

This superiority of manner brought to our recollection the boorishness of the Chinese near the Pei-ho. Some mandarins, who were not of a rank sufficiently high to be entertained in the cabin, were invited to dine with the officers; and some of them, after gnawing the leg of a fowl, would without any ceremony thrust the remains of it into any other dish near them; and instead of following our example (as the Lewchews uniformly did) in pouring out the wine into glasses, or, indeed, in any way accommodating themselves to our style, they would take up, with both hands, the decanter, and, applying it to their greasy mouths, thereby secure the exclusive possession of that bottle.

These islanders are represented as being remarkable for their honesty and adherence to truth, and to this character they appear to be fully entitled. The chiefs informed us that there was little probability of their stealing any thing; but, as iron implements were a great temptation, they begged that none might be left carelessly about.—Although, however, the rope machinery and

other articles remained, for many nights, unguarded on the beach, and their opportunities on board were numberless, yet not one theft occurred during the whole of our sojourn among them. That proud and haughty feeling of national superiority, so strongly existing among the common class of British seamen, which induces them to hold all foreigners cheap, and to treat them with contempt, often calling them outlandish lubbers *in their own country*, was, at this island, completely subdued and tamed by the gentle manners and kind behaviour of the most pacific people upon earth. Although completely intermixed, and often working together, both on shore and on board, not a single quarrel or complaint took place on either side during the whole of our stay; on the contrary, each succeeding day added to friendship and cordiality.

Although it was, no doubt, infringing on their established rules for strangers to land upon their coasts, yet they granted every possible indulgence, and conceded the point as far as they could; for their dispositions seemed evidently at war with the un-

social law. When any of the officers wandered into the country beyond the bounds prescribed, they were never rudely repulsed, as in China or Morocco, but mildly entreated to return, as a favour to those in attendance, lest they should incur blame; and, as their appeal was powerful, it was never disregarded.

They erected little temporary bamboo watch-houses or sheds, where those engaged in this duty resided; and, as we wandered about, handed us over from one post to another. In these houses they always pressed the officers to partake of their fare, which was often very good, especially a kind of hung beef, which they have the art of curing extremely well.

They appeared to be much accustomed to these pic-nic sort of parties, having a small japanned box, containing sliding drawers for the various viands, which a boy generally carried, on the end of a bamboo, to any part of the fields where they thought proper to dine.

One man, very often accompanied by *Geroo*, or (as he was sometimes termed, from

having a constant smile upon his countenance) *the laughing mandarin*, seemed to carry about with him a constant supply of these refreshments, and chazzi, a liqueur, which led us to believe that he had been deputed for the express purpose of paying attention to our officers.

The sudden vicissitudes of weather to which we had been exposed, by leaving England during extreme cold, and passing suddenly into the torrid zone; then immediately afterwards into the cold raw climate of the southern Atlantic; meeting with heat again at the Cape of Good Hope; then crossing in rather a high latitude the chilly Southern Ocean; and, quickly following that, appearing on the burning coast of Java; might, in fact be said to have exposed us, in the short period of four months, to the effects of three summers and three winters; and proved, as might naturally be supposed, extremely trying to the health of the men. On our arrival at Lewchew, our cases of sickness, though not numerous, were severe; and to the kindness of the natives may, in a great measure, be attributed their

recovery. They were not only comfortably lodged, but the higher class of people * daily attended, inquiring into their wants, giving additional *coogas* or eggs, and other delicacies, to those whose cases more particularly required them, and paying a cheering attention to the whole; for theirs was a substantial, not a cold or ostentatious, charity.

A young man, whose case had long been hopeless, died here. On that night a coffin was made by our own carpenters, whilst the natives dug a grave, in the English manner, in a small burial-ground under some trees near the landing-place.

Next morning we were astonished to find a number of the principal inhabitants clad in deep mourning (white robes with black

* One elderly man, whom Mr. Fisher (the assistant surgeon), who was always at the hospital, thought to be a physician, wrote something at the desk, which Mr. Fisher concluded was a prescription. On translating it afterwards at Canton it turned out to be a moral maxim, "Let not the present day be passed in idleness.—The days of our youth will not return.—By being diligent and studious we arrive at offices of rank."—(Literally) "We ride on horseback, and wear embroidered clothes."

or blue sashes), waiting to attend the funeral. The captain came on shore with the division of the ship's company to which the man belonged, and proceeded to the garden where the body lay. His messmates bore the coffin, covered with the colours; the seamen ranged themselves two and two, in the rear of it; next were the midshipmen; then the superior officers; and last of all the captain, as is usual in military ceremonies of this kind. The natives, who had been watching attentively this arrangement, and observing the order of precedence to be inverted, without the least hint being given, but with that unassuming modesty and delicacy which characterize them, when the procession began to move placed themselves in front of the coffin, and in this order marched slowly to the grave. The utmost decency and silence prevailed whilst the funeral service was performing by the chaplain, although there was a considerable concourse of people; and afterwards they marched back, but in different order, to the garden. Here they took the directions for the shape of a stone to be

placed at the head of a tomb, which, as a mark of respect, they had already begun to erect over the grave. This was soon finished; and the shape of the English letters being drawn with Indian ink, they, notwithstanding the simplicity of their tools, cut out with much neatness the following epitaph, which, when explained to them, seemed to be highly gratifying:—

Here lies buried
Aged Twenty-One Years, William Hares, Seaman,
Of His Britannic Majesty's ship *Alceste*.

Died Oct. 15, 1816.

This Monument was erected

By the King

And Inhabitants

Of this most hospitable Island.

The day after the interment they went to the tomb, with their priests, and performed the funeral service according to the rites of their own religion. There is not an act of these excellent and interesting people which the mind has not pleasure in contemplating and recollecting. Not satisfied with having smoothed the path of

death, they carried their kind regards even *beyond* the grave!

Of our religion they could form no idea, nor was it possible to explain it to them. They seemed at first to consider us as worshippers of the sun or moon, and, of course, our astronomers as high priests, from seeing them busied about an observatory which had been erected in our garden, with a large telescope for the examination of the heavenly bodies.

One Sunday a number of them were observed, during divine service, peeping through the quarter-deck ports, but were not noticed in sufficient time to invite them in.

Captain Maxwell's horse, in riding one morning to inspect the progress of the artificers, stumbled, and fell among some rocks; and by this accident the fore finger of his left hand was not only fractured, but badly dislocated. Some of his Lewchewan friends, who were near him, ran to the next village for one of their surgical professors. He soon arrived, and, after much sa-

lutation, proceeded to examine the injury, (the dislocation had in the interim been reduced by the coxswain pulling upon it,) and then stated that he would come on board the ship, whither the captain was then proceeding, in an hour, with the applications he thought necessary for it. At the time appointed, one of the chiefs, with this surgeon, and another more in the character of a physician, and their retinue, some of them bearing a medicine-chest, made their appearance alongside. The injury being again examined, (and it having been previously decided that they were to have the management of the cure, under surveillance, in order to observe how they would act,) a fowl was killed with much form, and skinned, and a composition of flour and eggs, with some warm ingredients about the consistence of dough, was put round the fractured part, (which had the effect of retaining it in its position,) and the whole enclosed in the skin of the fowl. As this fowl appeared to have been sacrificed, its skin being applied to enclose the whole

was most probably meant to act as a charm.

The manual part finished, the physician proceeded to examine the general state of health, and the pulse appeared to be his chief, and indeed only guide, in this respect. The arm was laid bare to the shoulder, and he applied his fingers with great attention, and with as much solemnity as ever issued from Warwick-lane, to the course of the artery, and at all parts of the arm where he could feel it beat, to ascertain whether it was every where alike; and, lest there should be any mistake in this point, the other arm underwent the same investigation; the whole party looking all the while extremely grave. Having now decided as to the medicines necessary on this occasion, his little chest was brought forward, with his pharmacopœia, and a sort of *Clinical Guide*, directing the quantity and quality of the dose.

His chest was extremely neat, its exterior japanned black, and a number of partitions in it, again subdivided, so as to

contain about a hundred and eighty different articles (quite enough in all conscience, even among the greatest hypochondriacs and drug-swallowers); but they were fortunately all simples, being a collection of wood-shavings, roots, seeds, and dried flowers of his own country. There appeared also some ginseng, a product of Tartary and Corea, much in vogue in these parts. Small portions of the specified articles were measured out with a silver spatula, and put up in little parcels, and directions were now issued as to the mode of boiling and drinking the decoction. Next day they were highly delighted to hear the good effect of their medicines, though they had never been taken (as many a poor doctor is cheated by cunning patients); and a new application was brought for the finger, termed a fish poultice, so composed as to look, and indeed to smell, something like currant-jelly.

Having carried on this scheme for a few days, they were then informed that the finger was so much better as to render their attendance unnecessary any longer; and,

as a reward for their services, they were presented with some little articles, and among others, as an addition to the chest, some spirits of hartshorn, displaying to them its effect on the olfactory organs, with which they were quite astonished and pleased; some spirits of lavender and oil of mint, they also considered a great acquisition. The physician, more especially, seemed to be a very respectable man, and was treated as such by those about him. Their practice seems to be a good deal derived from the Chinese, for their notion of the circulation of the blood, or rather their having no correct notion about it, is the same. Neither have they any idea of anatomy from actual observation, and, of course, the greater operations cannot be undertaken; one man only was examined by Mr. Rankin, who had lost his arm, and his stump was rather a *rude one*. Some corn was left with them, which they promised to cultivate; and fortunately Captain Hall had some English potatoes, which were likely to be productive, and the mode of planting them was particularly

described. Their fields were extremely neat, and their furrows arranged with much regularity by a plough of a simple construction drawn by bulls, assisted occasionally by the use of a hoe; and they practised irrigation in the culture of their rice. A young bull of English breed (though calved on the island) was presented to the chief authorities by Captain Maxwell, leaving them also a cow (having two on board,) so that it is possible the next visitors who touch at Lewchew may find a larger, though they cannot find a better, race of cattle.

The mode of dancing of these people may, strictly speaking, be termed *hopping*; for they jump about upon one leg only, keeping the other up, and changing occasionally, making a number of extravagant motions, and clapping with their hands, and singing at the same time their dancing song. According to our notions, this was their only ungraceful action. A number of them thus engaged, more especially when joined by the officers, (who must needs acquire their style,) formed

rather a grotesque assembly. They attempted our mode of country dancing, and managed (considering it was necessary to make use of both feet) tolerably well.

The Lewchews are a very small race of people, the average height of the men not exceeding five feet two inches at the utmost. Almost the whole animal creation here is of diminutive size, but all excellent in their kind. Their bullocks seldom weighed more than 350lb., but they were plump and well-conditioned, and the beef very fine; their goats and pigs were reduced in the same proportion, their poultry seeming to form the only exception. However small the men might be, they were sturdy, well-built, and athletic. The ladies we had no opportunity of measuring, but they appeared to be of corresponding stature.

These islanders, most probably, originated from Japan or Corea, having a good deal of the Corean lineaments, but rather milder, and softened down. They are obviously not of Chinese origin, having nothing whatever of that *drowsy* and elongated eye which peculiarly distinguishes

the latter ; nor would it seem that the few Chinese and their descendants settled on the island freely mixed with the native Lewchews, the national features and the natural disposition of the two people being perfectly distinct, and differing in every respect. Neither have they any mixture of Indian blood, being quite as fair as the southern Europeans ; even those who are most exposed being scarcely so swarthy as the same class of society in Spain or Portugal.

The Chinese language is learnt by a few, as the French is in our own country ; but the Bonzes, who are also schoolmasters, teach the boys their native language, which is a dialect of the Japanese, and is rather soft and harmonious ; and they have nothing of that hesitation in utterance, or appearance of choking, which is observed in the former, often requiring the action of the hands to assist the tongue*. The orders and records of government are in their own, or Ja-

* In this respect the Chinese seem to resemble what is said of a Frenchman :—That if his hands are tied he cannot speak.

panese character; but they have books in the Chinese language.

They burn the bodies of their dead, and deposit their bones in urns, (at least in our neighbourhood,) in natural vaults, or caverns of the rocks along the sea-shore. The graves of the few Chinese residents here are formed in their own style.

Crimes are said to be very unfrequent among them, and they seem to go perfectly unarmed, for we observed no warlike instruments of any description; and our guns, shot, and musketry, appeared to be objects of great wonder to them. It must have been the policy of the Chinese to disarm them, for it appears that, in the first instance, they defended themselves nobly against their attacks, as well as those of the Japanese. Not even a bow or arrow was to be seen; and, when they observed the effect of fowling-pieces in the hands of some of the gentlemen, they begged they might not kill the birds, which they were always glad to see flying about their houses; and if we required them to eat, they would send in their stead an additional quantity of fowls on board every day.—An order

was immediately issued to desist from this sort of sporting.

The people of Tatao and the north-east islands are reported to have been in possession of books previous to the Chinese attack on Grand Lewchew, and to have been even more polished than in the principal island. Tatao and Ki-ki-ai are said to produce a sort of cedar, termed *kien-mou* by the Chinese, and *iseki* by the inhabitants, which is considered incorruptible, and brings a great price, the columns of the palaces of the grandees being generally formed of it.

The vessels of these islands, in the general appearance of their hulls and plan of rigging and sails, are precisely the same as we had observed throughout the whole of our track from the Gulf of Pe-che-lee to Napa-kiang. They had, in common use, canoes hollowed from the trunk of a tree, much the same in shape as those of other parts of the world where they are employed, and of sufficient size to contain easily from six to eight or ten people. For purposes of heavier burden, they had boats strongly built, and rather flat-bottomed.

In these boats they brought our water, bullocks, and other stock, on board. The water was not sent in barrels, but in open tubs, and baled from these into our casks.

During our stay here, the *Lyra* was detached by the senior officer, in consequence of the people having told us that there was a closer and more secure harbour to the northward, to circumnavigate and examine the coast of the great island; which service Captain Hall performed, and returned to Napa-kiang, in seven days.

The state of cultivation was represented as very fine on a small island, which was named by Captain Hall Sugar-loaf Island; and a town was observed, which had a very handsome appearance from the sea; trees, as usual, filling up the interstices between the houses, which rose from the water-side to the foot of the high land.

About twelve miles easterly from this island they anchored near an islet, which was named *Herbert's Isle*; and from thence proceeded in the boats to examine what seemed to be the mouth of a river; here it is reported there were not less than ten fathoms

of depth within it, the whole passage being narrow, and the direction tortuous; in short they here discovered a harbour, not inferior in any respect, and in some superior, to Port Mahon, in Minorca. The banks of this winding arm of the sea are high rocks, overgrown with climbing plants and flowers. It has, moreover, the advantage of Mahon of having a second outlet or communication with the sea: in short, it was discovered that an island in the mouth of a deep indent in the coast of the main island formed a circumnavigable passage, with safe anchorage in every part of it, and a sufficient depth of water for the largest class of ships, with good holding ground. It was named *Port Melville*.

In glens, formed by the opening of the rocks on its right bank, were observed several little villages, prettily situated; and the inhabitants were found to be the same civil creatures as on every other part of the island.

The north-eastern parts of the great Lew-chew would appear not to be so populous, and therefore not so much cultivated, as

the south-western side, or Cheouli, a greater extent of forest land being noticed ; and on the western side also appeared to be the best and safest places for anchorages.

A few days previous to our leaving the island, intimation was sent that a man of the first distinction (said to be one of the princes, and nearest heir to the crown) intended paying a visit to the ship. He was carried down to the mouth of the little river, opposite to the anchorage, in a close chair, or palanquin, amidst an immense concourse of people, who had flocked from all parts to this spot.—He embarked in great state, in their own boats, with their flags flying ; and was saluted, on his approach to the ships, by seven guns from each, and received on board the *Alceste* with every possible respect and attention ; the rigging being manned, and the officers in full dress.—He was above the usual size of the Lewchews, and had rather more of an European countenance. His robe was of a dark pink-coloured silk ; the cap rather lighter, with bright yellow flowers on it. In his mien

and deportment there was much dignified simplicity ; for, although his carriage was that of a man of high rank, it was totally unmixed with the least appearance of hauteur ; and his demeanour was, altogether, extremely engaging.

As he passed along the decks, his own people saluted him by kneeling ; clasping the hands before their breasts and bowing the head. He examined minutely every thing about the ship, and seemed equally pleased and surprised with all he saw. After joining in a sumptuous collation in the cabin, he took his leave with the same honours as when he came on board, having previously invited the captain and officers to an entertainment on shore. The day appointed for this feast happening to be the 25th of October, the anniversary of our venerable Sovereign's accession to the throne, a royal salute was fired, at sun-rise, by both ships ; at noon the standard was hoisted, the ships dressed in colours, and another salute fired ; after which the boats, with their flags flying, containing the captains and every officer

that could possibly be spared, proceeded into Napa-kiang.

They were received precisely as on the former occasion, except that the number of *grandees* was greater, and there appeared a higher degree of state. The prince received the party at the gate, and conducted them into the hall. Three tables were laid close to each other; the first for the *great man* and the captains, the second for the superior officers, and the third for the young gentlemen. This prince, or chief, did the honours of his own table, occasionally directing his attention to the others; but a man of some rank was added to each of them, for the purpose of seeing the strangers properly treated, as well as to pass and proclaim the toasts; and for this purpose they were allowed to be seated, all the rest standing round the room, but, at the same time, joining heartily in the general mirth and glee. The healths of our King and Royal Family were toasted with much respect, and the anniversary of his Majesty's accession was a day of real jubilee at Napafoo. The sovereign of Lewchew, the

queen and princes, were proposed by our party; whilst they (never deficient in politeness) toasted the wives and children of their friends, the *Engelees*. In dining on board the ship, Captain Maxwell had given confectionary to those who were married, in parcels, proportioned to the number of children they had; and on this occasion they returned the compliment; in the distribution of which, it was quite amusing to see some of the young midshipmen acquiring at once *wives and large families*.

Some personal presents from the captains were on this day offered to the chiefs, consisting of various articles as before, adding some damask table-cloths, and elegantly cut decanters and glasses, which they seemed highly to admire. Specimens of their manufactures in cloth were sent on board the ships in return.

At their departure, the prince attended the party nearly to the landing-place; and, when about to take his leave, two small additional presents (at the suggestion of Captain Hall) were given to him, as memorials. One was a very neat pocket thermo-

meter (the use of the larger ones having been explained to him on board), and the other a cornelian seal set in gold, with a ribband attached to each: they were hung round his neck; and the ceremony, being in public, had the appearance of investing him with an order, with which he seemed to be highly gratified. As the boats shoved off from the landing-place, the crews gave them three cheers, which they returned in their own style of salutation. They had sent on board the ship a great number of coloured paper lanterns, for the purpose of illuminating her at night, in honour of our King. This was done after dark, the lanterns being regularly ranged along the yards and rigging, the main-deck ports illuminated, sky-rockets thrown up, and blue lights burnt at the yard arms, bowsprit, and spanker-boom ends, with a *feu-de-joie* of musquetry, thrice repeated round the ship. The whole had a very brilliant effect from the shore, where thousands of the natives had collected to view the scene. About this time the boatswain's wife of the Alceste, who had been a good deal on shore,

and was much noticed by the higher class of natives, had a splendid proposal made, by a deputation from some great man, to remain behind; a grand house to live in, and all manner of finery and attentions; great offers were also made to the boatswain to induce him to comply with this bargain; but (after two days' consideration) the negotiation was broken off on the part of the husband, who refused to part with her. These proposals most likely came from the king, for it is not probable that any subject could have entered into a treaty of this sort.

A young lady of high rank, who had a great curiosity to see this *Inago-Engese*, or Englishwoman, was brought to her one day when she was quite alone, and walked round her for a considerable time, eyeing her with great appearance of surprise.

The marriages of this country are not managed blindfold, as in China; but the young people are permitted to make their own choice, and to communicate without reserve. In China they would seem to have a superstitious dread of all foreign

women; so much so, that any ship, having one or more on board, must land them at the Portuguese settlement of Macao, before they are permitted to pass up the river; as they fancy that their putting foot on the *celestial* soil would be attended with some great calamity to the country, or perhaps rather that their unrestrained liberty would be a bad example for their secluded females.

The rocks about the coasts of Lewchew were all of the coral kind; and immense masses, some assuming very odd shapes, were seen every where along the sea-shore; and some of the same formation were found on the higher land, and at some distance from the beach, whose situation is not easily to be accounted for, unless we suppose them to have been elevated by the force of volcanic fire.

The period of our departure being now fixed, all the stores were embarked on the evening of the 26th October. The next morning, as the ships unmoored, the Lewchews, as a mark of respect, arrayed themselves in their best apparel, and, proceeding to the

temple, offered up to their gods a solemn sacrifice, invoking them to protect *the Englees*, to avert every danger, and restore them in safety to their native land! In the manner of this adieu there was an air of sublimity and benevolence combined, by far more touching to the heart than the most refined compliment of a more civilized people. It was the genuine benignity of artless nature, and of primitive innocence. Immediately following this solemnity, our particular friends crowded on board to *shake hands*, and say "Farewell!" whilst the tears which many of them shed, evinced the sincerity of their attachment. Even hard-faced Buonaparte was not unmoved; and, as the ships got under weigh, they lingered alongside in their canoes, displaying every sign of affectionate regard.

We stood out to seaward; and, the breeze being favourable, this happy island soon sunk from the view; but it will be long remembered by all the officers and men of the *Alceste* and *Lyra*; for, the kindness and hospitality of its inhabitants have fixed, upon every mind, a deep and lasting impression of gratitude and esteem.

Standing between what had been termed Lyra's Reef (where she had been so nearly lost) and the Southern Isles, we pursued our course to the south-westward. On the next day we saw Typinsan, one of the most considerable of the Lewchewan group; and, on the 30th, descried Botel Tobago Xima, very much resembling, in its general features, St. Helena. Passing to the northward of it, we discovered, on the same day, the island of Formosa. The south-east part (that which we saw) is extremely high and mountainous, as, indeed, the whole of it is represented to be; and with the wind at N. E., as we then had it, and blowing strong, the surf rolled in with dreadful force upon the reefs extending from it* Be-

* The western parts of Formosa are under the dominion of the Chinese, but the eastern shores are still occupied by the aboriginal inhabitants. They are stated to be in a very uncivilized condition; that they can run with the swiftness of a greyhound; and are such expert marksmen with the bow and arrow, as to kill a pheasant on the wing with the greatest certainty. The water of the island is considered most insalubrious.

Their mode of courtship is rather odd: When a young man fixes his affections, he hovers about the house where the object of his regard resides, and plays upon some mu-

coming too dark to see our way between the south end of the island, and the rocks of Vele Rete, we bore up, until, by our run, we were fairly to the southward of this danger, and then hauled to the wind on the star-board tack. The passage across the Straits of Formosa was boisterous in the extreme, blowing a severe gale at N. E., with that sort of tumbling sea felt in many other parts of the world, and which is infinitely more trying to ships than the long expansive swell of the wider ocean. The *Alceste* was a good deal injured, and the *Lyra* had nearly foundered, the fore-top sides giving way, and sustaining other damage. On the 2d November saw the grand *Lemma*; and on the same day pushed up to the anchorage, at the island of Lintin, without a pilot. Here we remained unnoticed for some days, when a number of men-of-war

sical instrument, which signal she answers by coming out to meet him, and settle the matter, provided he is to her taste; should it be otherwise, she takes no notice, the gentleman *whistles in vain*, and must try his fortune elsewhere. The bridegrooms here transfer their filial duty to their fathers-in-law, and in fact are considered, after the marriage, as part of the wife's family.

junks anchored near us, and a mandarin (their admiral) came on board, who, after the usual interrogatories, promised that a pass and pilot should be sent to us, to proceed up the river. In the time of Lord Anson, the *Typha*, near Macao, was of sufficient depth to receive the *Centurion*, a sixty-gun ship; but, at the present day, no frigate of large size can with propriety enter it, having become much shallower from the deposition of mud. To have brought up the provisions and stores for the use of the ships, which had been left at that place, (subject to the conjoined impositions of the Chinese and Portuguese,) in hired vessels, would have been expensive: the *Lyra*, therefore, was ordered down for that purpose.

We soon began to experience the inveterate ill-will of the viceroy, *Tsong-tou*, of Canton, who, well aware that the object of the embassy was in a great measure directed against his extortions, and those of his myrmidons, on our commerce, naturally entertained the most perfect hatred and detestation for any ship attached to such a mission. The people of Lintin (no doubt by the influence

of their superiors) dammed up the course of the water ; and it was not until sentries were placed along the little stream, to keep it clear, that we were enabled to fill our casks. The Comprador, or the person employed to supply ships with provisions and necessaries, could only smuggle himself on board after dark ; and then hurrying away trembling, for fear of being found near us at daylight with his boats. His master, (or partner,) *Aming*, had very lately been tortured, imprisoned, and fined ; or, to use the Chinese phrase, *squeezed* in a very heavy sum, on suspicion that he knew of the intention of the captains of some Chinamen to proceed into the city, in order to present a memorial to the viceroy ; and that he had not given information of this circumstance, that it might have been prevented. It seems the viceroy, in malicious feeling to the General Hewitt, because she had been connected with the embassy, would not permit her to load, under pretence that she was a *tribute ship* ; that she must wait to carry back the unaccepted presents, and of course *could have no room*

for teas. Had it even been intended that she should carry back the presents (which was not the case, as, in the event of their not being received, they were to be otherwise disposed of), still they would not have occupied the tenth part of her tonnage; and, besides all this, it was no business of the viceroy to interfere with the arrangements about the *unaccepted tribute*. Captain Campbell, therefore, attended by a party of his brother officers, and some of the gentlemen of the factory, on finding other measures vain, proceeded to make a personal application to the viceroy, and to present a memorial, stating the great hardship and unreasonableness of this prohibition. This bold manœuvre, however, was unattended with success; and so far from the memorial being received they were treated with every indignity, the people spitting in their faces. The General Hewitt was guarded with more rigour than ever, being surrounded by war junks; and, previous to our arrival, Capt. Colin Campbell, of the navy, who, being unemployed, accompanied his brother in this voyage, with all who happened to be

on board, were detained prisoners, at the second bar, for more than five weeks.

On the 11th another mandarin came on board, who disclaimed any knowledge of the former, or what he had promised, stating, through the medium of an interpreter, (who seemed himself a man of some little consequence, and who evidently enjoyed peculiar satisfaction in repeating whatever was galling to the feelings of a Briton,) that he had been *making fools of us* about sending a pass; that the Ambassador had been sent away in disgrace from Peking; that he must soon arrive here, when he would be immediately sent on board, and dismissed with all the English ships from the country, and so forth; adding that we must remain at our present anchorage, not attempting to pass up the river; and even, during our stay here, it would be necessary to have a security-merchant to answer for our good conduct. The latter part of this rhodomontade about a security-merchant for the king's ship, Captain Maxwell begged might not be repeated, unless they wished to be thrown overboard; quietly telling them he would wait a reason-

able time longer for the viceroy to send down a pass, or *chop*, to proceed up the river, which he was desirous of doing for two reasons: 1st, The ship required caulking and other repairs, which it was impossible to accomplish in her present unprotected and exposed situation. Next, the *Lion*, in the former embassy, had been admitted to a place of security; and the emperor having, in the first instance, expressed his pleasure that the *Alceste* should have the same reception, it could only be considered an indignity to be excluded; and would be *a bad precedent*. They now became a little more cool; and, after some desultory conversation, took their leave: but previously Captain Maxwell insisted on their admitting (to exclude them from all shuffling), that, if a pass was not sent down in 48 hours, he was to take it for granted that leave was given.

That day arrived without the least notice being taken of us; and the pilot who had come on board, in the hope of carrying us up, sneaked off *in the dark*, saying it was dangerous for him to have any connexion with us.

Against an open attack a British commander can never be at a loss how to act ; but the present was a most trying and embarrassing case, and imposed a very heavy and serious weight of responsibility. That His Majesty's ship should be supplied by an *unauthorized* individual under cover of night, and by stealth, was not to be endured ; to be denied admission to the harbour, and detained in an unprecedented manner, at this season of the year, in an open and dangerous road, could not be viewed but as an act of absolute hostility ; and to all this were added sneering insult and contempt, of the most mortifying kind.

To have waited longer for an explicit answer would have been vain ; for a Chinese who could so far forget himself, even in the most common occasions of intercourse, as to give a frank, ingenuous, and *undesigning* reply to any communication, would be considered by his own countrymen a fool, and by foreigners a prodigy.

They are a people, who, by early education and constant habit, are *manœuvrers*, and always enjoy a much higher satisfaction in

obtaining any purpose by fraud, trick, and overreaching, than by the most direct, candid, or honourable means; and afford a strong exemplification of the distinction between low cunning and true wisdom.

On the other hand, the king's representative was in their power, and this circumstance rendered a decision on the case still more difficult; but it was equally clear that the government which attempted to dishonour the flag would not respect the Ambassador; and experience has fully proved, that the tame submission of other nations has only added to the arrogance, and fostered the insolence of the Chinese. This, perhaps, was the impression on Captain Maxwell's mind, when he got under weigh on the 12th; but not a word was expressed. The examination, however, of the locks and flints on the carronades by the gunner, with a few other minor preparations, were hailed as auspicious omens, and excited the most pleasing hopes; for the Chinese have no foreign friends; every seaman, whether of the navy or merchant's service, from experience of their faithless conduct, considering himself

in a state of warfare from the moment he enters their territory. We got up as far as Lankeet Flat that night, without a pilot; but Mr. Mayne, the master, who knew the ground, volunteered to carry up the ship as far as she could go. Here we anchored for the night, and spoke the Cornwall India-man, bound homewards.

About two o'clock P.M. next day we again weighed, the flood tide serving, and beat up towards the Bocca Tigris, or Bogue, then distant a few miles. The Bocca Tigris is the mouth of the principal branch of that river, on which Canton is situated, and where it is contracted to about the breadth of the Thames at London; but the banks are formed by high land, more especially on the east side.

The fortifications on this pass were formerly insignificant, and allowed to remain in a very dismantled state; but lately they have been repaired and strengthened with much care; an additional battery of forty guns being built, rather farther up, and on the same side with old Annan-hoy; a hundred and ten pieces of cannon, of different

calibres, being at present mounted on these forts, including that of the island of Wang-tong opposite, the whole three being within half-gunshot of each other, with a garrison at this time of about 1,200 men.

Chumpee, which lies in a corner farther down, has about twelve or fourteen guns ; but a ship *may* keep out of reach of them. As we advanced, some war-junks formed a line off Chumpee, and were soon after joined by several more, making altogether seventeen or eighteen. They carry, on an average, six guns, with from sixty to eighty men each. About this time (five o'clock) the same loquacious linguist before mentioned came on board from the mandarins, and desired, in a high and domineering tone, that the ship should be directly anchored, and that, if we presumed to pass up the river, the batteries would instantly sink her ; availing himself, at the same time, of that favourable opportunity, to express his personal *sense of low consideration* for us, and plainly telling the captain he thought him very impertinent. The latter calmly observed that he would first pass the batteries,

and then hang him at the yard-arm, for daring to bring on board a British man-of-war so impudent a message : his boat was then cut adrift, and himself taken into custody. The junks now commenced firing blank cartridge, which we returned with three guns from the ship, affecting to consider this as a mere salute. On the next tack we passed close to these warriors, who remained quiet until we got inside of them, and opened Chumpee ; when that fort, little Annan-hoy, and the junks (now under weigh), began to fire with shot. At this moment the wind becoming light and baffling, we were obliged to drop anchor in Anson's bay, in order to hold the ground we had gained, and that they might not suppose they had driven us back ; and in the act of wearing for this purpose, we gave the admiral of the junks a single shot only, by way of a hint*.

* This first shot was fired by the Captain's own hand, that, in the event of the Chinese demanding those who fired, instead of those who ordered, or of seizing upon any innocent person, he might fully place himself in the situation of being individually responsible for all consequences.

They immediately ceased firing; and their junks anchoring near us, all remained quiet until a little after eight o'clock, when a light breeze sprung up, which enabled us to lay our course, and the anchor was again weighed. The moment this was observed by the junks, they beat their gongs, fired guns, and threw up sky-rockets, to give the alarm, and in an instant the batteries were completely illuminated, displaying lanterns as large as moderate-sized balloons, (the finest mark imaginable for us,) commencing also a warm, but ill-directed, fire from both sides. Steering a steady course, the ship maintained a slow and regular fire, as the guns could be got to bear, without yawing her.

From the lightness of the breeze, which the cannonade seemed to lessen, it was a considerable time before we got abreast of the largest battery. At last, when within pistol-shot of the angle of it, and just before they could get all their guns to bear into the ship, a whole broadside, with cool aim, was poured in among them, the two-and-thirty pounders rattling the stones

about their ears in fine style, and giving them at the same time three *roaring* cheers.

This salvo was decisive at this particular point; their lights disappeared in a twinkling, and they were completely silenced; but from the island opposite they still continued their fire, the balls which passed over and around us striking New Annan-hoy, which had thereby the full benefit of their own as well as our shot.

Soon after this our point was gained; and, standing up the river, we displayed our stern to these gentlemen. It is somewhat extraordinary that it should have been gained so easily; for, notwithstanding we were nearly an hour wrangling in this narrow passage, not a man (on our side) was killed, the ship only hulled twice, and some trifling damage done to the rigging. Almost any European gunners, with the same advantages, would have blown the frigate out of the water. During this affair, the flashing of the guns on the glassy surface of the river, and the rolling echo of their reports along the adjoining hills, had a very grand and animating effect. The Chinese

linguist, who had crawled below when he saw matters taking a serious turn, and having observed there was no joking in the case, began in real earnest to think, as one part of the promise had been fulfilled, that *his* time had now arrived. Coming trembling upon deck, he prostrated himself, and, kissing the Captain's feet, begged for mercy. At that moment, hearing the order given to "stand by the larboard guns for "Tiger Island," (on which we then supposed there was a battery,) he said, with a rueful countenance, "What! no hab done yet?" "Not half done" was the reply: "How many guns have you got on 'Tiger Island?"—but, without waiting to answer this question, (or indeed reflecting in his perturbation that there were none at all,) he wrung his hands, groaned heavily, and dived again below.

We stood on for some miles farther, and then anchored.—Next morning, before day, we found ourselves surrounded by their *grand fleet*; but they were wise enough to make no attack; for, having now broken the ice, it was too late for half-measures, and there was

plenty of grape at hand to pick their teeth, had they offered the least molestation.

Half-measures seem to be a bad system in any dealings, but more especially with uncivilized people, for they are apt to attribute forbearance to fear, and acquire, under that impression, fresh courage.

When the late Admiral Drury was induced to make a *show of force* at Canton, but was withheld, by circumstances, from proceeding to actual hostilities, there was no end to their gasconading; they considered his retiring as a great victory gained, and it is celebrated as such by an inscription in one of their pagodas.

On the morning of the 15th, the *Alceste* anchored among the Indiamen at second bar, still attended, but with perfect respect, by their fleet.

In the evening, Captain Maxwell, attended by two gentlemen of the ship, proceeded in person to Canton to demand satisfaction (after having taken it) for the insult offered in firing upon the king's ship. On their way up they remained one evening with Captain Campbell, of the *Hewitt*, and

on that night, the news of the business with the batteries having become public, much alarm was at first excited at Canton, as to the consequences of this measure; but the next morning they were agreeably surprised by the appearance of several tea-junks alongside, with part of her cargo, the viceroy having given permission for her *to load immediately!*—It also came to pass that the said viceroy thought proper to send down to the frigate, on this day, a high mandarin, attended by one of the Hong merchants, to wait upon the captain to welcome him into the river, and compliment him with all possible politeness!

It appeared, therefore, that the late *head-thumping* ceremony produced both tea and civility; and, most probably, it is the only mode of *Ko-towing**, by which we will ever

* *Ko-tow* is the ceremony exacted from all tributary princes and ambassadors on approaching the presence of the emperor, and consists in kneeling, placing the hands forward, and then knocking the head thrice against the ground. *The patient* now stands upright, and, by word of command, kneels and knocks again, and afterwards a third time, making, in all, three prostrations, and *nine thumps*; and this is required not merely in the imperial

receive either, on reasonable terms, from the Chinese. They affect in their usual disingenuous cant, to despise our commerce; they say they could do perfectly well without it, and it is a mere matter of grace and favour that we are permitted to approach their shores, and carry on a trade highly to our advantage; but, when the company's agents were lately driven to the necessity of abandoning Canton, of stopping the trade, and giving up all concern with them, having actually taken their departure, struck the flag and flag-staff, and were on their way down the river, the Chinese authorities became alarmed, and sent after them to beg they would return, making such fair promises as patched up, for a time, their differences. Neither will they trade honestly, or say at once there is an end of all intercourse; and day after day we are insulted and trifled with by them.

presence, but on receiving any message, or donation of broken victuals, from the emperor, and was actually performed by the Dutch embassy for some half-gnawed bones in 1795. (Vide Van Braam's own account.) So that a man, to be much about court in China, would require a skull as thick as a buffalo's.

The removal of our trade for a single year, and the appearance of a few of our lightest cruizers on their coasts, would throw the whole of this *celestial* empire into confusion ; for they are not prepared for the loss that would occur in the one case, nor to meet the tumult and convulsion that would be excited by the destruction of their fisheries and coasting trade in the other. So feeble is their naval power, that, after warring with the pirates for many years, who chased their vessels up the river, and sacked the towns and villages within a few miles of Canton, they were at last obliged to compromise with them, bribing the whole to be quiet, and making their chiefs *first-chop* mandarins.

Krusenstern, the intelligent Russian navigator, who had occasion, in his voyage round the world, to touch at this port, where he experienced much vexation and insult, says, with great truth and propriety, what all equally feel, that “ the forbearance and mistaken lenity of the greater civilized powers have emboldened these savages, not only to consider as barbarians all Europeans, but actually to treat them as such.”

Captain Maxwell, on arriving at the city,

sent in a strong note to the viceroy on the subject of his *rudeness* to the ship, which the latter answered by a letter *from the Hong merchants* to Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, the chief of the factory, who told the merchants, that, having no control over the king's officers, he neither could receive nor communicate it. The Hong people next applied to Captain Maxwell personally, with *their* letter of explanation about the *fracas* that had occurred; but he refused to receive them or their letter, on the ground that Chinese merchants were not the proper channel of communication between him and the viceroy. There the matter rested. The substance of this epistle was known to be some flimsy excuse about *a mistake* in sending down the chop or pass, which not being received by the mandarins at the forts, they were obliged to act according to orders. But what shewed the barefaced effrontery of their assertions was their public account of the business, whilst in the very act of presenting this letter of explanation, (for they *affect* to give a public account of all transactions), which

stated that the affair at the Bogue was a mere *chin-chinning* or saluting matter altogether. The first report, previous to the official fabrication, was forty-seven killed, besides a number of men *spoiled** (wounded), which probably might be near the truth, considering they stood rather thick; but, after the appearance of the *edict*, it became a subject on which “*no man can talk*†.” This is what the Chinese call “*making face*,” or keeping up appearances, with

* Among these *wise and enlightened people*, if a man is materially *spoiled* he must die; for they neither will permit the necessary knowledge to be acquired for the performance of any operation, nor will they allow a stranger, who has that knowledge, to save him, but at the risk of his own life; as, in the event of the patient dying within forty days, from that or any other cause, the *anatomist* would certainly be strangled, or, if he had plenty of money, well *squeezed*, at least.

† There was, however, a good deal of talk, *sub rosa*, upon the subject, and the shot found in the battery having been sent up to Canton and weighed, they *hai-yawed* a great deal at what we termed our smaller ships throwing shot of 25 *catties* (32lbs.) each, asking seriously about the probable consequences of the rejection of the embassy, and whether our larger ships could come up the river. The last accounts from China state that these feelings have rather increased than diminished.

respect to any circumstances they are desirous of having reported their own way ; and the people on the spot are literally ordered not to believe the evidence of their own senses, but to take the proclamation or edict * (as it is termed) for their guide, which is spread about in other parts, and handed down to posterity as good history, which no man dares to contradict. Few, it is supposed, will be credulous enough (who have ever been in China) to believe, that the people have the privilege of criticising the conduct of their superiors, and even of remarking publicly on the conduct of the Emperor. *The law which permits them to do so may, indeed, be considered as a very severe piece of irony on their actual state.*

That the viceroy had an intention of insult beyond the mere exclusion of the ship is rendered more than probable from the circumstance of a number of barges having been placed in the back passage to Macao, and not in the route of Lord Macartney to

* Some how or other the word edict has crept into general use for any piece of common information, whether it is from the Emperor, or has the force of a law or not.

Canton, which were removed from that situation immediately after the late occurrence; and likewise from the general tenour of his conduct throughout. Be this as it may, it would clearly have been a triumph to his cause, and that of his adherents, that the Ambassador should have arrived at Canton with as little eclat and appearance of respect as possible; it would have added (as exterior is every thing with them) in the eyes of the Chinese, as well as foreigners, to the idea of disgrace and discomfiture to an obnoxious mission. But the advance of the ship to Wampoa not only commanded as brilliant an entry for the embassy * as ever had been witnessed on any other occasion; but, what was of equal importance, it sustained the dignity of the flag, and reduced the viceroy (after offering every insult) to the meanness of congratulating those who had defied his flotilla and battered his fortifications.

Canton may be considered the most in-

* That the Chinese did not join in it, is only an additional proof that they would have prevented it, had they dared.

teresting city in China. It is one of the first in point of size, and, perhaps, the very first with respect to wealth; and here, as the native manners may be seen *in all their purity* as perfectly as in any other part, the traveller has also the advantage of viewing them as connected with Europeans, and of noticing their brightest efforts of *imitative* genius, which the encouragement afforded by the commerce of the place calls forth.

The numerous junks and boats of all descriptions in motion upon the Tigris surpasses even the busy scene displayed upon the Thames; for here the boats are the only residence of some thousand families, who live entirely on the water, and manage to obtain a livelihood, some by plying passage, others by fishing and picking up floating articles, and not unfrequently by exercising their talents like our *mud-larkers* and river pirates.

The appearance of the river at night, completely illuminated by the lamps and lanterns in all the boats, has a very pretty effect. Infanticide is said not to be so common in China as was at one time be-

lieved; but that it actually exists is not attempted to be denied even by the Chinese themselves; one of whom, on being interrogated seriously on this subject, readily admitted, without seeming to consider it as a crime, that they certainly did drown their children when they were so numerous as to be inconvenient to them; but that boys might be exposed alive, and, if picked up, they became coolies or slaves. It would appear, therefore, that female children are most likely to become the victims in this way, from being less useful to their parents when they grow up; for the patriarchal law of China considers the sons as slaves of their father; and he is entitled to sell them as such, should occasion require. The entertainments given by the Hong merchants at Canton to their European friends are considered to be very superb. Seldom fewer than a hundred people sit down in the great hall to dinner, which is usually dressed in our style, (although they have also their *chop-stick* feasts,) and plenty of the best viands, wines, and fruits, cover the table. Bird-nest soup is also handed

round as a great treat, to which the Chinese attribute very extraordinary and invigorating qualities. On us, however, it produced no unusual effect; and we should not have known it from any other, had it not been pointed out. These bird-nests, which are collected in the Sunda Archipelago, are rather expensive articles, being purchased by an equal weight of silver. Their composition is not yet exactly known, but it is some gelatinous substance, most likely of the vegetable kind, which the swallows pick up.

During the whole of the entertainment, a play is performing on a stage erected at one end of the hall, the subject of which it is difficult, in general, for an European to comprehend, even could he attend to it for the deafening noise of their music. By collecting together in a small space a dozen bulls, the same number of jack-asses, a gang of tinkers round a copper caldron, some cleavers and marrow-bones, with about thirty cats; then letting the whole commence bellowing, braying, hammering, and caterwauling together, and some idea

may be formed of the melody of a Chinese orchestra*. Their jugglers are extremely adroit, and the tumblers perform uncommon feats of activity.

The Chinese government, with regard to religion, is tolerant. It appears to be in *worldly* concerns only that it is tyrannical, and seems to be indifferent as to what a man professes, provided he does not interfere in state affairs. Some one, calling himself a Catholic bishop, was, a short time before our arrival, strangled in one of the provinces, being suspected of intermeddling with temporal matters, and promoting the late rebellions. Another was said to be under sentence of death on the same accusation.

They not only worship their own tutelary deities, but they are represented as making offerings to evil spirits, or, as it is vulgarly termed in this country, they "hold a candle to the devil," in order to avert mischief. They have not the advantage of

* Their softer music, employed at their weddings, and other occasions unconnected with the stage, is not unpleasing to the ear.

any particular day set aside for public worship, nor do they attend their temples congregationally. Their priests or bonzes are not treated with that reverence and respect which is justly and reasonably due to the *respectable* ministers of religion in all countries. They are otherwise free, however, from indecorum and irregularity, having no wild fanatics, such as exist in India; they are not troubled with domineering *spiritual* inquisitors, as in some of our neighbouring countries; nor have they any impious quacks and mountebank preachers, abusing toleration and dishonouring religion, as in England.

The Chinese are strangers to love: from the spirit of their institutions, which unnaturally prohibit all intercourse between the sexes, that passion can never be felt; and marriage is a mere cold-hearted bargain, conducted through the medium of some female agent, whenever a man finds it convenient to have a wife. As he never sees the lady until he unlocks the door of the sedan chair in which she is brought home, the key of which is previously sent to him, he is of course very

liable to have tricks played upon him.— For example, more especially as polygamy is allowed, a man may have a wife sufficiently young to be considered his daughter; should he want money, and the lady another husband, (both very likely cases,) or from any other reason should they wish to part, and think proper to act in collusion, she is sold as his daughter to another man, who is thus imposed upon by having a second-hand wife palmed off upon him, instead of a new one. The rigour of the law against offenders of this kind, which awards a very severe bambooning to all principals, aiders, and abettors, affords a proof that frauds of this description are not unfrequent. With a people who still imagine the earth to be a plain, and China in the middle, with all her tributary kingdoms around her; who are equally uninformed with regard to astronomy; who, in the prohibition of the study of the human frame, preclude the attainment of the very basis of all medical knowledge; and who, in fact, in every branch of natural philosophy, are equally ignorant, and resolved to continue

so; it is evidently impossible to connect the term *science* in any shape or manner. The natural productions of the country, and their acquaintance with agriculture and the arts, (as far as they have been able to advance for that glorious edict which stamped them perfect, and commanded they should not proceed beyond the bounds of excellence,) have already been (and probably may be again, with additional information) described, by those whose peculiar opportunities, as well as talent for observation, enable them to speak fully, and with precision, on those subjects. The government of China, however plausible it may sound in theory, is, by all that can be observed in a transient view, and by every concurrent testimony of residents in the country, most iniquitous and tyrannical in practice. The mandarins, and even the Emperor, it is true, cannot boldly and openly chop off heads like a Turkish bashaw or the dey of Algiers, but they have the knack of rendering life very miserable, and assume the power of bamboozing, torturing, fining (*or squeezing*), and

every species of oppression short of death. The human kind can scarcely be more degraded than in China, for no where is power more diabolically perverted. Their laws, with the exception of some absurdities (such, for example, of visiting mere accidental homicide with the same punishment as the most deliberate murder), *read very well*; and, were they duly and impartially administered, might be found sufficiently adapted (as all laws ought to be) to the genius and character of the people they are formed for; but this is by no means the case; bribery and corruption being so common, as scarcely to be the objects of indignation or remark.

A few years since an affray took place (as usual) between some of the seamen of the Indiamen who were at Canton on leave, and the Chinese mob, in which one of the latter by an unlucky blow was killed. The Chinese authorities demanded blood for blood, one of the seamen having been seized and detained in the factory: this, however, was not tamely yielded to (as in the case of the innocent gunner, who was

sacrificed in so cowardly a manner many years ago), but was resisted on the ground either of the aggression of the Chinese, or of a mutual inclination to fight, in which a man happened to be killed, without the least previous intention of murder. Fortunately the *Lion*, of 64 guns, Captain Rolles, happened to be there, which probably gave some weight to these arguments; and the mandarins, having no objections to compromise the matter for money, proposed that a certain sum should be paid to them for *the benefit of the deceased's relations*, and a slave could then be purchased of the Portuguese at Macao, who might be strangled in lieu of one of the sailors, and thus *the law would be perfectly satisfied!*

It may easily be imagined this proposal was not acceded to; and at last, after much discussion, the matter was arranged in some way or other without resorting to this horrible mode of expiation*.

* Related by J. Cotton, Esq., of the English factory at Canton.