

On the 10th we got under weigh and proceeded on our voyage, standing through the south passage, and made sail to the southward, giving the name of Lyra to an island which bore about east of Alceste's ten or twelve leagues, and distance nearly the same north-westerly from Quelpart). On the 11th, sounded in forty-nine fathoms muddy bottom, in lat. $31^{\circ} 42'$ N., long. $126^{\circ} 30'$ E. On the morning of the 13th we made Sulphur Island, a volcano, situated in lat. $27^{\circ} 56'$ N., long. $128^{\circ} 11'$ E. Whilst yet at a great distance, we could observe a volume of smoke at short intervals bursting from its crater. We hove-to for some time under its lee, in front of a horrid chasm, from whence the smoke issued, but found it impossible to land, as there was much wind and swell, and the surf broke with tremendous violence around its base. The island, which does not appear above four or five miles in circumference, rises precipitous from the sea, except in one or two spots; its height must be considerable, judging from the distance we saw it, perhaps 1,200 feet. The sulphurous smell emitted, even when two or three miles off,

was very strong. One end of the island displayed strata of a brilliant red-coloured earth, which had been noticed before on some part of the Corean main. One would almost be induced to believe that the mercury and sulphur, so abundant in these regions, had combined to give this vermilion hue to the ground. From hence we stood on to the southward with a strong wind at north by east, which soon increased to a gale. Not having sufficient run for the night, and being totally unacquainted with the coast we were approaching, the ship was put under snug canvass, and hauled to the wind on the starboard tack. On the morning of the 14th we again made sail, and soon observed an island rising like a cone to a considerable height, with that of the grand Lewchew* immediately behind it. The state of the weather would not warrant our standing closer in with the land than about eight miles, as it now blew fresh from the west-north-west, which made it a lee shore. We hauled to the south-westward, and in the afternoon saw breakers

* Generally termed Lekeyo in charts.

under our lee, the *Lyra* being closer in, and rather a-head. To have put about with the wind as it then was, would have embayed us for the night; for the main body of the island seemed to form, with the peak we had left astern, and the position we were now in, a sort of bight. The *Lyra*, indeed, could not have tacked in such a swell, and was almost too near to attempt wearing. Both ships, therefore, stood on with every sail they could carry, on the starboard tack, endeavouring to weather the reef. Much anxiety existed, at this moment, on board the *Alceste*, for the fate of the brig; the breakers rearing their white tops close to leeward of her, and rolling, with terrific force, upon the rocks. By steady steerage, however, and a press of sail, she at last passed the danger, and bore up through a channel formed by the reef and some high islets to the southward, very much to the satisfaction of all concerned; and she was followed by the frigate. We hove-to, for the night, under the lee of the larger island, and the next morning's dawn, the weather being now extremely fine, displayed to our view a rich

extent of cultivated scenery, such as we had not been lately accustomed to, on the naked coasts of Tartary and China. Rising in gentle ascent from the sea, the grounds were disposed more like the finest country-seats in England than those of an island so remote from the civilized world,—the tranquil, placid, and refreshing look of every thing around, forming a very pleasing contrast with the boisterous sea and dangerous condition of the previous day. We were in front of a town, having a sort of line wall, along the water's edge, from whence some fishing-boats approached the *Lyra*, which by this time had anchored; and on the people being interrogated, by signs, as to the proper anchorage, they pointed round the south-west end of the island, kindly offering, at the same time, some vegetables and fresh water, which they had in their canoes.

We made sail in the direction indicated, carefully sounding and looking out as we advanced along shore, and at night anchored in eighty-two fathoms. On the 16th, at daylight, we continued our course, and about noon descried a considerable

town, with a number of vessels at anchor under it, in a harbour, the mouth of which was formed by two pier-heads. In the afternoon, having explored our passage through the adjacent reefs, (the *Lyra* leading,) we anchored in front of this town. The astonished natives, who most probably had never been visited by an European ship before *, were perched in thousands on the surrounding rocks and heights, gazing on the vessels as they entered. Soon after, several canoes came alongside, containing some people in office, who wished to know to what country we belonged, and the nature of our visit. By the assistance of the Chinese interpreter, whose language some of them understood, they were informed that we were ships of war belonging to the King of England, which had carried an Ambassador from that monarch to the Emperor of China; and, after having landed him and his retinue near Peking, we had, on our return to Canton, where the

* Captain Broughton, after the loss of the *Providence* in 1797, anchored at this place in a schooner, and remained forty-eight hours.

Embassador was to re-embark, met with violent weather at sea, in which the ship had sprung a leak, obliging us to put in there, in order to repair our damages. To make this story feasible, the well was filled by turning the cock in the hold; and the chain-pumps being set to work threw out volumes of water on the main deck, to the great amazement of these people, who seemed to sympathize very much with our misfortunes. This *ruse* was necessary to free their minds from that state of alarm, which must naturally arise on the arrival of ships of such unusual appearance and force, with whose motives they were unacquainted, and who would justly be considered as the objects of suspicion had no reason but mere curiosity been assigned. They returned on shore, and put in requisition a number of carpenters, or people acquainted with the construction of their own vessels, who, at daylight in the morning, hurried on board, bringing with them the rude implements of their art, in order to render what assistance they could in stopping the leak. This offer of kindness

was, of course, civilly declined by the senior officer, on the ground that we had plenty of good carpenters on board, who were perfectly equal to the task; that an asylum was all we required during the time of repair, with permission to take on board some fresh provisions and water, of which we stood much in need; and all this we would most cheerfully pay for.

An immediate supply of bullocks, pigs, goats, fowls, eggs, and other articles, with abundance of excellent sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit then in season, and even candles* and fire-wood, followed this intimation; supplies of the same description being sent on board as often as was necessary, for about six weeks, the period of our stay on the island; those who brought them taking a receipt to shew they had been delivered safely; but the chief authorities, who sent them, obstinately refusing any payment or remuneration whatever.

Meantime, it being found impracticable for the frigate to swing in the inner harbour

* Their candles are made of unrefined wax, with paper wicks, and give an excellent light.

at low water, the road in which we lay was accurately examined, and found to be so protected with coral reefs to seaward, and covered by the land to the eastward, as to be completely sheltered, except in a very slight degree at its entrance, and of sufficient extent and depth to contain even ships of the line.

On the 20th, we moved up to the head of this road, to a place which we called Baronpool, where we afterwards rode out the equinoctial gales (or change of the monsoons).

On inquiring of them where the king was, they said, after some hesitation, 10,000 miles off; and when it was hinted that it was necessary to have a party on shore, such as ropemakers and smiths, where they could have more room to work, and thereby expedite our refit; they requested this might not be done until they heard from the king, it being an unprecedented case, in which they were incompetent to act without orders.

Unwilling to give cause of alarm or uneasiness to a people who seemed so well disposed, and for whose fears and suspicions it was but reasonable to make every

allowance, we remained quietly on board until the 22d, when intimation was received that a great personage intended paying a visit to the commodore.

At the mouth of a little river, in front of which we were anchored, we observed this chief embarking amidst a great concourse of people. He was saluted on his approach with three guns from each ship, and received on board with every mark of respect. He was a man about sixty years of age, with a venerable beard: his dress a purple robe, with very loose sleeves, and fastened round his middle with a sash of red silk: he had sandals on his feet, with white gaiters, not unlike short stockings. His cap (the badge of his dignity) was made of some slight material, twisted neatly into folds, and covered with a light purple-coloured silk. He had a numerous suite with him; some were official people of different ranks, and the rest his personal attendants. Here the occasion of our visit was again discussed; the pumps were set to work to shew the effect of the leak; and promises, on their part, renewed, of every assistance.



W.H. Dwarrris Esq. del.

LEWCHEWAN CHIEF and ATTENDANTS.

J. Clark sculp.

Although they had not heard from the king on the subject of our coming on shore, and notwithstanding it was contrary to a general rule for any stranger to land upon their coast, yet a few of the officers were always welcome to walk about within certain bounds. After partaking of a very handsome entertainment, he took his leave, the captain promising to return his visit. At one o'clock on the following day the boats were manned, and Captains Maxwell and Hall, with several of the officers in full uniform, proceeded into Napa-kiang*. This harbour is the mouth of a river, at the entrance of which, on each side, are strong-built walls or piers, for a considerable way up, and inside were anchored several rather large junks. Vessels under the size of frigates could be received very well in this river;—the bottom is soft mud.

* Napa appears to have been the original name of the town; but, since their connexion with China, the term Foo, (or city of the first class) has been added; making Napafoo. Kiang, another Chinese word, signifies river, and, when coupled with Napa, means merely the river port, or anchorage of the place.

The river widens somewhat immediately above the anchorage, and in it is situated a very pretty little island. At the landing-place the party were met by some of the chiefs, who had been most in the habit of visiting the ships, each of whom, taking one of the officers by the hand, led him through an immense collection of spectators to the gate of a public building, where the old gentleman already mentioned attended to welcome them into the house. Here an entertainment was served up in a style, which a pastry-cook, or connoisseur in eating, might describe; but which to another might be a difficult task. The utmost good humour, however, prevailed, and a liqueur (*chazzi*) something like rosolio was passed round in abundance, so that it was quite a man's own fault if he was not cheerful.

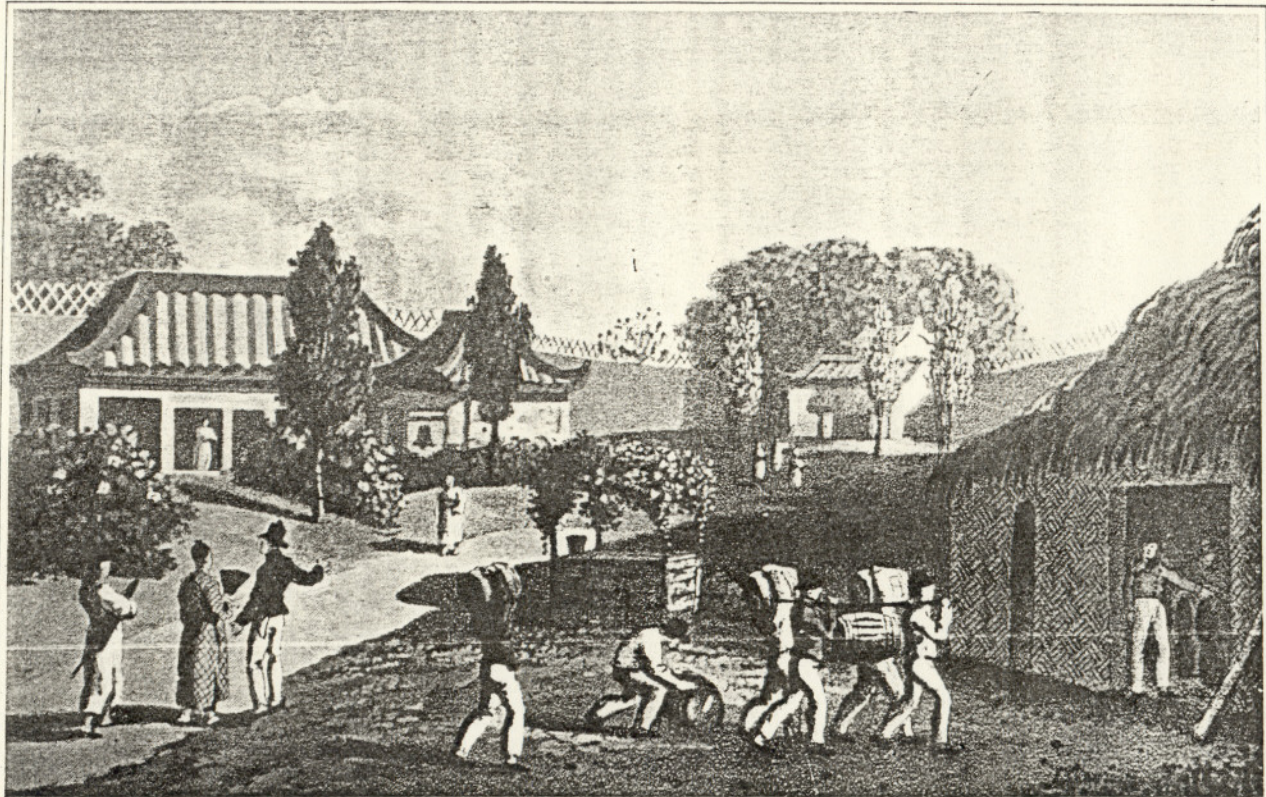
Many loyal and friendly toasts, applicable to both countries, were given and drank with enthusiasm. As they had hitherto generously supplied the ships with fresh provisions, vegetables, and fruit, and constantly refused any kind of payment, either in money

or by way of barter, the captains thought this a proper opportunity to offer, as a mark of their personal regard, some presents to the chiefs, consisting of various wines, cherry brandy, English broad cloths, a telescope, and other things; and on this ground only they were accepted; reserving it to themselves, at the same time, to make what personal return they might think proper to this interchange of friendship.

At the end of this conference, when it was proposed to take a walk over the city, a consultation was held among them; when the request was mildly declined, (supposed to be through the influence of *Buonaparte*, a man of dark and peculiar aspect, so named because he was suspected of being the most inclined to keep us at arm's length,) stating, they were afraid some bad people might be induced to treat us with disrespect. It was evident they had not the power, without higher authority, to admit us to freer access; for the people themselves, almost without exception, appeared by this time to have no apprehension about our motives. After much hilarity the party

took their leave, attended in the same way as on landing.

It was worthy of notice how much regularity and decorum existed among so many thousands as were here collected. A lane was formed, on the inner side of which the smallest boys (generally kneeling) were placed; another row squatted behind these; then the men (those nearest stooping a little); and outside the still taller people, or those mounted on stones, &c.; so that all, without bustle or confusion, might have a complete view of the strangers. The utmost silence reigned, and not a whisper was heard. Perhaps they had purposely sent their women out of the way,—but the ladies managed (as usual) to outwit them, and to gratify curiosity in defiance of every precaution to the contrary. A number of them had either been placed intentionally on the other side of the river, or left there in consequence of all the men having come over to *the show*; but the boats, in going out, had to pass within a few yards of *their* pier-head; when, finding themselves in almost exclusive possession of that bank, they left

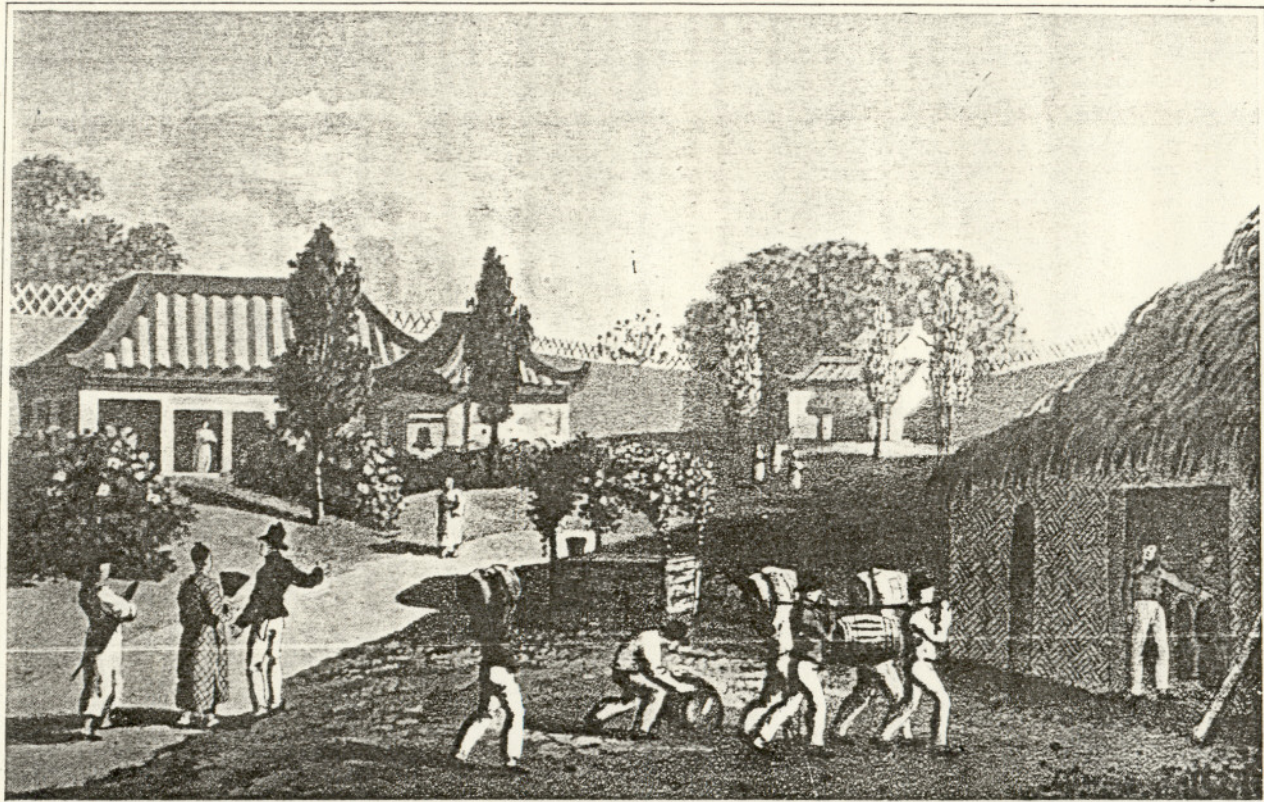


W.H.Dwarris Esq. del.

J. Clark sculp.

GARDEN of the TEMPLE at LEWCHEW.

Published by J. Murray, London 1817.



W.H.Dwarris Esq. del.

J. Clark sculp.

GARDEN of the TEMPLE at LEWCHEW.

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their station on a hill, ran down to the point, and had their peep, whilst their friends on the opposite shore were unable (had it been their intention) to keep them in the back ground.

About this period a mutual friendship began to exist between us; confidence took place of timidity; and now, instead of permitting only a few to visit the shore at a time, they fitted up the garden of a temple as a sort of general arsenal for us: the habitations of the priests were allotted as an hospital for the sick, whilst other temporary buildings of bamboo were erected for the reception of our powder, which required airing, and for various stores wanting inspection and repair. The rope-makers, smiths, and other artificers, were established at a convenient spot, about a mile farther along the beach. They continued their usual supplies, bringing us even fresh water on board in their boats; and, understanding we required some wood for spars, they felled fir-trees, floated them down the river, and towed

them alongside, singing their usual boat-song, which had a very plaintive and pleasing effect.

The island of Lewchew* is about sixty miles long and twenty broad; Napa Kiang, our position, (and within five miles of Kint-ching, the capital,) lying in lat. $26^{\circ} 14'$ N., long. $127^{\circ} 52' 1''$ E. This is its south-west point, the main body of the island extending from hence north, a little eastwardly.

It is the principal island of a group of thirty-six, subject to the same monarch, and the seat of the government. The natives trace their history back to a period long anterior to the Christian era; but their first communication with the rest of the world, when their accounts became fully corroborated and undisputed, was about the

* It is called by an infinity of names in books and charts, such as Lekeyo, Lieoo-Kieoo, Lequeyo, and Lieu-Kieu; but the word Lewchew will better express the sound, according to the native pronunciation, than any other. It is often by the lower classes corrupted into *Doo-Choo*.

year 605, when they were invaded by China, who found them at that time—a time when England and the greater part of Europe were immersed in barbarism—the same kind of people they are at the present day, with the exception of a few Chinese innovations; or, at least, they appear to have altered but in a very slight degree. Indeed, it is very obvious that a revolution in manners, and alteration of habits, are by no means so likely to occur with a people thus living in an obscure and secluded state, as among those who have a wider intercourse with other nations. The only connexion which the Lewchews have had with their neighbours, and that but very limited, has been with Japan and China, from neither of whom they were likely to receive any example of change.

The clearest and perhaps the only account given of their history is by Su-poa-Koang, a Chinese doctor or philosopher, who was, in 1719, sent as ambassador to them*,

* Vide *Lettres Edifiantes*, tome xxiv.

The following is the substance of his report as to their origin:—"The Lewchew tradition states, that, in the beginning, one man and one woman were produced in the great void or chaos. They had the joint name of Omo-mey-kieou. From their union sprung three sons and two daughters; the eldest of the sons had the title of Tien-sun, or Grandson of Heaven, and was the first king of Lewchew; the second was the father of the tributary princes; the rest of the people acknowledge the third as their progenitor*. The eldest daughter had the title of Celestial Spirit; the second, the Spirit of the Sea. After the death of Tien-sun, twenty-five dynasties reigned successively in this country, occupying (according to their story) a period of 17,802 years previous to the time of Chuntein, who commenced his reign in 1187. This is their fabulous history, of

* It seems rather unaccountable, in this marvellous tradition, that the third son, to whom no wife is assigned, should have had the most numerous progeny.

“ head of his people to repel the enemy,
“ being killed, the Chinese burned the
“ capital ; and, carrying off 5000 of the
“ natives, as slaves, returned to China.
“ From this, until 1291, the Lewchews were
“ left unmolested, when Chit-soo, an empe-
“ ror of the Yuen family, reviving his
“ pretensions, fitted out a fleet against them
“ from the ports of Fokien ; but, from va-
“ rious causes, it never proceeded farther
“ than the western coast of Formosa,
“ and from thence returned unsuccessful
“ to China. In the year 1372, Hong-ou,
“ emperor-of China, and founder of the
“ Ming dynasty, sent a great mandarin
“ to 'Tsay-tou, who governed in 'Tchon-
“ chan, the country being at this period
“ divided, in consequence of civil disturb-
“ ances, into the three kingdoms, who,
“ in a private audience, acquitted himself
“ with such address as to persuade the
“ king to declare himself tributary to China,
“ and to request of the emperor the inves-
“ titure of his estate.

“ Having thus managed by *finesse* what
“ arms had been unable to effect, the em-

“ peror took care to receive, with great
“ distinction, the envoys sent by their
“ master. They were accompanied by
“ offerings of fine horses, scented woods,
“ sulphur, copper, and tin, and sent back
“ again with rich presents for the king
“ and queen ; among which was a gold
“ seal.

“ The two kings of the other districts,
“ Chan-pe and Channan, followed the ex-
“ ample of Chonchan, and their submission
“ was most graciously received. Thirty-
“ six Chinese families were sent to live in
“ Cheouli*, where grants of land were
“ conceded to them ; here they taught the
“ Chinese written characters, introduced
“ Chinese books, and the ceremonies in
“ honour of Confucius. The sons of the
“ Lewchewan grandees were also sent to
“ Nankin to study Chinese, and were edu-
“ cated with distinction, at the expense of
“ the emperor.

* That district of Tchou-chan in which the capital is situated, and where we resided.

“ The reigns of Ou-ning and Tse-chao,
“ the son and grandson of Tsay-tou, pre-
“ sented nothing extraordinary ; but that
“ of Chang-pa-chi was marked by the re-
“ union of Chan-pe and Channan with
“ Tchon-chan into one kingdom, and the
“ government has since continued in the
“ hands of a single chief. Lewchew is
“ said henceforth to have had consider-
“ able intercourse with China and Japan
“ in the way of commerce, *much to her*
“ *advantage*, and to have even mediated
“ between those two powers when misun-
“ derstandings had occurred.

“ The famous Tay-cosama, however,
“ emperor of Japan, whom the Chinese
“ call ambitious, piratical, irreligious,
“ cruel, and debauched, because he had
“ pillaged their coasts, sent a haughty letter
“ to Chang-ning, commanding him to
“ transfer his homage from China to Japan,
“ which Chang-ning as firmly refused.
“ Notwithstanding the death of Tay-cosa-
“ ma, the Japanese fitted out a fleet at
“ Satsuma, made a descent on Lewchew,

“ took the king prisoner, and carried him
“ off, having plundered the palace, and
“ killed one of his near relations, who
“ also resisted the acknowledgment of
“ the Japanese. During a captivity of two
“ years, Chang-ning acquired the admira-
“ tion of the captors by his unyielding
“ firmness and constancy in refusing to
“ swerve from his first allegiance, and
“ they generously sent him back to his states.

“ The Tartar dynasty, soon after this,
“ was placed, by conquest, on the throne
“ of China, and made some alteration in the
“ nature of the tribute to be paid, stipu-
“ lating that envoys, in future, should be
“ sent to Peking only once in two years.
“ Cang-hi paid much attention to the wel-
“ fare of Lewchew; and his memory to
“ this day is much respected by the peo-
“ ple. It is said to be nearly a thou-
“ sand years since the bonzes of the sect
“ of Fo introduced their mode of worship
“ into these islands, which has continued
“ to the present time.

“ When they take an oath, it is not be-
“ fore the statues or images of their idols;

“ but they burn incense, and, placing
“ themselves in a respectful attitude before
“ certain consecrated stones which are to
“ be seen in various public situations, they
“ repeat some mysterious words, said to
“ have been dictated by the divine daughters
“ of Omo-mey-kieou. They have also
“ among them a set of holy women, who
“ worship certain spirits deemed powerful
“ among them, and who visit the sick,
“ give medicines, and recite prayers. This
“ seems to have given rise to the accusation
“ of an old missionary at Japan, who
“ said they practised sorcery and witchcraft.
“ Cang-hi likewise introduced among
“ them the adoration of a new deity, under
“ the name of Tien-fey, or Celestial Queen.
“ Polygamy is allowed here as in China,
“ but seldom practised. Men and women
“ of the same surname cannot intermarry.
“ The king can only take a wife from one
“ of three great families, who always hold
“ the most distinguished posts: there is
“ also a fourth, of the highest consideration,
“ but with which the princes cannot
“ form an alliance, because it is doubtful

“ whether that family is not itself of the
“ royal line. Their chiefs are generally
“ hereditary, but not always; for men of
“ merit are promoted, and all are liable
“ to be degraded for improper conduct.
“ The king’s revenue arises from his own
“ domains ; from imposts on salt, sulphur,
“ copper, tin, and several other articles ;
“ and from this income he defrays the
“ expenses of the state, and the salaries
“ of the great officers.

“ These salaries consist nominally in a
“ certain number of bags of rice ; but they
“ are paid generally in silks, and various
“ other necessary articles of clothing and
“ food, in proportions equal to the value of
“ so many bags of that grain. All their
“ interior commerce or marketing is per-
“ formed by the women and girls at regu-
“ lated times. They carry their little loads
“ upon their heads with singular dexterity,
“ consisting of the usual necessaries of
“ life and wearing apparel, which they ex-
“ change for what they more immediately
“ want, or for the copper coin of China and

“ Japan *. The men are said to be neat
“ workmen in gold, silver, copper, and
“ other metals ; and there are manufactories
“ of silk, cotton, flax, and paper. They
“ also build very good vessels, quite large
“ enough to undertake voyages to China
“ and Japan, where their barks are much
“ esteemed. They have adopted the Chi-
“ nese calendar with respect to the division
“ of the month and year. This island pro-
“ duces rice, wheat, and all sorts of vege-
“ tables, in abundance. The people of the
“ coast are expert fishermen, and the sea
“ and rivers are well furnished with fish.
“ They are famous divers, and obtain
“ shells and mother-of-pearl, very much
“ esteemed in China and Japan.

“ They possess many woods proper for
“ dying ; and one tree in particular yields
“ an oil which is held in great repute.
“ They have likewise a great variety of
“ most delicate fruits, oranges, citrons, le-
“ mons, *long-y-ven*, *lee-tchees*, grapes, &c.

* We saw no money among them.

“ Wolves, tigers, and bears, are unknown ;
“ but they have many useful animals, such
“ as horses, water-dogs, black cattle, stags,
“ poultry, geese, peacocks, pigeons, doves,
“ &c.

“ The camphor, cedar, and ebony, are
“ among the number of their trees ; and
“ they have also wood well fitted for ship-
“ building, and for public edifices. They
“ are represented as disdaining slavery,
“ lying, and cheating. They are fond of
“ games and amusements, and celebrate,
“ with much pomp, the worship of their
“ idols, at the end and commencement of
“ the year ; and there exists much union
“ among the branches of families, who give
“ frequent and cheerful entertainments to
“ each other.

The ceremony of installation of the king of Lewchew is thus described: “ When
“ the king dies, his heir sends an embassa-
“ dor to the emperor, to make known that
“ circumstance, and to demand his inves-
“ titure.—Meantime the Lewchews treat as
“ king and queen the prince and the
“ princess his wife, though it is not, ac-

“ cording to the Peking regulations, until
“ after the installation that they assume
“ the titles. The emperor either sends
“ from himself a qualified person to per-
“ form this ceremony, or grants full powers
“ to the Lewchew ambassador to do so on
“ his return.

“ If the former is determined upon, the
“ emperor orders the tribunal of ceremo-
“ nies to find a fit person to sustain with
“ dignity the majesty of the Chinese em-
“ pire; and the choice falls on whom they
“ know the emperor wishes, a second being
“ named in the event of death or sick-
“ ness. The emperor, after approving the
“ choice, admits the ambassador to an au-
“ dience, and gives him the necessary in-
“ structions, and the presents intended for
“ the king and queen. The mandarins of
“ Fokien are ordered to equip a vessel, and
“ to choose a captain, officers, sailors, sol-
“ diers, and pilots, sometimes amounting
“ to three hundred and fifty persons. The
“ ambassador is conducted from court with
“ great pomp to the capital of Fokien,
“ where he is lodged in a commodious

“ palace, and treated with much distinction.

“ He is embarked with great state, when, after the usual ceremonies to heaven, and the goddess Tienfey, they make sail. On their anchoring near Napa Kiang, the king gives the necessary orders for receiving the ambassador, with all the honours due to the title of *Celestial Envoy*, that is, to the envoy of the son of heaven, or the emperor of China. The princes and grandees repair to the port in their court dresses. A number of vessels richly ornamented conduct the stranger into harbour, where the ambassador and suite lands, and is attended to his palace with great pomp by the princes and grandees, who take care to make such an appearance as to do honour to the nation. Every thing is regulated with respect to the maintenance of the ambassador and retinue, who are all permitted, even to the lowest domestic, the privilege of carrying a certain quantity of money, and of Chinese merchandise, *to make a little trade*. In the time of

“ the Ming dynasty, the profits of the
“ Chinese were considerable at Lew-
“ chew ; at present only moderate. The
“ ambassador ordinarily piques himself on
“ having no *personal* connexion with com-
“ merce*.

“ After having taken some repose, he
“ repairs to the grand hall, where he finds
“ a magnificent *estrade*, on which he seats
“ himself. On a signal given, at the same
“ instant, the princes, ministers, and gran-
“ dees of the first order, placed according to
“ rank, make the nine prostrations to sa-
“ lute the emperor. The ambassador
“ stands ; and, after the ceremony, makes
“ a profound reverence. When the chiefs
“ of the second and third class prostrate
“ themselves, he also stands, and after-
“ wards presents his hand to them. On
“ the performance of the inferior chiefs,
“ the ambassador is seated, but afterwards
“ presents his hand to them. This ceremo-
“ nial finished, some grandees on the part

* This is quite in the inflated style of these *celestials*, whilst in the practice of every thing that is sordid.

“ of the king come to congratulate the em-
“ bassador on his safe arrival. The rest of the
“ day is spent in repasts, public rejoicings,
“ and concerts, in all the cities and neigh-
“ bouring villages, and on board the ves-
“ sels. On a certain day the ambassador
“ goes to the temple of the goddess Tien-
“ fey, to return thanks for her protection,
“ and from thence to the imperial palace,
“ where he performs the Chinese ceremo-
“ nies, in honour of Confucius. On another
“ day the ambassador with all his retinue
“ repairs to the royal hall, where are the
“ tablets of the deceased kings, the heir to
“ the throne also appearing, but as a prince
“ simply.

“ The ambassador then performs, in the
“ name of the emperor, the Chinese marks
“ of respect in honour of the deceased king,
“ the predecessor of the reigning prince,
“ and also for his forefathers ; and presents
“ the odours, the silks, manufactures, and
“ silver, sent by the emperor for that pur-
“ pose. The prince then makes the nine
“ prostrations to thank the emperor, and

“ inquires after the state of his health.
“ He next salutes the ambassador, and
“ dines, familiarly, and without ceremony,
“ with him. When all is regulated for
“ the instalment, the ambassador with
“ all his suite, and a great number of
“ people, proceed to the palace. The
“ court is filled with lords and chieftains,
“ richly attired, and ranged in proper
“ order. On his entrance, the ambassador
“ is received by the princes, and con-
“ ducted, with music sounding, to the
“ royal hall, where there is an elevated
“ *estrade*—for the prince and princess, and
“ a distinguished place for the embassa-
“ dor. All the princes, grandees, mini-
“ sters, standing, the ambassador reads,
“ with a loud voice, the imperial diploma;
“ in which the emperor, after some eulogy
“ on the defunct sovereign, acknowledges
“ for king and queen the hereditary prince
“ and princess his wife. This declaration
“ is accompanied by exhortations of the
“ emperor to the new monarch, to govern
“ according to law ; and to the people of

“ the thirty-six isles to be faithful in their
“ allegiance. After it is read, the imperial
“ patent is presented to the king, who
“ transfers it to the minister, to be re-
“ tained among the archives of the court.
“ Then the king, queen, princes, &c., make
“ the nine prostrations, to salute and thank
“ the emperor. The ambassador next dis-
“ plays the rich presents from his master
“ to the king and queen, when the usual
“ thanks are returned. Whilst the embas-
“ sador reposes himself for a short time in
“ an adjoining apartment, the king and
“ queen, seated on their thrones, receive
“ the homage of the princes, ministers,
“ grandees, and deputies, of the thirty-six
“ isles. The queen then retires, and the
“ king entertains the ambassador with
“ much splendour.

“ Some days afterwards, seated in the
“ royal chair, borne by many porters, the
“ king, followed by the princes and mini-
“ sters, and a brilliant suite, goes to the
“ hotel of the ambassador.

“ The road is ornamented by triumphal
“ arches; and at certain distances are

“ found tents, in which are placed fruits,
“ flowers, and perfumes. Around the chair
“ of the king are seven young girls, on
“ foot, carrying his flags and umbrellas.
“ The princes, ministers, and grandees,
“ are on horseback, and are emulous to
“ distinguish themselves, on this occasion,
“ by their superb dresses and numerous
“ suite.

“ The ambassador, at the gate of the
“ hotel, receives his majesty with great re-
“ spect, and leads him to the grand hall.
“ The king now again salutes the empe-
“ ror; after which he honours the embas-
“ sador, by offering with his own hand
“ wine and tea. This the ambassador de-
“ clines; and, returning the cup, he takes
“ one for himself, which he does not drink
“ until after the king has first drank his.
“ This ceremony finished, his majesty and
“ suite return to the palace. He names,
“ some days afterwards, an ambassador to
“ proceed to the court of the emperor, to
“ thank his majesty, and to send him pre-
“ sents, a list of which is *communicated* to
“ the Chinese ambassador, and he orders a

“ vessel to be equipped, which accompa-
“ nies that of the Chinese on its return.
“ At last, the imperial envoy, having deter-
“ mined the day of his departure, takes
“ leave of the king ; and some time after-
“ wards the latter proceeds to the hotel of
“ the ambassador, to wish him a happy
“ voyage, and to make the usual pro-
“ strations in honour of the emperor, and
“ to return him thanks.

“ During the sojourn of the embassa-
“ dor, the king gives him frequent enter-
“ tainments; sometimes in the grand palace;
“ at others in his pleasure-houses ; and,
“ occasionally, in water parties. The
“ queen, princesses, and ladies, assist at
“ these ceremonies. They have music,
“ dancing, and comedies, with songs, in
“ praise of the imperial and royal families,
“ and of the ambassador, &c.”

Such is the account of Supoa-Koang ;
and, having observed a great part of what
he relates to be true, it is but fair and rea-
sonable to give him credit for what we had
not the opportunity of actually seeing.
One thing appears very evident,—that these

poor islanders have been much cajoled and humiliated, as well as encumbered with a load of ceremonies, very foreign to their nature, by the usurpation of the Chinese.

The dress of these people is as remarkable for its simplicity as it is for its elegance. The hair, which is of a glossy black, (being anointed with an oleagenous substance, obtained from the leaf of a tree,) is turned up from before, from behind, and on both sides, to the crown of the head, and there tied close down ; great care being taken that all should be perfectly smooth ; and the part of the hair beyond the fastening, or string, being now twisted into a neat little top-knot, is there retained by two fasteners, called *comesashee* and *usisashee*, made either of gold, silver, or brass, according to the circumstances of the wearer ; the former of these having a little star on the end of it, which points forward. This mode of hair-dressing is practised with the greatest uniformity, from the highest to the lowest of the males, and has a very pleasing effect, whether viewed singly, or when they

are gathered together. At the age of ten years the boys are entitled to the *usisashee*, and at fifteen they wear both. Except those in office, who wear only a cap on duty, they appear to have no covering for the head, at least in fine weather. Interiorly, they wear a kind of shirt, and a pair of drawers, but over all a loose robe, with wide sleeves, and a broad sash round their middle. They have sandals on their feet, neatly formed of straw; and the higher orders have also white gaiters, coming above the ankle. The quality of their robes depends on that of the individual.—The superior classes wear silk of various hues, with a sash of contrasting colour, sometimes interwoven with gold.—The lower orders make use of a sort of cotton stuff, generally of a chesnut colour, and sometimes striped, or spotted, blue and white.

There are nine ranks of *grandees*, or public officers, distinguished by their caps; of which we observed four.—The highest noticed was worn by a member of the royal family, which was of a pink colour, with

bright yellow flowers.—The next in dignity was the purple; then plain yellow; and the red seemed to be the lowest.

On the female attire we could make but little observation.—The higher ranks are said to wear (and some indeed were seen with) simply a loose flowing robe, without any sash; the hair either hanging loose over the shoulders, or tied up over the left side of the head, the ends falling down again. The lower orders seemed to have petticoats scarcely deeper than a Highlander's kilt, with a short, but loose, habit above.

The island of Lewchew itself is situate in the happiest climate of the globe.—Refreshed by the sea-breezes, which, from its geographical position, blow over it at every period of the year, it is free from the extremes of heat and cold, which oppress many other countries; whilst from the general configuration of the land, being more adapted to the production of rivers and streams than of bogs and marshes, one great source of disease in the warmer latitudes has no existence: and the people

seemed to enjoy robust health; for we observed no diseased objects, nor beggars of any description, among them.

The verdant lawns and romantic scenery of Tinian and Juan Fernandes, so well described in Anson's *Voyage*, are here displayed in higher perfection, and on a much more magnificent scale; for cultivation is added to the most enchanting beauties of nature. From a commanding height above the ships, the view is, in all directions, picturesque and delightful.—On one hand are seen the distant islands, rising from a wide expanse of ocean, whilst the clearness of the water enables the eye to trace all the coral reefs, which protect the anchorage immediately below. To the south is the city of Nafoo, the vessels at anchor in the harbour, with their streamers flying; and in the intermediate space appear numerous hamlets scattered about on the banks of the rivers, which meander in the valley beneath; the eye being, in every direction, charmed by the varied hues of the luxuriant foliage around their habitations. Turning to the east, the houses of Kint-ching, the capital

city, built in their peculiar style, are observed here and there, opening from among the lofty trees which surround and shade them, rising one above another in gentle ascent to the summit of a hill, which is crowned by the king's palace: the intervening grounds between Napafoo and Kint-ching, a distance of some miles, being ornamented by a continuation of villas and country-houses. To the north, as far as the eye can reach, the higher land is covered with extensive forests.

At a short distance from this eminence, the traveller is led by a foot-path to what seems only a little wood; on entering which, under an archway formed by the intermingling branches of the opposite trees, he passes along a serpentine labyrinth, every here and there intersected by others. Not far from each other, on either side of these walks, small wicker doors are observed, on opening any of which, he is surprised by the appearance of a court-yard and house, with the children, and all the usual cottage train, generally gamboling about; so that, whilst a man fancies him-

self in some lonely and sequestered retreat, he is, in fact, in the middle of a populous, but invisible, village.

Nature has been bountiful in all her gifts to Lewchew : for such is the felicity of its soil and climate, that productions of the vegetable kingdom, very distinct in their nature, and generally found in regions far distant from each other, grow here side by side. It is not merely, as might be expected, the country of the orange and the lime ; but the banyan of India and the Norwegian fir, the tea-plant and sugar-cane, all flourish together. In addition to many good qualities, not often found combined, this island can also boast its rivers and secure harbours ; and last, though not least, a worthy, a friendly, and a happy race of people.

Many of these islanders displayed a spirit of intelligence and genius, which seemed the more extraordinary, considering the confined circle in which they live ; such confinement being almost universally found to be productive of narrowness of mind. Our friends here were an exception to the general rule.—*Madera Cosyong*, one of our

most constant and intimate friends, acquired such proficiency in the English language, in the course of a few weeks, as to make himself tolerably understood. He evidently came on board, in the first instance, as a spy upon our conduct, before they were satisfied that we meant no harm ; and no man was ever better adapted for this duty ; for, as his conciliatory and pleasing manner won upon all hearts, he had therefore a natural access every where, and, had “ stratagems or schemes ” existed, he of all others was the most likely to have discovered them.

His not assuming his proper character, which was that of a man of some distinction, until his mind was satisfied about us, and his then doing it with frankness, is a proof that such were his original motives. To acquire our tongue, he marked the sound of any English word for the most familiar articles of the table, or terms of conversation, and noted them in symbols of his own language, with their signification, which enabled him, with slight reference to his vocabulary, to manage with-

out having recourse to the interpreter. If he happened to be walking on shore with any of the officers, he would not lose the sound or meaning of a word because he had not his book with him, but scratched it on the leaf of a tree, and transcribed it at his leisure. His first attempt to connect a sentence was rather sudden and unexpected. Rising to go away one evening after his usual lesson, he slowly articulated, “ You “ give me good wine,—I tank you,—I go “ shore.”—He delighted in receiving information, and his remarks were always pertinent.—The map of the world, with the track of the ship from England to Lew-chew, was pointed out and explained to him, which he, as well as others, seemed to trace with peculiar care, and at last, in a great degree, to comprehend, although the subject was, in the first instance, entirely new to them, for they certainly had no idea of the vast extent or figure of the globe. He was gay or serious, as occasion required, but was always respectable ; and of *Madera* it might be truly said, that he was a gentleman, not formed upon this model, or according to

that rule, but “ stamped as such by the so-
“ vereign hand of Nature.”

They all seemed to be gifted with a sort of politeness which had the fairest claim to be termed natural ; for there was nothing constrained, nothing stiff or studied in it.

Captain Maxwell having one day invited a party to dine with him, the health of the king of Lewchew was drunk in a bumper :—one of them, immediately addressing himself with much warmth and feeling to the interpreter, desired him to state how much they felt gratified by such a compliment ; that they would take care to tell it to every body when they went on shore ; and proposed, at the same time, a bumper to the king of the *Engelees*. A Chinese mandarin, under the like circumstances, would, most probably, have *chin-chinned* (that is, clenched his fists) as usual ; he would have snivelled and grinned *the established number* of times, and bowed his head in slavish submission to the bare mention of his tyrant’s name ; but it never would have occurred to him to have given, in his turn, the health of the sovereign of England.