our own, the cover being merely soft paper, and the title carefully written on the edge of the bottom leaves. Five or six volumes are enclosed in a pasteboard case, and the books arranged on

shelves, so as to present the titles to the front. Spurious editions are said to be very common, and I have never discovered that there was any protection of the copyright by law, consequently, numerous incomplete copies of the original are circulated.

Works are sometimes met with, the letters of which are white on a black ground, the characters being cut as in the copperplate engraving, below the surface. These are in most cases specimens of the various kinds of writing, intended as copies to write from, as well as some school books, which I have occasionally met with. Of these, the covers were generally made of wood.

It is related, that the celebrated Emperor, *Kanghee*, had large quantities of types cast in copper, but during a scarcity of coin, *Këën lung*, (the Emperor, who reigned at the time of Lord Macartney's Embassy to China,) ordered them to be melted down. At a subsequent period, he regretted having done so, and to repair the loss in a measure, caused two hundred and fifty thousand wooden types to be engraved.

The page of wooden type is *Hwo-pan* or *howtze pan*. This expression being deemed inelegant, *Këën lung* changed the appellation to *Tseu chin*, "congregated pearls." During the *Sung* dynasty, long previous to the Tartar conquest, types are said to have been made of masses of baked clay.

Relations between the Ancient Egyptians and Chinese.

The supposition of De Guignes, that the Chinese were, at a very remote period, a colony which left Egypt, and peopled China, it is true is rather a bold one, but from the curious resemblance which is found to exist between the symbolic writing of the early Chinese, and some of the hieroglyphics which decorate the remains of antiquity discovered in Egypt, the hypothesis is not so wild as might at first be imagined. "The Chinese receive it as an undoubted fact, that in high antiquity, *knotted cords* were made use of to signify the intention of the rulers, and to be to a certain extent the signs of ideas. It is said, that in the reign of *Hwang-te*, the third from *Füh-he*, a person called *Ts'hang-hëë*, observing the appearance of a certain constellation, the marks on the shell of a turtle, and the impression of a horse's foot, first conceived the idea of forming letters."* In this manner the natives account for the origin of a written character, which in the early stage of the art, consisted in rude delineations or symbols expressive of objects or ideas. The hieroglyphic characters of the Egyptians are supposed to be their earliest records, and

* Introduction to Morrison's Chinese Dictionary, Vol. I. Part I. p. 1.

from the application of the same symbols to similar objects by the Chinese, it is not unfair to conclude, that in a more advanced state of knowledge on this subject, it may be effectually made use of in establishing the fact of the Chinese Egyptian origin. It is only intended here to give a few examples which occurred while commencing the study of the Chinese language, examples which are too remarkable to omit, and which may tempt some one better qualified, to prosecute the inquiry further.

Those which follow are not all precisely similar to the Egyptian, but sufficiently so to allow a reasonable suspicion that they are of identical origin

Dr. Morrison, in his Chinese Dictionary, gives in the introduction various memoranda relative to the gradual progress of the language, and from the examples of the ancient character to be found in that very curious and learned work, I have selected a few which appear specially applicable to the illustration of the subject in question.

The symbol made use of in the earliest Chinese records to denote a buffalo or cow, is a rude delineation of the animal, very little different from the same observed on the Egyptian monuments.

Neu, a woman,  is thus represented, and

the character  *Tsze*, a boy or child, is a very

good imitation, viz.    These four forms are all emblematic of the same.

The character *Tsze* has various modifications of meaning, but the relations are intimate; thus, it means progeny, a child, people, a son, or heir, &c.

In the fifth volume of Dr. Clarke's Travels, there is a plate of "an entire *Hieroglyphical Tablet*, as found at Saïs." The doctor attempts an explanation of some of the symbols, several of which are similar to the Chinese, and others approximate very nearly. No 37  is said to be the hieroglyphic for the *sun;* a similar one  is used in the antique Chinese writing. No 1  is supposed by Dr. Clarke also to express the sun, but from the resemblance to the character  *yue*, the moon, is probably the symbol for that luminary. On the Egyptian relic above noticed, there is represent-

ed a hieroglyphic, which is interpreted water,

 it resembles the Chinese, written thus,

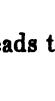
 the lines being over each other instead of continuous.

The actual meaning is perhaps different, and may possibly mean a range of hills from its resemblance to  *shan*, a hill, or range of hills.

Another curious circumstance is observable. The celebrated *winged globe* of the Egyptians, is found very little altered among the Chinese, as an ornament similarly used, as over doors, tombs, &c.

THE EGYPTIAN. THE CHINESE.

Many other figures might be given to illustrate the apparent affinity which exists between the primitive languages of these two very distant nations. I give the following as specimens of the construction of character, and hope that some one more deeply versed in philological lore, may be induced to prosecute the inquiry in such a manner as to elicit more curious and satisfactory results.

 *Ch'huen,* to connect, as beads upon a string, was originally represented by a symbol representing beads thus strung,  A horse was thus represented,  at present the figure is written in this manner,  *nsa. Chow,* a boat, *yue,* the moon, and many others might be adduced, as literal as the preceding. The characters of the ancient Chinese, were written indifferently from right to left, or *vice versa,* or in perpendicular lines, the arrangement depending very much on the shape of the object upon which they were inscribed.*

The discoveries of Dr. Young, and Mr. Champollion bid fair to give us ere long a clue by which all the mysteries of the Egyptian hieroglyphics may be unravelled, and the identity of the Chinese and Egyptians satisfactorily proved or finally contradicted.

The Marquis Spineto has argued strongly in favour of these relations, and quotes numerous ex-

* The *manuscripts* of the ancient Chinese and Egyptians were always written in perpendicular lines.

amples of affinity from the work of Martinus Martinius, to prove the plausibility of the supposition, but the figures which he has given in his "Lectures on Egyptian Hieroglyphics,"* are not strictly correct in some instances, as he gives comparatively antique figures, as examples of the modern Chinese character. To those at all conversant with the subject, this will be apparent, on inspecting his plate of examples.

While labouring to prove that China was, at a very remote period, peopled by an Egyptian colony, and adducing the similarities of their primitive signs or hieroglyphics, to prove the same, he nevertheless says, "I might extend these observations to a greater length, and produce more instances to prove, by numerous examples, that originally the figure of the object was employed by *all* nations of the world, to express the same object, and, that to such figure, each nation gave a sound which expressed the image, and though this sound might be, and in some instances was, very different from that which was altered by other nations, yet they had all the same signification, that is, they all meant to express the same object." Now, this would go to prove nothing which could particularly apply to relations between China and Egypt, any further than that all nations originally

* Lecture 8th, p. 270. Lectures on the Elements of Hieroglyphics, and Egyptian Antiquities, by the Marquis Spineto, Deputy Professor of Modern History, in the University of Cambridge, 1829.

wrote the same emblematic language, consequently, as this language was the only one at the time of the dispersion of nations, it necessarily follows, that it was common to all, and the relations between Egypt and any other ancient nation, the Mexicans for example, were just the same, as that between the Chinese and Egyptians.

In the Dictionary of De Guignes, and also in that more perfect and extensive work of Dr. Morrison, in every practicable instance, the ancient symbols, and the intermediate forms between them and the modern are given, exhibiting the gradual change from simple symbols, to arbitrary marks, less difficult to form, and equivalent in signification. The composition of characters is similar to the Egyptian, and a curious example is that which signifies in Chinese, *hatch eggs*. The ancient *Fŏo* to hatch, was a symbol, representing a child, or *offspring* under the claws of a bird, expressive of the act of incubation, and meaning literally, to hatch, or breed up.

A very great difference is observable in the drawing and execution of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the symbolic figures of China, the former exceeding the latter, not only in distinctness, but in correctness and elegance of execution.*

* To those who may be anxious to investigate this subject, the following works are recommended. In Chinese, Dr. Morrison's Dictionary, De Guignes' Dictionary, and the Native Dictionaries of the ancient or seal characters. On the subject of Egyptian hieroglyphics, the works of the Marquis

Chinese Maid Servant.

Were this then the case, we should doubtless find among other Indian nations of probably equal antiquity, similar symbolic writings, bearing near resemblance to the Egyptian and Chinese. This, however, we have no certain knowledge of, although the pretensions of some neighbouring nations to extraordinary antiquity, are equal to those of China.

WOMEN.

Females in China do not hold that rank, or enjoy those privileges which in more cultivated nations, are conceived to be their due. The Chinese women are generally very ignorant, their instructions being principally in domestic affairs. A learned lady is so uncommon, that her attainments are a theme of admiration, she is immortalized in odes, and her fair resemblance magnificently illuminated on fans, screens, &c. for the admiration of posterity. The poorer classes are engaged in various menial offices, while those of rank employ their time in music, *smoking*, and *other accomplishments*. A lady of fashion is of course supposed guiltless of any manual labour, and consequently, the nails are permitted to acquire an enor-

Spineto, of Spohn, Champollion, and the "Rudimenta Hieroglyphices," of Seyfarth, are recommended.

mous length, particularly that of the little finger. These ladies smoke much, and their pipes, usually formed of slender bamboos, the bowl of silver, or white copper, and mouth-piece of amber, or valuable stone, are in many instances singularly elegant. The pieces of bamboo used for the stems, are valuable according to the regularity and beauty of the wood, the evenness of the joints, and clearness of the bore. For those in which these various excellencies are in great perfection, high prices are given.

Music is a favourite recreation, and guitars of various kinds, with other musical instruments of extraordinary shape and tone, are indispensable appurtenances to the boudoir of a Chinese belle. In such trifling employments, the life of these imprisoned beauties glides away with little variation, while that of the lower classes, is one perpetual scene of labour and exposure. They perform not only all those offices which are assigned to them in other countries, but on them and their children principally, devolves the task of navigating the multitudes of small boats which cover the Chinese rivers. They are the moving power of these floating houses, for such in fact they are, born and dying in them, never living on shore, and possessing nothing but their boats and the contents. The women, from the continual exposure to sun and wind, become very dark, lose all that soft listlessness of expression, and delicacy of form, for which the higher classes are distinguished, and re-

semble in their exterior another people. They acquire masculine strength and manners, and from early habit become perfectly inured to the laborious occupation of rowing or sculling the heavy boats in which they live.

Women of the poorer classes, show themselves without the least reserve in all public places, but no female whose means permit it, ever goes abroad except in a palankeen or sedan chair, most of which are furnished with curtains, which effectually conceal the occupant. In fact, so few of the Chinese women have any pretensions to personal beauty, according to *our* idea of it, and those who have, are so covered with paint, that further than as objects of curiosity, they have few attractions for a foreign eye. The hair is always remarkably neat, generally very long, and abundant, and dressed in a most elaborate manner, ornamented with gold or silver bodkins, and flowers, such as the Indian jasmine, which are delightfully fragrant, and disposed with much taste and effect.

Those who are *blessed* with the celebrated small feet,* invariably outrank the other females of the family, who are unhappy enough to have their extremities flourishing in a state of nature. The custom of compressing the feet, which has so long been supposed to originate in the jealousy of Chinese husbands, is in reality, but in imitation of a

* Called by the Chinese, the "Golden lilies!"

certain queen of China,* who, being ordered to bind up her feet in the smallest possible compass, to please the fancy of her lord, was of course, immediately imitated by the ladies of her court, and it thus became a *standing* custom.

The excess to which the compression is carried by many, is perfectly wonderful. Some of the females are so mutilated by this horrid custom, as to be unable to walk any considerable distance, and when compelled to make the effort, which is painful and difficult, they find a stick, or the shoulder of a servant maid, a necessary support.

The revulsion of blood to the feet, when the bandages,† which confine the limb are removed, is said to be perfectly insupportable; and no less painful is the unnatural confinement of the growing limbs of young children, who suffer this inhuman torture for the sake of fashion. We are informed, that it is necessary to watch them closely during growth, as the pain they endure from the bandages, frequently induces them, when unobserved, to tear them off, in order to obtain relief. A sister who possesses a pair of these miserable looking feet, enjoys, as we have observed above, a higher rank in the family, in consideration of such

* During the period that this vast empire was divided into many petty states, governed by *Kings*.

† The tales of iron shoes being employed in compressing the feet, are mere fictions. Bandages very similar to those of surgeons, are the only means used for the purpose.

insignia of fashionable pre-eminence. The effect of the process is found to be a premature appearance of age, and decrepitude, which is materially aided by marriage, contracted at a very early age. Those whose feet have not been subjected to this operation, are observed to fail sooner, it is true, than the females of temperate climates, but preserve their youthful appearance long after the charms of their envied companions are faded.

The size of these curious feet varies from four inches to the usual length of the female foot, as in some, from carelessness, they have no impediment presented to their growing in length, and are only very much *compressed.* Those on which the bandaging has been carefully performed, are scarcely any longer than when first confined. The toes are turned under the sole, and the point of the foot is terminated by the great toe, which alone preserves a resemblance to the original form.

Numbers of poor women, who have been reduced in circumstances, are hourly observed in the streets, lamed and tormented, by these only remaining badges of their former rank, and many of them scarcely covered, and all suffering from the accumulated miseries of want and deformity.

We have heard Chinese fathers speak of this custom in terms of reprehension, but urged the prevalence of the custom, and the ridicule to which those who neglect it are exposed, as an excuse for its continuance.

CHILDREN.

The children of the lower classes are most healthful, vigorous, and interesting little vagabonds. The etiquette and ceremonial observance which is exacted from those of the nobility and gentry, has not reached them, and they are a lively and cheerful contrast to the artificial and sedate beings who are drilled almost from their birth, according to ideas of the strictest propriety of conduct and deportment. In the fields, or on board the swarms of boats, every where encountered, mere infants are observed rendering material assistance to their parents in the daily labours. A brother and sister may be seen, sculling a boat rapidly, with an oar so large that they would be supposed barely capable of moving, or a boy travelling off under a burden suspended at the extremities of a bamboo, which is to all appearance heavy enough to crush him. In this manner, inured to labour from the tenderest years, the children become strong, and in time capable of work far beyond the power of others of their age. Their food and clothing is necessarily of the coarsest kind, and the deck of a boat or floor covered by a mat is their usual bed. The children of the rich are pale and delicate in comparison to these little savages, and the effect of their courtly drilling is observable in all their actions. Little fellows of five or six years

Chinese Children

of age, when arrayed in the full costume of ceremony, are most consummately ridiculous. The long loose robes, the cap with the button denoting the rank of the wearer, crowning the top of it, black satin boots with the edges of the soles snow-white, and the hair neatly plaited hanging down the back in a long cue, the end interwoven with a coloured silk cord, together with an immoveable gravity, render these little magnificos very amusing to a stranger, and serve to remind him strongly of the ridiculous mode in which the children are represented in old Dutch and English prints of the early part of the eighteenth century.

In Canton, however, no one is seen imitating any actions of his elders, except such as are approved and warranted by good breeding, no riding upon sticks, or any other similar enormities daily committed by European children, without the least restraint; on the contrary, they vie with each other in the dignified management of the fan, or in the evolutions of a complicated salute. In consequence of this education, and the perpetual restraint under which they are kept, they grow up ceremonious, artificial, and unfeeling, therefore, those who condemn the nation generally for their cold and unfeeling dispositions, should make due allowances for the effect of their peculiar education. The growth of the hair is an object of much care, and it is usual to keep the heads of very young children close shaved, in order to ensure its strength and abundance when suffered at last to grow. Two

patches of hair are cultivated on each *side* of the head for some time previous to the commencement of the regular cue from the crown, and these are plaited with silk strings, and sticking out stiffly from each side of the head, resemble a pair of straight horns.

CHINESE CHARACTER.

It is difficult, and perhaps unfair, to estimate the character of the Chinese nation from the specimens which are presented to the observation in Canton. The inhabitants of large cities, taken *en masse*, are usually less amiable and less free from vice than those inhabiting the country and small towns or villages; and this city, from being the seat of foreign trade, is filled with a larger number of designing and vicious persons than almost any other. The dissolute character of Canton, is a proverb in China, and the cause is, with genuine Chinese duplicity and falsehood, attributed to the foreigners who reside there. For myself I decline giving a decided opinion on the subject of the national character, as I cannot imagine that my experience of this people has been sufficiently various and extensive to permit me to do so honestly. Dr. Morrison, who has resided for many years in China, and who, from accompanying the last British Embassy to the court of Pekin, has enjoyed rare op-

Servant

portunities of making the closest observations relative to the inhabitants of this singular country, gives the following flattering character of the nation:—

"When interest or fear do not dictate a different course, they (the Chinese) are to strangers haughty, insolent, fraudulent, and inhospitable. A merchant will flatter a foreign devil, (as they express it,) when he has something to gain from him; then he can be servile enough, particularly if he is not seen by one of his own countrymen, for the presence of a menial servant of his own nation will make him more on his guard in yielding his fancied superiority."

"Few instances of gratitude or attachment have occurred on the part of servants to their European masters." "The Chinese are generally selfish, cold-blooded, and inhuman." Again he says, "specious, but insincere, jealous, envious, and distrustful in a high degree."*

The reverend gentleman has left himself but little room for the display of that charity, which it is presumed he has for so unfortunate a people, for surely it is a serious misfortune to be afflicted with such a catalogue of vices of the worst description. Strong prejudice against China evidently affects the pen of the writer, for there is no saving clause, no exception, all are condemned in the most sweeping manner, and the nation pronounced utterly worth-

* Vide Morrison's View of China.

less and bad. Strangers resident at Canton for a short time invariably depart with a most unfavourable opinion of the natives, and in fact there is little in the inhabitants of this city calculated to excite admiration, but that the anathema which may be justly fulminated against the people of one city, is really deserved by the nation generally, I cannot admit. Among the Chinese themselves, the natives of Canton are proverbial for their bad character, all of which, as I have observed above, is attributed to the contaminating influence of the foreign residents.

ANCIENT HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.

The ancient history is much involved in obscurity, and the earliest traditions which have been preserved, bear such marks of falsehood and exaggeration, as to throw discredit on the ancient annals of the empire. Independently of that remote antiquity which is boasted of by the historians during a period of many thousand years before our first records, the fictions which distort the account of that portion of the Chinese history, where a probability of truth might exist, have tended to cause the historical accounts of their writers to be received with much suspicion and distrust. For instance, when we read the account of Confucius, who, in comparison with some of their heroes of

antiquity, is quite a modern personage, we are amused at the extraordinary description which is given of him with great gravity and seriousness, but confirmed in our disbelief of the miraculous worthies of whom the inhabitants of the "central country"* are so proud. In relation to the pretended antiquity of their literature, it is remarked by Mr. Davis, in his "Chinese Moral Maxims," that "the absurd fables related in Chinese books of ancient history, tell very much against their fidelity, and afford a strong antidote to the implicit belief with which the Jesuitical accounts of Chinese antiquity have been listened to. In fact, their most ancient historical work, (the *Chun-tsew*, of Confucius,) is not older than Herodotus, and *not so old* as Homer's poems." They state their country to have existed many thousands of years before the earliest traditions of other nations, and the reigns of the primitive monarchs to have been very much after the manner of Methuselah. Antiquity of origin is not the only point in which this modest people assert their pre-eminence, but also in most useful arts and inventions, for instance, that of *gunpowder*, which they assert was made in China, centuries before it was known in Europe. The introduction of vaccination was principally promoted by Alexander Pearson, Esq. Senior Surgeon to the

* The Chinese call their country *Chung-kwo*, "the central country," stating that it is the centre of the earth, and that other nations are disposed around it. An admirable example of their extraordinary national vanity.

East India Company in China. In consequence of his benevolent exertions, the antidote to that terrific scourge, the small-pox, was successfully introduced, and the prejudices of the natives against what they considered a foreign innovation overcome. Chinese physicians have been made acquainted with the process of vaccination, and it is generally adopted in Canton, and gradually becoming popular in the other provinces. No sooner had vaccination assumed a firm position in the good opinion of the natives, than one of the Chinese practitioners who had been the first instructed in the method of applying the vaccine matter, published a work in his native language, in which he proved very much to his own, and his readers satisfaction, that vaccination was a very old Chinese custom, which had only been *revived* by the foreign physicians, and that in reality the praise which so great a discovery deserved, was due to the sages of China, and not to ignorant and foreign barbarians.

ANTIQUES.

There is a very prevalent taste for relics and rarities among the higher classes, and a room destitute of some curiosity of this kind in the houses of the opulent, is of rare occurrence. Vases of ancient China, and old copper sacrificing vessels,

flanked by curiously distorted growths of wood, or pebbles of singular form, are almost always the decorations of one or more tables, in a Chinese chamber. They have also a great passion for antique autographs, or original drawings and sketches from the hands of distinguished individuals. Some of these are very spirited, and the bamboo plant is an indispensable subject, the effect of it being admirably well given by spirited strokes of the common writing pencil. The prices which are given for some of these valued drawings, vie with those brought by old books and manuscripts in Europe.

Frauds of the most ingenious description are resorted to by the dealers in these matters, and copies are made and sold for originals, to the ignorant and unwary, to detect which great practice and experience is very necessary. Persons are found in Canton and other large cities, who are regularly engaged in casting copies of bronze and copper figures, from old metal, which they collect for the purpose. These specimens are then corroded by acids, and buried in the earth for some time, by which they acquire a false appearance of age, and unless carefully scrutinized, are undistinguishable from genuine relics of the same kind. They are detected on close inspection, and always betrayed by the green rust, which in bronze articles of undoubted age, is almost as hard and close as the metal itself, while in the spurious articles it yields without difficulty to the knife. This test is applicable to coins and medals, which are prized as ra-

rities, though in an inferior degree. The bankers and money-changers reserve all old coins, and have constantly great numbers for sale, the prices of which are regulated according to the antiquity of the date, and preservation of the specimen.

The coins and medals of China are all *cast*, the matrix being fine sand, consequently the impressions are never finely cut, and the surface always rough. Children are frequently seen with strings of medals suspended from their necks, as charms or preventives against evil spirits or accident. The rage for fragments of stone to which chance has given the forms of fruit or animals in a remote degree, is another, which is indulged in to a ridiculous extent.

Persons who collect vegetable monstrosities, and polish them, adding at the same time such little aids as may be required, to complete resemblances to men or animals, obtain large sums for such as are really curious by nature, and prices for others, according to their grotesque forms, which have been completed by art, far beyond our estimates of their value.

The locality of these oddities is another charm, and a fragment of wood in which a quaint resemblance may be traced, brought from the tomb of Confucius, would be valued by a Chinese connoisseur, in the same ratio as we should any similar curiosity from a spot as venerated for the associations connected with it.

The effect of such curiosities is much heightened

by the neatness and care with which they are preserved. It is usual to place each specimen on a carved stand of dark wood, and where ornaments of this kind are in pairs, a centre piece is usually chosen, as near in resemblance and quality as may be, and the whole is disposed of as a set. For instance, an ancient copper censer, for burning sandal wood, or odoriferous matches, and a pair of jars of the same material, constitute the most frequent decoration of the oratories or small temples, which are placed at the entrance of houses, and in the chambers.

The skill displayed in casting these works is deserving of notice, some of them being objects of great interest from their beautiful ornaments and peculiar forms. This branch of art is now less cultivated than formerly, and the modern imitations are certainly much inferior to those of former times.

The dealers endeavour to imitate the elegance of the old manufactures by clumsy additions to the modern, but the imposture is easily detected. Few of these men have the slightest pretensions to reputation, and in consequence exert their ingenuity to overreach and delude those who are unacquainted with their deceptions. They lie in the most extraordinary and *useless* manner, the enormous improbability of their tales being sure to detect them. As an example, I mention an anecdote of one of these people, with whom I had frequently occasion to deal. Among other really interesting antiquities in his

shop, I observed a tea-pot of a peculiar form, of old brass, and on refusing to purchase it at the very high price demanded for it, the proprietor assailed me with a torrent of asseverations of its antiquity, and after exhausting every assurance and declaration which he could muster to confirm his veracity, he finished by swearing to me in the most earnest manner, that it was at the very least an hundred thousand years old! Whereupon I immediately declared that it must be unsound after so long a period of service, and walked off, leaving the vender in despair. Damaged specimens are very artfully mended, and a vase dashed into twenty pieces rises perfect and entire from the hands of these resurrectionists of fractured crockery.

The specimens of antique China which I have met with, were sometimes remarkable for the beauty of the ware, and elegance of form, though in some cases a vessel of ungraceful shape and very uninviting appearance, was valued far beyond the preceding, from the circumstance of its having been long in possession of a distinguished person. The white flower jars with small necks which are frequently met with, are certainly very beautiful; they are entirely without colours, and the only embellishment is a figure prettily modelled, of a lizard or dragon encircling the neck. There is a vulgar idea that these vases have the property of preserving flowers which are placed in them fresh and blooming for a considerable time, while, in the imitations, they fade immediately. The old China is not so often

met with for sale in Canton as might be supposed, but a great quantity of vessels of equivocal age and origin, are to be found in the shop of every dealer in curiosities. The price is always high, and it is not improbable that much old China might be purchased in Europe, which would fetch a higher price and enjoy a greater estimation, in the country from whence it was originally imported.

A very imperfect knowledge of minerals, is the cause of many productions of the earth being considered as *lusi naturæ*, especially such as the dendritic figures of oxide of iron on sandstone, &c. Remarkable fossils also claim a portion of admiration, but whether the process by which the change has taken place, is accounted for by them in any rational manner, I am unable to say. If cabinets of minerals exist at all in China, they are in the hands of professional persons almost entirely; for although I have seen fine cabinets of antiquities in the possession of merchants and others, I never observed either a cabinet of minerals or shells.

ASTRONOMY, NAVIGATION, &c.

From the Jesuit missionaries, almost all the correct ideas relative to the motions of the heavenly bodies, which are now published in Chinese works, have been derived. The systems of astronomy and of geography, in vogue previous to the missions,

were the most absurd and ridiculous. In astronomy most extraordinary misconceptions abounded, as, for example, the mode in which they explained a lunar eclipse, which was accounted for by saying that the moon was swallowed by a dragon, and thus hidden from sight. During the eclipses in ancient times, it was the custom to make the most horrible and stunning noises, with all kinds of loud and sonorous instruments, to drive the dragon from his prey.* Their geographical errors are equally ridiculous, and remarkable for the consummate vanity for which they are ever famous. China was supposed to constitute the centre of the terraqueous globe, and was therefore denominated *Chung-kwo*, i. e. "the central country," and all other nations were considered inferior to it, and situated at a greater or less distance from the fountain head of all that was bright and desirable in art, science, or literature. That for the present improved systems of astronomy and geography they are entirely indebted to "foreign barbarians," is very unwillingly admitted, and never freely mentioned. The same desire to suppress the claims of foreigners to the introduction of vaccination, and other European improvements, is constantly manifested by the natives, and the most prejudiced admirer of the Chinese cannot be blind to their ungenerous and dishonest attempts to wrest

* It was also an ancient custom of the Romans to make loud noises on brazen vessels during eclipses of the moon.—*Vide Plutarch in Paul. Emil.*

from strangers in every instance the praise and credit which is due to their enterprize and ingenuity. In the science of navigation their progress has been very slow, and so little are they acquainted with nautical observations, that Portuguese navigators are employed in all the junks which make voyages to Batavia, Timor, &c. The coasting vessels seldom venture far from land, except in very fine weather. Many months are consumed in voyages which European vessels accomplish in a few weeks, for independently of the indifferent sailing of the junks, and the slowness and caution with which they proceed, they remain a long while in port to dispose of their cargoes, and wait to avail themselves of the change in the monsoon to return to China.

The invention of the mariner's compass is claimed as original in China, and pretty freely admitted in Europe, although the grounds for receiving the authenticity of the assertion are none of the strongest. A great variety of these instruments are to be had in Canton, some simply pocket compasses, others calculated for the use of junks, while many have attached to them a very neat sun dial, &c. The needle itself is not more than an inch long, and has the south pole painted red;* a small glass covers the circular hole in the centre of a block of neatly lacquered wood, in which the needle is secured.

* The Chinese call the magnetic needle, "the needle pointing to the *south*."

Around the centre and occupying the whole upper surface of the compass disk, is painted an almanack, the figures and devices of which are arranged in concentric circles. Black and red are the colours used, and when finished, the whole is covered with several coats of thick, transparent, yellow varnish. Nothing can be more simple and cheap than these compasses. They are made of all sizes, from the diameter of a foot down to an inch and a half, but all are arranged on precisely the same plan. I have never been able to detect any other astronomical or nautical instrument in use on board the junks, nor is it probable that there are any. Spy-glasses of the most wretched description are manufactured in Canton, miserable imitations of the worst German instruments. All those used in the pilot boats, and in many of the large junks, are excellent English glasses, the value of which the sailors perfectly understand.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

The greater portion of the people being in very limited circumstances, it follows that they can seldom resort to physicians of eminence, whose demands for professional attendance are much greater than those of numerous empirics who are to be found in every street. These persons attract crowds round them while reciting the virtues of

the medicines they have to sell, and by large placards, and extraordinary orations, induce the credulous and ignorant to peril their lives by an infallible pill, or destroy their health forever by an elixir of immortality. I have never been able to ascertain the existence of any regulation by which the practice of medicine is confined to competent persons, and from the extensive scale on which these people prosecute their labours undisturbed, it is unlikely that any such law exists. The quacks alluded to are generally found seated in the streets, surrounded by a chaos of medicinal herbs and simples, with a small cabinet of preparations, and a granite mortar before them. The applications are either topical, as plasters, or the moxa, or in form of teas, decoctions, &c. few of which fail of giving permanent relief to the patient by despatching him to his ancestors. The regular practitioners of medicine, with the exception of some childish national superstitions, are skilful in the simple practice of medicine, but in surgical operations they are entirely at a loss, and where diseases occur in which an amputation, or operation of similar importance, is necessary, the patient is left to his fate. The apothecaries are on the same footing as with us, and the prescriptions of the physicians despatched to them to be compounded. They have a great number of medicinal preparations and plants in their pharmacopœia which are unknown to us, and many which are precisely similar to those in use among ourselves. Among the former we may enumerate

scorpions, the horns of the rhinoceros, elephants tails, skin, &c. dried insects of several species, some of them used as vesicatories, the bones of wild cats, and many powerful plants peculiar to the country. Among the latter may be enumerated rhubarb, a species of liquorice, and several gums. The famous ginseng is one of the most important, from the extensive uses to which it is applied. Deer's horns are consumed in large quantities, and are considered valuable as aphrodisiacs—with several other remedies which have long since been dismissed in our practice, and superseded by others more active and efficient.

The moxa and scarification are much resorted to in trifling indispositions; the latter is administered in the simplest manner, and consists only in scraping the part affected with a cash, or small brass coin, until the skin be chafed off. A very strict attention is paid to the pulse in various parts of the body, and the character of the disease principally determined by its motion. So important is this conceived to be, that the success of an examination of a candidate for a medical degree depends principally on the state of his knowledge on this point. A celebrated work on the subject by a physician of great eminence may be found in Du Halde's China, where the symptoms, &c. are regularly detailed. The medical works are numerous, but those which are justly celebrated are small in proportion to the many indifferent treatises.

MUSIC.

WELL might De Guignes and Waln concur in pronouncing Chinese music a mass of detestable discord, and a "bruit epouvantable," for in fact the sounds produced by the instruments of a Chinese band do richly merit the appellation of "musique infernale." The din and discord to an ear at all sensitive on the subject of harmonious sounds, is shocking, the principal effort of the performers appearing to be the production of noise, without regard to time, or any thing else. It must not be supposed, however, that the union of the tones of these instruments could produce melodious music, even though harmony and time were attended to; on the contrary, the very nature of the noise is frightful, and no agreeable "concord of sweet sounds" can possibly be expected. Individual instruments, such as the varieties of guitar, are capable of being used by skilful performers in the most agreeable manner, but in a full band, the gong, cymbals, and their most abominable trumpets, drown all softer sounds. The commencing burst is really hideous, and in my estimation certain death to a musical composer. Generally speaking, the Chinese music is mournfully monotonous, or boisterous and loud, a few airs only corresponding with our ideas on this score.

Among the guitars, of which there are many

kinds, the "*moon lyre*," and the *peĕh-pă*, are most popular and agreeable. At night blind musicians are frequently encountered, who play the favourite native airs with much taste, but when they afflict their disappointed hearers (among us) with a vocal accompaniment, the charm is speedily broken.

Large wooden drums, bells of cast iron, hollow copper, or brazen bowls, pieces of hard wood struck one against the other, or with small rods, cymbals, flutes, trumpets, brass bells, small drums, guitars, &c. are the principal instruments of music. Several kinds of trumpet are used, some of them very long and thin, having sliding joints to render them more portable. In addition, there is a species of harmonica, which has a delightful tone, and a kind of harp or lute usually made of ebony, which is played on while lying on a table made to support it in a horizontal position. The instruments have a sweet tone, and when really good, command large sums.

Few barbarous instruments of music are more celebrated than the *gong*. It is only within a few years that the secret of hammering out the metallic composition of which they are made, was discovered. Military gongs are distinguished by being deeper and heavier. Civil gongs are quite shallow, and appear like a circular sheet of metal simply turned up two or two and a half inches all round. The tone is of course less full and sonorous. Some gongs are occasionally seen smaller, having a cen-

tral boss, upon which they are struck. A pole, with a heavy end, is carried on the shoulder, and the gong hangs before the operator, counterbalancing the other end of the staff. They are stricken with a stick, headed with a ball of cotton-webbing, bound very tight.

GAMBLING.

In China, this vice prevails among persons of every rank in society. The passion for gaming is universal, and is the principal employment of the idle hours of both rich and poor. Most of the games with which the children amuse themselves, are so arranged, as to have a stake depending on the issue of the contest, and the attention and eagerness with which they pursue their sport, evinces the delight they derive from it. To such a pitch is it carried, that even the sellers of fruit, who perambulate the streets of Canton, gamble with their customers for the commodities they sell. The process is conducted in the following manner:—A boy who desires to purchase fruit, puts down half the value, and then throws dice with the seller. If the fruit-dealer throw highest, he takes the money, and the disappointed gamester turns away to try his fortune elsewhere; but if the purchaser beats his antagonist, he obtains his fruit

at half price. The dice-box is a porcelain saucer, covered by part of a bamboo-joint, like a cup. In this the dice, made of bone, with rounded corners, are shaken.

There is another game, played with slips of wood, standing in a cylindrical joint of bamboo. Some of these slips are painted on the bottom, and some plain, while all the projecting ends are precisely similar. If the purchaser draw a coloured one, he wins, if not, his stake is retained by the fruit-seller.

NAVAL FORCE.

THE navy of China consists of an immense number of vessels, of all sizes, but whose actual strength bears but a small proportion to their numbers. The largest war junks which have fallen under my own observations, mounted eight guns, of small size, none being heavier than twelve pounders. From the extraordinary manner in which they are mounted, these guns are rendered of comparatively little service, each being fixed either in a stationary carriage, without any motion on the trunnions, or lashed to a beam or spar, which crosses the vessel from side to side. It thus follows, that the aim taken with the guns, must be regulated by the helm, by which the junk is yawed, until the mark

is covered, but in a sea, or with a stiff breeze, the chances of hitting any moderate-sized object, must be very small. Other small guns, or petronels, are mounted in various parts of the vessel, and discharged by a match. The aim is taken with the short stock, resting against the shoulder. The balls used are of iron, and resemble our grape in size. It may be here mentioned, that all balls and shot in use among this people, are composed of cast iron, even to the smallest sizes with which game is killed. Swords, pikes, spears, and halberds of various kinds, constitute the offensive weapons, while large rattan shields, which are almost musket proof, are those of defence. The bow and arrow appears to be no longer in use on board of ships, although it still maintains a place in the army.

Few nations equal the Chinese in the skill and care with which they manage their vessels, and their excellence in this respect would make them very formidable at sea, were they equally *au fait* in the other requisites of seamen and navigators. Bred on board their boats and vessels from youth, the sailors become perfectly acquainted with their management, and it is a rare occurrence to observe vessels injured by running into each other, from the negligence or ignorance of the officers, for in rivers so crowded as those of this immense country, countless accidents would hourly result from inexperience, or want of caution. The powder made in Canton, is exceedingly coarse, the grains being larger than those of our

cannon size, each one quite round, appearing as if it had been separately rolled. This coarse-grained powder is used indifferently for guns or cannon, and appears to inflame readily by a match.

MILITARY.

CHINA maintains its stability as a nation chiefly from the immense standing army, which acts as a check upon general rebellion. Want, and the infamous extortions of the mandarins, do occasionally drive districts, and even provinces, to open revolt and defiance of the government, but unhappily for this oppressed people, the conflicting interests of the rebellious leaders too frequently lead them to betray each other, and finally to fall victims to mutual treachery.

The army consists of artillery, infantry, and cavalry, as usual. A large portion of the field pieces are transported on the backs of camels, or drawn by bullocks, but in consequence of the obstinacy and ignorance of the artillerists they cannot be of more service than the guns used in marine warfare. Several considerable bodies of troops retain the bow and arrow, and are covered by a defensive armour, which, from its weight, must impede rapid evolutions, and certainly annoy these sons of Mars, in the retreats which his majesty's forces have so often and so gloriously achieved. In fact, the dress of

the military generally, and the officers in particular, appear very ill adapted to the convenience of men who require in a campaign, as much freedom of their limbs as possible, instead of voluminous robes, which must be always in the way.

If any estimate can be formed of the army from a detachment of infantry which came to Canton after the Tartar war, they are certainly a most wretched specimen of soldiers. Few of them were covered with decent clothes, and the arms, accoutrements, and paraphernalia of standards, &c. were of the worst description. No order of march was observed, and these valiant defenders of their country straggled through the streets like Falstaff's regiment, lean, ragged, and miserable. On the other hand, the select troops by which the city is garrisoned, are well-dressed and healthy looking men, but are not to be taken as a fair standard of the native soldiers.

The uniform of such as are provided with it, consists of a conical cap, bearing the mark of the regiment to which the wearer belongs, a short jacket, with wide sleeves opening in front, and having a circular badge upon the breast, with an inscription similar to that upon the cap. Full drawers, shoes, and a wide sash, complete their dress. Matchlocks and short swords are the arms of the infantry, with the exception of the divisions armed with the bow and arrow. The cavalry wear swords, short guns, and occasionally pikes.

The tactics of the Chinese soldiers are very pe-

culiar, and from the specimens I have witnessed, seldom skilful. An annual review takes place in Canton at a plain near the *Koon-yam* hill, behind the town, where the exercises are performed by the best troops, before the generals commanding the garrison. Paintings representing the manœuvres are kept for sale in Canton in sets, which may be purchased at a low rate.

The theory of actual warfare is well understood by the officers of rank in the Chinese army, but in action they are lamentably deficient. In fact, the difficulty of inspiring the men with proper feelings of bravery and honour, is so great as to render it almost impossible for the officers to make good soldiers of them. In the last Tartar war, the imperial troops were awed by the determined resistance they experienced, and only succeeded in quelling the rebellion by dint of numbers, after repeated defeats. So glorious an achievement was this esteemed by the Emperor, that military rewards were unsparingly showered on the men who survived the campaign, and the commander in chief raised to the highest military rank, and favoured with the especial notice and regard of his sovereign.

CHINESE ARMS.

A great variety of weapons, offensive and defensive, are in use in China; such as matchlocks,

bows and arrows, cross-bows, spears, javelins, pikes, halberds, double and single swords, daggers, maces, &c. Shields and armour of various kinds, serve as protections against the weapons of their adversaries. The artillery is very incomplete, owing to the bad mountings of the cannon, and efficient execution is out of the question, from the ignorance of the people in gunnery. Many of the implements of war are calculated for inflicting very cruel wounds, especially some kinds of spears and barbed arrows, the extraction of which is extremely difficult, and the injuries caused by them very dreadful. A kind of sword, composed of an iron bar, about eighteen inches long, and an inch and a half, or two inches in circumference, is used to break the limbs of their adversaries, by repeated and violent blows. The double swords are very short, not longer in the blade than a large dagger, the inside surfaces are ground very flat, so that when placed in contact, they lie close to each other, and go into a single scabbard. The blades are very wide at the base, and decrease very much towards the point. Being ground very sharp, and having great weight, the wounds given by them are very severe. I am informed, that the principal object in using them, is to hamstring an enemy, and thus entirely disable him. Most of the arms made in Canton, are exceedingly rude and unfinished in comparison with our own. In the sword-making art they are better than in other departments, but the metal is generally of inferior

quality, and the form of these weapons bad; the mountings are handsome, but there is little or no guard for the protection of the hand.

The fire-arms used in the Chinese army, are matchlocks. Nothing can be more clumsy, or unwieldy than the guns used by the invincible troops of his Imperial Majesty. In appearance, they resemble the awkward muskets used in Europe soon after the introduction of gunpowder. An ordinary matchlock is about four feet long, and they are found larger and smaller, according to the service they are intended to perform. There is no ramrod; the charge being forced down by an iron weight dropped into the barrel. The lock is exceedingly simple, consisting of a match holder, which is thrown down into the pan on pulling the trigger. The balls are of iron, and the powder very coarse-grained, more resembling shot. In some short guns used for firing salutes, the barrels were of hammered iron of great thickness, and the charge so heavy, as to overturn by the recoil the person who fired them. In the naval service, long muskets are used, mounted on pivots, with very long barrels, and a large bore. Cannon cast in China, are somewhat better than might be expected in appearance, though in execution they are wofully deficient.

FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

THE obsequies of the rich are conducted with great pomp and magnificence, vast sums being frequently lavished in conveying the body to the spot previously chosen by the deceased for his interment. It frequently happens that a man dies at a remote distance from his native place, and pursuant to his request, the body is transported thither to be entombed in the family cemetery; great horror being entertained of burial in a land of strangers, where the annual sacrifices, in March, which the surviving relatives or friends make at the tombs of the departed, are likely to be discontinued. There are persons who, from motives of benevolence, at the season of these sacrifices, visit the deserted tombs of the dead, who have no surviving kindred to perform the pious office, and make the annual offerings to the manes of the deceased.

Particular spots are valued as the most favourable sites for tombs, especially those places which are well adapted to the purpose in elevated situations, as there is a great objection to a tomb which may be covered up by earth or overflowed by water. In the choice of a burial place by the rich, divination is resorted to, on particular days, which are denoted in the calendar to be auspicious, and the astrologers consulted.

Ordinary funerals are conducted with a due pro-

portion of ceremony, the procession commencing with musicians with trumpets and gongs, who make a most funereal noise; before these are generally two men, bearing paper lanterns on poles, the ground painted blue and the letters of the inscriptions white, the usual mourning colour. These are followed by porters bearing fruit and offerings to be presented at the grave; the bier, covered with cloth, decorated with coloured garlands, is preceded by a man strewing pieces of white paper, cut in a circular form, scolloped on the edges. The relatives follow, clothed in dirty yellow garments, the hair dishevelled, and the feet shod with straw sandals; they are supported by domestics, and bear in their hands small white wands, covered with folded and plaited white cloth. The chair or palanquin of the deceased is borne by its proper bearers, and upon the seat is placed an inscription written on paper. More offerings follow, and the procession closes with gongs, the servants of the family, and remote relations girt with sashes, and with caps or fillets of white muslin upon their heads.

The coffins are very large and ponderous, the boards being many inches thick, and convex above. Much neatness is observed in their construction, and the expensive wood of which some of them are made, causes them to cost high prices. Many persons on finding slabs of the proper wood, have their coffins constructed, and preserve them for many years in their houses. Cedar is most commonly used for the purpose, but it sometimes oc-

curs that very rich persons order their coffins to be made of sandal wood, or some other equally costly. The tombs are very various in their materials, but the shape in all is nearly the same; that is to say, having a centre or principal part, and two curved walls springing from each side, and describing in all nearly two-thirds of a circle. The most numerous are those built of marble or granite, and the least frequent are of brick or sandstone. A common grave is merely a conical hillock of earth, with a narrow curved ridge on each side. A plain flat slab of granite is placed on end, in front of the hill of earth, decorated with an inscription cut in the stone, the cavities of the letter coloured black or red.

In the large tombs there is a kind of flat tablet in front of the grave-stone, raised a few inches from the ground, on which the offerings of incense, food and wine are placed at the proper seasons. Large quantities of gilded paper, houses, clothes, and various articles, forming very ingenious imitations, composed of paper, and painted, are also consumed, on the supposition that these things immediately pass into the invisible world, for the use and enjoyment of the deceased. Money is represented by folded pieces of silvered paper.

It is said that the Chinese frequently disinter the bones of their deceased parents, and after carefully washing them, they are deposited in an earthen jar. The priests of the Füh sect are the only persons who are not buried, their bodies being burnt in an

oven purposely constructed near their monasteries. In the event of any one wishing to be buried, his request is complied with, in case he have sufficient money to defray the expenses of the ground and tomb; but if not, the body is reduced to ashes, which are placed in an urn or vessel for the purpose, and then enclosed in a vault near the house in which the bodies are burnt.

Various circumstances conspire at times to procrastinate an interment, and bodies are frequently kept for months and even years, in the houses of the relatives, until the necessary arrangements are completed. These delays are sometimes occasioned by family feuds, as the connexions of the deceased are in duty bound to be present at the annual sacrifices at the tomb, and one or more branches of the family residing at a greater distance than the others, make objections to the chosen place of sepulture, on the plea of the great distances it obliges *them* to travel, for the purpose of being present at the proper season, while the other branches of the family are close at hand, and suffer no such inconvenience.

THE CONFUCIAN PHILOSOPHY.

THE followers of this celebrated Chinese sage, receive, as their code of morals, the work called the Three *Kings*, viz. the *Yee-king*, *Shoo-king*,

and *She-king*, the *Chung-tsew* is a work relating chiefly to historical matters. There are also books of minor importance. The *Ta-heŏ*, *Lun-yu*, and *Chung-yung*. These are included under one general title of the four books, or *Sze-shoo*, and the work is one which is very frequently found in the hands of children at school, especially the *Ta-heŏ*, or "great learning," which consists chiefly of moral sentences, accompanied by interminable commentaries in a smaller sized letter. The best copies of this highly-valued work have the titles printed in red ink, and are of the imperial octavo size. The four volumes may be obtained in Canton for about a dollar and a quarter, a small sum for the entire works of *Kung-foo-tsze*,* and a part written by *Mang-tsze*, one of his favourite scholars. The Confucian philosophers acknowledge a great First Cause, or Supreme Being, and innumerable minor deities. The main point of the system appears to be mystery, and reasoning of so abstruse a character, as to amount in many instances to downright nonsense in the translation.

"The morals of the Joo Keaou," (the sect of Confucius,) "were reduced to the practice of two virtues; *Jin*, signifying piety towards the Divinity

* The reader will observe that my orthography of Chinese words differs from that of the French jesuits, and from Mr. Waln's modification of it. I have adhered to the mode of spelling the sounds established by the learned Morrison, whose authority may be considered perfectly good in all particulars relative to the language.

and towards parents, and good will to man. *Ye*, justice, or equity, which enjoined them to give unto every man what is his due."* No mention is made of a system of future reward or punishment, and they appear to have no belief in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

Those who have a curiosity to know further, in relation to the tenets of the Confucian philosophy, may be gratified by consulting De Pauw, De Guignes, the Memoirs of the Academy of Inscriptions, and the Memoires sur les Chinois. The object here is merely to present a sketch, and to avoid a learned detail of what may be to many a very uninteresting affair.

The works of Confucius have been translated very accurately by Mr. Marshman, whose version was printed at Calcutta, and latterly by the late Mr. Collie, of the missionary establishment at Malacca. A Chinese text and commentary accompanies some copies of the translation, which were prepared with great care and attention by Mr. Collie, who died very shortly after the publication of this laborious work.

THE KO-TOU.

THE refusal by Lord Macartney, the last English ambassador, to perform this ceremony at the Court of Pekin, has caused some curiosity to know

* Memoires de l'Academie des Inscriptions.

exactly the nature of the act required of him. The following extract from a memoir by Dr. Morrison, will give a clear idea of the various grades of the *Ko-tou*.

"The lowest form by which respect is showed in China at this day, is *Kung-show*, that is, joining the hands, and raising them before the breast. The next is *Tso-yŭh*, that is, bowing low with the hands joined. The third is *Ta-tsĕen*, bending the knee as if about to kneel. The fourth is *Kwei*, to kneel. The fifth is *Ko-tou*, kneeling, and striking the head against the ground. The sixth is *San-kow*, striking the head three times against the earth before rising from one's knees. The seventh is *Lŭh-kow*, that is, kneeling, and striking the forehead three times, rising on one's feet, kneeling down again, and striking the head again three times against the earth.

"The climax is closed by the *San-kwei-kew-kow*, kneeling three different times, and at each time knocking the head thrice against the ground.

"Some of the gods of China are entitled only to the *San-kow;* others to the *Lŭh-kow;* the *Tëen*, (heaven,) and the Emperor are worshipped with the *San-kwei-kew-kow*—Does the Emperor of China claim Divine honours?"

The English ambassador very properly refused to degrade his country to the level of others, which have in consequence been called dependants and tributaries of the Celestial Empire, for the *Ko-tou* is an unquestionable act of abject submission.

Various conflicting opinions have been expressed in relation to the expediency of submitting to the dictates of Chinese ceremonials, and even among the members of the embassy in question, there was much difference of sentiment on the subject. From the knowledge of this people, which is acquired by residents at Canton, the conclusion is uniformly drawn, that the Chinese continue to urge, in the most persevering and impudent manner, further, and more degrading concessions, where they have been submitted to in the first instance, and it is difficult to say where their exactions would have ceased had the *Ko-tou* been performed by the ambassador. It is most sincerely to be hoped that no similar diplomatic expedition to China will be despatched from the United States. Little is to be gained from the "Celestial Empire" by solicitation; and in condescending to make a request, the nation so doing must inevitably offer gifts corresponding to the favourable ideas which it is wished to convey, and thus be classed, by these vain and arrogant people, among the tributary nations.*

* It is well known that the boats, or barges, in which the gentlemen and suite composing the embassy were conveyed to Pekin, bore at the mast-heads flags, on which were inscribed large characters, implying most unequivocally that they were *tribute bearers* to the emperor.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

ALL private meetings and concourses of people, are subjects of much uneasiness to the government, and every means is resorted to in order to suppress them, from the fear of insurrections, or other rebellious measures being hatched by these associations, whose meetings are strictly private, and the members bound to secrecy by solemn oaths. During my stay in Canton, some severe edicts were fulminated against these societies, and many members arrested, but their place was soon supplied, and the proceedings continued in defiance of the government.

Most of these societies, are simply bodies of depraved and idle men, organized for the purposes of rapine and plunder. Many of them consist almost entirely of *Füh* priests, who inhabit the rocky and difficult passes of the mountains, where they lie in wait for travellers, and securely brave the Imperial troops in fastnesses, known only to themselves. Others are confined to cities and their suburbs, where they rob in every possible manner, generally with great success. The officers of the police depend upon their myrmidons to capture these robbers, but in most instances, there is a league between them, and they escape unpunished. Extensive political associations also exist in China, the transactions of which, are looked upon by government

as treasonable, and as such, punished with the greatest severity. In these societies, men of high rank and reputation are frequently connected, and their objects appear in most cases, to be great political changes, to their own advantage.

Secret religious fraternities are also objects of suspicion, and their progress checked by the severest punishments. Among the most detestable of these, are, (according to the present government,) the Christians, who have not succeeded, as yet, to any very great extent, and the rigid infliction of the prescribed penalties, has very much diminished the number of converts. Every exertion is made by the authorities to prevent public meetings, and consequently, all convocations for religious or political purposes are necessarily conducted in private, and so jealous are they in this respect, that the assembly of an unusual number of foreigners at dinner, &c. is invariably reported to the police, by spies, who are regularly paid for the information they communicate.

ISLANDS OF LOO-CHOO, FORMOSA, &c.

THE extraordinary fictions of Captain Hall have given a reputation to the insignificant islands of *Loo-choo*, that under other circumstances they would probably never have acquired. What inducement the gallant captain could have to publish

so romantic a narrative, it is difficult to imagine. The tales of their ignorance of arms, and of the art of war, their having no coin, and similar matters, the description of the character and dispositions of this exemplary people, all fade away, and are dissipated before the provoking truths, which have been maliciously circulated of late, in relation to the Loo-choo islanders. It is certainly a most annoying prerogative of fact, to overturn the fairy tales of poetic voyagers, and to facts as recently related, we are indebted for a correct estimate of Captain Hall's ingenious fictions. It appears that so far from having no money, they have coin and bullion, in which a portion of the tribute, which they are annually compelled to pay to the Chinese, is transmitted. Instead of the mild, inoffensive, and amiable people, which they have been described to be, they are as skilful in the arts of hypocrisy and dissimulation, as their more celebrated neighbours of China. The history of their country contains numerous accounts of wars, in which they have been from time to time engaged, and the weapons in use among them, are said to resemble those of China. A writer in the Canton Register, runs a crusade against Captain Basil Hall's facetious romances, and exposes in no gentle or *recherché* terms, the falsehoods related in the "Voyage to the *Loo-choo Islands*, by Captain Basil Hall, of his Britannic Majesty's Navy," &c.

The island of Formosa was subjugated by the

Emperor *Këën-lung*, A. D. 1682.* This island, which is situated in the China Sea, off the coast of *Fŭh-Këën*, is called *Ty-wan* or *Tae-wan*, and is ruled by a viceroy or governor, appointed by imperial authority.

The *Lew-kew* or *Loo-choo* islands, commenced their trade and intercourse with the Chinese nation about the year 1296, and have since been enrolled among those nations which the Chinese consider tributary to them.

COOLIES, OR PORTERS.

The term *cooly*, which signifies a servant or porter, has been imported from Bengal, and is in general use at Canton, among foreigners, and natives who speak English. The under servants in the factories, and the public and private porters by whom burdens of every description are transported through the streets of Canton, are all denominated *coolies*. Incessant labour of the severest kind, has the effect of rendering these men active and powerful, capable of enduring a continued exertion, under which others would inevitably sink.

From a bamboo supported on the right shoulder, all weights or burdens are carried, and the consequence of continued pressure and friction is a large

* Morrison.

callous swelling, which deforms the shoulder of all the persons engaged in this employment. A peculiar disease of the veins is also remarkably apparent in the legs, where the veins lying near the skin are distended and enlarged in an extraordinary manner, very unpleasing in appearance, and eventually terminating in a serious affection. Great strength is exhibited by these men, who trot at a smart pace through the crowded streets, crying "*leth, leth,*" as a caution to persons passing them to get out of their way.

The bamboos used by single porters are very short, light, very elastic, and capable of sustaining a heavy load at either hand. When, however, the load is attached but to one extremity, a weight of stone or metal is hung at the other in order to counterbalance it. The bamboos used by two porters are very large, and usually about ten feet long. The weight on these is suspended from the centre, by slings or ropes.

By these, casks of wine, heavy cases, chests of tea, and in short every thing too ponderous to be carried by hand, are borne from place to place, as there are no carts or other conveyances whatever for their transportation.

Regular stands are appointed for these *coolies* at the corners of particular streets, where they take their turns, regulated by a kind of overseer. They are very tenacious of their rights, and fights frequently take place between them and private coolies, who attempt to remove boxes or other bur-

dens from house to house. In some of these engagements serious accidents have occurred from the tremendous blows inflicted by bamboos. The quick pace at which they walk, enables them to carry a great quantity of goods from place to place in much less time than could be imagined, and they work incessantly, from morning to midnight, when required, with no other liquid refreshment than a few cups of weak tea!

THE SECT OF FUH, OR BUDDHISTS.

In a native work entitled *Ching-tsze-t'hing*, it is related that the importation of the *Buddhist* or *Füh* religion, took place in the year 50, during the reign of the Emperor *Ming*, of the *Han* dynasty.

An opposite opinion is entertained by the society of learned men appointed by *Kang-hee* to compile the dictionary which bears his name. They state that "some of the *Sha-mun*, or priests of *Füh* came to China during the dynasty *Tsin*. *Che-hwang*, the first Emperor of that dynasty, who reigned about two hundred and fifty years B. C. imprisoned those priests on account of their being foreigners; but it is said a *golden man* broke open the prison doors at night. In the time of *Woo-tee*, (B. C. 250,) an image of *Füh* was obtained, and the images of the present day are of the same mo-

del. They admit, however, that during the reign of the Emperor Ming, the religion of Füh entered China more effectually, and that the occasion of it was a dream of the Emperor's, in which he saw a golden man flying about the palace."*

The sect is disreputable, but very numerous. They affect abstraction, and the contemplation of divine objects, and for this purpose retire to desert or mountainous places, to meditate undisturbed upon the divine excellencies and mysterious influence of *Füh*. They are of opinion that it is only necessary to repeat the sentence, "*Oh me to Füh*," a certain number of times to ensure their subsequent beatification.

Most of the prayers which constitute the religious exercises of the sect of *Füh* are Hindu prayers, the sounds of the words being rendered into the Chinese character, but not the signification, so that they recite a jargon, not a word of which is intelligible to them.

The remarkable similarity between the outward forms in the ceremonials of this sect and those of the Catholic church, has struck many very forcibly, and a pious missionary of the olden time inveighs against his satanic majesty, for this sacrilegious and abominable imitation of the holy rites of the Church of Rome.

* Morrison in Chinese Dict.

THE SECT OF TAOU.

THE religionists belonging to this order have some fine monasteries in and about Canton, which are said to be supported principally by voluntary donations of the citizens.

A man called *Laou-tsze*, or *Laou-tau-le-urh*, is the reputed founder of the sect; he was a kind of hermit, or ascetic, teaching the usual points of morality. The principal tenet is a release of the mind from exertion, a kind of calm abstraction, and contemplation of celestial things.* There is a vulgar superstition which is propagated in works on the subject, that this philosopher was a divine being in human form, and that he is constantly among men. He is supposed to have made his appearance among men at many times from the earliest ages down to the sixth century; the number of periods enumerated is seven. Dr. Morrison, under this article in his Dictionary, gives many particulars from Chinese books on the subject of this sect; he states that the language and titles in

* He is described by *Choo-foo-tsze* as a person who taught and practised a weak inactivity, and neglect of the world and its concerns, and expecting to reform men simply by example, he went beyond the principles which govern mankind, and neither loved fame, nor pleasure, and did not enter the public service. He concludes by calling him an ignorant good man. —*Morrison.*

use among the members of it are very peculiar. *Laou-tsze* is also called by his votaries "the supreme," "the supreme trifold source," "the most honoured in heaven," &c. The priests of this order are distinguished principally by their hair, which is worn in large quantity on the top of the head, and shaved from the occiput, forehead, and around the ears. It is folded up in a mass on the summit, a gourd shell, or wooden imitation of one, placed over it, and the whole confined by a wooden bodkin passing through it. The dress consists of a very capacious robe, of a plain colour, with exceedingly large sleeves. They are permitted to marry, are said to have no scruples in eating animal food, in which two particulars they are distinguished from the sect of Fŭh or Buddhists. Being generally better men, and of more extensive information than the Fŭh priests, many of them live in the capacity of tutors to gentlemen's children. Several of the fortune-tellers who sit in the streets near the factories are priests of this sect, and are always observed to be more neat in their persons, and less idle than those of the other sect, the members of which are, with very few exceptions, very worthless and immoral.

SUPERSTITIONS.

The extraordinary nature of the superstitions which affect the natives of China is remarkable, as well as their number. For instance, lucky and unlucky days are carefully noted in the Imperial Almanac, and he who obstinately begins a journey, or commences any work on a day stigmatized by the astrologers as unlucky, is looked upon as little short of a madman. Omens are also regarded, and the interpretations of dreams eagerly sought for. Magical rites are resorted to, to determine the issue of future events, and similar ceremonies performed to ascertain fortunate localities for houses, or auspicious situations for graves. Foreigners are looked upon by the vulgar as a kind of monsters, and the belief in fabulous animals is strong, even among the higher classes. Among the many curious works which I obtained in China, was a curious history of monsters, illustrated by numerous figures of the most hideous and improbable fictions, in two volumes, and an additional one of plates.

As a specimen, I have added a translation of the descriptive note, which accompanied each figure, of the most extraordinary of the collection; and these extracts will convey some idea of the remaining plates, which are very numerous, and of a similar character.

No. 2. *Ying-chow.*—An animal having the body of a horse, the face of a human being, the body ornamented with stripes like a tiger, and furnished with bird's wings.

No. 3. *Luh-woo.*—The body of a tiger with nine human heads, and the paws of a lion, eight of the heads smaller, and crowning the ninth, which is largest.

No. 5. *Shin-kwei.*—Face human; the body that of a hog with one leg and one arm.—Inhabits the *Keu kang hill.*

Note.—A possibility—probably a monkey with one arm and one leg.

No. 6. *Tae-fung.*—Face human; tail that of a tiger.—The god of the *Ho hill.*

No. 8. *Wae.*—Face human; horns those of a sheep; paws of a tiger.—Dwells in the *Keaou hill.*

No. 9. *Ke-mung.*—Body human, with a dragon's head.—Dwells in the *Brilliant hill.* Wherever it enters or departs from there is invariably wind and rain.

No. 10. *Hing-teen,* Emblem of heaven.—Body without a head; the right hand sustains a battle axe, the left a shield; the eyes are inserted where the nipples should be, and the mouth where the navel is placed.

No. 11. *Jŭh-show.*—Upon the right ear is a green snake, the eyes and face those of a dragon, the hair and claws of a lion, the right hand grasps a battle axe, and the figure is mounted on a double dragon.—The god of the four golden squares.

No. 12. *Tuh-yin.*—A human face, body of a snake, and vermilion colour, one thousand le long, (two hundred and fifty miles!!!)—God of the Bell hill.

No. 13. *Leang-lew.*—The body of a snake, with nine human heads.

No. 14. *Choo-pe.*—Body that of a hog, with a human face; the ears are green snakes.

No 15. *Teen-woo.*—The body of a tiger, with eight human heads, eight feet, and eight tails. The god of *Chow-yang-koo;* some say it has ten tails.

No. 16. *Yu-sze-tsee.*—Body black, with two hands, in each of which there is a snake; out of the left ear comes a green snake, and from the right, one of a vermilion colour.

No. 17. *Urh-foo-chee-chin.*—Both hands confined or tied up by the hair; the right foot shackled. Inhabits the *Fŭh hill.*

No. 18. *Luy-shin.*—The thunder god; body that of a dragon; face human; the belly is a *drum.*—Dwells in *Woo-se.*

No. 19. *Ken-fung.*—The body of a bird with nine human heads.—Dwells at the north extremity of the *Tĕĕn-kwei-hill.*

No. 20. *Keang-leang.*—Tiger's eyes: body human, four cloven feet, and a snake through the nose.—Dwells with the preceding.

No. 21. *Yu-min-kwo.*—The feathered people's country.—Size of a man.—Inhabits the southern

part of the *Kee-koo* country.—The plate represents a feathered man, with wings and a bird's beak.

No. 23. *Ya-ho-kwo.*—The body is that of a beast, and of a black colour, it produces fire from the mouth.—Lives to the east of *Ke-nen-tow.*

No. 29. *Ke-heung-kwo.*—These people have the faculty of rendering themselves visible, or invisible, make flying chariots, are able to fly a great distance, have one arm and three eyes.—Inhabit east of the one-arm country.

No. 32. *Yih-muh-kwo.*—One-eyed country; one eye placed in the middle of the face, (or forehead.)—Dwells east of the illuminated dragons.

No. 34. *Urh-kwo.*—These people have ears so long and pendulous, that when walking, they are obliged to support them in their hands.

The superstitions with regard to evil spirits, are very prevalent among all classes, and no house or boat is seen at night undefended by small odoriferous matches, which are burnt at the entrances, intended with an offering of burnt paper, to conciliate the evil genii, which are supposed to be ever present.

At a certain season of the year, sacrifices are offered to the manes of departed relatives and friends, and at the death of an individual, emblems of money and clothes are consumed, on the supposition that the substantial benefit of them will be transferred to the individual in the world of spirits.

CRIMINAL COURT.

One of the most interesting scenes I witnessed in China, was the trial of a number of men, who were convicted of piracy and murder, in the case of the sailors of the French ship Navigateur. This vessel having met with an accident on a shoal or reef, at the south-west extremity of the Island of Patawan, in the China Sea, proceeded to Cochin-China to refit, but owing to great difficulties experienced there, the ship was finally condemned, and sold. A part of the crew, amounting to sixteen men, after rejecting an arrangement with the Commander of an English brig under Portuguese colours, took passage in a Chinese junk, which was to have landed them at Macao, with a number of native passengers also on board. From the depositions of a surviving sailor, an Italian named Francisco, it appears they were induced to remain on board, after the departure of the Chinese, who were to land at Macao, upon a promise of running in with the vessel, and sending them ashore there with greater convenience. After which, the crew of the junk rose upon them and destroyed the captain, and all the crew, with the exception of two men, who jumped overboard, one of them so badly wounded, that he shortly sunk, exhausted from the injuries he had received. The other, (Francisco,) supported himself for some

time on a plank, which some Chinese fishermen threw to him, who were afraid to take him on board, and he was finally taken up much exhausted, by the crew of another boat, and landed at Macao, where he was immediately conducted to the proper authority, and depositions were taken relative to the piracy.

This horrible circumstance excited great interest for the unfortunate survivor, who, beside receiving a daily pension from the Portuguese government, was further relieved by donations from many residents at Macao. A representation was instantly made to the mandarins at Macao and Canton, and the same communicated to the magistrates of *Amoy*, in the province *Fokien, (Fŭh Këen,)* adjoining that of Canton, *(Kwang-tung,)* to the eastward, whither it was supposed the junk had proceeded.

The following extract from my diary will explain the form of the trial, and ceremonies observed in the court.

"The court was held in the old *Kung-Soo* hall, which is in ruins, at the head of China street, having been destroyed by the great fire in 1822, and not rebuilt, in consequence, (it is said,) of some superstition of *How-qua*, the chief Hong merchant. The old hall has in it, apartments, altars, &c. at which ceremonies are sometimes performed on particular days. In the centre was placed a chair of state, and table with writing materials, for the *Kwang-chow-foo*, or Mayor of Canton. On his

right were seated two mandarins, with gold buttons, on the left, one with a white transparent button; outside of these were two others, with gold buttons, one on each side, as assistant judges, in rich silk dresses, lined with fur, and highly embroidered square badges, before and behind. Some time previous to the arrival of these officers, the prisoners were brought into the court yard, in strong wooden cages, just large enough for them to lie in, with their legs drawn up. They were strongly chained, hand and foot, and round the neck. The box had a round hole in the top, for these miserable felons to put their heads through. Each one had a wooden label attached to him, with his name inscribed upon it. Every cage contained one man, and they were brought in, suspended from a bamboo pole, supported on the shoulders of two men. They were tolerably well clothed, but were exhausted, and looked dreadfully. Many had undergone the torture, and could scarcely walk when taken out to be examined. One man among them excited a very general sensation in his favour. The expression of his face was very good, and many of the gentlemen who understood Chinese, endeavoured to converse with him, but as he was a *Fŭh-keen* man, and spoke a peculiar dialect, it was very difficult.

Dr. Morrison addressed the foreigners present, and submitted to them, that it would perhaps be better to signify in a respectful manner, to the authorities, that the foreigners did not desire the

blood of any one against whom the evidence was not entirely conclusive, and moreover, that the Chinese above mentioned, had, at all times, denied any participation in the horrid massacre, until the torture forced a false confession of guilt from him. It was improbable that he, being a kind of supercargo, a man of property, and having also cargo on board, would consent to aid in a massacre like the present, when, from the number concerned, the share of plunder would be comparatively so insignificant, and the danger of detection so very great. This information was obtained from him with difficulty, as it was to be interpreted by another Chinese into the Canton dialect, to the reverend gentleman, and by him again into English.* Upon the mandarins coming into court, they stood at the tables for a few moments, and then sat down with much stateliness and gravity. An under officer cried aloud in a long drawling voice, and was answered by the minor attendants, in a tone similar to his. This was the opening of the court.

The Italian sailor, Francisco, who was picked up by a fishing vessel, after he jumped overboard, while the murder was committing, was in front, and on the right of the *Kwang-chow-foo*, attended by a Portuguese interpreter.

Dr. Morrison advanced, and respectfully ad-

* The Doctor received the thanks of all present for his benevolent endeavours.

dressed the *Kwang-chow-foo*, expressing the sentiments above mentioned. The officer replied, and the Doctor retired.

The prisoners were brought out two, three, and sometimes four or more, for the purpose of confronting them with Francisco, in order that he might identify those concerned; such as he did had their indictment, which lay before the *Kwang-chow-foo*, marked by him with red ink.

When the old Chinese before mentioned, was brought up, the Italian rushed forwards, recognising him instantly, and patting him on the head, exclaiming in Portuguese, "It is he!" "It is he!" Upon examination, it was proved that the poor old man was not only innocent of a share in the murder, but endeavoured to save the life of Francisco. He was removed, and shortly after restored to liberty.

Upwards of thirty were thus examined, but still the most atrocious were wanting. One of the prisoners, a mere boy, was recognised by Francisco, who affirmed, that his father, whom he had not yet seen, was one of the principals, in this bloody transaction. The others were in consequence sent for, and they, not coming immediately, the court rose, and the foreigners went to dinner, having been there from 11½ A. M. till 4 P. M.

During our absence, the examination terminated.

A very strong guard of soldiers was stationed at the gate of the court, and the entrance of China

street, entirely shutting up the passage, which, as it is one of the most crowded thoroughfares in Canton, created an immense mob, which was kept in order by the soldiers, who bestowed, in the most unsparing manner, the whips, with which they were provided, on the heads and shoulders of all, without distinction, who pressed too near. These soldiers were the most detestable looking wretches I almost ever beheld. Their physiognomies were particularly revolting and disagreeable, and their persons filthy. They are miserable *soldiers*, for we were obliged, in self-defence, to kick and cuff them considerably to make them keep off, as we had no desire whatever to acquire from them the itch, or other disgusting matters with which many of them were infested. We observed that the military mandarins were not allowed to enter the hall of justice, although one of them was of considerable rank, wearing a blue button on his cap. The horses belonging to them were tied in China street, and were wretched and dwarfish animals, as all the Chinese horses we see in Canton are. They are ponies, in fact, with immense bushy manes and tails, and untrimmed fetlocks, and all of them without shoes.

The hong merchants, young *How-qua*, *Mow-qua*, *Ponkei-qua*, and young *King-qua*, were present in their robes of ceremony, and received the officers with much reverence on their arrival. *Ponkei-qua* wore a most magnificent necklace of amber beads, divided at intervals by large balls of

highly polished *jade* or *nephrite*, a stone much valued by the Chinese. The others had necklaces of valuable stone, &c. but not so striking or magnificent. The hall, although large, and containing no one but the officers of justice, their retinues, the foreigners of Canton, and the military guards, was inconveniently small for the number present. We were jammed and squeezed most annoyingly, and the odour elicited, by so many dirty vagabonds being closely crowded together, was any thing but pleasant. In fact, nothing but the extreme novelty of the scene, and its great rarity, would have induced any of us to remain any length of time."

SACRIFICES.

These rites, which seem little more than an outward conformity to established usages, unaccompanied by any real piety, or devotional feeling, are very scrupulously performed. A daily sacrifice to the household gods is never omitted; the offerings to deceased relatives, and occasional visits to the temples, where gilt paper, perfumed matches and ornamented candles are burnt, occur at stated periods. In addition to these, there are many festivals upon which public sacrifices are performed, and at which the priests assist. The god of fire is honoured by a festival, in which great illuminations and rejoicings occur, and on the

new year the quantity of fire-works which are consumed is astonishing. Upon this occasion every one is bound to contribute his portion to the general demonstrations of joy at the happy termination of the old, and commencement of the new year.

The Chinese, although a nation in which there is perhaps less real religion than any other, are most particular in the observance of the prescribed outward forms. Every evening are bunches of joss-stick stuck about the doorways, and the light carefully attended to which burns in the small temple or oratory with which every Chinese house is provided, under the idea that these ceremonies will prevent the ingress of evil spirits. In the boats at dark the same ceremonies are performed, besides which bundles of gilt paper are set on fire, and after being held aloft until nearly consumed, are cast into the water. We often see small earthen pots filled with fire, floating undisturbed down the river in the evening, which is another mode of the *Tsin-tsin*, or sacrifice, which with the Chinese is a mere mechanical process, generally unaccompanied by any real devotion or penitence, but being usually done more from superstitious fear, than from a sense of gratitude to the Deity.

Part of the market purchases of a Chinese, are the brown paper, with a sheet of brass-leaf in the centre, the odoriferous matches, oil, and small sacrificing candles made of wax filled with tallow, and having a wooden wick.

The corners of most streets have a recess in

which the stone figures in a sitting position, of a male and female deity, are placed, and before which the pious place candles, odoriferous matches, or flaming paper, as a propitiatory offering. A prayer, or moral maxim, is cut on the stone frame of the recess on each side, and the cavities of the letters filled with vermilion or black. A small jar, or pot, filled with ashes, in which the matches are stuck, completes the moveable apparatus. The altar has a cavity beneath, into which the burning paper is thrown.

MONEY—BULLION—RATE of INTEREST.

THE only regular coin of the Empire is the *tung-tseen*, or *cash*, as it is called by Europeans, a small piece of money cast of a composition metal, and having in the centre a small square hole, which serves to string it by. Seven hundred and seven of these equal a dollar, when at the usual rate of seven mace, one candareen, seven cash, or as it is known in Canton, 7.1.7. In the bundles of this coin circulated for a Spanish dollar, there are about eight hundred cash, but much Cochin-Chinese and small spurious coins intermixed. Spanish dollars are an introduced money, and as it is the custom for each merchant, as he receives them, to place a stamp made with a steel punch, on every dollar; they soon become broken up, and losing all shape, are finally

reduced to small shapeless bits of silver, covered with impressed characters, and paid away entirely by weight. Bullion is in stamped bars, marked with the rate of fineness, and designated by *touches;* that is to say, its purity tested by sets of goldsmiths touch-needles. The purest kinds of silver are denominated *Sy-cee,* and the *Plata-pina* of Peru which is imported into China, by the foreign merchants, also comes under this denomination. Ingots or bars of silver are subject to many adulterations, and are not unfrequently cast hollow, and a piece of lead placed in the inside to complete the weight. In fact every species of fraud is practiced by the dealers in bullion, and the greatest caution is requisite in all transactions with them. The advance on *Sy-cee* is from six to ten per cent. above dollars of equal weight.

The duties received at the imperial treasury are said to be always paid in Sy-cee silver, the purity of which is tested by the assayers. Gold is examined, I believe in all cases, by a set of small bars of gold, of various degress of purity, marked and numbered regularly: these are called *touch-needles.* A mark is made with the piece of gold to be tried, upon a fragment of black basaltic stone of a very fine grain, and similar marks are drawn with the *touch-needles* on it till the colour be exactly matched, and upon referring to the needle the degree of alloy is immediately ascertained with great accuracy. The operation of proving gold by fire is not practised, the *touch-needles* being considered a

perfectly sure method of determining the purity of the metal.

Interest in China is at a high rate, the usual premium for money being twelve per cent. per annum, or double the legal rate of interest of our own country. Usury is much practised, and where necessity obliges the unfortunate to borrow money from individuals who live upon the miseries of their fellow men, the per centage extorted is often treble or quadruple the established rate, depending always on the probability of repayment.

SNAKE-CATCHERS.

THERE are many poor persons who employ themselves in capturing serpents, in the neighbourhood of most large cities, where they expose them to view for a trifling remuneration. In order to prevent accidents, the snakes are carried in close baskets or wicker cages, well secured. In this manner the most dangerous serpents are carried through the streets, and large boas of ten or twelve feet in length are exhibited in the open squares. In most instances the fangs are extracted from the venomous species, but on one or two occasions I have observed the men handle with impunity the deadly *cobra de capello* and other very fatal reptiles apparently protected only by an antidote of pounded herbs rubbed upon the hands, the aversion of the

serpents to which was so great, that though provoked to madness they refused to bite at any part touched by it. I obtained a small portion of this preparation, which appears to be nothing more than a variety of bruised herbs rolled up into cylinders and dried. As many frauds are practised in matters of this kind, it is not improbable that some previous preparation had been made use of to protect the man who trifled in this manner with snakes whose bites are fatal in a few minutes.

Some of the superstitions among the lower classes relative to serpents, are amusingly ridiculous. Upon the occasion of my buying from a snake-catcher a very large *Boa*, the house steward or comprador assured me with great gravity, that when the animal had attained the length of a thousand *le*, it would be immediately translated to heaven! I could only reply, that when the animal *had* attained this size, it was very probable that the catastrophe would take place. A number of wild cats were in possession of the same man, two of which I purchased for preserving the skins as specimens of zoology. When the operation was completed, he solicited the *bodies*, which of course I very freely gave him, and the next day I found them in a large terrene, soaking in a sea of China wine, in which they had been very carefully stewed. This preparation I understood was a panacea, an elixir of life, with which this pious Oriental proposed to prolong the life of his father, who was already at a very advanced age.

CHINESE LANGUAGE.

THE complicated nature of the Chinese language, and the difficulties experienced by learners at the commencement of their studies, have deterred most persons from pursuing the language further than the mere rudiments. Indeed, except as a medium for official communication with the natives, or the more important objects of the missions, there is in reality little to be gained for this laborious study. It is to be hoped that the period is not far distant when the relations between China and foreigners will assume a more social character, and in the event of a general trade being permitted, it will then be highly important for merchants residing in the country to be conversant with the language of its inhabitants.

The primitive language of China appears to have been simply rude representations of objects or of relatives by which ideas were communicated. These symbols, or hieroglyphics, for such indeed they were, have been supposed to have an identical origin with the Egyptian, and under the proper head I have given some comparisons. In course of time, the want of a more extended alphabet, or rather catalogue of words, was experienced, and these simple rudiments were joined, to form compound characters, and to modify their significa-

tions. Gradually also the precise manner of drawing or writing these words degenerated, and became a kind of running hand in comparison. In this manner the modern characters in use at present were created, bearing scarcely any resemblance to the originals from whence they were derived. At present there is a further abbreviation observable in what is called the modern running-hand character. Each word consists of distinct portions, or keys, which constitute the alphabet of the language: they are above two hundred in number. By means of these keys, a word sought for in the dictionary is found in the following manner. We take, as an example, any word having the key *jin*, and counting the number of strokes in the character exclusive of the key, we turn to this radical in the dictionary, and proceeding until we find the section headed by the proper number of extra strokes, with a little patience we find the word in question, followed by the meaning and quoted passages illustrating its several applications.

The various interpretations are very perplexing to the student, and the accents and intonations by which words written in the same manner are distinguished, very difficult to acquire. It is said that the whole number of separate sounds do not exceed fifteen hundred, while the number of characters is about forty thousand, making an average of about thirty words to each sound. The difficulty in conversation of distinguishing them, sometimes

obliges the parties to *write* the doubtful character in order to be understood.

The ancient hieroglyphic character is now a species of *black-letter*, and is used for seals, and similar purposes, but never for ordinary writings.

Several dialects of the language are in use in different parts of the empire. The pure Chinese, or the court dialect, is spoken by men of letters, and is in use among official persons. At Pekin there is a species of Tartar-Chinese dialect which is gaining ground rapidly, and promises to take place of the classic language of the learned. This court dialect is exclaimed against as barbarous, but being in use at Pekin, is of course the fashion. The pure Chinese is usually termed the Nanking dialect, or the *Kwan-hwa*, the mandarin tongue; it prevails in *Ho-nam*, *Keang-nan*, and *Sze-chuen*. To the inhabitants of Canton, who speak a very corrupt dialect, the *Kwan-hwa* is nearly unintelligible. The words, phrases, and the idiom, are similar, the difference consisting chiefly in the sound. At Macao there is a further corruption of the Canton dialect. In the province of Fŭh-kĕĕn the dialect is still more corrupt, and equally unintelligible to the people of Nankin, or Canton.

The language of *Cochin-China*, *Formosa*, *Hainan*, *Japan*, and *Corea*, is Chinese, differing only in the pronunciation, which is essentially different, as well as the idiomatic expressions. The written language is a perfect medium of communication

between natives of these different countries, though entirely unable to maintain a conversation with each other.*

The writing of the Chinese is executed with a hair pencil and India ink, the pencil being held perpendicularly. Few write with great rapidity, but as each character is a word, they are able to express much in a short time. Some of their specimens of calligraphy are extremely beautiful, and facility in writing a beautiful hand, is a talent of which they are justly proud.

Signatures are usually made with a stamp or seal, and red ink, placed over a part of the writing. The signature of his Imperial Majesty is always made in *red ink*, whence is derived the term "vermilion edict," which signifies a document bearing the autograph of the monarch.

* To those curious upon the subject of the language of China, the dictionary of the Rev. Robert Morrison will furnish every information on this fruitful subject. I have taken occasion to speak of this valuable work before, and I again rejoice in an opportunity of contributing my share of the gratitude which the literary world owes to its persevering and indefatigable author. Those who have not examined this great undertaking, cannot imagine the labour necessary to its composition, and such as have any knowledge of the language, are surprised at the extraordinary erudition displayed in it. My motive for this laudatory note, is honestly to notice one of the most curious works existing, which has too long suffered from unmerited neglect.

REBELLIONS—CIVIL WARS.

Rebellions and insurrections frequently occur in the provinces, from the rapacity of the officers of government, or the scarcity of food. The failure of the crops is often followed by so great a scarcity as to cause famines to a dreadful extent. In the province of Shan-tung, and some other hilly and wild districts, the poor, who are distracted and oppressed by the officers who govern them, fly to the strong holds and passes of the mountains, and there establish themselves in large bodies of banditti, who waylay travellers and destroy them, and not unfrequently make successful descents upon the neighbouring inhabitants, who are not provided with the means of repelling them. Troops are very frequently sent to subdue these banditti, but from the secure situations they choose for their retreats, the attacks of the imperial troops seldom give them much uneasiness. Some of the most formidable bodies have been composed of monks or priests of the Fŭh sect, who from being abject mendicants, have ended in becoming robbers, shaking off all fear and restraint, and indulging in the most ferocious excesses of cruelty and rapine. There are in some districts, tribes or clans of persons who govern themselves, and do not admit that they are subject to the laws of the empire; they lead a kind

of shepherd's life, and are not described as banditti.

The late Tartar rebellion, headed by *Chang-kih-urh*, was the most alarming that has occurred for many years, and the time required to quell it, demonstrated too plainly the desperation of the oppressed people, and the inefficiency of the imperial troops.

THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL.

A curious festival takes place throughout the empire on the 17th of June, which is called the Dragon boat, or *Wat-yune's* day. The origin of this curious custom is said to have been the following. "It was instituted in honour of an eminent statesman, who, having attained great reputation, was thwarted and disappointed by the intrigues of bad men, which so disgusted him with life, that '*he embraced a stone,*' and threw himself into the *Mei-lo* stream. His body was never found, and the long *Dragon boats*, which about the 17th of June annually race, with clamorous gongs and discordant drums, on the rivers and coasts of China, pretend to be searching for the body of *Wat-yune.*"* These boats derive the name of *lung-chuen*, or dragon boat, from their peculiar form, which is

* Morrison.

long and very narrow, the bow decorated by a large carved and painted dragon's head, and the stern terminating in a tail, giving the boat very much the appearance of a large serpent floating upon the surface of the water. Small ones are from twenty to thirty feet long, while the larger kind exceed an hundred, and are very narrow in proportion to the length, being little more than sufficiently so to admit of two men seating themselves on each bench. They carry from twenty to one hundred and forty men, two-thirds of which are rowers, the rest steering, beating gongs, drums, cymbals, and waving flags in the most noisy and violent manner.

The centre of the boat is occupied by an immense drum, over which flies a large silken flag. On this drum two men beat time to the strokes of the oarsmen, who reply to each blow with a kind of shout. A pair of gongs is placed at either end of the boat, and numerous silken canopies of a circular form at intervals of a few feet. The boats are extremely shallow, and when loaded with their full complement, rise but a few inches above the water. The stern of the boat is appropriated to the steersmen, who use a very long paddle to guide it with. The boats are of such immense length, that, in the narrow channels of a river, crowded by myriads of small boats, it is impossible to turn them, and consequently, besides a man in the bow, who stands waving a streamer, there are other steersmen who perform their office, when it is ne-

cessary to row the boat in an opposite direction. When it becomes expedient to retrograde, the rowers, at a signal from the large drum, rise and turn their faces the contrary way, and then propel the boat stern foremost. The dragon boats are urged along by quick short strokes of paddles about four feet long, and from the number of men and the narrowness of the boats, they fly through the water with amazing rapidity.

The rowers are usually dressed in conical bamboo caps, such as are commonly worn by coolies or labourers in Canton, white shirts, and blue drawers. The men who beat the drums and gongs, wear blue clothes, white sashes, and a large straw hat lined with blue.

The dragon boats are owned by private individuals, who hire them out to large parties of the populace, who are on these occasions riotous, noisy, and by their violent endeavours to outstrip each other in the race frequently cause serious accidents. Fights occur between the crews of racing boats, and in their anger they proceed, regardless of the small boats on the river, many of which are run into and destroyed, the crews sometimes being drowned. The great length, and little beam of the boats, causes them to vibrate very much when going rapidly through the water, and instances have occurred in which they have broken in two, from the jarring of the rowers, and the weight of their burden.

The 17th of June is the regular day for the cele-

bration of this festival, and as such is regularly laid down in the Chinese calendar, but the amusement is frequently prolonged to the 19th or 20th. Those at Macao are built shorter, higher, and more substantially, as they are rowed in the harbour where there is sometimes considerable sea and swell. They are much inferior in size to those of Canton, and carry small crews.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

It is only within a few years that the lucrative trade in opium has assumed so formidable an appearance. Notwithstanding the periodical fulminations against the importation and use of this pernicious drug, and the captures which are so repeatedly made, the trade instead of experiencing any depression or interruption, appears to flourish with tenfold vigour. The quantity of opium consumed in China, as an indulgence, (for it is little used in medicine,) is startling to one who is unacquainted with the subject, and when the ravages it commits are presented to the eye, the regrets of the philanthropist are truly sincere. A short indulgence confirms in most cases this lamentable habit, and the deluded wretch, who seeks in smoking opium, to banish for a time the cares which harass him, too certainly discovers ere long, that the oblivion which he seeks, is only to be purchased by constant and

unwearied sacrifices at its shrine. But to descend to plain English; those who habitually smoke opium, are in the intervals between the excitement of one dose and the period of its renewal, the most miserable and nerveless creatures, the artificial tone of their spirits being only purchased by their devotion to this destructive habit.

It is not within the object of the present work to enter into particular commercial details, and therefore it is supposed that the statement in the appendix of the deliveries of opium at Lin-tin, will convey a pretty correct idea of the magnitude of this flagitious commerce. In perusing the table, it is to be remembered, that the number of chests there enumerated, does not constitute the entire annual supply of the Empire, for in it are not included the very large transactions which take place at Macao, or the quantity imported from Batavia, Singapore, &c. in native vessels, an account of which cannot be taken. This quantity is undoubtedly very large, and would, if ascertained, in all probability, amount to a greater number of chests than is generally imagined.

The importation of opium in any shape, is strictly prohibited by the laws of China, and from time to time the most severe imperial, and provincial edicts have been issued to prevent it, but in vain. So general is the habit of using this drug among all classes who can afford it, and many who cannot, that it is found futile to attempt a suppression of the trade, by means of officers of every

rank, most of whom, are themselves regular consumers of the drug, and consequently, very remiss in enforcing orders which would deprive them of so great a gratification. In addition to this, the vigilance and ingenuity of the smugglers, baffle such of the revenue cruizers as pursue them, and thus captures of opium boats are unfrequent, and seldom accomplished without a severe contest.

Dangerous as the occupation of an opium smuggler is, there is seldom a want of desperate and needy men, who willingly engage themselves to form the crews of the boats. A disguise is assumed in general, by hanging the boats with nets, baskets, and other peaceful appendages, in the same manner as in the regular fishing boats, so that it is almost impossible to detect a smuggler, except by discovering the contraband articles on board.

The boats employed in this business, are long, narrow, and built for swiftness, rowed by thirty or thirty-five oars, and having two large mat sails, to which a smaller one, occasionally set upon a small shifting mast, placed on the stern, may be added. According to the size of the boat, the number of men is greater or less, but they are generally found with upwards of thirty men on board, including the clerks of the opium dealers at Canton, who go down to deliver the order for the drug, and superintend the weighing on board ship. In cases of emergency, the services of every one are required to work or fight.

Here it will be necessary to explain the mode

in which sales of opium are made at Canton. The persons who purchase this drug from the foreign merchants there, are mostly brokers, and trade little on their own account, acting simply as agents between the buyer and seller, receiving their commission however from the former. On purchasing a lot of opium, the money is either paid previous to the delivery of the order, or the sale is made on credit. The orders, or '*chits*,'* as they are called, are mere notes to the captain or commanding officer, to deliver to the bearer a specified number of chests. When sales are made on credit, it is customary to pay a sum agreed upon as bargain-money, which is forfeited in case of non-compliance with the terms of sale. A lot of opium passes through the hands of many persons, by means of these orders, without any of the parties ever seeing it. In so dangerous a trade, where the fluctuations of the market are at times of the most alarming kind, it may easily be supposed that great tact and finesse are requisite for conducting extensive operations successfully. Correct information, as to the probable importations, the stock on hand, and the price it is likely to fetch, is indispensably necessary. So variable is the market, that great caution is required in sales and purchases, and few men are better diplomatists than the merchants and Chinese brokers.

* In Bengal, and most parts of India, the word '*chit*' is used for a letter or note of any kind; it has thus been imported by the English into China.

Patna, *Benares*, and *Demaun* furnish the best opium; that which is imported from Turkey is not liked so well, and is used to mix with the other kinds. *Patna* is in globular masses, covered with *poppy leaves*, and is in a semi-fluid state. Benares and *Malwa*, are of greater consistency, the latter being solid, and packed in saw-dust. The chests are well covered, to prevent injury from damp, but in spite of all precaution, numbers are damaged. With the dealers, the mere appearance of injury is sufficient to make them refuse a chest, for the drug is so costly, that they dread the slightest imperfection, which may endanger the sale of it. Damaged chests are sold always at a considerable loss, and where very much injured, are entirely unsaleable, if there be a full stock of good opium on hand. On the delivery of opium,* the drug is taken out of the chests, carefully cleaned from extraneous matter, and weighed in bags made of rushes; in these it is carried away. *Patna* is weighed a second time in the smuggler's boat, and the weight of each bag marked on a small square piece of red paper pasted on it. In consequence of drying, the weight of opium varies considerably from the original invoice account, and therefore, it is customary to insure the weight to the purchaser, and if short to make up the deficiency from another chest.

* Formerly, the smuggling of opium was carried on from the ships at *Whampoa*. At present, this is no longer done, the whole of the opium brought in a ship, is now deposited on board the opium vessels at *Lin-tin*.

One hundred and five catties of a pound and a third each, are commonly secured to each chest. A customary fee is paid to the captains of the opium ships for each chest they deliver. Of late years, this perquisite, which constitutes a large addition to a commander's annual income, has been considerably reduced.*

Formerly some caution and secrecy were necessary in going on board of the ships at Lin-tin, but now the smugglers come down in the middle of the day, and sweeping alongside, go boldly on board, in the face of the revenue cruizers, most of whom are bribed, and all of whom are justly unwilling to risk a battle, except when they have considerable odds in their favour.

TRADE OF CHINA.

The native import trade is very considerable, and employs vast numbers of vessels of all sizes, which trade to Corea, Japan, Formosa, Hai-nan, Manila, the Moluccas, Cochin-China, Batavia, &c. Of the mode in which mercantile transactions are conducted among the Chinese themselves, we know but little. Obligations are in use, but in the event of failures, the natives seldom carry the matter into the courts, as the delays, expenses, and

* In the Appendix, some memoranda relative to the consumption of opium will be given.

difficulty of obtaining justice, are very great. Defaulters usually decamp, leaving the residue of their property at the mercy of their creditors, who generally spare nothing.

The inland commerce is immense. The country is traversed in every direction by navigable streams and magnificent canals covered with boats, laden with the produce and manufactures of the country, or the luxuries imported from abroad. The arrivals and departures of the immense canal boats, the discharging of their cargoes, or the reception of return freight, keep the rivers in a state of the greatest bustle and activity, and afford employment to thousands of labouring people. In the domestic trade the greatest items are silk and tea, while in the imports salt is the leading article, and the trade in it a monopoly in the hands of certain merchants who purchase their privileges from government. The salt arrives in junks, which are restricted to a particular portion of the river, and the transshipment and estimate of duties is performed under the inspection of custom-house officers, whose boats are cruizing constantly among the vessels of the fleet to prevent smuggling.

The trade with foreigners who resort to China is conducted on principles totally different from those which regulate commercial transactions among the natives, and in spite of the restrictions which are imposed upon it, there is perhaps no place in the world where business is conducted with more regularity and safety.

On the arrival of a ship, the consignee, or supra-cargo, arranges with one of the hong merchants to *secure* it, as it is called. The merchant so securing the ship, makes himself responsible for the duties, good conduct, &c. of the persons on board during their stay, and as an equivalent, receives a considerable portion of the ship's business.* Until the ship is secured no cargo can be removed from it, and immediately afterwards permission is given for the *chop-boats*, or lighters, to bring up the merchandise if required. As soon as the arrangements are completed, one or two custom-house boats are attached to each ship, with an officer to prevent smuggling, but when it is necessary to do so, a small bribe is sufficient for these persons, who very facetiously remark, that "when a man's eyes are closed with dollars, it is impossible to see through them!"

A few days after, a number of mandarins come on board to measure the ship, and determine the port charges. Ships are divided into first, second, and third rates, and according to the rate, so is the measurement or tonnage duty.†

* Any irregularities of the people of a vessel are severely visited on the hong merchants by the mandarins, who extort large sums in consequence.

† The three rates of vessels measure as follows, per cubit:—

1st Class—154 cubits, a	7	taels,	4	mace,	4 candareens, 8 cash.
2d 125	6	8	4		0
3d under 125	4	7	8		8

It may be remarked that these charges are evaded by many vessels, which, instead of coming up to the port anchorage at

The port fee, or *cumshaw*, as it is termed, amounts to 1950 taels, or 2700 dollars. Latterly strong efforts have been made to effect a reduction of this imposition, but unsuccessfully. A *linguist* is employed to arrange the settlement of duties, the landing and shipment of goods, &c. and through him also is obtained the clearance of the ship when ready for sea. A considerable fee or present, (216 dollars,) is made to the linguist in consideration of the services he renders.

The cargoes of vessels are brought up and down the river in a peculiar kind of boat, called *chops*,* well adapted to the purpose. They are well built and capacious, the hull something like a canal boat, and are propelled by a huge mat sail suspended on a single tall mast. In calm weather sculls and long bamboo poles are used, and by their means the boats work up against a current at a very fair rate.

When the merchandise arrives at Canton, if it be not already sold, it is removed to the *go-downs*,

Whampoa, lie at Lin-tin, or off Macao, receiving their cargoes from ships coming down, which are not entirely filled by the owners or consignee, and therefore bring down merchandise on freight.

* This word chop is of most universal signification, but generally applies to government edicts, passports, &c. Thus, a chop-boat is a licensed vessel used in transporting cargoes to or from the ships. A *chop-house* is not, as some newly-arrived gentlemen have imagined, a place of refreshment, but a custom-house, or revenue office. The term *first chop* implies first quality.

or warehouses attached to the factories, or is deposited in the stores of one of the hong merchants. The hongs are very convenient for this purpose, being dry, airy, and very large.

The ease and expedition with which business is conducted in China, renders mercantile transactions more agreeable there than in any other part of the world. Most sales and purchases are effected for cash, and thus the inconveniences of notes, discounts, &c. are in most cases avoided. When sales are made on credit, it is very necessary to use great caution, and to be quite sure of the character of the person to whom the goods are entrusted. Generally speaking, the higher classes of mercantile men are trustworthy to a certain extent, while on the contrary, the petty dealers are not to be believed an instant, or credited a shilling, as they are in most cases totally devoid of honourable principle in money matters, and never hesitate to take advantage of a foreigner, whenever an opportunity occurs.

In purchasing goods from any but persons of known and well-established reputation, great care is indispensable, and much attention is required in examining the goods, in order to be certain that they correspond with the samples.

In determining weights also, it is necessary to be well guarded against imposition, and as a general rule, it may be received, that less danger is to be apprehended from respectable men, to whom perhaps a higher price is given, than to petty dealers,

who undersell their neighbours. Nevertheless some of the petty merchants are to be depended on, and on the other hand, some of much higher standing require to be watched. In order to prevent frauds on board the chop-boats, the native merchants generally send down a confidential servant to see there is no case opened or package changed.

Teas, silks, &c. are brought to Canton in the original packages, covered with mats. On their arrival, the boxes or bales are refitted or changed, marked afresh, and in that state exported, after having been weighed, marked, and numbered, in the European style, and a certain number inspected at random, to guard against impositions. A peculiar kind of matting is used to cover cases with, when desired, as a precaution against damage, and as a farther security they are lashed with split rattan.

Cargoes are sent down to the ships in *chop-boats* from the factories of the hong merchants, except the last, or next to the last, which carries the silks and miscellaneous articles; it is therefore called the *chow-chow chop*,* and usually loads opposite the consignee's residence. The vendors of the small articles in question, give to the purchaser notes for the duties, which are handed to the linguist, who settles the amount with the custom-house. When the lading of the ship is complete, and every thing

* *Chow-chow.* This, in the slang of Canton, means either food, or a collection of various trifling articles. In the latter sense it is applied to the *chop* in question.

prepared for her departure, an application is made to the *Hoppo*, or collector of the customs, for the ship's clearance, or *grand chop*, which is generally received the second day after the permission to depart has been asked for.

This document is delivered by the pilot at the lower battery at the Bocca Tigris, and the vessel is then at liberty to proceed to sea. In addition to the grand chop, there is another, which is retained by the captain of the ship, being a kind of order for the ship's admission into any Chinese port, in case of her meeting with accident. The tenor of both documents is very pompous and absurd.

From the above, some idea may be formed of the mode in which business is conducted, but in order to present an ample and comprehensive view, it would require more space than can here be devoted to it. Particular rules apply to certain commodities, and many are prohibited, some as imports and others as exports. Rice alone is not subject to duty, and a ship coming in with a certain quantity, and no other cargo, escapes the port charges.

Of silk, eighty peculs* to each vessel is the prescribed quantity, but the regulation is evaded by sending down the extra quantity by other vessels, and then transshipping it.

* A pecul is a Chinese weight of one hundred catties, each equivalent to a pound and a third, making the pecul one hundred and thirty-three and a third pounds.

FISHERIES.

SALTED fish, and a coarse kind of rice, constitute the principal food of the lower classes of the Chinese empire. Such being the case, the fisheries on the coast, and in their numerous rivers, are considered very justly, as matters of the greatest importance, and are governed and regulated accordingly, the stations, seasons, &c. being appointed by law, and supervised by proper officers. A stranger who has seen the most extensive European fisheries, can form but an imperfect idea of the number of boats, and human beings employed in this pursuit, in China. In fine weather, fleets of fishing vessels, amounting sometimes to more than a thousand in number, and from ten to fifty tons in burden, may be seen from Macao, standing out to sea, or returning laden with spoil. Each vessel containing at least six men, women, and children, and many of them fifteen or twenty. A register is kept by the proper mandarins of all boats employed in the fisheries, and they are regularly numbered and licensed. Sometimes the boats are lost in great numbers, when surprised in gales of wind at an unusual distance from the shore, and hundreds of unfortunate creatures are drowned, for in the sudden gales prevalent in the China Sea, these boats are almost immediately swamped, owing to their build, and the indecision

and timidity of the natives in moments of extreme peril.

The salt used for the preservation of fish in China, is of an inferior quality, owing to admixture of bitter salt, and consequently its preserving powers are much impaired. The salted fish of Canton, is almost uneatable by foreigners, but the natives appear to consume it with great relish. There are few kinds of fish which are rejected as articles of food, and those from a prevalent opinion of their poisonous qualities. Skate, the shark, and many kinds of coarse fish are salted in large pieces, while the smaller kinds are preserved entire.

The *Bich-de-mar*, a species of marine slug, much prized as a delicious food, is taken in very small quantities on the Chinese coast, the greater portion coming from the Moluccas, where it is fished for by the Malays, and brought to China in junks.

Crabs, lobsters, and other crustaceous animals are caught in great numbers on the coast, and are chiefly consumed in a dried state. Shell-fish are abundant. A delicious clam of large size, cockles, scallops, and excellent oysters are plentiful at the mouth of the river, and a species of fresh water muscle, already noticed, abounds in the fresh water streams.

The fisheries in the neighbourhood of Macao, are the source of a considerable revenue to the Chinese government. The boats which are used

in fishing outside, are large, with high sterns, two-masted, and sail well. They usually have a dozen persons on board, including women and children. From the shallowness of the water in the bay, the boats cannot approach near enough to land their fish. They are, in consequence, compelled to employ small boats, which are ready at all times to convey their cargoes ashore to the chop-house, where they are weighed, and the duties levied.

Sometimes the number of these fishing vessels is very great, and many small boats from the islands come in company, at which time, the beach presents a most noisy and busy scene, the varieties of fish being great, and the quantities brought ashore from sometimes fifty or sixty vessels, enormous.

There are many very large boats, which cruize for weeks at sea, and the fish being salted and packed, are transferred to smaller boats, by which they are brought in.

THE HONG MERCHANTS.

This commercial association is composed of men appointed by the government, who are called collectively, *the Co-hong*. Death and removals contribute to vary the number constantly. During my residence, the number was smaller than it had ever been, viz. eight, *Hou-qua, Mow-qua, Puan-*

kei-qua, Man-hop, Gou-qua, Fat-qua, Pac-qua,** and *King-qua.* The association is intended as a monopoly of the foreign trade, they having the exclusive privilege, by an imperial grant, of supplying foreigners with all merchandise, with a few trifling exceptions. In spite of this, however, the law is evaded by the *outside-merchants,* as they are called, by trading under a hong merchant's name, and in his house, being ostensibly only assistants in his business, while in fact, they are paying a large sum for the privilege of using his name to sell their goods to the foreign supercargoes. From these men, and the hong merchants, the great proportion of goods imported into the United States is purchased, while the East India Company deals exclusively, and by contract, with the hong merchants, their business being divided into a certain number of shares, which are bestowed on them, according to their several abilities to comply with the terms of contract. The hong merchants derive their title from their warehouses, which are long ranges of buildings, with a wide avenue, or passage, from one extremity to the other; these in Chinese are called *Hung,* and by corruption *Hong. Security-merchants* is a title which they also bear, from the circumstance of their securing, or being responsible for the duties, &c. of ships, as above stated.

* These two merchants have been banished to Tartary, in consequence of failure.

In case of difficulties with foreigners, the hong merchants are responsible to government, and frequently suffer from the infliction of most enormous fines.* The life they lead, though generally the means of attaining great wealth, is one continued scene of anxiety and alarm, as they are subject to the capricious tyranny of the officers of government, who seldom allow an opportunity escape of *squeezing*, as it is significantly termed.

The Chinese merchants have frequently incurred considerable censure from their foreign friends, owing to the unresisting manner in which they comply with the extortions of the officers connected with the custom-house department in Canton. It is very certain that they have paid on some occasions very large sums of money for certain assigned reasons, the justice of which was not sufficiently clear. The uselessness of remonstrance is strongly argued by them, as they themselves declare that no forcible means are used to obtain the money which is not forthcoming at demand, but that the officers, exercising the powers of search with which they are invested by government, take especial care, in the event of non-compliance with their demands, to open, search, and greatly damage their import or export goods. When we are made

* The principal hong merchant, *Hou-qua*, has attained a very disagreeable notoriety, from the frequent squeezes he has suffered. In the case of the Wabash, he was fined $300,000, two-thirds of which, however, was returned to him by the Emperor's orders.

acquainted with these facts, we can no longer accuse them of not having courage to prevent evils, which they plainly show us are irremediable.

POPULATION OF CHINA.

According to the most accurate statements, the population of China proper, is much less than the accounts of the Catholic missionaries would lead us to imagine. Dr. Morrison states, that the census last taken makes the population of the districts, and provinces of China, as follows, not including Chinese Tartary, &c.

Hing-king - - - -	390,714
Shing-king - - - -	95,929
King-sze, *Chi-le*, or *Pe-che-le* -	3,504,038
Këang-soo - - - -	28,967,235
Gan-hwuy - - - -	1,438,023
Shan-se - - - -	1,860,816
Shan-tung - - - -	25,447,633
Ho-nan - - - -	2,662,969
Shen-sze - - - -	257,704
Kan-sŭh - - - -	340,086
Che-keang - - - -	18,975,099
Keang-se - - - -	5,922,160
Hoo-pĭh - - - -	24,604,369
Hoo-nan - - - -	9,098,010
Carried over - -	123,564,785

Brought over - - -	123,564,785
Sze-chuen - - - -	7,789,782
Füh-këen - - - -	1,648,528
Kwang-tung - - -	1,491,271
Kwang-sze - - - -	2,569,518
Yu-nan - - - -	3,083,459
Kwei-chow - - - -	2,941,391
Total - - - - -	143,088,734

In addition to the above, an extra allowance of two millions must be made for the army and navy.

CHINESE THEATRICALS.

The state of dramatic literature is at a very low ebb, or rather the improvements are uncommonly slow. Theatrical exhibitions are very common, but are either very ridiculous, or disgracefully obscene. In fact, noise and rant appear to be the grand recipe for a first rate tragedian, and the most ridiculous buffoonery the acme of comic representation. The subjects are generally selected from the ancient history of the empire, and the costumes of antiquity are carefully copied. As to scenery, or change of scene, there is none. The disposition of a few tables and chairs is the only variety. No regular theatres exist, and the representations are generally conducted in houses rapidly constructed

of bamboos, thatched with palm leaves, raised for the purpose, and demolished immediately afterwards. Upon festival occasions, rich individuals hire companies of strolling actors, to perform plays in temporary edifices, and the plays, or "*Sing-songs*," which occur in the public streets, are got up by voluntary contributions of the householders. Some of the actors enjoy great reputation as performers, while they are in other respects contemned and despised, the profession being considered infamous, as well it may, the individuals composing it being vicious and unprincipled, almost without an exception. The Chinese tragedy is a ridiculous exhibition, only calculated to excite the laughter and derision of an European audience.

AGRICULTURE.

DETERMINED and persevering labour have overcome in China, obstacles which the agriculturists of Europe or America would turn from in disgust, or abandon in despair. Where the nature of the soil is such as to afford no sustenance to vegetable life, a new and fertile covering is laid upon it, from which is derived a plentiful harvest. The sides of hills and abrupt declivities are terraced in order to cultivate them, and no position of which the farmer can possibly avail himself, is ever neglected. The instruments of agriculture are rude and

clumsy, but yet with these, the labours of the cultivator are successfully achieved, and no desire is evinced for their improvement. In the southern provinces, rice constitutes the principal grain, while in the north, large quantities of excellent wheat are raised. Near Canton, barley is occasionally seen, and the luxuriant plantations of sugar-cane, bananas, yams, *taro*, and sweet potatoes, bear ample testimony of the skill and industry of the natives. Small cattle, and the large buffalo are employed in ploughing, after which, the soil is further broken up by hand. Threshing is performed as with us, and the grain shelled by being pounded in granite mortars, by pestles on the end of a lever, moved by the feet. Several vegetables of foreign countries are gaining ground, but from some unaccountable reason, they are found to degenerate in two or three years, and require to be renewed by fresh seed. Fruits are abundant, and those which are proper to the country, very delicious, and highly cultivated. Peaches, apples, and pears, are very indifferent, and those from the northern provinces, are the only ones which can be called tolerably good. The cause of this may be traced to improper cultivation, for a successful trial on the European plan, at Macao, produced peaches of fine flavour, and large size, while those of Canton, are much inferior to the worst kind of American growth.

In China, the occupation of the agriculturist is considered highly honourable, and the annual cere-

mony at Pekin, with the imperial ploughing match, is well known to all who have perused the old accounts of the country.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Bribery and corruption are the unhappy causes which too frequently delay the course of justice, and so long has this execrable practice prevailed, that it is now looked upon by the natives themselves as past remedy. In suits at law, the litigant who can command most money, for the purpose of bribing his judge, is almost invariably successful, and so rare is it to find a magistrate who is proof against money, that the individual so uncommon, attains a most gratifying reputation from the people for his impartial justice, but at the same time earns such hatred and suspicion from powerful and unworthy colleagues, as to expose him perpetually to removal, and even danger.

BANISHMENT TO TARTARY.

E-le, a city in Chinese Tartary, and various parts of Bucharia, are the places of banishment for Chinese delinquents. The rank of the party makes a material difference in the nature of his punishment; thus, a common felon, whose offence has not

entitled him to suffer death, is transported to Tartary to labour on the public works, while a bankrupt hong merchant, or a public officer, lives in comparative comfort, on a stipend allowed him by government. There is a great horror entertained by the inhabitants of Canton of this exile to the "*cold country*," as they term it, not only on account of the inhospitable climate, but from the ideas they have of the inhabitants. Several hong merchants who from difficulties in trade, or extravagance, have become bankrupt, after a confinement of several months, or even one or two years, in Canton, have been sent off to *E-le*, where they were obliged to remain until the annual instalments, paid by the *Co-hong*, had discharged the claims of their creditors.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

EUROPEAN domestic animals are, from their superior magnitude, objects of curiosity and surprise to the Chinese, whose breeds of the same are, in most instances, much inferior in size and strength. The open square in front of the factories is constantly filled by numbers of idlers, who are drawn thither to gaze at the residents, their houses, or the domestic animals which are usually exercised in the neighbourhood. These animals are, however, a source of great disquiet to the groups of

men and children, which are scattered about the square at all hours of the day, none of whom are perhaps so annoyed and alarmed as the very numerous barbers who are constantly established there. A frisky cow frequently makes a dash among them, and the discomfited operator, with his patient, is compelled to make a precipitate retreat, overturning in their flight various old sempstresses, banana merchants, and others who are lying in wait for the sailors as they come from the boats below. They give the preference to their own diminutive cattle, with true Chinese obstinacy of prejudice, finding great fault in the size of our cows, and in the spirit of our horses, which to a native soldier would be totally useless, accustomed as they are to bestride an animal about the size of a Shetland poney, perfectly spiritless and docile. The Tartar horses are larger and more active animals than those of the southern provinces, most of them being of a reputable size, and more capable of enduring fatigue than the wretched and dwarfish horses of Canton, and the neighbourhood. Those which I have seen were never shod, and care was taken to preserve the tail and mane as long as possible. In cases where these appendages did not flourish very vigorously, artificial means were resorted to by the Chinese jockeys to complete their personal appearance; hence it frequently has happened that a stranger purchasing one of these manufactured steeds, has too late discovered, to his annoyance and mortification, that the animal

had no tail, a very scanty mane, and the beautiful colours with which the skin was ornamented was simply the effect of a temporary dye.

The buffalo is a very large and powerful animal, but quite tractable, and eminently useful in agriculture. A herd of them may be seen grazing quietly under the superintendance of a mere child, while the unusual sight of a foreigner will so alarm and annoy them, that they become entirely unmanageable, and have frequently endangered the lives of strangers who came upon them unawares. They are employed in the usual agricultural labours at the plough, harrow, &c. and in some parts of the empire, for the purposes of draught, their great strength rendering them very useful in this service. Their flesh is coarse, and seldom eaten, the animals being considered too valuable to the cultivator of the soil to admit of their being extensively used as food. In fact, there exists among many of the natives a strong aversion to killing this useful and patient animal. It is considered ungrateful to destroy the life of one so serviceable, merely for the purpose of gratifying the appetite, and that its usefulness should be a warrant for its preservation.

I remember to have been much amused by a kind of print, which I once purchased at a bookstall, representing a buffalo; the outline composed of Chinese characters of small size, which being read regularly, formed an ode in praise of the animal, and an anathema against its destroyers.

This curious specimen of ingenuity I have preserved as a singular specimen of Chinese superstition.

The breed of swine has long been celebrated for the small bones, and fine flavour of the flesh. In size, the Chinese pigs are not equal to our own, but owing to the rapidity with which they arrive at a fine condition, are much valued.

Sheep are common in the northern provinces, but at Canton they are scarce, and very dear, the flesh, however, being uncommonly delicious. The China sheep have the broad tails, similar to the breed of the Cape of Good Hope. Veal is the only meat which is not to be had, and in so warm a climate the loss is not much regretted. In every other respect the table is luxuriously furnished; most of the articles of food in use among us, and many peculiar to China being abundant, and with a few exceptions, at moderate prices.

The dogs of China resemble in a great measure those of the Esquimaux, with this exception, that they are much smaller, and the most pusillanimous animals I ever saw, which perhaps arises from their food, which is composed almost entirely of rice, the high price of animal food entirely excluding the dogs from the enjoyment of it. The prevailing colours are black, and a kind of reddish-yellow. When about a month old, they are carried about in baskets, well cleaned, and amazingly fat, for sale, and are purchased either for the table, or for the purposes for which dogs are usually

kept. Their timidity and noise make them good watch dogs, by alarming every body on the least noise. They are also exposed cleaned and scalded in portions at the butcher's shops, and carried on a bamboo by itinerant meat-sellers. They enter into the composition of some very savoury soups, which are high in favour at Canton.

PUNISHMENTS.

China has been long celebrated for the cruelty of the punishments inflicted by her laws. The variety and ingenuity of them are certainly little creditable to a people which boasts of so high a degree of civilization, and many of them are unequalled among the most barbarous nations.

Strangling on an upright cross, is considered the least ignominious death, inasmuch as it does not mutilate the body, as in decapitation, which is the second species of punishment, and that which most frequently occurs. At the execution of the pirates who murdered the crew of the French ship "Le Navigateur,"* most of the foreign residents at Canton attended by invitation of the magistrates. The culprits, after visiting a temple near the execution ground, where a small piece of cake was administered to each, were brought to the ap-

* Vide "Criminal Court," page 186.

pointed spot in baskets, suspended from a bamboo, borne on men's shoulders. There they were arranged in a double line, with their faces directed towards Pekin. The executioners then struck off their heads with heavy swords, as rapidly as possible, and threw them into a pile. No motion, or sensibility was exhibited; the death appeared to be instantaneous.*

Rebels are frequently put to most cruel tortures, and finally cut to pieces! Parricide is also punished by the most dreadful and lingering death. Scalding with hot oil, mutilation, and a variety of other horrible kinds of punishment are appointed by law for certain offences, and the executioners unless they have been well paid, seldom abridge the sufferings of the criminal.

Whipping, which is unmercifully inflicted, and the punishment called *Ke*, a large wooden frame locked round the neck, are allotted to thieves, &c. The bamboo is used for all trivial offences, though sometimes in forming part of a sentence it is a very formidable punishment. Torture is resorted to, in order to obtain a confession, by many magistrates, although expressly forbidden by the laws of the empire. Banishment generally terminates a sentence where the offender escapes death, and great numbers of convicts are annually sent to

* Some of the heads which were not entirely severed at the first stroke, were separated by a boy, who followed the executioner with a crooked knife for the purpose.

Tartary, to serve as soldiers, or labour on the public works. At the expiration of their term, on a certificate from the commanding officer, permission is given them to return.

In ancient times, many cruel punishments were in use, which are now discontinued; among others, that called "arrow ears," which consisted in having an arrow thrust through the cartilage of each ear, to which was appended a label, stating the name and offence for which the individual suffered.

In the "*Lee-Kee*," one of the Chinese classics, it is stated, in speaking of the punishments in use among the ancient Chinese, that, "those who were branded with ink, were made door-keepers. Those whose noses were cut off, were employed in custom-houses. Those whose feet were cut off, were sent to take care of orchards, and those whose hair was cut off, were employed as keepers of the stores."—Vol. 48, p. 42.

FOOD.

A CHINESE table presents a singular sight, the dishes are very numerous, and the variety of preparations, together with the strange substances composing them, is extremely curious and amusing. The food is served up in bowls, or deep saucers, consisting principally of stews, every thing

being cut into small portions to obviate the necessity of using knives, for which chop-sticks are substituted, in the use of which these people are very dexterous. To a foreigner, the difficulties in using two smooth ivory or wooden sticks as substitutes for a knife and fork, are at first insurmountable, and the unsuccessful attempts made by their guests to catch hold of these evasive viands, are a source of great amusement to the Chinese entertainers. They themselves take up, with the greatest ease, the smallest grains of rice, while they are equally at a loss with ourselves when compelled to use other means of conveying their food to the mouth. The dishes at entertainments given by the hong merchants in Canton, frequently exceed an hundred and fifty in number, exclusive of the desserts, which are very splendid, and beautifully decorated with flowers. Between the courses perfumed cloths dipped in hot water are presented to the guests as napkins. Wine is drunk from cups of curious porcelain or silver, and sometimes from beautiful vessels of gold, carved and chased very ingeniously.

The composition of some of the dishes is startling to a foreigner, who refuses, with a very ill grace, a delicious stewed puppy, or a mess of sharks fin soup! The celebrated *bird's nests* are always a principal, and very costly dish. They are stewed in chicken water, and served up with boiled pigeons eggs, being extremely tasteless and

insipid, though, from their gelatinous nature, of course very nutritious.

Among the lower classes rats are used as food. In the shops where dried fruit, poultry, and similar eatables are sold, rats may almost always be seen split and dried in the sun. Eggs preserved in saltpetre, very stinking fish, and other curious articles of food, are in constant use among the natives, though quite impracticable to a foreigner. *Bich-de-mar*, a species of marine slug, collected in great quantities among the Molucca Islands, and elsewhere, are imported in large quantities, and used in soups in the same manner as the *bird's nests*, *deer's sinews*, and *shark's fins!*

The foundation of every meal is rice, which is devoured in great quantities. This exceedingly cheap food is used in place of bread in the southern provinces of the empire, and constitutes the food of the lower classes, with a few very trifling additions of fish and vegetables.

NUPTIAL CEREMONIES.

In China few marriages are the result of previous attachment between the parties, and the match is generally managed between the relatives without much reference to the feelings of the husband or wife. An arrangement is made by the friends,

and the amount of presents from the bridegroom to the bride's family determined, the day appointed, care being taken to select a fortunate one, as, for instance, one near the celebration of the new year, at which time many marriages are consummated, the season being esteemed particularly auspicious. The presents are despatched from the house of the bridegroom to that of the bride, and a splendid carved and gilt sedan chair, accompanied by bands of music, friends, relations, and servants. Upon the arrival at the house of the bride the presents are received, and the lady placed in the sedan, which is locked, and the key taken by one performing the office of groomsman. The lady's maids accompany their mistress from the house of her parents to her future home. Upon the arrival at the bridegroom's residence, the key is given him to liberate the lady, which he does in due form, they enter the house, perform a sacrifice, &c. and the ceremony concludes. The friends of the family feast and rejoice in proportion to their means, a celebration sometimes lasting several days, during which time great quantities of food are consumed, and large sums expended in various kinds of rejoicings and festivities.

In the event of the husband not being pleased with the lady when he receives her at the gate of his house, he is said to be entitled to send her back to her parents, in consideration of doubling the sum and presents which were given for her hand. This does not often happen, as the husband is per-

mitted to espouse as many wives as his means are equivalent to support, the first wife however always ranking higher than the rest.

SAGES OF CHINA

THE description of Confucius, *(Kung-foo-tsze,)* is very singular, and in spite of its extravagance is fully credited. He is described as being nine cubits and six-tenths in height, and in consequence he was entitled "the tall man," having a stature greatly superior to that of ordinary men. He was said to have the forehead of *Yaou*, the back of *Taou*, &c. as if all the virtues of the ancient sages were centred in him. His face showed in miniature the five mountains and the four great rivers of the Chinese world. He had a high forehead, a protruding chin, high cheek-bones, and a Roman nose, to represent the five great mountains. His mouth stood open and showed his teeth; his nose was contorted so as to exhibit his nostrils; his eye exhibited a protruded pupil, and his ears was so large as to attract notice.* In these there was a resemblance to the four great rivers of China imagined. His hands hung below his knees. His eyebrows exhibited twelve shades of colour, and from his eyes beamed the *sixty-four intelligences!!*

* Large ears are esteemed a mark of distinction in China, probably from this cause.

Confucius was a bastard son of *Shŭh-leang-hŭh* and *Yen-she-neu*, a daughter of the family of *Yen*.* In spite of the celebrity of Confucius, and of his high reputation as a philosopher and a moralist, there are some circumstances of his life preserved, which are little calculated to benefit his memory. From these he defended himself successfully during his lifetime, but historians have collected and handed them down to us, unaccompanied by any strong proofs to the contrary. The remarks I have ventured to make on the subject of the wisdom of the Chinese sages, will not be refuted by those who have studied their works. In China, it were impious to differ from the general opinion, which pronounces these trite aphorisms the essence of human wisdom, enlightened by divine inspiration!

LONG NAILS.

THE Chinese have many peculiar fashions and fancies which are remarkable, and one of the most curious is the industry with which they cultivate their finger nails. They esteem it a good proof of a man's being a gentleman, or at least one who is not obliged to have recourse to manual labour to procure his subsistence, if he have *long nails*. They sometimes allow them to acquire the extra-

* Morrison.

ordinary length of eight or nine inches. In order to preserve them from external injury, each of the claws is enclosed in a joint of hollow bamboo, so that the hand which is graced by these strange ornaments is rendered nearly useless. The Chinese ladies are particularly attentive to the preservation of their nails, which are sometimes an inch or an inch and a half long on all the fingers. Their texture resembles a dry quill very much, and as they increase in length they curl up at the edges.

CURIOUS EXTRACTS FROM CHINESE HISTORY.

THE queen *Mei-he*, among other extraordinary extravagancies, persuaded her king, Këë, to make a lake of wine, and causing three thousand guests to be assembled at the sound of a drum, to drink from it in the manner of oxen, considering the imitation of brute animals to be a pleasure.

The queen of *Chow*, *Ta-ke*, was famous in history for her cruel ingenuity in the invention of the most savage tortures. She caused a brazen roller to be heated red hot, and smeared with an unctuous substance, and the fruitless endeavours of the miserable culprits to pass this burning bridge, from which they continually slipped into the fire, gave her great delight.

Paou-sze, the queen of *Yew*, refused to laugh,

until to satisfy her, the king lighted the fire-signals, which brought the alarmed nobles quickly to the palace under a false alarm. Subsequently the king was attacked by *Keuen-yung*, who attempted to murder him; the fire-signals were made, but the nobles, supposing that it was a frolic, like the first, came not, and left the wretched king to perish.

These three queens are considered by the Chinese to have ruined the empire during their times.

The story of *Paou-sze*, it will be observed, bears a strong resemblance to the well-known fable of the boy and the wolf.

The blind man's son, (viz. *Shun*, the ancient monarch,) although his father was perverse, his step-mother a termagant scold, and his younger brother proud and insolent, he still was able to harmonize them all by his filial piety.

Warfare of the Yuen-Tartars.

To succeed against certain mountaineers, an order was issued for the Tartar soldiers to advance, each man bearing a bundle of brushwood, with which he warded off the arrows and stones thrown against him, and after approaching half way to the enemy he was commanded to retreat. Six days repetition of this manoeuvre expended the arrows and stones, which constituted their only arms, and they were then easily overcome by the Tartar soldiers.

In attacking cities they drove the neighbouring villagers before them to the walls. Each horseman attached ten villagers to himself to provide fuel, food, or stones to fill up the ditches, night and day; remissness was rewarded with death.

In a taken town, those who yielded, and those who resisted, men, women, and children, were indiscriminately butchered.

Necromancy.

The Chinese appeal to the decision of the gods, and of departed sages, and others, in difficult and doubtful cases, by means of the *Ke.* A pencil or reed is suspended over sand, and the invisible being is supposed to give it motion, and form letters in answer to the questions put. *Foo-ke* is "to support the *Ke,*" or make the appeal.

In 1814 a deposed officer of government was condemned to death for publishing an answer which he declared he had received in this way from Confucius. The purport of the answer was, that the Emperor should depute a Prince to worship at the tombs of his ancestors instead of going himself, and that the title "*Emperor*" should be taken from the *Demi-god* Kwan-te; ideas which were declared to breathe the most daring impiety.

The government commonly discourages the practice.*

* Vide Morrison's Dict.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE ideas entertained by Chinese writers on the subject of animals, are vague and imperfect, fable and absurdity being mingled in the strangest manner with truth and good sense. Several works on natural history have been published at Canton, decorated with wood-cuts very indifferently executed, but sufficiently distinct to enable us to identify the animals they were intended to represent. They possess no regular systematic arrangement of animated beings, and commit the most glaring errors in classification. The empire abounds with subjects of the greatest interest to naturalists, and it is to be regretted that the obstacles opposed to research by the Chinese government, render our knowledge of the subject so limited and imperfect. As far as my researches, (which were prosecuted with much industry,) extended, new and interesting animals were perpetually occurring. The description of animals alone is not so difficult, as specimens of great numbers may be procured at Canton, while on the subject of their habits and manners, little or nothing can be ascertained except from the accounts of the natives, which are scarcely in any particular to be depended upon. The plants of China are better known, while of the mineral productions we are almost entirely ignorant. It is to be hoped that the difficulties which occur

will not prevent a persevering attempt to illustrate the natural productions of the country more fully, and to obtain more correct information relative to the habits and economy of its curious animals.*

CELEBRATION OF THE NEW YEAR.

THE new year is a season of great festivity and rejoicing with the Chinese. New clothes are bought, houses undergo the only thorough cleaning which they have during the year, visits are made, cards of congratulation are sent, and, in short, every body, from his Imperial Majesty down to his meanest subject, tax their means to look particularly decent on this day. The streets are nearly deserted, business is suspended, and the shops are all closed. The few persons who are met in the

* The magnificent Aviary of Thomas Beale, Esq. at Macao, has acquainted us with many remarkable traits in the habits of the Chinese birds, which are there found almost in a state of nature. This unique collection comprises most of the Chinese birds of interest, and some uncommonly rare and magnificent species which are to be found in no other collection. In addition to these, there is a great variety of other beautiful birds, and in particular I may mention the *Bird of Paradise.* A splendid living specimen is in the possession of Mr. Beale almost domesticated. It feeds from the hand of its amiable owner without fear, and appears capable of being rendered perfectly tame and familiar. This is perhaps the only specimen at present existing in confinement.

streets, are either going to visit, or they are the servants, who, with a handful of red cards, are flying as fast as the multiplicity of their new year's garments will allow them, to deliver the congratulations of their masters to acquaintances and friends.

Fire-crackers are kept going all night, and continue in full operation all day. It is deemed absolutely necessary for every householder or boat-holder to demonstrate his joy by crackers, which are fired, hung from a bamboo, in long strings; so, the depth of a man's pocket, or the extent of his vanity or joy, may be safely calculated from the wrecks of these inflammable nuisances, which are strewed before his door. Besides these, sheets of red or gilt paper, innumerable, which are cheaper, and consequently more within the reach of those whose purses cannot gratify, to the fullest extent, their pyrotechnic propensities.

I observed that if the finances of the family are not sufficient to procure for all its members complete suits of clothing, that invariably some part is new, and most commonly the cap or shoes. Black satin boots are vanities indulged in by all who can afford them. All the boats are carefully cleaned, and in various parts are pasted broad strips of bright red paper, punched full of little holes in the middle, and sometimes sprinkled with gold-leaf. This is also done in the houses.

Mendicants at this time have recourse to the most extraordinary and revolting expedients to ob-

tain alms. I saw a man, who, as a victim of disease, was sufficiently horrible to excite the pity of any one, parading the streets with a dead cat, tied head and tail, hung from a stick, and with this savoury accompaniment, he went into every shop, and so annoyed the inmates by his shocking appearance, as to extort the unwilling charity immediately. Others went about lacerating their faces and bodies with knives and razors, and, covered with blood, attacked every likely person for a small donation, which, to avoid being sprinkled with the blood of these poor wretches, they speedily bestowed.

Whole families of half-naked women and children line the streets, and seldom retire from the attack of a passenger, without succeeding in annoying him into charity. Many of the women have the small feet, and exhibit them nearly uncovered, being too poor to purchase shoes.

Blindness among the lower orders is extremely common; the beggars, who are very numerous, in nine cases out of twelve are blind. I have seen a string of five of these poor creatures, guided by the foremost one, whose sight was perhaps not entirely gone, wandering from shop to shop in search of alms. This malady is, however, counterfeited by some for the purpose of exciting pity; and I have frequently observed them exhibit unequivocal signs of sight, when they thought themselves unnoticed, in stepping over impediments in their way.

ANCIENT CUSTOM.

THE male sex enjoys in China, a higher rank than the female, and the distinction of privilege which is made between male and female children, is very singular. Among the ancient Chinese, it was the custom on the birth of a male child, to place a *bow* on the left side of the door.* When a female infant was born, a *napkin* was laid on the *right* side. At the expiration of three days, the child was carried out. According to Morrison, "the Chinese commentators add, that the ancients laid much stress in distinguishing men from women, and boys from girls, by positive marks of superiority and inferiority, as in the above case, and also by causing the boys to have the honour of sleeping on a bed, but the girls to be degraded by sleeping on the ground." The wise and *gallant* writers of China, deny the softer sex any attribute of worth beyond the passive obedience to duty, which their cold-hearted morality dictates; they say of women, "if she does ill, she is not a woman, if well, she is more than a woman." Truly this is a heresy, for which the learned of the land deserve to have the De Stael's, Morgan's and De Sevigne's of Christendom about their ears, armed with the spirited efforts of their pens, to convert them to

* In China the *left* is the seat of honour.

the true faith. It has been well said, that the man who can ill treat a woman in word or deed, almost always proves, when tried, a coward, and in China the rule may be said to apply admirably, as the sex is there despised by a nation of men notorious for its deficiency of moral courage.

I regret that my last page must cast another stain on the character of this ancient people, but the truth must be told, and I now leave it to the judgment of unprejudiced men to determine the title of the Chinese to the extravagant reputation which travellers have given them. A word now for myself. This little volume has been written as an amusement for leisure hours, and the contents are the result of my daily observations. As far as I am able to determine, I have given the plain, (and I hope unprejudiced,) truth, and I leave my literary offspring to make itself a reputation with the world, or sink quietly into oblivion. If, however, there should be found sufficient interest in these pages to excite further curiosity, my note-books may at some future day furnish materials for another volume.

APPENDIX.

Titles of the Emperor.

His Imperial Majesty is denominated "*Wan-suy-yay*," "the father of ten thousand years," "*Shing-shang*," "the wise and holy sovereign." Also, "*Teen-tsze*," "the son of heaven," and sometimes simply "*Shing*," "high," meaning the highest. The colour of the imperial standards, and the uniform of the royal family, is bright yellow. Letters, or despatches from the Emperor, are enclosed in yellow silk, and persons travelling on the highways, are compelled to dismount, and stand aside, while the courier passes with the imperial missive.

Singular Phenomenon.

On a fine evening, whilst walking in the square before the factories, I was much astonished by an atmospheric phenomenon, which produced a beautiful appearance. The sky was perfectly clear, and the air calm, when suddenly there came a great flash of light, which lasted for a second or two, illuminating every object very distinctly. It did not occur a second time, and the effect was probably electrical. Nightly illuminations of this kind, are frequent in India, when no rain has fallen for some time.

Idolatry.

The following is a rough estimate of a native, quoted by Dr. Morrison, in relation to the number of persons who subsist by manufacturing the sacrificing materials, and in the support of idolatry in Canton Province.—Priests of the *Budh* sect, about 4000; makers of gilt paper, *(Yuen-paou,)* 2000; makers of shrines, 400; makers of candles, workmen, &c. upwards of 10,000; manufacturers of *Jos-stick*, or odoriferous matches, 10,000, or perhaps more.

Weights.

Solids and liquids are all sold by weight, even fire-wood and wine. The denominations are as follow:—

10 cash one candareen.
10 candareens one mace.
10 mace one tael.
10 taels one kin, or catty.
100 catties one pecul, or 133⅓ ℔. avoirdupois.

Money.

The only real coin is the *Tung-tseen*, or cash, the rest are imaginary.

10 cash one candareen.
10 candareens one mace.
10 mace one tael, or 138 cents.

Comparative Estimate of the principal Exports from Canton to the United States.

	1822–23.	1823–24.	1824–25.	1825–26.	1826–27.	1827–28.	1828–29.
Bohea, quarter chests	10,018	2,413	5,795	3,340	1,095	1,100	901
Souchong and Pouchong, chests	37,828	29,296	31,566	24,527	27,405	24,775	17,216
Hyson skin and Tonkay, do.	37,134	32,426	56,788	45,299	29,395	33,926	18,099
Young Hyson do.	22,165	31,217	39,303	45,461	28,487	31,085	26,192
Gunpowder and Imperial, do.	4,899	5,587	6,817	8,019	5,992	6,614	4,888
Hyson, do.	14,703	11,562	14,501	19,072	8,915	14,963	11,264
Pecco, do.	175	315	215	368	377		191
Total teas - - - -	127,022	112,816	154,985	146,086	101,666	112,463	78,749
Cassia, peculs	7,773	6,457	8,624	9,023	4,035	7,209	2,916
Crape, pieces	91,447	55,616	103,236	46,703	29,615	69,028	24,605
Crape Shawls, do.	156,631	142,425	220,635	264,630	104,060		
Crape Scarfs, do.	45,264	8,683	8,100	15,800	4,160	57,293	81,625
Crape Robes and Dresses, do.	42,457	23,298	46,500	58,050	32,940		19,800
Florentines, do.	4,295	3,846	2,879	1,025	750	2,135	850
Sarsnets, do.	46,264	45,384	64,231	62,662	20,474	23,489	17,295
Senshaws, do.	24,145	12,302	10,919	7,740	9,485	14,957	11,340
Pongees do.	5,649	2,850	2,967	2,145	5,369	13,530	16,187
Handkerchiefs, do.	92,338	37,877	80,979	90,985	42,635	76,569	24,314
Satins, do.	8,150	5,614	7,384	7,880	10,881	18,606	4,836
Levanteens do.	10,944	8,645	9,600	6,280	7,657	13,497	7,382
Camblets, do.					1,477	2,620	2,465
Droguets, do.					425		
Sewing Silks, peculs	75	58	75	41	18	183¾	144
Raw Silk, do.					210	157	68
Nankeen, all sorts	1,070,707	259,500	765,000	664,000	267,405	524,500	392,900
Total Value of Exports -	$6,760,582	$5,006,243	$7,716,444	$7,650,938	$3,806,708	$5,318,966	$3,337,480

Statement of Consumption and Value of Indian Opium in China, from 1st April, 1828.

	PATNA.			BENARES.			MALWA.			TOTAL.	
	Chests	Price.	Value.	Chests	Price.	Value.	Chests	Price.	Value.	Chests.	Value.
		Dolls.	Dollars.		Dolls.	Dollars.		Dolls.	Dollars.		Dollars.
April	317	1000	317,000	104	960	99,840	291	1250	363,750	712	780,590
May	471	985	463,935	156	940	146,640	341	1100	375,100	968	985,675
June	371	915	339,465	89	875	77,875	778	830	645,740	1,238	1,063,080
July	529	950	502,550	120	910	109,200	1014	900	912,600	1,663	1,524,350
August	498	1040	517,920	96	1015	97,440	651	1025	674,450	1,252	1,289,810
September	410	960	393,600	68	930	63,240	627	1000	627,000	1,105	1,083,840
East Coast of China	98	980	96,040	72	935	67,320	30	1050	31,500	200	194,860
October	396	925	366,300	52	885	46,020	775	980	759,500	1,223	1,171,820
November	424	920	390,080	102	890	90,780	734	940	689,960	1,260	1,170,820
December	360	885	318,600	35	850	29,750	486	890	432,540	881	780,890
January, 1829	341	900	306,900	29	850	24,650	315	975	307,125	685	638,675
February	220	930	204,600	59	890	52,510	601	1000	601,000	880	858,110
March	309	890	275,010	148	840	124,320	390	980	382,200	847	781,530
Macao during the season	87	950	82,650				131	965	126,415	218	209,065
	4831		4,574,650	1130		1,029,585	7171		6,928,880	13,132	12,533,115
Stock at Lin-tin, April 1st, 1829	403			170			644			1,217	
Supposed at Macao	25						60			85	

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The variety of topics is of course vast, and they are treated in a manner which is at once so full of information and so interesting, that the work, instead of being merely referred to, might be regularly perused with as much pleasure as profit.—*Baltimore American.*

We view it as a publication worthy of the age and of the country, and cannot but believe the discrimination of our countrymen will sustain the publishers, and well reward them for this contribution to American Literature.—*Baltimore Patriot.*

We cannot doubt that the succeeding volumes will equal the first, and we hence warmly recommend the work to the patronage of the public, as being by far the best work of the kind ever offered for sale in this country.—*U. S. Gaz.*

It reflects the greatest credit on those who have been concerned in its production, and promises, in a variety of respects, to be the best as well as the most compendious dictionary of the arts, sciences, history, politics, biography, &c. which has yet been compiled. The style of the portion we have read is terse and perspicuous; and it is really curious how so much scientific and other information could have been so satisfactorily communicated in such brief limits.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

A compendious library, and invaluable book of reference.—*N. Y. American*

This cannot but prove a valuable addition to the literature of the age.—*Mer Advertiser.*

The appearance of the first volume of this valuable work in this country, is an event not less creditable to its enterprising publishers, than it is likely to prove lastingly beneficial to the public. When completed, according to the model presented by the first volume, it will deserve to be regarded as the spirit of all the best Encyclopædias, since it comprises whatever is really desirable and necessary in them, and in addition, a large proportion of articles entirely original, or expressly written for its pages. This is the condition of all the articles of American Biography, by Mr. Walsh; those on Zoology, by Dr. Godman; and those on Mineralogy and Chemistry, by a gentleman of Boston, distinguished for his successful devotion to those studies. The work abounds with interesting and useful matter, presented in a condensed and perspicuous style; nor is it one of its least compendations that it is to be comprised in twelve octava volumes, which may be placed on an office table, or occupy a shelf in the parlor, ever ready for immediate reference, instead of requiring almost a room to itself, like its ponderous predecessors, the Britannica, Edinburgensis, &c.

The vast circulation this work has had in Europe, where it has already been reprinted in four or five languages, not to speak of the numerous German editions, of which SEVEN have been published, speaks loudly in favor of its intrinsic merit without which such a celebrity could never have been attained. To every man engaged in public business, who needs a correct and ample book of reference on various topics of science and letters, the Encyclopædia Americana will be almost invaluable. To individuals obliged to go to situations where books are neither numerous nor easily procured, the rich contents of these twelve volumes will prove a mine which will amply repay its purchaser, and be with difficulty exhausted, and we recommend it to their patronage in the full conviction of its worth. Indeed it is difficult to say to what class of readers such a book would not prove useful, nay, almost indispensable, since it combines a great amount of valuable matter in small compass, and at moderate expense, and is in every respect well suited to augment the reader's stock of ideas, and powers of conversation, without severely taxing time or fatiguing attention. These, at least, are our conclusions after a close and candid examination of the first volume.—*Am. Daily Advertiser.*

We have seen and carefully examined the first volume of the Encyclopædia Americana, just published by Carey, Lea and Carey, and think our readers may be congratulated upon the opportunity of making such a valuable accession to their libraries.—*Aurora.*

The department of American Biography, a subject of which it should be disgraceful to be ignorant, to the degree that many are, is, in this work, a prominent feature, and has received the attention of one of the most indefatigable writers in this department of literature, which the present age can furnish.—*Boston Courier.*

According to the plan of Dr. Lieber, a desideratum will be supplied; the substance of contemporary knowledge will be brought within a small compass;—and the character and uses of a manual will be imparted to a kind of publication heretofore reserved, on strong shelves, for occasional reference. By those who understand the German language, the *Conversation Lexicon* is consulted ten times for one application to any English Encyclopædia.—*National Gaz.*

The volume now published is not only highly honorable to the taste, ability and industry of its editors and publishers, but furnishes a proud sample of the accuracy and elegance, with which the most elaborate and important literary enterprises may now be accomplished in our country. Of the manner in which the editors have thus far completed their task, it is impossible, in the course of a brief newspaper article, to speak with adequate justice.—*Boston Bulletin.*

We have looked at the contents, generally, of the second volume of this work, and think it merits the encomiums which have been bestowed on it in the northern papers. It continues to be particularly rich in the departments of Biography and Natural History. When we look at the large mass of miscellaneous knowledge spread before the reader, in a form which has never been equalled for its condensation, and conveyed in a style that cannot be surpassed for propriety and perspicuity, we cannot but think that the American Encyclopædia deserves a place in every collection, in which works of reference form a portion."—*Southern Patriot.*