



# NARRATIVE

OF THE

## EMBASSY TO CHINA.

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**A**S the object of this work is to furnish the reader with information respecting China, we shall say little respecting the proceedings of the embassy in its course thither; it may, however, be necessary to offer a few introductory remarks.

The disadvantages under which European countries trade with China are great, and the British nation, which has felt these disadvantages in a peculiar manner, conceived the idea of attempting their removal. As the existence of the government of Great Britain depends on its commerce, and as from the rising importance of the United States of America, and the progress of civil and religious liberty in Europe, many of the old channels must be in a manner shut with respect to British manufactures, the English government acted with the strictest view to its own interest, in planning the embassy to China for that purpose.

Some intimations were certainly given to the court of London that an ambassador would be well received and treated with on a commercial ground; but that such information was ever authorised by the court at Pe-kin is

somewhat more than doubtful, and from circumstances we are inclined to think that the court of St. James's became in this case, as in many others, the dupe of some artful and interested speculatist.

However, in 1788 the honourable Colonel Cathcart was invested with the character of Minister from this country to the court of China: the Colonel died on his passage, and as ministers with *their accustomed sagacity* had neglected to make any provision for this event, the mission with which he was entrusted may be said to have been buried with him. However, as success might prove highly advantageous to the Board of Controul, and the Court of Directors of the India Company, if to no one else, the character of Ambassador to China was revived in the person of Lord Macartney, a nobleman certainly well qualified for the task. Great expenses were incurred, and many exertions made to render this embassy worthy of the country from which it was sent; but, perhaps, after all that was done, we shall not err in saying, it was better calculated to succeed with a nation of Indians, or with a petty African Prince, than with the government of China; for if the court of Pe-kin was to be swayed by splendour, much more ought to have been done to have accomplished it than was done;—but supposing the Chinese government to have seriously meditated commercial arrangements, less trick would, perhaps, have succeeded better—be this as it may, the success was what might have been expected, disgrace and contempt—the gentlemen of the embassy had a journey to Pe-kin, and realized the spirit of a distich written on a certain monarch and his army—“March'd up the hill, and then march'd down  
“again.”

As we shall in the course of our narrative have occasion to mention in particular several of the gentlemen who formed the suite of Earl Macartney, before we proceed



it may be proper to present the reader with a general list of their persons and situations :

Sir George Staunton, Bart. Secretary to the Embassy ;  
Lieut. Col. Benson, Commandant of the Ambassador's  
Guard ;

Lieut. H. W. Parish, of the Royal Artillery ;

Lieut. J. Crewe ;

Mr. Acheson Maxwell, } Joint Secretaries to the  
Mr. Edward Winder, } Ambassador ;

Mr. Baring, Assistant Secretary, outward-bound ; son of  
Sir Francis Baring, Bart.

Dr. Gillan, Physician and Philosopher to the Embassy ;

Dr. Scott, Physician and Surgeon to the Embassy ;

Mr. Barrow, Comptroller of the Household ;

Dr. Dinwiddie, Mechanist, Conductor of mathematical  
and astronomical presents ;

Master George Staunton, son of Sir George Staunton,  
Bart.

Thomas Hickey, Portrait Painter ;

Mr. Alexander, Draftsman ;

Mr. Huttner, Preceptor to Master Staunton ;

Mr. Plumb, Interpreter.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SERVANTS, &c.

A Steward, and an under do.	A Carpenter and Joiner,
2 Valets de Chambre,	A Saddler,
A Cook,	A Gardener,
2 Couriers,	A Taylor,
A Footman,	A Watchmaker,
A Baker,	A Mathematical Instru-
A Band of six Musicians,	ment-maker.

BELONGING TO SIR G. STAUNTON.

2 Servants, 1 Gardener ;  
which, with Mr. Crewe's Valet de Chambre, formed



the whole of the domestic establishment, except three natives of China, who went out from England.

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

- 20 Men of the Royal Artillery ;
- 10 Ditto 11th Light Dragoons ;
- 20 Ditto drafted from the additional Companies of Infantry, at Chatham.

SHIPS EMPLOYED TO TAKE THE EMBASSY TO CHINA.

- The Lion, of 64 guns, Sir Eras. Gower, Commander ;
- The Hindostan East Indiaman, Capt. William Mackintosh, Commander ;
- The Jackall brig for a tender, manned by officers and men from the Lion.

LIST OF THE OFFICERS ON BOARD THE LION.

- Sir Erasmus Gower, Knight, Commander ;
- Mr. Cambell, 1st. Lieutenant ;
- Mr. Whitman, 2d. ditto ;
- Mr. Atkins, 3d. ditto ;
- Mr. Cox, 4th. ditto—died at Chufan ;
- Mr. Ommaney, acting Lieutenant ;
- Mr. Jackson, Master of the Lion ;
- Mr. Saunders, Master's-mate ;
- Mr. Tippet, ditto ;
- Mr. Simes, ditto ;
- Mr. Lowe, ditto ;
- Mr. Roper, ditto ;
- Mr. Warren, ditto, son of Dr. Warren, promoted to be acting Lieutenant ;
- Mr. Kent ;
- Mr. Chapman, appointed Gunner, vice Corke, deceased ;
- Right Hon. Lord Mark Kerr, Midshipman, promoted to be acting Lieutenant ;

- Hon. Wm. Stuart, Midshipman ;  
 Mr. Bromely, ditto ;  
 Mr. Swinbourne, do,  
 Mr. Kelly, do.  
 Mr. Dilkes, do.  
 Mr. Trollope, do.  
 Mr. Heywood, do.  
 Mr. Hickey, do.  
 Mr. Thompson, do.  
 Mr. Waller, do. (died at Wampoa ;)  
 Mr. Beaumont, do. (returned home from Angara Point,  
 for the recovery of his health ;)  
 Mr. Snipe, do.  
 Mr. Wools, do.  
 Mr. Montague, do.  
 Mr. Chambers, do.  
 Mr. Scott, do.  
 Mr. Bridgeman, do.  
 Mr. Perkins, do.  
 Mr. Sarradine, do.  
 Mr. Tothill, Purser, (died at Cochin China ;)  
 Mr. West, Captain's Clerk ;  
 Mr. Nutt, Surgeon ;  
 Mr. Anderfon, Chief-mate ;  
 Mr. Cooper, second ditto ;  
 Mr. Thomas, third ditto ;  
 Mr. Humphries, Schoolmaster.

Every necessary arrangement being made, the ambassador and his suite arrived on board the Lion at Spithead, on Friday the 21st of September, 1792, and on Tuesday the 25th, at five o'clock in the afternoon, we took our final departure from that place. On the 11th of October we reached Funchal Bay, in the island of Madeira, from whence we again sailed on the 18th, and on the 21st anchored in Santa Cruz Bay, in the island of Teneriffe.



On the 27th we left Santa Cruz, and arrived at the island and town of St. Jago on 2d of November; on the 7th we again sailed; on the 18th we found ourselves under the equator, and on the 1st of December, in the afternoon, we arrived in Rio Janeiro harbour. At this place, mutual compliments and ceremonious attention were paid by the governor and Lord Macartney to each other, and here we remained till the 15th, when we worked down the harbour to fifteen fathom water, and the next day took our leave, and at three o'clock in the afternoon, of March the 6th, 1793, came to in Batavia road.

March the 27th, we weighed anchor, and made sail from this place, running between the island of Onroost and the main.

The Jackall brig being given up for lost, Lord Macartney had purchased a French vessel at Batavia to supply her place, and gave her the name of the Clarence. The Clarence, however, had only joined us the day before we received intelligence of the Jackall, by a ship from Ostend to Batavia; and this intelligence was confirmed by the brig joining us on the 23d, to the great joy of the whole embassy.

On the 29th we lost one of our crew, of the name of Leighton, who had gone ashore to wash his linen at Sumatra beach, and was found covered with wounds, and murdered by the Malays. To the savage disposition of these people, this event gave additional, though melancholy, testimony. The last rites were paid to the body of the deceased with the utmost decency and respect; and the feelings of the whole ship's company on the occasion were the best eulogium on his character and conduct.

Passing a variety of islands, without any occurrence worthy of remark, we came to anchor in Pulo Condore

Bay, May 16. Soon after our arrival, a party of gentlemen, accompanied by one of the Chinese interpreters, went on shore. Some of the natives met us on the beach, with whom we proceeded till we came at a small distance to a village of bamboo huts; one of which was the residence of the chief, whose authority extended over the whole island. Like the rest, his habitation was formed of bamboo, raised on four posts, a few feet from the ground. Here we found several natives of Cochin China, who wore no other dress but a piece of linen round their waists, and a black turban on their heads. The chief was habited in a loose black gown, and a pair of black silk trowsers. He was also decorated with a silver cord thrown over his shoulder, from which a small bag of elegant workmanship was suspended. In common with the rest, he wore a turban, but no shoes. He appeared to be the object of very great respect.

Near this palace, if it may be so called, stood the temple. Externally, it resembled the other buildings; but the inside was adorned with various military weapons of Europe, particularly some old fire arms, of which they evidently did not know the use, and seemed to consider them only as objects of veneration. The discharge of a musket against a tree excited the most lively alarm and astonishment. They eagerly examined the place where the ball entered; they even contrived to extract it, and then presented it to each other, with the most visible emotion.

Having entered into a treaty with the chief for a supply of buffaloes, poultry, and fruit, with which he was to furnish us the next day, we were regaled with rice and fish. Finding that cocoa nuts would be acceptable, he immediately ordered some to be procured for us. The dexterity these people shewed in climbing the trees that produced them, is astonishing. On our re-



turn to the ship, we observed caves on the beach very ingeniously constructed.

Pulo Condore is but thinly peopled. The means of subsistence is difficult; and population of course must be influenced thereby. This island is subject to the King of Cochin China.

To our utter astonishment, on landing next morning, to receive the stipulated supply of provisions, we found the village deserted, and every moveable carried off. A letter in Chinese characters, left in the hut of the chief, explained the reasons of this sudden and unexpected movement. It seems they were apprehensive we meditated hostilities against them, from our ships coming to anchor in their bay; they earnestly implored us to spare their humble dwellings, which they intended to re-occupy on our departure; and dwelt on their poverty, which they perhaps concluded was their best protection, and the strongest argument to allay European rapacity.

Being obliged to set sail without our expected supply, we left Pulo Condore on the 18th, and passing several islands of different forms and magnitudes, we anchored in Turon Bay, in Cochin China, on the evening of the 26th.

Soon after our arrival the Ambassador received a visit from several mandarins, who came in great state. They were liberally entertained; but at first seemed averse to taste the wines and other liquors which were set before them. This reserve appearing to arise from fear, Lord Macartney set them an example, when they indulged very freely; shewing a particular predilection for cherry and raspberry brandy. These chiefs wore nearly the same kind of dress as we have described at Pulo Condore, except that they had a girdle of silver cordage. Their do-

mestics were clad in a fancy dress, resembling Tartan; and their legs and feet were wholly bare.

Intelligence of our arrival having reached the court, in the evening of the 29th the prime minister of the King of Cochin China, attended by several mandarins, came, in his Majesty's name, to invite the Ambassador to dinner. His Excellency obligingly accepted the invitation, but postponed the day to the 4th June.

In the interim, he received a present from the king, consisting of a great number of buffaloes, hogs, fowls, ducks, some bags of rice, and some jars of samptfoo, a Chinese liquor, reckoned very delicious.

We visited the town of Fie-Fou, while we lay here. It is nothing but an assemblage of wretched bamboo huts; but it has a good market; and were the industry of the natives equal to the fertility of the soil, this place would be remarkably abundant. They seem, however, to have little knowledge of agriculture: they subsist, therefore, chiefly on the spontaneous produce of the earth, and make their women a principal branch of their trade. For a certain consideration, they are always ready to consign them to the society of Europeans who touch here, without any apparent sense of impropriety. In one of our excursions to the shore, we saw six elephants performing a variety of unwieldy feats, for the entertainment of the mandarins who had assembled here.

The 4th of June was ushered in with a salute of twenty-one guns; the royal standard of Great Britain, the St. George's ensign, and the union, were all displayed at their appropriate stations. Several mandarins waited Lord Macartney's arrival on shore, and attended him, under an escort of his own troops, to the residence of the prime minister. A collation was here provided for him, consisting of all the dainties the country afforded;



after partaking of which, he returned on board, interchanging mutual civilities with his hosts.

Thus far affairs proceeded to the satisfaction of all parties in Cochin China; but the master of the *Lion*, who had gone in the cutter to take soundings in the bay, having unreflectingly begun to survey the coast, was immediately seized, with seven men who accompanied him, and carried prisoners to the capital.

When we first received this disagreeable intelligence, the impression it made is not easily conceived. It was not only the danger to which our countrymen had exposed themselves, that affected the embassy; but as this kingdom is tributary to China, it was feared that a representation of this conduct might make it appear criminal, and have an injurious effect on all our future proceedings; and that the object so much at heart—to inspire confidence, would be changed into suspicion and alarm. The good offices of the mandarins were instantly and earnestly solicited, and one of the interpreters was sent on shore to promote an inquiry, and furnish an explanation; and on the 13th, we had the happiness to see the master and his men return in safety, after an absence of six days. What they suffered, during this period of suspense, cannot well be described. Nothing but a respect for the country to which they belonged, and a regard to the mission on which they were employed, could have saved them from certain death.

This was not the only unpleasant event that befel us here. We lost a respectable gentleman, the purser of the *Lion*, who died after a few days illness on the 12th, and was interred on shore with all possible solemnity and respect.

On June 16, at four in the afternoon, we set sail from Turon Bay, with the weather moderate and fair, and on the 20th, at six P. M. saw the land on the north-north-

east; at eight the body of the Grand Ladrone bore north-north-east.

Sir George and Mr. Staunton, with one of Lord Macartney's secretaries, were here charged with letters and business to the commissioners, Mess. Brown, Irvine, and Jackson, who had been sent from England to notify the expected embassy, and who were then at Macao. They accordingly set sail in the Jackall brig, accompanied by the Clarence, for that place. Mr. Coa and Mr. Niaung, the two natives of China whom we had brought from Europe, accompanied them with the design of proceeding over land to the place of their nativity.

These worthy characters took leave of their friends on board the Lion, with whom they had made so long a voyage, with genuine affection; but they manifested all the impatience natural to those who had been separated for so great a length of time, and at such a distance, from their native land.

At half past eight in the morning of the 21st we came to anchor on the north point of the Grand Ladrone island.

On Sunday the 23d the Jackall and Clarence returned from Macao. Sir George Staunton soon after went on board the Lion, and from what information he had obtained from the commissioners, the most sanguine hopes were entertained that the embassy would be crowned with success.

We now entered the Yellow Sea, when nothing material happened till we arrived at the end of this branch of our voyage. We saw many islands in our passage, and met with several Chinese junks and fishing boats.

While in the Yellow Sea, Sir Erasmus Gower thought proper to name several rocks on the coast, that had no denomination, after the three principal characters of the embassy.



On Sunday July 21st, in the afternoon, the *Lion* came to an anchor in Jangangfoe Bay, when Lieuts. Campbell and Ommaney, Mr. Huttner, and Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, went in the cutter to Mettow, to learn if there was any track by which the *Lion* could enter the river, or if there was any river on that coast, by whose navigation she could make a nearer approach to Pe-kin, and if not, they were then to concert measures with the mandarin of the place for the disembarkation of the suite.

The next morning the *Endeavour* brig arrived from Macao and Canton with dispatches from the commissioners.

On Tuesday the 23d a mandarin of Chufan sent a present of twelve fine small bullocks, a number of hogs and a large quantity of fruit, rice, &c.

On the 25th the cutter returned, and Lieut. Campbell and his company gave a very pleasing account of the hospitality they experienced from the Chinese at Mettow, having been not only received with the greatest civility, but furnished with every accommodation and necessary. It was, however, found absolutely impracticable to proceed farther with the ships, as the whole way to the mouth of the river was a chain of shoals, with a bar running across the entrance of it not more than six feet deep at high water.

The *Jackall* and *Clarence*, therefore, sailed with Mr. Huttner and Mr. Plumb to Mettow, to make arrangements for the landing of the embassy, and to fix the time when the Ambassador should go on shore.

On the 2d of August a present of sixteen bullocks, thirty-two sheep, some hogs, vegetables, tea, sugar, &c. was sent on board the *Lion*. A principal mandarin also came on board from one of the junks, and finally settled with his Excellency the succeeding Monday for the day

of his disembarkation; and that the heavy baggage, &c. should be previously removed into the junks. The mandarin, after expressing great surprise at our wooden palace, and the various arrangements and conveniences of it, was hoisted into one of our boats in the accommodation chair, a ceremony with which he appeared to be much pleased.

On Monday, at four o'clock in the morning, several junks came along-side the Lion to receive the remainder of the Ambassador's baggage, and his Excellency was now joined by the remainder of his suite from the Hindostan.

At eight o'clock orders were given to man ship, previous to his Excellency's disembarkation, which took place almost immediately; when he received three cheers from the seamen, and a salute of nineteen guns from the Lion and Hindostan.

At nine o'clock the rest of the suite took their stations on board their different junks; the Ambassador, Sir George Staunton and son, being on board the Clarence brig.

The number of junks occupied by the suite and baggage amounted in all to twenty sail. At two o'clock in the afternoon we saw the town of Mettow; and at three the junks came to anchor at the mouth of the river, where the Jackall, Clarence, and Endeavour had arrived before us. In the evening the mandarin sent us an acceptable present of dressed meats, and a variety of fruits.

This town, though extensive, has neither the charms of elegance, or the merit of uniformity; it is situated on a swamp, occasioned by the frequent overflowing of the sea, notwithstanding the inhabitants have taken the precaution to make an embankment on the shore.

The houses are built of mud, with bamboo roofs; they are very low, and without either floors or pave-



ments. At some distance from the town there are several buildings of a very superior kind, which belong to the mandarins of the place: they are constructed of stone and wood; the body of the house being of the former, and the wings and galleries, of the latter, variously painted; they are of a square form, three stories high, and each story has a surrounding range of palifadoes, gilt and fancifully painted. The ground floor is fronted with piazzas ornamented in the same manner. The wings project on each side the body of the house, and appear to contain a considerable range of apartments.

The mandarins here are attended by a great number of guards, infantry and cavalry, who live in tents pitched round the residence of the personage whom they serve.

The immense crowd of spectators who assembled to see the Ambassador land, proves Mettow to be a place of prodigious population. Many of these people were on horseback and in carriages, and the banks of the river where the junks lay at anchor were entirely covered with them.

The fort in this place consists of a square tower, appearing rather to have been constructed for ornament than public utility; it stands on the margin of the sea, and commands the entrance of the river, but it had not a single piece of ordnance mounted.

The river here is about a furlong over, and the colour of the water muddy, its depth is unequal, being in some parts nine feet deep, in others six, and in some parts not more than two.

The country around, on both sides of the river, is flat, but the soil is rich and exceedingly fertile.

The whole of the morning of Tuesday the 6th was employed in removing the baggage to the junks, hired for the embassy by Van-Tadge-In, a mandarin of the first class, who had been appointed to conduct the busi-

ness of the embassy, in every thing that related to the residence, provisions, and journey of the suite.

This person was of a pleasing and open countenance, and his manners were polite and unaffected; the appointment of a man of this description, while it impressed us with a favourable opinion of the Chinese government, served to encourage our hopes of success with respect to the object of our journey.

At noon the mandarin's boat brought us a quantity of raw beef, bread, apples, pears, shaddocks, and oranges: the beef was of a very good quality, but the bread was by no means pleasant to our taste. The shape and size of the loaves are similar to a middling orange cut in two. They are composed of flour and water, and the steam of boiling water, to which they are exposed for a few minutes, is all the baking, if it may be so called, which the bread receives. We, therefore, found it necessary to cut it in slices and toast it before we could reconcile it to our plates.

In the afternoon of the day we received another supply of beef, mutton, pork, whole pigs, and poultry of all sorts, both roast and boiled.

The roasted meat had a very oily taste, arising from some preparation that the Chinese use, which gives it a gloss like that of varnish. The boiled meat, being free from this oily taste, was far preferable, or, at least, more agreeable to us.

We here learned the indifference of the Chinese concerning their food, and this circumstance made several of us very cautious of what we eat; and as to their hashes and stews, many refused their allowance, from the apprehension of their being composed of unwholesome flesh.

Another circumstance added to the disgust we felt at Chinese cookery, and furnished us with ocular demon-



stration of the gross appetites of the Chinese people. The pigs on board the *Lion* being affected with a disorder which proved fatal to them, several were thrown overboard; the Chinese belonging to the junks immediately got out their boats and picked up these diseased carcases, when having dressed a part of them, they appeared to make a very comfortable meal, at the same time ridiculing us for our extravagant delicacy.

The junks, or Chinese vessels, are built of beach wood and bamboo, with a flat bottom, from thirty to an hundred feet in length, and from about ten to thirty in breadth.

Mr. Anderson gives the following description of that on which he was on board.\* “ On the first deck was a  
 “ range of very neat and commodious apartments,  
 “ which were clean and decorated with paintings; they  
 “ consisted of three sleeping apartments, a dining par-  
 “ lour, with a kitchen, and two rooms for servants; the  
 “ floor is made to lift up, by hatches all along the  
 “ junk, to each of which there is a brass ring: beneath  
 “ is an hold, or vacant space for containing lumber; and  
 “ the quantity of goods that can be stowed away in these  
 “ places is almost incredible.

“ On the upper or main deck, there is a range of  
 “ fourteen or fifteen small chambers, allotted for the  
 “ use of the men belonging to the junk, and an apart-  
 “ ment for the captain or owner of the vessel.

“ In the lower deck the windows are made of wood,  
 “ with very small square holes, covered with a sort of  
 “ glazed, transparent paper; the sashes are divided into  
 “ four parts, and made to take out occasionally, either  
 “ to admit the air for coolness, or to sweeten the apart-  
 “ ments. On the outside there is a coloured curtain,

\* Octavo edition of *Account of the Embassy to China*, p. 97.

“ that extends from one end of the junk to the other,  
“ which, in very hot weather, is unfurled and fixed up  
“ to shade the apartments from the heat of the sun.  
“ There are also shutters, which slide before the win-  
“ dows, to prevent the effects of cold weather, or any  
“ inclemency of the season.

“ There is a gang-way on both sides of the vessel,  
“ about thirty inches broad, by way of passage, without  
“ entering into any of the apartments; and though  
“ many of these vessels carry from two to three hundred  
“ tons, they only draw three feet water, so that they  
“ can be worked with ease and safety in the most shoaly  
“ rivers. Some of these junks have two masts, though,  
“ in general, they have but one, with a very aukward  
“ kind of rudder; but the more elegant vessels of this  
“ kind, which I have just described, are only calculated  
“ for the navigation of a river, as they are not con-  
“ structed with sufficient strength to resist the violent ef-  
“ fects of wind and weather.”

All vessels which navigate the rivers in China have a lamp hoisted to the mast head, as soon as it is dark, to prevent accidents which might otherwise happen from vessels running foul of each other. These lamps are made of transparent paper, with characters painted on them, to notify the name of the junk, or the rank of any passengers on board it; and the number of lights are proportioned to the rank of the persons who occupy the junks. The same notification is given in the day-time by silken ensigns with painted characters. From the prodigious number of junks which navigate this river, a very pleasing effect is produced by such an assemblage of lights moving along the water.

On the morning of the 7th the Ambassador paid a visit to the principal mandarin of Mettow, to take leave;



and at eleven o'clock the whole suite proceeded on their voyage.

On the 8th we received a large supply of tea, sugar, bread, vegetables of all sorts, a large quantity of fruit, consisting of apples, pears, grapes, and oranges, and a quantity of provisions of different kinds ready dressed; these supplies were, indeed, at all times furnished, in the greatest abundance. We likewise received a supply of wood and charcoal for culinary uses.

Words can but faintly convey the effect which the novelty and beauty of the scene produced on our minds, as we passed through a country rich in the charms of nature and of art. Cultivation every where around seemed to have exhausted its diligent resources. The fields were enriched with its toils, and presented a view of various crops, as luxuriant as fancy can conceive; this scene was also heightened by the abundance of sheep and the most beautiful cattle, which were seen grazing in the meadows.

The gardens, on the course of the stream, appeared also delightful; they are equally adapted for pleasure and utility; and however much Europeans may plume themselves on their superior knowledge in agriculture, gardening, and ornamental design, the Chinese, in most respects, would bear away the palm. Their taste, to our eyes, may be less chaste, but their diligence overcomes difficulties, which in most countries would appear insurmountable.

In this delightful voyage, the mandarin's guards marched by day along the banks of the river, and at night pitched their tents opposite where the junks lay at anchor. Both the fronts of the tents on land, and the junks on the water, were decorated with lamps, which together produced a very pleasing effect.

The centinels, who kept a regular watch during the night, were furnished with a piece of hollow bamboo, which they strike with a mallet at regular intervals, to signify their vigilance and activity. This custom the soldiers informed us was universally adopted by the Chinese army.

At an early hour next morning the gongs gave the signal for sailing. These instruments are circular, made of brass, and something resembling the cover of a large culinary vessel; when struck with a large mallet, covered with leather, they produce a sound that may be heard farther than the European trumpet or bell, in the room of which they are substituted.

With the usual supply of provisions, for the first time, we received a jar of the country wine, of about three gallons: the mouth of this vessel was closed with a large plantain leaf covered with a top of clay, to which was affixed a label, on which were certain Chinese characters. This wine possesses a good body, but the taste is sharp and unpleasant; in its colour it resembles Lisbon.

In passing several populous towns, on both sides of the river, the soldiers quartered or resident there, were drawn up on the banks to salute the Ambassador, while crowds of spectators filled every accessible spot of view.

The uniform of a Chinese soldier deserves a description. It consists of black nankeen trowsers, over which a kind of cotton stockings are drawn. Their shoes, which are also made of cotton, are extremely clumsy, broad at the toes, and furnished with immoderately thick soles. From the top of their trowsers is suspended a purse, which contains their money. They have neither shirts nor waistcoats, but only a large black nankeen mantle with loose sleeves, turned up and fringed with red-coloured cloth of the same fabric. A broad girdle confines this loose robe, ornamented in front with a kind



of plate, said to be a composition of rice. A pipe, and bag for tobacco, hangs from this girdle on one side, and a fan on the other. These appendages, and a supply of tobacco, are allowed by the Emperor.

The Chinese troops were always, when we saw them, drawn up in single ranks, with a great number of colours or standards, made chiefly of green silk, with a red border, and ornamented with golden characters. They wear their swords on the left side, with the point forwards, so that, when they draw them they put their hands behind their backs, and unsheath them without being immediately perceived; a manœuvre which they execute with great dexterity, and which is well adapted for the purposes of attack. Under their left arm is slung a bow; and on their backs is hung a quiver, generally containing twelve arrows, others are armed with matchlocks of a very rusty appearance.

On all occasions when the Chinese troops are called to do military honours, a temporary arch covered with silk is placed at each end of the line, in which the mandarins sit till the person to be saluted appears, when they come forward and make their appearance. Near these arches are three small swivels about two feet and a half in length, which are fixed in the ground with the muzzle pointing to the air: these are discharged as the person to be honoured passes the mandarin at the end of the line. This method of firing salutes the Chinese have adopted to prevent accidents, observing, that a loaded gun should never be levelled but at their enemies. In the management of artillery and fire arms, it is not to be expected that Europeans can derive much improvement from the inhabitants of the east; the caution they employ on occasions of rejoicing to prevent accidents from them might give the wisest nations a lesson; for we well know that melancholy, and frequently fatal accidents are occasioned

from the want of similar regulations, on our days of public rejoicing.

The soldiers have a tuft of hair on the back of their head, which is plaited down the back, and tied at the extremity with a riband. The rest they shave. They cover their heads with shallow straw hats, bound under the chin, and decorated with a red plume of camel's hair. According to our ideas, there is little military appearance in the composition of a Chinese soldier's dress.

In sailing up the river, we saw numbers of rustic habitations, chiefly constructed of mud, with some few of stone. The country women, with the curiosity natural to their sex, advanced to see the procession. They seemed to walk with difficulty; having their feet and ankles bound with a red fillet to confine their growth; and as this practice commences with their infancy, it is astonishing that they can walk at all. Their front hair is combed back on the crown of the head, clubbed, and decorated with artificial flowers and silver pins; the hind hair is then brought up, and secured under the club. Except these decorations of the head and the bandages on their feet, the dress of the Chinese women differs but little from that of the soldiers.

Our progress was by no means rapid; but we were every moment attracted by some new objects, which prevented our wish for greater expedition. In the course of one day's sailing, which could not exceed twenty-four miles, we passed such an immense number of junks, and saw such crowds of people, as would almost exceed belief did we attempt calculation. Independent of the moving scene, the river itself, spacious and meandering, was a noble object; and the diversity of its banks, and the views which occasionally opened over a rich and varied country, would have afforded a scope to the most glowing pencil.



On the 10th, we for the first time saw the plantations of the tea-tree. This plant, which, from being originally an useless luxury, has now become a necessary in so many countries, we have before described, a repetition here would therefore be needless. Plentiful as tea appears to be in this province, it is not within the reach of the lower classes, as the crew of the junks were glad to receive our tea leaves, which they dried, and then boiled, to procure their favourite beverage. Tea is universally used in China without sugar; and as the natives, particularly the lower orders, frequently dry and reboil the leaves for some weeks successively, they unite economy with gratification.

We this day passed several populous villages, composed of very neat houses built of brick of one story, from every one of which the Ambassador received the same honours which have been already described. The crowds of people were beyond all calculation, and impressed on our minds an exalted idea of the immense population of the Chinese empire. Nor was the number of junks that appeared on the river less astonishing; being sometimes so numerous, that the water was covered with them.

On the morning of the 11th we approached the city Tyen-Sing. The banks of the river here presented fields of millet and rice, and the number of spectators that met us, both in vessels and by land, was as great as before. For nearly two miles we observed a range of salt heaps, disposed in columns, and covered with matting; but whether manufactured on the spot, or for what purpose such a prodigious quantity was collected, we were not able to ascertain.

The noise and shouts of an innumerable multitude of people attended our entrance into the city, which is a very populous and extensive place. The houses are built of brick, and are in general two stories

high, covered with tiles ; but the want of regularity offends the eye ; and the streets are so uncommonly narrow, that not more than two persons can walk a-breast.

Soon after our arrival, the Ambassador, who was received with military honours, went in full form to visit the chief mandarin. His palace is in the centre of a garden ; it is large and lofty, palisadoed in front, gilt and painted in a very fanciful form. Even the external walls are decorated with paintings ; and the roof is coated with that bright yellow varnish we have often noticed. Here the ambassador and suite partook of a cold collation, at which all the dainties of the country were collected, particularly confectionary.

A play was also performed as a mark of respect and attention to Lord Macartney. The theatre is a square building, built principally of wood, and erected in the front of the mandarin's palace. The stage is surrounded with galleries ; and the whole was decorated with a profusion of ribands, and silken streamers of various colours. The theatrical exhibitions consisted chiefly of representations of imaginary battles, with swords, spears, and lances ; in which the performers acquitted themselves with an astonishing activity. The scenes were beautifully gilt and painted, and the dresses of the actors were ornamented in conformity to the scenery. The exhibition was varied with an agreeable variety of very curious deceptions by flight of hand, theatrical machinery, and that species of agility which we call tumbling ; wherein the performers executed their parts with superior address and activity. A band of music, consisting of wind instruments, enlivened the scene. The novelty of which pleased the eye, rather than delighted the ear. The female characters were performed by eunuchs, for the delicacy of the Chinese would be shocked at the public exhibition of their women.



When the Ambassador and attendants returned on board, he was saluted by three pieces of small ordnance, such an immense number of people accompanied them, in every kind of conveyance capable of floating, that accidents appeared inevitable. We were witness to one, where part of the deck of an old junk giving way, from the enormous pressure of spectators, consigned several persons to a watery grave.

A very liberal supply of provisions had been sent us before we embarked, together with a supply of wine superior to that we have before noticed: from the superabundance of our provisions we entertained the crews who navigated the junks; thus converting the hospitality of the country to the benefit of its natives, for which mark of attention they testified a due sense of gratitude.

A present having been made of three parcels of coloured silk by the mandarin Tyen-Sing, to the embassy, Mr. Maxwell, by the direction of the Ambassador, distributed them among the suite; but it not being possible for every one to have an equal share, it was determined, after two pieces were distributed to each of the gentlemen, that the remainder should be disposed of by drawing lots, by which means every person, whether mechanic, servant, musician, or soldier, had an equal chance.

The weather had been excessively hot for some days; and at an early hour on the morning of the 12th of August we were visited by a most tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which is not unusual in this climate.

It was found necessary, during several hours in this day, to employ men to tow the junks along. In China, numbers follow this laborious vocation, to which they are called when the wind or tide fails. A rope is fixed to the mast, and another to the head of the junk. These are of a length proportionable to the breadth of the river, and are fixed, one at each end, to a stick of about thirty

inches long. This is thrown over the head, and rests on the breast, forming a kind of harness. Every draughtsman is furnished with a similar apparatus, and when all are ready, the leader gives the signal to advance: they act in concert, and proceed with a measured step, which is regulated by a kind of musical tone, constantly repeated. The fatigue these useful drudges undergo, would appear excessive to any but the Chinese; they wade through marshy banks, and stalk through muddy soil, with a perseverance that claims at once our pity and admiration.

Next day, when we received the usual supply of provisions, we set about cooking them ourselves; being perfectly disgusted with Chinese filthiness in regard to their victuals. With respect to rice, however, they deserve the praise of cleanliness. They wash it well in cold water, and drain it through a sieve, then throw it into boiling water, and when pulpy, take it out with a ladle, and put it into another clean vessel, where it is suffered to remain till it becomes quite white and dry. In this form it is used for bread. Indeed, boiled rice, and sometimes millet, with vegetables, fried in oil, constitute the usual food of the lower class. They eat regularly every four hours of the day, and seldom vary their humble repast. Their tables are about a foot high; on them a large vessel of rice is placed, and each person, sitting on the floor, helps himself into a small basin. The vegetables are taken up with a couple of chop-sticks, and eaten with the rice. On particular days of rejoicing or sacrifice, a more genial diet is used, but seldom on any other occasion. The usual beverage is a weak infusion of tea.

Amid the new and extraordinary things which in such rapid succession caught the view, perhaps the number of the inhabitants that every where presented themselves,



was the most wonderful: it may be thought to border on the marvellous, but it is a certain fact that we could not pass fewer than four thousand junks in the course of this day.

On the 14th the weather was extremely hot and sultry, and the musquitos so troublesome, as to prove a very painful interruption to our repose.

We continued to pass extensive fields of millet and rice, and the country maintained its character for fertility, cultivation, and abundance; though in several parts it assumed a more varied and irregular appearance than we had yet seen.

In the forenoon we passed a large town called Cho-tung-poa, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river. The houses are of brick, but mostly only one story in height; walls are erected in the front of them, over which we discovered a great number of women viewing the junks as they passed. The spectators, whom curiosity had led to the banks of the river, were, as usual, in prodigious numbers.

Soon after leaving Cho-tung-poa, we came to a fork of the river, over the lateral branch of which there were two bridges of two arches, constructed with the appearance of much architectural ability. At a small distance we saw the ruins of another bridge of one arch, originally built of hewn stone, which bore the appearance of European masonry. At a small distance, on a gentle eminence, stood the palace of the mandarin, built of stone, two stories high, in a pleasing style of architecture, with a flight of steps ascending to the door.

At six o'clock in the evening we came to anchor near the shore, and in a short time after the grand mandarin of Tyen-sing, escorted by a numerous train of attendants, came to pay his respects to the Ambassador; a troop of men preceded him, who were employed in

shouting aloud as they came on, in order to notify his approach. This party was followed by two men carrying large silk umbrellas, with pendent curtains of the same materials, to shelter the palankin from the rays of the sun; then followed a large band of standard-bearers, who were succeeded by foot soldiers. The mandarin in his palankin appeared next, and a large escort of cavalry closed the procession.

The mandarin of Tyen-sing remained with Lord Macartney about an hour; and, on his return, the procession was rendered more brilliant by a great number of people bearing lamps and torches.

On the 15th, the heat still continued to be extreme, but the country still presented an equally fertile appearance, and the large fields of corn which we passed, appeared to be in crop and cultivation equal to any which are the boast of England. We this day passed a large plantation of tea, where there was a vast number of boxes ranged in order, for the purpose of packing the tea.

The banks of the river became more and more diversified; and the alternate view of extensive meadows, luxuriant fields, and beautiful gardens, did not suffer the gratification of the eye, or the mind, to be for a moment suspended.

In the evening we walked along the shore; the corn was almost ripe, agriculture appeared in its most pleasing form, and copious plenty seemed to vie with the immense population of this astonishing empire.

As we continued on our voyage, the villages became more numerous and populous, until we arrived at the city of Tong-tchew on the 16th of August in the afternoon, and here our voyage ended.

Soon after our arrival, the conducting mandarin, accompanied by Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton,



went on shore to inspect the place which the Chinese had prepared for the landing the presents and baggage. It contained about the space of an acre, fenced in with matting, and furnished with long sheds made of uprights of wood, covered with matting, in order to prevent the packages from being injured by damp. The ground was entirely covered with mats, and the place well guarded on all sides by mandarins and soldiers.

A building, termed a temple, was allotted for the residence of the embassy, and the whole suite, of every description, received an invitation from the grand mandarin to partake of a public breakfast, which was to be provided here on the next morning, and during the stay of the embassy at this place; notice was therefore given to each junk, and orders issued for disembarking. Accordingly, Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton set out in two palankins, which had been sent for them, and were escorted to the temple by a party of Chinese soldiers. The breakfast was composed of various stews, made dishes, meat of all kinds, eggs, tea, wines, fruit, and confectionary.

Every exertion was made to land the baggage, and presents, with speed and safety; and for this purpose a number of Chinese porters were ordered to each junk, and such emulation was displayed in this service, that most of it was safely lodged in the depot before night. Two Chinese officers inspected every case and package at the gate of the inclosure, of which they appeared to take a written account, and pasted marks correspondent with their minutes on every separate article, for not a single box was suffered to pass, till it had undergone this ceremony.

The temple appropriated for the residence of the embassy, was, in fact, the habitation of a timber merchant, and hired by the Chinese government for this purpose: it stands about a mile distant from the city; it

is a neat, low building, of one story high, and consists of several courts, which were severally occupied by the soldiers, servants, Ambassador, and suite. The soldiers court was next the entrance; beyond this was the servants quarter, opposite to which is a square building of one room, consecrated to religious worship. In the middle of this stands an altar, supporting three porcelain statues as large as life; and on each side are candlesticks, containing candles, which are lighted regularly whenever any person is paying his devotion, and regularly at morn and eve. Before the images stands a pot full of dust, into which a number of long matches are thrust, which are likewise lighted during the celebration of worship. The devotees having finished, the candles and the matches are extinguished, and an attendant on the altar strikes a bell thrice with a mallet. All persons present then kneel before the images, inclining their heads three times, with their hands clasped, which they lift over their heads as they rise. Such is the simple ceremony of the daily worship of the Chinese, invariably observed from the humblest to the highest, from the peasant to the emperor. This worship obtains the appellation of Chin-chin-josh, or the service of God.

The court adjoining this domestic chapel was occupied by the Chinese as a kitchen; from thence there is a circular entrance to that part of the building which was particularly assigned to the Ambassador and his suite.

It surrounds a spacious court, which was used as a dining apartment on the occasion; on one side there was a platform, raised on two steps, with a beautiful roof, supported by four gilt pillars; and an awning was stretched over the whole court to protect it from the heat of the sun. Lamps, consisting of frames of box-wood, covered with transparent silk and flowered gauze of various colours, added much to the pleasing effect of the illumination.



The dinner served up for the Ambassador and his company, consisted of about one hundred different dishes, dressed according to the fashion of the country: they consisted principally of stews, served up in small basons, without either table-cloths, or knives and forks.

During the time of dinner, a great number of Chinese crowded round the table, and not only expressed their surprize by peculiar actions and gestures, but seemed highly diverted with the display of European manners.

A guard of British soldiers attended the Ambassador's apartments; but as we were removed from public view, these centinels were placed at the outer gate, and the entrance of the inner court, that they might attract the notice of the Chinese, and give consequence to the diplomatic mission, in the opinion of the people of the country; a circumstance on which the success of the embassy was supposed in a great measure to depend, and which speaks pretty plainly the erroneous sentiments imbibed respecting the persons we had to treat with.

In the several apartments appropriated to the use of the embassy, Chinese servants were distributed, to supply those who were disposed to call for drink, with hot and cold tea, cold and hot water, ice water, &c.

The city of Tong-tchew is about six miles in circumference, almost square, surrounded by a wall thirty feet high, and six broad, to which an external ditch is added, in the most accessible spots. It has three gates, each well-fortified, and may, altogether, be considered as a strong place.

The houses are almost universally of wood, one story high, with exterior decorations in the Chinese stile, but most of them are destitute of furniture. The shop is the principal room; before this are high pillars, supporting an awning covered with painting and gilding, and decorated with streamers, which indicate the commodities

to be fold; and sometimes a wooden figure is super-added, to direct to the spot.

In the form and size of the houses and shops there is very little variety; the same plan prevails throughout the city in almost every respect. The streets, indeed, are of different breadths, but all of them have a pavement on each side for the accommodation of the foot passengers.

As a substitute for glass, a thin glazed paper is used; but some of the palaces of the higher classes are furnished with silk to admit the light.

Tong-tehew seems to carry on a very extensive trade; an immense number of junks resort to it, and the population is computed at nearly half a million.

The shortness of our stay, and our ignorance of the language, rendered it impossible to obtain any correct idea of the nature of the municipal government.

The curiosity of the people was so very troublesome during our excursion round the city, that we were frequently obliged to seek an asylum in the shops till the gazing multitude had dispersed.

The second day after our arrival, the ordnance and stores were examined, and a trial made of the guns in the presence of the Ambassador, which were found to answer perfectly well; after which his Excellency and the rest of the suite dined as on the preceding day.

In the evening his Excellency was visited by the chief mandarin, accompanied by Van-Tadge-In. A band of music performed during his stay, with which the visitors seemed vastly pleased.

We had hitherto escaped without a death, or any serious illness in the embassy, since we entered China; but this evening we lost Mr. Eades, one of the mechanics, by a violent flux, with which he had been some time afflicted. To impress the natives with a favourable idea of the solemnity of our funerals, Lord Macartney directed that the deceased should be interred with military ho-



nours. Colonel Benson therefore gave orders for the troops to appear with their side arms, except those who were appointed to fire over the grave. In China, coffins are kept ready made; Mr. Plumb was therefore requested to order one; they are chiefly of the same size for all grown persons, are strong and very heavy; in shape somewhat like a flat-bottomed boat, and the lid is secured with a cord instead of nails. Having procured one of these receptacles of mortality, we placed the corpse in it with all possible decency; and as, by some strange accident, there was no clergyman attached to the embassy, Mr. Anderson, an attendant on his Lordship, was called on to officiate on this mournful occasion.

At nine o'clock the order of the procession was formed as follows:

A detachment of the royal artillery, with arms reversed.

The coffin carried on men's shoulders.

Two fifes playing a funeral dirge.

The persons appointed to officiate at the grave.

The servants, mechanics, &c. two and two.

The troops, which closed the whole, excepting several of the gentlemen belonging to the embassy, who accompanied it.

The procession being thus previously marshalled, proceeded slowly to the burying-ground, at about a quarter of a mile's distance from the Ambassador's residence, where permission for interment had been granted, with a liberality far superior to what would be experienced in Great Britain by a follower of Confucius or Fo.

An immense concourse of spectators were allured by the novelty of the scene to accompany us. Perhaps the most splendid exhibition in any European city would not have procured a larger assembly. The body was committed to the ground with due solemnity, and the procession returned in the same order as it went.

We observed that the graves were very shallow, having no greater depth than what is just necessary to cover the coffin; and that the Chinese have memorials of marble and stone as with us, charged with inscriptions, and some of the monuments here exhibited traces of no ordinary sculpture. This receptacle of dust was of very considerable extent, but without walls. Except in the vicinity of large towns, there are no public burial grounds: in the country, the deceased repose in the premises where they lived.

Several mandarins this day paid a visit to the Ambassador, and notified that the day following was appointed for the embassy's departure to Pe-kin. These visits we considered as a favourable omen of our ultimate success.

At a very early hour, on the morning of the 21st of August, the signal was given by beat of drum, to prepare for our departure. The soldiers were first marched off, and then the servants; for both of whom covered waggons had been provided. The gentlemen of the suite followed in light carts, but the Ambassador, Sir George Staunton, and the interpreter, had each a palanquin carried by four men. In point of equipage and appearance, this procession was mean, indeed; it sunk the diplomatic dignity of the nation, and mortified those who composed the embassy, for the carts which carried the soldiers and servants, were wretched past description.

After leaving Tong-tchew, we entered a fine champaign country, through which we travelled on a road of uncommon breadth and beauty. A foot pavement, about six yards wide, occupied the centre, and on each side several carriages had room to run a-breast. Roads of a similar description conduct to the capital from the principal towns of the empire; and these are kept in



perfect repair by labourers regularly disposed, and constantly employed.

We reached the town of Kiang-Fou by seven in the morning, and as it was, probably, a matter of general notoriety, when we were to enter Pe-kin, the concourse of people who filled every accessible spot of view, and even crowded on us, exceeded what we had hitherto seen of Chinese population. To our mortification we here observed, that our appearance excited rather more ridicule than respect; and bursts of laughter accompanied every transient sight of us from our contemptible vehicle.

Such was the appearance of an embassy which quitted England with the view of prepossessing the Chinese with exalted sentiments of the grandeur and opulence of the British nation, and for the purpose of obtaining those political distinctions and commercial privileges which no other European nation could boast.

We stopped nearly an hour at Kiang-Fou, and received some refreshments of meats, tea, and fruits, of which those in the inferior department partook in the open yard, and those of the upper in miserable rooms adjoining.

Van-Tadge-In likewise ordered some joau, an unpleasant Chinese wine, to be distributed to the attendants of the embassy. This he did from the benevolent motive of enabling them to resist the calls of appetite, till another opportunity offered of gratifying them, which at present could not be ascertained. When summoned to prepare for our departure, a scene of confusion ensued, not calculated to impress the numerous beholders with a very favourable opinion of English manners, nor to wipe off the unfavourable impression already made; indeed, it was with difficulty that the mandarins could assign the whole to their respective vehicles. Of the face of the country between this town and Pe-kin, it is impossible to speak. Myriads of people intercepted our view.

We passed beneath several beautiful triumphal arches on entering the suburbs of the metropolis ; where the magnificence displayed, served only for a contrast to the meanness of our appearance, and of course added to our mortification and regret.

At two in the afternoon we reached the gates of the imperial city of Pe-kin. Ordnance and troops are stationed at every gate ; and though the olive branch of peace blesses Pe-kin with almost a perpetual shade, the arts of defence and of prudent caution are neither neglected nor unknown. As we have before described this city, we shall here only make such observations as have not before occurred.

On the most moderate computation, from the south gate to the east gate is a space of ten miles. This was our route through Pe-kin ; and every step presented some new object to arrest our attention. The streets are spacious, clean, and commodious, well paved, and well regulated. An exact police is kept up ; and as every public functionary, from the highest to the lowest, is attentive to the discharge of his duty, order, neatness, and activity, are every where perceptible. Large bodies of scavengers are employed in separate districts in removing every species of filth ; and another class of men sprinkle the streets, to prevent the dust from incommoding passengers, or injuring the gaudy wares and elegant manufactures which every shop presents for sale.

In the capital, as indeed in almost every town in China, the pride of architectural elegance and embellishment seems to be chiefly displayed in the shops. The tradesmen wisely lay out the greatest expense in that apartment which brings them in the most profit ; hence the shops in general are magnificent, while their domestic accommodations are neither numerous nor great.



In Pe-kin, many thousands derive their livelihood from the exercise of their business in the streets. These itinerant tradesmen, according to the nature of their business, either carry baskets over their shoulders, or a kind of pack. Street barbers are very numerous; they carry with them the implements of their trade, being a chair, a small stove, and a water basin. Their customers sit down in the street, where the operation is performed. A pair of large steel tweezers, snapped with force, gives the signal that the barber is at hand; and in a country where it is impossible that any person can entirely shave himself, if he complies with the established mode, this must be a lucrative trade.

Street auctioneers, apparently possessed of all the low eloquence and the vociferous exertions of that craft, present themselves frequently on a kind of platform.

The principal streets being of enormous length, are subdivided by arched gateways, under each of which the name of the partial street is written in gilt characters. These arches continually appearing, serve as central objects for the eye to repose on.

The women here frequently present themselves from the galleries in front of their houses; and amid the immense concourse that were assembled to view our procession, perhaps there were more women in proportion than we should have seen in any principal town of Europe. They possess delicate features, the effects of which they heighten by cosmetics. They also apply vermilion to the middle of their lips, marking along the middle a stripe of the deepest die. Their eyes are small, but very expressive; and their brilliance is contrasted by a peak of black velvet or silk, set with stones, which depends from the forehead to the insertion of the nose. Their feet appear to be of the natural size, and are free from those bandages we have before mentioned. In fact, the wo-

men seem to enjoy as much liberty in this place as is consistent with the delicacy of the sex ; nor is jealousy, as far as we could judge, a predominant passion among the men ; at least in this part of the empire.

In our way through the city, we met a funeral procession. The coffin was covered by a rich canopy, with silk curtains, highly ornamented, and hung with escutcheons. It was placed on a large bier, and had a great number of men to support it, who advanced with a slow and solemn step. A band of music followed, playing a kind of dirge ; and after them came the friends and relations of the deceased, in dresses of black and white.

Passing the eastern suburbs, we again entered a rich and beautiful country, and soon arrived at Yeumen-manyeumen, one of the Emperor's palaces, distant about five miles from the city. Here we found rather a scanty and indifferent refreshment, but being much fatigued with the extreme heat, and the various impediments we had met with from the concourse of people in our way, the idea of rest was our most acceptable gratification.

This palace is low, both in situation and building. We entered it by a common stone gateway, guarded by soldiers ; beyond this is a kind of parade, in the centre of which is a small lodge for the accommodation of the mandarins in waiting. The body of the palace is divided into two square courts, equally destitute of elegance and convenience ; the windows of the apartments are formed of lattice, covered with glazed and painted paper ; and throughout the whole range there was no other furniture than a few ordinary tables and chairs. Not a bed or bedstead was any where to be seen ; the Chinese having nothing of this kind, instead of bedsteads they use a large wooden bench, raised about two feet from the ground, and bottomed with bamboos or wicker work. On one of these several persons may spread



their mattresses, it was therefore fortunate for us that we had brought our hammocks and cots with us.

Every thing about this residence evinced that it had been long deserted or neglected; and, indeed, a more unpromising situation for a royal residence could no where be found. The situation is naturally swampy; it is surrounded by an high wall, and two ponds of stagnant water communicated their mephitic odours to every apartment. Some small grass fields, indeed, belong to the palace; but these too were an exception to the general cultivated appearance of the country. In short, centipedes, scorpions, and musketos, infested every part of this palace; and for such inhabitants it was solely adapted.

Yet, disagreeable as the internal state of our residence was, we were cut off from all external communication. Soldiers and mandarins guarded every avenue; and the embassy could be considered in no other light than as prisoners of state; receiving, like them, a daily allowance from the government which oppresses them.

The Ambassador's apartments were guarded night and day by British centinels; and to keep up some appearance of dignity, of which, indeed, we appeared to have but little, Lord Macartney required that a table should be, in future, furnished for himself, Sir George, and Mr. Staunton, distinct from the other gentlemen of his suite. This requisition was readily complied with; from this time therefore he dined in his own apartment, while the upper ranks of those who attended on the embassy, had a table prepared for them in one of the courts, and beneath the shade of a tree, which seemed to participate in the general wretchedness of the place. Even the presents were so carelessly deposited, and so much exposed to the sun, that there was reason for apprehending that some of them would receive considerable injury from their unfavourable situation; a temporary shed was

therefore immediately erected, to which they were speedily removed.

The Ambaffador being very much difatisfied, and having juftly conceived a difguft at his treatment and fituation, made a ferious requifition for a refidence more fuited to the character which he fufained, and better calculated for the convenience and accommodation of the embaffy. To obtain this object, Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, made feveral vifits to Pe-kin, and at laft fucceeded in his application: little occurred worthy of a recital during the remainder of our ftay in this uncomfortable and wretched abode, in which we continued till the twenty-fixth day of this month, which was appointed for the Ambaffador's departure for Pe-kin.

During this interval feveral unpleafant altercations took place between the members of the embaffy and the foldiers on guard: the former could ill brook the difgraceful reftraints laid on them by confinement within the walls of their prifon; and the latter pertinacioufly oppofed every attempt at greater liberty. Col. Benfon in particular was fo mortified at being denied the liberty of paffing the walls of the palace, that he made a refolute attempt to gratify his inclinations, which produced a very unpleafant affray. The Colonel, however, was not only forced to abandon his defign, but was alfo threatened with very fevere and illiberal treatment from the Chinefe who were on duty at the gates. Thefe fracas were not unfrequent, and perhaps were productive of future ill confequences to the interefts of the miffion. Conciliatory meafures by means of negotiation would certainly have been preferable and far more prudent than menaces, which could not be carried into effect, and altercations with thofe, who in the punctual difcharge of the duty impofed on them, were rather objects of refpect than of enmity and oppofition. It muft, however, be acknowledged that it



was a very humiliating circumstance to be made prisoners when upon a mission, that by the laws of European nations possesses almost universal privileges.

So much pleasure did every person attached to the embassy feel, at the prospect of leaving this wretched place, that every necessary preparation was made for the purpose in the shortest possible space of time. Some of the presents and the more delicate articles of art or manufacture, as chandeliers, mathematical apparatus, clocks, time pieces, &c. were left here, lest they should be injured by frequent removal.

The business of our setting off was as usual a scene of confusion, but by eleven o'clock, to our great satisfaction, the procession set out on its return to Pe-kin, but with the same wretched, beggarly accommodations as it came; we arrived however, without any accident, at the north-gate of Pe-kin about one in the afternoon. This was the counter-gate to what we had entered in our former procession through Pe-kin, and presented new views of streets and buildings. A pagoda attracted our notice in our progress, being the first we had found an opportunity of observing. It stands in the centre of a beautiful garden, adjoining to a mandarin's palace; is square, built of stone, and gradually diminishes from the bottom till it terminates in a spire. It rises to the height of seven stories, and has a gallery near the top, encompassed by a rail with a projecting canopy, from which hung a curtain of red silk.

As it is probable our return was unexpected, we passed with facility through the streets, and soon arrived at a princely palace belonging to the Viceroy of Canton, who, it seems, was a state prisoner here for some misconduct in office. This palace consists of twelve large and six smaller courts: it is built of a grey-coloured brick, of most excellent workmanship, but, except two detached

édifices, which were occupied by Lord Macartney and the secretary to the embassy, the palace was only one story high, though this was of unusual elevation. Every thing without and within convinced us we now lodged in a palace; the embellishments were in the first style of Chinese taste; and in regard to the beauty of colours and the brilliant effect of house painting, no nation can enter into competition with this. The glossy effect of japan is every where perceptible, without the intervention of varnish; for we were convinced, that the beauty produced arose from some ingredients in the original composition.

The apartments were very spacious, and hung with the most elegant paper, enriched with gilding. Lord Macartney's residence was singularly superb, and moreover had an elegant private theatre belonging to it; and, in a word, all ranks and descriptions were accommodated in a stile that gave satisfaction, and deserved acknowledgment. Here, however, the furniture was neither valuable nor in any quantity. Chairs and tables, a few platforms, covered with bamboo matting and carpets, were the only moveables in a palace whose decorations, both external and internal, would not have disgraced the residence of the Emperor himself.

In several of the courts there are artificial rocks and ruins, which, though not very congenial to their situation, are formed with considerable skill, and are in themselves very happy imitations of those objects they were designed to represent. To these may be added the triumphal arches, which arise, with all their fanciful devices, in various parts of the building, giving it a novel but pleasing appearance.

Under the floor, in each of the principal apartments, is a stove, with a circular tube, which conveys warm air to every part of the room above. We saw no chimnies



in this country, and understood that stoves supplied with charcoal were the universal custom.

The supplies for the table were in the best stile of Chinese living, but consisting more of stews and hashes than solid joints. In this respect, however, we had no reason to complain; but the same suspicious vigilance was employed to keep us within the limits of our residence as ever; and on no pretence could we pass the gates, or even scale the walls, every accessible part being constantly guarded by an active military force.

We were told, that the palace in which we were confined was built by the Viceroy of Canton, at the expense of one hundred thousand pounds, the fruits of his exactions while in that office; and that these exactions were chiefly made on the English.

Though we wished that our continuance in this place might be of no long duration, as it was impossible to make any progress in the grand object of our mission till we had an interview with the Emperor, yet every arrangement was made to add to the dignity of the embassy, or promote its convenience. Having settled this business, we waited with anxious expectation the return of a mandarin, who had been dispatched to learn his Imperial Majesty's pleasure, whether we should proceed to Tartary, where he was then resident, or wait till the period of his usual return to Pe-kin.

Among the mandarins who paid their respects to the Ambassador, on his taking up his residence here, there were several natives of France, formerly of the order of Jesuits, who being prohibited from the promulgation of their religious tenets, had assumed the dress and manners of the Chinese; and who had, on account of their learning, been promoted to civil rank among them. These, who were well acquainted with the interests of the country, in which they were now naturalised,

gave Lord Macartney hopes of a favourable issue to the important embassy he conducted.

On the morning of the 28th of August, the conducting mandarin acquainted the Ambassador, that it was his Imperial Majesty's pleasure to receive him in Tartary.

A new arrangement immediately took place, and the following gentlemen belonging to the embassy were selected to accompany his Excellency into Tartary:

Sir George Staunton,	Mr. Winder,
Mr. Staunton,	Dr. Gillan,
Lieut. Col. Benson,	Mr. Plumb;
Capt. Mackintosh,	Mr. Baring, and
Lieut. Parish,	Mr. Huttner.
Lieut. Crewe,	

Mr. Maxwell was left at Pekin, with three servants, to settle the household of the Ambassador, as, whatever had yet been the case, it was now determined, that on his return from Tartary his establishment and appearance should be, as far as possible, suited to the dignity of the character he sustained.

Dr. Scott was also left, to take care of the sick, for several of the soldiers and servants were, at this time, afflicted with the bloody flux.

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Alexander were to prepare the portraits of the King and Queen of Great Britain, which, with the state canopy, were to ornament the presence chamber of the Ambassador.

Dr. Dinwiddie and Mr. Barrow were left to regulate and arrange the presents which had hitherto remained at the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, and to prepare them for presentation to the Emperor on the Ambassador's return.

The guards, musicians, and servants, received orders to hold themselves in readiness, with only indispensable necessaries; and even the gentlemen of the suite were to



be as little incumbered as possible. They were to carry with them only the uniform of the embassy and a common suit of cloaths: the musicians and servants were to be dressed out in a suit of state liveries, which, on being unpacked, furnished evident proof, that this was not their first appearance in public; from several of their dresses bearing the names of their former wearers, and from some circumstances we discovered that they had been made up for the servants of M. de la Luzerne, late French ambassador at London. But whether they were of diplomatic origin, or derived their existence from the theatre or Monmouth-street, is of little importance to the reader. With these habiliments, such as they were, every man fitted himself out in the best manner he could, at least with coats and waistcoats, for with respect to breeches, there were only six pairs in the package, and not a single hat accompanied them. Such, indeed, was the grotesque figure they made, when thus dressed out, that had the party appeared as ridiculous to the Chinese as they did to each other, they might reasonably have supposed, that we rather wished to acquire money by the exhibition, than to add dignity to an embassy of the nature of that in which we were engaged.

The Ambassador and Sir George Staunton agreed to travel in an old chaise belonging to the latter, which, on being unpacked, certainly had none of that gaudy appearance which distinguishes the works of art in China; and some of the Chinese did not hesitate to express their disapprobation of its external appearance, which was, indeed, contemptible.

When the chaise was put in order for the journey, a difficulty arose, for which, as it had not been foreseen, no provision was made; this was to get a couple of postillions: at length, however, a corporal of infantry, who had once been in this situation, offered his service, and

a light-horseman was ordered to assist him in conducting the carriage.

A man who has learned two trades is frequently useful to himself and to others; this humble corporal was the only man who could have headed the Ambassador, and conducted him on his way. He and his assistant were permitted to exercise the horses in the chaise for a short time through the streets of Pe-kin, under a guard of mandarins and soldiers, and such crowds assembled to see this extraordinary spectacle, that authority was absolutely necessary to restrain the impertinent trespasses of curiosity.

Such of the suite as preferred riding on horseback were to be accommodated on giving in their names, and carts were to be provided for those who preferred those kind of vehicles to the saddle.

On the morning of the 31st of August, such of the presents and baggage as were intended to be forwarded to Tartary, being sent off, some on mules, others in carts, and some borne by men. A number of horses were brought, from which the riders having made a selection, very early on the morning of September the second we began our march, but meeting with frequent interruption, it was some time before we could pass the city gate. This, however, being effected, we soon drove through the suburbs, and entered a rich and beautiful country by a road of great width, but without any central pavement. After travelling about six miles, we reached the village of Chin-giho, where we were allowed our morning refreshments. In our route we passed a great number of populous villages, and took up our first night's lodging at one of the Emperor's palaces, named Nan-shighee.

Our benevolent conductor, Van-Tadge-In, seemed to redouble his activity as we approached the imperial



presence. We were now furnished every day with the best accommodations, and received an allowance of sam-tchoo, and a kind of wine, which the Chinese call jooaw; the former is a spirit distilled from rice and millet, and may deserve the appellation of Chinese gin.

From Pe-kin to Jehol, the Emperor's Tartar residence, the distance is one hundred and sixty miles, which was divided into seven days journies, that we might have the advantage of sleeping in an imperial residence every night. This flattering mark of distinction is the highest, it seems, that can be paid, and is never conferred even on the first mandarins. The palace where we passed the first night had but little to demand attention, either in its external appearance or its internal decorations; it was environed by a spacious garden, but to this we were denied access.

The journey of this day we computed at above twenty-five miles, which may be considered as a tolerable progress, when it is known that the same horses were to take us the whole journey, and the same men were to carry the baggage all the way; and what delayed us still more, the whole of our provisions were ordered and dressed at the several places through which we passed on the road, and conveyed in covered trays, on men's shoulders, to every stage of our journey, for our refreshment there.

We resumed our journey at four next morning, and having passed a populous village called Can-tim, took our refreshment at the town of Wheazon, a place of some consequence. From thence we proceeded through dusty roads, beneath a burning sun, till we reached the palace of Chan-chin, where we halted for the night. This is a spacious structure, covering a great extent of ground, containing ten or twelve courts, and adorned with gardens and plantations. The surrounding country

is inclosed, and in point of fertility equalled any we had seen. It fed immense herds of cattle, which are small, but very fat.

As we proceeded on our journey the next morning, the distant country assumed a mountainous aspect; fertility sensibly diminished, and the villages became more thin; at one of these, called Cua-bu-cow, we breakfasted in a farm yard. About noon we saw the city of Caung-chum-fou.

We met nothing worth remark in this day's march, except about two hundred camels and dromedaries, carrying wood and charcoal, entirely under the direction of one man.

The palace of Caung-chum-fou received us at an early hour in the afternoon, after a most fatiguing and disagreeable journey. This palace appeared to be little different from those we had before occupied, and the treatment which the Ambassador and his attendants received, corresponded in every respect with what they had undergone before, in their journey to and from Pe-kin. It is almost unnecessary to say, that however unfavourable appearances might be, most of us gladly accepted of whatever was prepared for our refreshment; and it will be doubted by none, that we received with great satisfaction the message of our conductor, that informed us we might retire to the different apartments allotted for our repose.

Early the next morning we were summoned together, and soon after departed.

The roads were now become very indifferent, and the country displayed a mountainous appearance. At a small distance from Waung-chau-yeng, where we had arrived at about nine o'clock, we passed a prodigious arch, which stretches across a valley, uniting two hills, the farther of which is crowned with a fort, whose ramparts extend to a



very considerable distance. Beneath this fort is a stone archway conducting down the hill, so steep as to render travelling dangerous. In a romantic valley, at the bottom, appears the town of Waung-chau-yeng; it is irregularly built, about a mile in length, and displays a considerable share of commerce and opulence. At the extremity of this town, a temporary triumphal arch, ornamented with silken streamers, was erected in honour of the embassy, and the Ambassador was complimented with a band of music, and received a salute from some guns while he passed between a double line of soldiers, extending from the arch to the great wall, who displayed a martial appearance and military parade beyond what we had hitherto witnessed in China. They were regularly drawn up in companies, and each regiment was distinguished by a different dress; they all wore a kind of coat of mail, and had their head and shoulders covered with steel helmets; their arms were matchlocks, sabres, spears, lances, and bows and arrows, together with some weapons of which we knew not the appropriate name. Almost every division varied in its arms as well as its dress. The number of divisions on each side of the road were seventeen, consisting of about eighty men each.

We now approached one of the wonders of the world, the wall that separates China from Tartary, the most stupendous work ever produced by man. In the vicinity are cantonments for an army of considerable magnitude; at the extremity of which is a massy gateway of stone, defended by three iron doors, which guard the pass between countries formerly distinct. This wall we have already described, when speaking of the forts and places of defence in the Chinese empire, and to that description we refer the reader.

Man, and all his works are doomed to decay. Time has already discovered its influence on this celebrated

monument of labour ; and as it is now no longer necessary for security or defence, since the nations on both sides acknowledge one sovereign, no attention is paid to its preservation, and it is more than than probable, that future travellers in some remote age, for it will exist for ages still, may describe its ruins, and pause while they contemplate the instability of sublunary grandeur. In some places fragments have already tumbled down, and in others menace to incumber the plains they once defended.

Having now passed the wall, the country assumed a new aspect ; even the climate appeared to be changed. Instead of high cultivation, the abodes of wealth, and the bustle of commerce, nothing presented itself but barren waste, where art has not yet displayed her magic powers.

The traveller, however, is amply compensated by the variety of natural objects which present themselves to his view ; and the lover of picturesque beauty finds, amidst all the increasing inconveniencies of his journey, a source of entertainment which makes him forget all the difficulties he from time to time encounters.

About seven miles from the great wall, we arrived at the foot of a very high mountain, which the carts could not ascend without an additional number of horses. The passage through this mountain is an additional proof, if such be wanting, of the genius and indefatigable spirit of the Chinese people, in works that relate to public utility. This road, thirty feet in breadth, is cut through a solid rock ; and what appeared to us more extraordinary, to lessen its declivity, it is sunk so much, that it is not less than one hundred feet from the top of the mountain to the surface of the road ; yet still the ascent is tremendous, and at the beginning has a very fearful appearance, while on the other side the way slopes down with a gentle



declivity between two large mountains towards a beautiful valley.

After passing this mountain, at about a mile and a half distance, we arrived at the palace of Chaung-shanuve, situated on a small elevation; it is of large dimensions, and surrounded by an high wall, being the residence of a considerable number of the Emperor's women; many of whom we discovered peeping over the partition which separated their apartments from the part of the palace assigned to the accommodation of the embassy. Though we were not permitted, as may well be supposed, to visit these ladies, the eunuchs who were their guardians came to visit us. There were several mandarins among them, to whom was consigned the care and conduct of this female community. This palace is surrounded with very extensive gardens and pleasure grounds, but from the particular service to which they are applied, it would have been an idle risk of danger, to have made any attempt to see them.

We left Chaung-shanuve at six o'clock next morning; the road takes the character of the country, which was every where broken and mountainous: yet sterile as it now appeared, this evidently did not proceed from any want of activity in the natives. Every spot capable of cultivation was covered with corn; and in one place we saw several patches of tillage where the declivity seemed to be wholly inaccessible. This excited our admiration, but judge our surprize when we observed a peasant labouring on one of them, where we at first could not conceive how he was capable of standing.

A more minute examination informed us, that this peasant had a rope fastened round his middle, which was secured at the top of the mountain, and by which this hardy cultivator lets himself down to any part of the precipice where a few yards of ground give him encour-

agement to plant his vegetables or sow his corn : and in this manner he had decorated the mountain with those little cultivated spots that hung about it. Near the bottom, on an hillock, he had erected a wooden hut, surrounded with a small piece of ground, planted with a few necessary vegetables, where he supported, by his hazardous industry, a wife and family. The whole of these cultivated spots, which did not appear to amount to more than half an acre, offered from their situation, at such hazardous distances from each other, a very curious example of the natural industry of the people.

We have before noticed, and we again repeat, that the wise policy of the Chinese government is in nothing more perceptible than in its receiving the greatest part of the taxes imposed, in the produce of the country. This serves as a spur to the exertions of both body and mind. The landlord also is paid his rent in the produce of his farms ; and the farmer again pays his labourers by an allotment of small portions of land, from whence industry, with a little occasional encouragement, may derive a comfortable subsistence. The only real wealth of nations is agriculture, which is here perfectly understood. A regular chain is established between all ranks for its encouragement ; and the artificial and unnatural medium of money, the source of wretchedness and of crimes, is only employed as the cement, not as the materials of the building.

Before noon we arrived at the palace of Callachottueng, where we spent the remainder of the day. This palace stands between two lofty hills ; it appears of more modern erection, but is built in stile and form, resembling those we had already passed ; the apartments are, however, better fitted up.

At this place the Ambassador gave orders to practise the procession and ceremonies with which we were to



appear before the imperial court. His Excellency was pleased to approve of the rehearsal, which was under the direction of Colonel Benson, and during which, the band played the favourite march, known by the appellation of the Duke of York's.

On the next morning, being the 7th of September, we continued our route over a hilly country, where the air was piercingly cold. We passed several well-peopled villages, but neither the cultivation of the country, nor its population, will bear any comparison with that on the other side of the Chinese wall.

Early in the afternoon we reached the palace of Callachotreshangfu, much fatigued by the badness of the roads; this palace, in extent and form, is equal to any we had lately seen, but we found it tenanted only by squirrels, which bounded round the courts and haunted the apartments.

At six o'clock next morning we continued our route, and arrived at one of the Emperor's pagodas in about two hours, here we found an abundant supply of provisions, but we made only a stay sufficient to enable us to arrange our dress and equipage.

After travelling for about an hour, we came to the village of Quoangcho, within a mile of Jehol, the imperial residence. Here we were marshalled, and proceeded amid an immense concourse of spectators, with all the parade that circumstances would allow. The soldiers of the royal artillery led the way, commanded by Lieutenant Parish; the light-horse and infantry succeeded, commanded by Lieutenant Crewe; then followed the Ambassador's servants, two and two; two couriers; mechanics, two and two; musicians, two and two; the gentlemen of the suite, two and two; Sir George Staunton, in a palankin; the Ambassador and

Mr. Staunton closed the cavalcade in the post-chaise, behind which stood a black boy in a turban.

The military, for their numbers, made a respectable shew, and the gentlemen of the suite, it may be reasonably supposed, were not forgetful of their dignity; indeed, it is but doing them justice to say, they strove to support it by every external display in their power, but the generality were a motley group, without even the advantage of a tolerable uniformity in any part of their dress or appearance. The whole certainly was not calculated to convey any extraordinary ideas of the splendor or power of the country from which we came, but the contrary. The Chinese might, indeed, possibly be amused with the novelty of the scene, but it was utterly impossible that they should be impressed with its grandeur.

Proceeding with a slow pace, in this state we reached Jehol about ten in the morning, and drew up before the palace provided for the reception of the embassy. The British military formed a line for the Ambassador as he passed; but not a mandarin was in waiting to receive him, and we took possession of the palace without the welcome of an address. This, indeed, was a mortal blow to all our hopes and expectations, for it had been given out, that the Grand Choulaa would meet the Ambassador, and escort him to Jehol; and after our arrival, we were kept for some hours in anxious expectation of receiving this honour, the troops holding themselves in readiness to fall into a line, and the servants and mechanics ranged in order before the Ambassador's door; but at last dinner being served up, put an end to our expectations of seeing him for the day.

The palace we now inhabited is situated on the declivity of a hill. We entered it by a wooden gateway, which conducts to a large court; each side of this



court has a long gallery, supported by wooden pillars, and roofed with black glossy tiles ; that on the left was converted into a kitchen, the others served for the soldiers to exercise in. At the upper end was another gallery of more elegance, from which a door opens into a farther court, the principal apartments of which were appropriated for the use of the Ambassador and Sir George Staunton, the rest for the military gentlemen attached to them ; a third court was occupied by the gentlemen of the suite, the musicians, servants, and mechanics. The whole fabric is surrounded by a high wall ; but owing to the declivity of the situation, the view was not wholly confined.

Such was our situation at Jehol, we had plenty within our walls, but no one had liberty of egress.

On the day after our arrival, several mandarins visited the Ambassador ; nothing, however, was said on the subject of the mission, but on the second day he received a visit from a mandarin, with a very numerous retinue, who remained nearly an hour in conference with his Excellency and Sir George Staunton. During his stay, his attendants amused themselves in examining the dress of the English servants, and on rubbing the lace on their cloaths with a stone, to ascertain its quality, they shook their heads and smiled, when they found it less valuable than brilliant.

What passed at this conference, could not be generally known, but from some circumstances, a spirit of conjecture was conjured up among the attendants on the embassy, and the presages they formed were by no means favourable.

As soon as the mandarin had left the Ambassador, one of his Excellency's secretaries informed the attendants on the embassy, that if their provisions should be defective in quantity or quality, they were to intimate the grie-

vance to his Excellency alone, and leave them untouched. The occasion for this caution none of us could divine, but we soon found it was not given in vain, for the dinner this day served up, was not sufficient for half the number who were to partake of it. An Englishman cannot easily be reconciled to confinement, but much less to famine; but, in addition, we could perceive a meditated disrespect, and of course felt some alarm for the fate of the embassy. According to our instructions, the meat was left untouched, and a complaint preferred as directed. His Excellency having remonstrated to the mandarin through the medium of his interpreter, in a few minutes afterwards every table was served with hot dishes, in the usual variety and profusion. Why this entertainment, which must have been nearly ready, was thus withheld, and so speedily produced, served as an enigma to exercise our ingenuity, but which we could never solve. Indeed, no other ideas could possibly be entertained of it, than that of an effort of Chinese ingenuity to try the temper of Englishmen, which, but for the steps taken by the Ambassador, might have been productive of much mischief to the undertaking.

Next day the presents brought from Pe-kin were unpacked in the portico facing the Ambassador's apartments, they consisted of

Two hundred pieces of narrow coarse cloth, chiefly black and blue.

Two large telescopes.

Two air guns.

Two handsome fowling pieces; one inlaid with gold, and the other with silver.

Two pair of faddle pistols, enriched and ornamented in the same manner.

Two boxes, each containing seven pieces of Irish tabinets.



Two elegant saddles, and furniture; the seats of these were of doe skin, stitched with fine silver wire; the flaps were of a bright yellow superfine cloth, embroidered with silver, and enriched with silver spangles and tassels; the reins and stirrup-straps of bright yellow leather, stitched with silver, but the stirrups, buckles, &c. were only plated.

Two large boxes of the finest carpets of the British manufactory.

These were all the presents which had been brought from Pe-kin; the rest were either too cumbersome or too delicate to be removed without much care, and were, therefore, left to be presented to the Emperor, on his return, for the winter season, to the capital of his empire.

Centinels were placed to guard these specimens of British manufacture, till the Emperor's pleasure respecting them should be known, which was afterwards notified by the attendant mandarin, with as much civility as could be expected from the supposed greatness of his office.

A mandarin of the first order, on the 12th of September, came to acquaint the Ambassador, that his Imperial Majesty would give him an audience on the 14th. This intelligence diffused hope and spirits through the whole embassy, though, it must be confessed, without any apparent cause.

Orders were issued, that the suite should be ready at three on the morning of the day appointed, to accompany his Excellency to the imperial palace. The attendants were to appear in their best liveries; and the soldiers and servants, after having escorted the Ambassador, were to return, without halting, immediately to their quarters; his Excellency informing them, that he hoped the restrictions imposed on them, which were so irksome to

all, would in a few days be removed by his endeavours, and every reasonable indulgence allowed them.

His Excellency was splendidly dressed, in mulberry velvet, with his diamond star and red riband, and over the whole he wore the full habit of the order of the Bath. Sir George Staunton was in a full court dress, over which he wore the robe and hood of a doctor of laws, with the academical cap belonging to that degree.

From the darkness of the morning, a considerable confusion arose in the intended order of the cavalcade; Colonel Benson, indeed, attempted to form a procession, which, however, was but of short duration, even such as it was, for we were soon thrown into confusion by a number of pigs, asses, and dogs, who broke in upon our ranks, and from which, in the dark, we found considerable difficulty to extricate ourselves; but as parade is useless when no one can see it, the failure was of little consequence.

As early as five in the morning, the Ambassador alighted from his palanquin at the Emperor's palace, amid an immense number of the populace. Sir George and Mr. Staunton supported his train, followed by the gentlemen attached to the embassy.

Jehol is large and populous, very irregularly built, and lies in a valley between two mountains; the houses are low, and chiefly built of wood; and, except in the quarter contiguous to the imperial palace, none of the streets are paved.

The principal support of this place seems to be derived from the Emperor's partiality for it. No river connects it with remote situations: the splendid expense of a court, however, renders it rich, and in some measure commercial. The surrounding country, though not comparable to China, is in the best state of cultivation of any we saw in Tartary.



As his Excellency's visit was a mere matter of form and presentation, it did not engage him long. He returned from the imperial palace before noon. The Emperor, it is said, received the credentials with a most ceremonious formality, admitting none into his presence but his Excellency, the Interpreter, Sir George and Master Staunton, with the latter of whom he appeared to be vastly delighted, and to whom he presented, with his own hands, a beautiful fan, and some embroidered purses; and likewise ordered the interpreter to signify how highly he thought of his talents.

Soon after the Ambassador's return, a number of valuable presents were received from court, consisting of rich satins, velvets, silks, and purses, and some of the finest tea of the country, made up into solid cakes by means of baking, of about five pounds each. Except such as were addressed for their Britannic Majesties, these presents were proportionably divided among the gentlemen of the suite.

Next morning the Ambassador, attended only by his suite, paid a second visit to the Emperor, in order, as we understood, to attempt to open the wished-for negotiation. On this occasion he stopped several hours. The interpreter gave a very favourable report of the aspect of the negotiation, as far as it had advanced; and our hopes for its success seemed to derive some confirmation from a second cargo of presents, consisting of velvets, satins, and silks, as before; Chinese lamps and valuable porcelain; and to these were added a number of calibath boxes of the most exquisite fabric. A distribution was made as before; and mirth and festivity, arising from sanguine hopes of success, crowned the evening of the day.

Several mandarins visited the Ambassador on the 16th of September, and invited him and the whole embassy to

attend the anniversary of the Emperor's birth-day at court, on the morrow.

Accordingly his Excellency, with the whole of his suite, set out at two o'clock in the morning, and the whole cavalcade reached the imperial palace about four. This palace stands on an elevated situation, and commands an extensive view of the country surrounding it: it contains a numerous range of courts surrounded by porticos, none of which, however, appear very magnificent, though some of them are highly decorated with painting and gilding. The gardens surround it for several miles, and these are bounded by a wall thirty feet high. In the front of the palace is a fine lawn, in the centre of which is a very pleasant lake.

As soon as the Emperor approached, the mandarins in waiting prostrated themselves, or it would have been impossible to have distinguished his palanquin from one of their's. No external pomp or badge of dignity, marked his dress or equipage, except his being carried by twenty mandarins of the first order. It is a favourite maxim of the Chinese government to check superfluous expense, and to encourage frugality and industry in every department. Actuated by the same wise and patriotic principle, the present Emperor has forbid any public joicings on his birth-day, in this less flourishing part of his empire; but such unfeigned homage is paid to his dignified and amiable character, that except in his immediate presence, and under his personal view, all ranks and descriptions of men, throughout his extensive dominions, give a loose to joy on this auspicious day. He had now completed the eighty-fifth year of his age, and the fifty-seventh of his reign. His countenance was animated, and little expressive of his advanced years; his eyes were dark and piercing; and his whole air bore the impression of the conscious



dignity of virtue rather than that of rank and state. —How different the sensations arising from the contemplation of this character are to those which arise from the view of a profligate European prince, we shall leave the reader to determine; we shall only say, that the Chinese evidently viewed their Emperor as the father, and not as the scourge of their country.

Our return was followed by a repetition of the same kind of presents as we received before, only varied in pattern and colour. A profusion of fruits, pastry, and confectionary, also accompanied those expressions of imperial munificence.

The next day the Ambassador went in a more private manner to have an audience of leave, as the court was soon to return to Pe-kin. At the same time, he transacted certain official business, the result of which was generally spoken of among the suite in the following terms:

That the Emperor declined entering into any written treaty with Great Britain, or indeed with any nation, as being contrary to ancient usage; at the same time he expressed the highest respect for the British nation and the King; and was strongly disposed to give them a preference in all commercial concerns, and to make any arrangements with respect to British ships at Canton for their advantage, which would not prove disadvantageous to his own subjects; but that he would not sacrifice the interests of his own people to any foreign connections, and would only continue his avowed partiality for the English, while he found it for the advantage of his own subjects, and they conducted themselves in their commercial intercourse in such a manner as to deserve it.

To evince his high personal regard for the King of Great Britain, he delivered to the Ambassador with his own hand a box of great value, containing the minia-

tures of all the preceding emperors, with a short character of each in verse, written by themselves, accompanied with the subsequent address :

“ Deliver this casket to the King your master, with  
“ your own hand, and tell him from me, that small as  
“ the present may appear, it is the most valuable I have  
“ to bestow, or my empire can furnish. It has been  
“ transmitted to me through a long line of ancestors,  
“ and I had reserved it as the last token of affection I  
“ had to bequeath to my son and successor, as a tablet of  
“ the virtues of his progenitors, which I should hope  
“ he had only to peruse to be induced to imitate ; and  
“ to make it, as they had done, the grand object of his  
“ life to exalt the imperial honour, and advance the  
“ happiness of his people.”

This message caused no small degree of speculation among the retinue of the embassy, but none could be fully satisfied themselves, or satisfy others, with respect to the motives of the Emperor, in the present or the address. If he was concerned for the happiness of Europe, we owe him our grateful acknowledgments, and join with many others in the sincere wish that this address may never be forgotten, and that this singular present may produce that effect on the present possessor of, and the heir apparent to, the British crown, as the Chinese Emperor expected it would have produced on his son ; the embassy will then prove of importance, indeed, to the British nation.

After dinner, the Ambassador returned with his whole suite and attendants, to see a play performed in the imperial palace. A temporary stage was erected, and ornamented with a profusion of silk streamers. The dramatic entertainments consisted of mock battles, vaulting, tumbling, rope-dancing, and other gymnastic amusements, which would have done no discredit to any performers in Europe. A variety of deceptions concluded this



theatrical fête; one of which was the exhibition of a large bowl, in every possible position; which was immediately placed on the stage, bottom upwards, and on being lifted up again, discovered a large rabbit, which escaped from the performer by taking refuge among the audience. The spectators in general, including many of our own people, were totally at a loss to account for this deception; but to many of us, if we knew not how it was done, it was, at least, no novelty, having frequently seen the same trick exhibited by the jugglers of our own country. Other similar tricks were very dexterously performed, and amused us by their novelty and apparent difficulty. The theatre made a splendid appearance, being well-lighted and well-filled with persons of distinction.

Next day, pipes and tobacco, sufficient to supply every individual belonging to the embassy, were received; and several mandarins came to pay their respects to the Ambassador. In these visits we observed how little regard is paid to external appearance in China. The mandarins never varied their habits; and even the court-dresses here differ very little from the ordinary habiliments. It may be said to consist of a loose robe, falling half-way down the leg, and drawn round the neck with ribands. Over the breast is a piece of embroidery, about five inches square, finished in gold, or silk of various colours, with an exact counterpart on the back; which badges denote the rank of the wearer. The sash, which at other times is usually worn round the waist, is dispensed with at court, and the dress left to its natural flow.

We are now called upon to notice a degree of despotic authority assumed by the leader of the embassy, altogether inconsistent with the character and privileges of British subjects; and as there is reason to believe, that this assumption of arbitrary power conveyed an unfa-

avourable impression to the Chinese of our national character, laws, and customs, to set this matter in a clear light, we shall previously state the orders issued by Lord Macartney, and read to the ships' companies, and all persons of every rank attached to the embassy, on our approaching the coast of China; orders which seemed to have been dictated by sound policy, and a real regard to the successful prosecution of the grand objects in view.

ORDERS, *sealed and signed* MACARTNEY.

“ As the ships and brigs attendant on the embassy to  
 “ China are now likely to arrive in port a few days  
 “ hence, his Excellency the Ambassador thinks it his  
 “ duty to make the following observations and arrange-  
 “ ments :

“ It is impossible that the various important objects  
 “ of the embassy can be obtained, but through the good-  
 “ will of the Chinese : that good-will may much de-  
 “ pend on the ideas which they shall be induced to en-  
 “ tertain of the disposition and conduct of the English  
 “ nation, and they can judge only from the behaviour  
 “ of the majority of those who come amongst them.  
 “ It must be confessed, that the impressions hitherto  
 “ made upon their minds, in consequence of the irre-  
 “ gularities committed by Englishmen at Canton, are  
 “ unfavourable even to the degree of considering them  
 “ as the worst among Europeans ; these impressions are  
 “ communicated to that tribunal in the capital, which  
 “ reports to, and advises the Emperor upon all concerns  
 “ with foreign countries. It is therefore essential, by  
 “ a conduct particularly regular and circumspect, to  
 “ impress them with *new, more just, and more favourable*  
 “ ideas of Englishmen ; and to shew that, even to the  
 “ lowest officer in the sea or land service, or in the civil



“ line, they are capable of maintaining, by example  
“ and by discipline, due order, sobriety, and subordi-  
“ nation, among their respective inferiors. Though the  
“ people in China have not the smallest share in the  
“ government, yet it is a maxim invariably pursued by  
“ their superiors, to support the meanest Chinese in any  
“ difference with a stranger, and if the occasion should  
“ happen, to avenge his blood; of which, indeed, there  
“ was a fatal instance not long since at Canton, where  
“ the gunner of an English vessel, who had been very  
“ innocently the cause of the death of a native peasant,  
“ was executed for it, notwithstanding the utmost united  
“ efforts on the part of the several European factories at  
“ Canton to save him: peculiar caution and mildness  
“ must consequently be observed in every sort of inter-  
“ course or accidental meeting with any of the poorest  
“ individuals of the country.

“ His Excellency, who well knows that he need not  
“ recommend to Sir Erasmus Gower to make whatever  
“ regulations prudence may dictate on the occasion, for  
“ the persons under his immediate command, as he  
“ hopes Capt. Mackintosh will do for the officers and  
“ crew of the Hindostan, trusts also that the propriety  
“ and necessity of such regulations, calculated to pre-  
“ serve the credit of the English name, and the interest  
“ of the mother country in these remote parts, will en-  
“ sure a steady and cheerful obedience.

“ These same motives, he flatters himself, will ope-  
“ rate likewise upon all the persons immediately con-  
“ nected with, or in the service of, the embassy.

“ His Excellency declares, that he shall be ready to  
“ encourage and to report favourably hereupon the  
“ good conduct of those who shall be found to deserve  
“ it; so he will think it his duty, in case of misconduct  
“ or disobedience of orders, to report the same with

“ equal exactness, and to suspend or dismiss transgressors, as the occasion may require. Nor, if offence should be offered to a Chinese, or a misdemeanor of any kind be committed, which may be punishable by their laws, will he deem himself bound to interfere for the purpose of endeavouring to ward off or mitigate their severity.

“ His Excellency relies on Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, commandant of his guard, that he will have a strict and watchful eye over them: vigilance, as to their personal demeanor, is as requisite in the present circumstances, as it is, though from other motives, in regard to the conduct of an enemy in time of war. The guards are to be kept constantly together, and regularly exercised in all military evolutions; nor are any of them to absent themselves from on board ship, or from whatever place may be allotted them for their dwelling on shore, without leave from his Excellency, or commanding officer. None of the mechanics, or servants, are to leave the ship, or usual dwelling on shore, without leave from himself, or from Mr. Maxwell; and his Excellency expects, that the gentlemen in his train will shew the example of subordination, by communicating their wishes to him before they go, on any occasion, from the ship, or usual dwelling-place on shore.

“ No boxes or packages, of any kind, are to be removed from the ship, or, afterwards, from the place where they shall be brought on shore, without the Ambassador's leave, or a written order from Mr. Barrow, the comptroller; such order describing the nature, number, and dimensions of such packages.

“ His Excellency, in the most earnest manner, requests that no persons whatever belonging to the ships be suffered, and he desires that none of his suite, guard,



“ mechanics, or servants, presume to offer for sale, or  
 “ propose to purchase, in the way of traffic, the smallest  
 “ article of merchandise of any kind, under any pre-  
 “ tence whatever, without leave from him previously  
 “ obtained. The necessity of avoiding the least appear-  
 “ ance of traffic accompanying an embassy to Pe-kin  
 “ was such, as to induce the East India Company to  
 “ forego the profits of a new market, and deterred  
 “ them from shipping any goods for sale in the Hindostan,  
 “ as being destined to attend upon the embassy, the  
 “ dignity and importance of which, in the prejudiced  
 “ eyes of the Chinese, would be utterly lost, and the  
 “ good consequences expected from it, even on com-  
 “ mercial points, totally prevented, if any actual trans-  
 “ actions, though for trifles, for the purpose of gain,  
 “ should be discovered amongst any of the persons con-  
 “ cerned in conveying, or attending an Ambassador; of  
 “ which the report would soon infallibly swell into a  
 “ general system of trading. From this strictness his  
 “ Excellency will willingly relax whenever such ad-  
 “ vances shall have been made by him in negotiation as  
 “ will secure the object of his mission: and when a  
 “ permission from him to an European, to dispose of any  
 “ particular article of merchandise, shall be considered  
 “ as a favour granted to the Chinese purchaser. His  
 “ Excellency is bound to punish, as far as in him lies,  
 “ any the slightest deviation from this regulation; he  
 “ will easily have it in his power to do so, in regard to  
 “ the persons immediately in his train or service. The  
 “ discipline of the navy will render it equally easy to Sir  
 “ Erasmus Gower, in respect to those under his imme-  
 “ diate command; and the East India Company have,  
 “ by their order of the 5th of September, 1792, and  
 “ by their letter of the 8th of the same month and year,  
 “ fully authorised his Excellency to enforce compliance  
 “ with the same regulation, among the officers of the

“ Hindostan. A copy of the said order, and an extract  
 “ from the said letter, here follow, in order that Cap-  
 “ tain Mackintosh may communicate the same to his  
 “ officers. His Excellency depends upon him to pre-  
 “ vent any breach or evasion of the same among any of  
 “ his crew.”

*At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday the 5th of  
 September, 1792.*

“ Resolved,

“ That the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Ma-  
 “ cartney be authorized to suspend, or dismiss the com-  
 “ mander, or any officer of the Hindostan, who shall  
 “ be guilty of a breach of covenants, or disobedience of  
 “ orders from the Secret Committee, or from his Ex-  
 “ cellency, during the continuation of the embassy to  
 “ China.

(Signed) “ W. RAMSEY, Sec.”

*Extract from the Chairman and Deputy Chairman's Letter  
 to Lord Macartney, dated the 8th of September, 1792.*

“ The Secret Committee having given orders to Cap-  
 “ tain Mackintosh, of the Hindostan, to put himself  
 “ entirely under your Excellency's direction, as long as  
 “ may be necessary for the purpose of the embassy, we  
 “ have inclosed a copy of his instructions, and of the  
 “ covenants which he has entered into, together with an  
 “ account of his private trade, and that of his officers :  
 “ there is no intention whatever, on the part of the  
 “ court, to permit private trade in any other port, or  
 “ place, than Canton, to which the ship is ultimately  
 “ destined, unless your Excellency is satisfied that such  
 “ private trade will not prove of detriment to the dig-  
 “ nity and importance annexed to the embassy, or to the  
 “ consequences expected therefrom, in which case your  
 “ consent in writing becomes necessary to authorize any  
 “ commercial transaction by Captain Mackintosh, or



“ any of his officers, as explained in the instructions  
 “ from the Secret Committee. But as we cannot be too  
 “ guarded with respect to trade, and the consequences  
 “ which may result from any attempt for that purpose,  
 “ we hereby authorize your Excellency to suspend, or  
 “ dismiss the commander, or any officer of the Hin-  
 “ dostan, who shall be guilty of a breach of covenants,  
 “ or disobedience of orders from the Secret Committee,  
 “ or from your Excellency, during the continuance of  
 “ the present embassy.”

“ His Excellency takes this opportunity of declaring  
 also, that however determined his sense of duty makes  
 him to forward the objects of his mission, and to watch,  
 detect, and punish, as far as in his power, any crime,  
 disobedience of orders, or other behaviour tending to en-  
 danger, or delay the success of the present undertaking,  
 or to bring discredit on the English character, or occa-  
 sion any difficulty, or embarrassment to the embassy ; so  
 in the like manner shall he feel himself happy in being  
 able at all times to report and reward the merit, as well  
 as to promote the interest, and indulge the wishes, of any  
 person who has accompanied him on this occasion, as  
 much as may be consistent with the honour and welfare  
 of the public.

“ In case of the absence or engagements of his Ex-  
 cellency, at any particular moment, application may be  
 made in his room to Sir George Staunton, whom his Ma-  
 jesty was pleased to honour with a commission of minister  
 plenipotentiary, to act on such occasions.”

*Given on board his Majesty's*

*Ship the Lion, the 16th*

*day of July, 1793.*

By his Excellency's Command.

(Signed)

ACHESON MAXWELL, } Secretaries.  
 EDWARD WINDER, }

Some observations and injunctions of his Lordship, delivered at the same time as the above, did not, however, seem to accord with the spirit of liberty and personal security, which accompanies an Englishman wherever he is placed. Hitherto there had not, however, been an attempt made to carry them into execution; but now it was intimated, that all the servants of the Ambassador were to consider themselves as under martial law, and that they would be punished according to its regulations, in any case of disobedience or neglect. It is true, that the experiment was never made in regard to the civil servants of the embassy; but the alarm which this information gave, was deeply felt and inwardly resented. To the honour of Sir George Staunton, he not only disapproved, but reprobated in very severe terms this measure, as repugnant to, and subversive of, the rights of Englishmen, and the principles of justice.

The order, forbidding any traffic with the natives, we believe, was punctually observed, as far as gain was concerned; but a private in the infantry, composing a part of the Ambassador's guard, was reported to the commanding officer as having procured a small quantity of samtchoo, or spirituous liquor, by the assistance of a Chinese soldier; he was immediately confined, and being brought to a court martial, of which a corporal was president, he was sentenced to receive sixty lashes.

This sentence being approved by Colonel Benson, the British soldiers were drawn up in form, in the outer court of the palace where we resided, and the offender being fastened to one of the pillars of the great portico, received his punishment without mitigation.

The just abhorrence excited in the breasts of the Chinese, at this cruel conduct, was demonstrably proved by their words and looks. They expressed their astonishment that a people pretending to profess the mildest



and most benevolent religion on earth, could be guilty of such flagrant inattention to its merciful dictates. One of the principal mandarins, who knew a little English, expressed the general sentiment, "*Englishmen too much cruel, too much bad.*"

But it seems as though the officers were determined, at all events, to impress the Chinese with an unfavourable opinion of the English character, for it appears that Sir Erasmus Gower, the commander of the *Lion*, went a step farther towards alienating the affections of the Chinese from our countrymen; for when that ship lay at Chufan, a native brought a bottle of samtchoo on board, intending to exchange it for some European article; his design being discovered, the Captain ordered him to be seized and punished with twelve lashes, in the presence of numbers of his countrymen, though a complaint preferred to a mandarin would have obtained the satisfaction necessary, and saved the appearance of arbitrary and cruel conduct.

The manners of the Chinese, indeed, revolt at the public exhibition of these punishments: they are at a loss to reconcile European behaviour with European professions. Our faith and practice, in almost every instance, appeared to them to be opposite; and these circumstances we have had the pain to record, as well as several others which occasionally happened, instead of removing unfavourable prejudices, seemed to legitimate and sanction their continuance.

Having previously been informed that the embassy was to proceed to Pe-kin, where its final issue was to be arranged, we set out from Jehol on the morning of the 21st of September, after a state of imprisonment of fourteen days, for the liberty we had been encouraged to expect, was never granted.

In this place it may not be improper to give some account of two extraordinary rocks in the vicinity of Jehol, which the darkness of the morning on which we entered that city had prevented our seeing. One is an immense pillar of stone, about an hundred feet high, small at the base, and gradually spreading towards the top, from several parts of which issue streams of the purest water. This lofty object is situated on the pinnacle of a mountain, which adds to its sublime effect. The upper part of this rock is rather flat, and appears to be clothed with verdure and shrubs, but is totally inaccessible. Some convulsion of nature must certainly have placed it here, and it is impossible to view it from the valley below, without the strongest emotions of wonder and fear. The Chinese give it the name of Panfuiashaung, and justly esteem it as one of the first natural curiosities of the country.

The other is rather a cluster of rocks, whose greatest height is nearly two hundred feet: these stand likewise on the summit of a mountain, and from one point of view, appear as one solid mass. Perhaps the world does not produce two grander objects of the kind.

Soon after we left Jehol, we passed the Emperor's pagoda, where we saw the tributary King of Cochin China's Ambassador and suite, advancing with the annual acknowledgment.

We slept at the imperial palace of Callachottueng, mentioned before, where we lost an artillery-man of the bloody flux, of which alarming malady several others among the military were ill. The attendant mandarin expressed great apprehension, lest the Emperor should hear of this circumstance, and be alarmed on account of any contagious disorder. The body was therefore sent on to the next village, where we breakfasted, and



afterwards interred our companion with military honours.

This morning we received intelligence that the Emperor had left Jehol, and that it would be absolutely necessary to advance two stages without halting, in order that the palaces might be at liberty to accommodate his majesty's attendants. In consequence of this notice, we reached this day Waung-chau-yeng, where we slept.

Pursuing the same route as we had done before, and re-tracing the same objects, our journey to Pe-kin was barren of incidents or novelty. We arrived there on the afternoon of the 26th, and took up our residence in the palace which had been appropriated for our use before we set out for Jehol. The morning of the 27th, Lord Macartney spent in examining the arrangements which had been made during his absence, which seemed to meet his entire approbation; and as our stay here, at this period, was considered as certain to be of some continuance, every preparation and provision was made for the domestic comfort of the establishment, and the splendor of the embassy.

The state canopy was erected in the principal room of the Ambassador's apartments: it was made of flowered crimson satin, with festoons and curtains, fringed with gold; the back displayed the arms of Great Britain; under its cover five chairs of state were placed, the center one being elevated above the rest for the Ambassador. At the other end of the apartment were hung whole length portraits of their Britannic Majesties. The whole formed an appearance for an audience-chamber, equal to the consequence of the country represented, and wanted no appropriate ornament.

These dispositions being completed, nothing remained to perfect the domestic establishment, but the regulation

of the different tables to be provided for the different departments of the household; which it was thought best to delay till the arrival of the Emperor in Pe-kin.

Captain Mackintosh of the Hindostan now proposed to set off on the Monday to join his ship, in order to proceed to Canton; there to take in his cargo for England, having seen, as he conceived, a favourable commencement of this embassy, in which his employers had such a predominant interest.

On the 28th the arrival of the Emperor at the imperial palace in Pe-kin was announced by a grand discharge of artillery.

The occupations of this day in the palace of the Ambassador were confined entirely to writing letters for England, of which Captain Mackintosh was to take the charge; it being considered as a settled arrangement with the court of Pe-kin, that the English embassy were to remain during the winter, to carry on the important negotiations with which it was entrusted;

The next day his Excellency was visited by several mandarins; and some packages of broad cloths of British manufacture were put in a state of readiness for being presented to the Emperor.

Sickness at this time prevailed so much among the soldiers attached to the embassy, that more than half of them were unable to do duty; it was, therefore, found expedient to establish an hospital in some of the vacant buildings within the precincts of the palace for their reception, and more speedy recovery.

On the 1st of October, a mandarin requested, in the name of the Emperor, that the ordnance presents might be sent to the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, where they were to be proved and examined; which, contrary to our expectations, was done by the Chinese themselves instead of our own artillery men, who had been taken



from England for the purpose of displaying their superiority in the science of engineering to the Emperor. The chariots and other presents were also removed to the same place, where the carpenters and the other mechanics went to hang them on their springs; their service, like that of the artillery, was, however, in a great measure dispensed with; they not being permitted to finally adjust them for representation.

The following day, the Ambassador received a formal invitation to wait on the Emperor on the morrow; in compliance with this request his excellency went in a private manner, and transacted business with the officers of state. The conference lasted for two hours; and there were no apparent reasons for supposing that the objects of the mission were not in a progressive state of success.

The Ambassador now settled the order and disposition of the tables for the different departments of the household; and every thing seemed to indicate a residence of some permanency at Peking, which proved highly gratifying to us, who had no other means of judging of the probable success of the object of our embassy, than the general arrangements made for its domestic establishment.

The cabinets of British manufacture were now conveyed to the imperial residence by Chinese porters, and the presents, consisting of jewellery, plated goods, hardware, and cutlery, were now unpacked; and the whole equally divided between the Emperor and the Grand Choulaa.

On the 5th, the Emperor visited the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, to inspect the presents which were lodged there; on this occasion he was pleased to order eight ingots of silver to be distributed to every European person attending. The English artificers, who were employed in cleaning and completing the carriages, and fitting up a

model of an English first-rate man of war, which had been sent with the presents, described his Majesty as being about five feet ten inches high; of a slender form, but well-proportioned; and that his countenance presented a regularity of features, free from the decrepitude of age. His deportment was attractively affable; and the dignity of the prince was only displayed in the superior manners of the man. He was habited in a robe of yellow silk, and a cap of black velvet, surmounted with a red ball, and adorned with a peacock's feather. He wore silk boots, embroidered with gold, and a blue silk sash round his waste.

The opinion his Majesty formed of the presents could only be collected from their being generally received; for we could not learn that he had expressed any opinion where it could possibly be conveyed to us. Two camera obscuras were, however, returned, as being suited only to the amusement of children.

A number of bales, containing a variety of broad and narrow cloths of English manufacture, with a quantity of camblets, two barrel organs, and the remainder of such presents as were not damaged, were now removed from the Ambassador's palace by the Chinese employed on these occasions, and Mr. Plumb sometimes accompanied the presents to explain the nature and application of them, or performed that office to the mandarins, previous to their departure.

As it was now considered, as a matter of certainty, that the embassy would remain for some time at Pe-kin, the superb and elegant horse furniture which had been brought over for his Excellency and Sir George Staunton, were unpacked and got ready for immediate use.

A number of presents were this day received from the Emperor for the use of their Britannic Majesties, the Ambassador and suite.



At noon on the 6th, the Ambassador again went to visit the Emperor; but on his arrival at court he fainted away, and being conveyed home, continued indisposed during the remaining part of the day. In the meanwhile, Sir George Staunton and Colonel Benson distributed to each of the soldiers and servants, some pieces of silk, others of dongaree, a kind of nankeen, and a piece of silver, of about sixteen ounces, as a present from his Imperial Majesty.

The optical, mechanical, and mathematical instruments being removed from the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, the gentlemen and mechanics were dismissed from their attendance there. On a trial of the powers of some of the articles before the mandarins, they failed in the effects ascribed to them, and others excited little surprize or admiration in the Chinese literati who viewed them; this the good Dr. Dinwiddie and Mr. Barrow immediately attributed to their gross ignorance and obstinacy.

A report began to circulate, that we were soon to quit Pe-kin. It occasioned a considerable share of speculation, but it obtained less credit than afterwards appeared to be due to it: the carpenters were however employed in strengthening the cases which contained the presents for St. James's, and in the afternoon of the 7th this report, which at first met with only a faint belief in general, was confirmed by an order from the Ambassador to prepare for our departure on the Wednesday following, being only two days notice. Our surprize and concern may easily be conceived. After a variety of fatigues, we had consoled ourselves that we should now have enjoyed some repose; but all personal considerations were absorbed in public affairs, in which the humblest individual felt an interest. The grand objects of the embassy were evidently unaccomplished; and in our attachment

to our country, its honour, and advantage, we forgot every other care.

To submit, however, we were obliged, and nothing appeared to us possible to be done but an attempt to gain a little respite, till the baggage was packed up and arranged; this seemed a reasonable demand, the attendant mandarin therefore made the requisition, and an order arrived from the Grand Choulaa to suspend our departure till Friday: but judge our astonishment, when the next morning this was countermanded by the Emperor himself, and we were expressly ordered to depart on the day first intimated.

It is not to be supposed that our situation could enable us to judge of the reasons on which this unexpected mandate was founded. It was reported by the Chinese, that as the business on the part of the Emperor was already completed, he was surpris'd the English Ambassador was not anxious to return to his own country. It was also said, that his Majesty was alarmed at the number of our sick, lest any contagion should be communicated to his subjects: nor were there persons wanting who ascribed his determination to an aversion contracted against us, from the skill and ingenuity we evinc'd in those engines of destruction, the brass mortars, which were tried in his presence. It was said he deprecated the spirit of a people, who, contrary to the avowed benign principles of their religion, had made such a proficiency in arts which seem'd to contradict them all.

Many other reports of a similar nature were propagated; but the reason assign'd by the Chinese government was the near approach of winter, when the rivers would be frozen, and the journey to Canton, through the northern provinces, be attended with inconvenience and crowded with impediments.



To speculate on the policy that actuated the court of Pe-kin on this occasion, would be vain; neither shall we presume to ascribe it to any misconduct or mismanagement; but the manner in which the embassy was dismissed was certainly ungracious, and mortifying in the extreme; for supposing it to be the policy of the Chinese government, that no foreign minister shall be received, but on particular occasions, and that he shall not remain in the country after he has finished his particular mission; it does not appear that the business was at all advanced which Lord Macartney was employed to negotiate; and his Lordship certainly would not have formed domestic arrangements, if he had not considered himself certain of remaining at Pe-kin throughout the winter, and of succeeding in the object of his embassy.

At this time a marine, who, with three others, had been taken from on board the *Lion*, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of some of the soldiers, died of the flux; and to prevent this circumstance from being known his corpse was carried away in the night.

Lord Macartney now sent his own state carriage as a present to the Grand Choulaa, who refused to accept it. It was then re-demanded, but no answer was returned to this request, and so short was the period allotted us to stay, and so much was to be done in it, that there was no time to make farther inquiries concerning it, or the reasons for the behaviour on the part of the minister by whom it was refused.

The confusion arising from this sudden and unexpected event, rendered it impossible to arrange the baggage with any order. We huddled it together in the best manner that circumstances would permit. Some articles which could not be packed up, or were now useless, were given to the mandarins; the natives took care to

purloin a share, and Lord Macartney's servants had the canopy of state.

We set out on the road that leads to Tong-tchew at a very early hour on the morning of the 9th, and reached that town in the evening. Even the thoughts of being on the return to our country failed to relieve the gloom of disappointment; and to increase our unpleasant sensations, we met with neglect and wretched accommodations compared to what we had experienced before; for the apartments in which we were lodged here were only temporary sheds, hung with straw matting.

We have already mentioned the conduct of the Grand Choulaa, respecting Lord Macartney's chariot. On our arrival, however, at Tong-tchew, it had found its way thither before us, and was stationed opposite the place appointed for the reception of the embassy, surrounded by crowds of Chinese; many of its ornaments were defaced, and it was otherwise injured. It was, however, drawn down to the river side, and a case being made for it on the spot, to secure it from farther injury, it was re-connsigned to the hold of a junk, and finally sent to figure at Madras.

Next morning, on proceeding to the side of the river, we found the junks intended for our reception. The baggage was put on board with all possible expedition, but not without a degree of confusion beyond what we had yet known; for all the attention before paid to the Ambassador and his suite seemed now to be forgotten; things being, however, at length adjusted, we went on board our junks, and the attendant mandarin and his party followed in separate vessels. Soon after the embarkation was completed, dinner was served up; and at an early hour we retired to rest, after a most fatiguing day.

On the 11th, at a very early hour, the junks were unmoored, and the fleet proceeded down the river: but as



we have already given a description of the country through which it flows, and the local circumstances attending of it, we shall pass on to the period when we quitted the natural for an artificial river; indeed nothing occurred worthy of observation, but that though we still attracted the notice of the inhabitants who lived near the river, the respectful and ceremonious attentions of our former voyage were entirely discontinued.

On the 16th we left the channel of the river, and entered a canal constructed with infinite labour and expense. The sides are masonry throughout its extent; and at certain distances locks, in the form of a crescent, are erected, which confining the water to a narrow passage in the middle of the canal, occasions a moderate fall of about three feet. The motion of the junks is accelerated in passing these locks, and continues to some distance; and to prevent the vessels receiving any damage from striking against the walls of the lock, men are always ready to let down large leathern pads, which effectually break the shock.

In the course of this day we passed a number of these locks, whose construction and effects we found invariably the same.

For some days we sailed through a country rich in agriculture and population. We observed plantations of the shrub which produces the imperial and gunpowder tea. In size and figure it resembles the gooseberry-bush. Imperial tea is the produce of the first blossoms; gunpowder tea is a collection of the successive blossoms as they appear.

Not only the exterior marks of respect had been withdrawn from the embassy by the Chinese, but we even found our provisions deficient, both in quantity and quality. A representation to the mandarin, however, procured immediate redress in this particular, and it was

farther reported, that the same benevolent character had exerted himself with effect to do away some very unfavourable impressions, with which a Tartar mandarin had prejudiced the Emperor against the English, by representing them as divested of every amiable quality, and addicted to every vice.

On the 20th we passed numerous plantations of tobacco; a plant cultivated here in the greatest variety, and to the greatest extent of any country in the world. Indeed smoking being the universal practice from infancy to old age, the quantity of tobacco consumed in China must exceed all moderate calculation.

Several considerable cities appeared at a small distance from the canal; the garrisons from which advanced to the banks to give the usual salute, and the people to gratify their curiosity.

We passed a number of bridges and several corn-mills, worked by water, and apparently on the same construction as those in Europe.

A lofty pagoda, of eight stories, opened to our view on the morning of the 23d; but not different apparently from those we had before seen. Next day we saw the Chinese post pass along the road on the margin of the canal. The letters are inclosed in a large bamboo basket, hooped with cane; it is then locked, and the key is given into the custody of one of the soldiers, who delivers it to the post-master. The basket is then strapped on the courier's shoulders, and being decorated with a number of little bells at the bottom, they make a loud jingling when shaken by the motion of the horse, and announce the approach of the post. Five light-horsemen escort the courier; and as the fleetest horses are selected, and changed at every stage, the mails in China are conveyed with extraordinary expedition and safety.



The junks anchored on the evening of the following day in the heart of a large city, through which the canal passes. A continual succession of bridges connects the banks, and these are guarded by soldiers, who suffer no vessel to pass till a mandarin has inspected it. The fleet here received a salute of three guns, and a numerous body of soldiers lined the banks, who, wearing large helmets, and being completely armed, had a very military appearance.

We soon arrived at Kord-cheeaung, a city of equal magnitude with the last; in the center of which we saw a pagoda of ten stories, each surrounded by a gallery.

After passing several large cities in the course of this day's voyage, we anchored for the night at Lee-yaungoa, which was illuminated in honour of the Ambassador. Public attentions, indeed, began again to be more frequent, and ceremoniously paid.

We passed the city of Kaunghoo on the 26th, and found such an amazing number of junks lying there that our passage was impeded for some time, and we were obliged to come to anchor, in order to give opportunity for a passage to be made between them. The canal winds through this place and its banks slope down to the water in a very beautiful form.

Every spot in our passage gave testimony to the existence of art, and the effects of industry, as well as of prodigious population. On the 29th, passing several extensive fields, we observed the peasants ploughing; they worked with oxen, and though their ploughs were of a very clumsy form, compared with those of England, the labour seemed to be neatly and properly executed.

A repetition of the meagre incidents that fell in our way would be tiresome. Towns, bridges, locks, and junks, fields covered with plenty, and people beyond calculation, were now common objects.

On the 30th we saw a fleet of junks laden with tea for the Canton market; nor was it an unnatural, or uninteresting observation which many of us made, that in the chance of commerce, some of their cargoes might ultimately be consigned to our own country, and arrive there before us.

The prospects around us were now constantly enlivened by pagodas and country seats; some of which were adorned with beautiful gardens, and others surrounded with the finest orchards we had ever beheld.

On the 31st in the morning, the fleet passed through a walled city, where the vast number of junks which covered its canal, justify the opinion of its extensive commerce. In its neighbourhood there are large plantations of tea and tobacco, and the next morning we passed several fields of cotton, which to us formed a pleasing and novel appearance.

The canal became much more expanded; and on the 2d of November we reached a city of great extent and trade. Several canals meet here; and on the south side of it is a bay, communicating with the Yellow river, in which the noblest fleets of Europe might ride.

The hills in the vicinity are beautifully green; their summits are crowned with pagodas, while villas and gardens adorn the lower slopes.

Passing through the bay, in which various opposite currents meet, we soon entered the river, and found ourselves again embosomed in a rich and delightful country.

Town opened on our enchanted senses after town; and no words can convey an adequate idea of the picturesque scenery that surrounded us.

About the hour of dinner, we arrived at a town of unusual magnitude and beauty, through which the river flowed for the space of three miles; the houses were



uniformly built of brick, varied with a bluish-coloured stone, and generally rise to two stories high.

Here we received the military honours so often mentioned; and indeed it may in general be observed, that there was neither town nor village through which we passed, that had not its mandarin and its proportionate number of guards and troops, not only in China, but also in the remote and less populous regions of Tartary.

In the afternoon we anchored, for some time, at another considerable town, where the junks stopped to take in a supply of wine. This town is situated on the side of a large lake, which, in some places, was divided only by a bank from the river on which we were sailing.

The country soon after assumed a swampy appearance; the natural consequence of so many rivers, canals, and lakes, which intersect it, and promote its commercial intercourse.

The weather was cold and the mornings frosty. The climate, unquestionably, is affected by the large bodies of water which every where abound in this part of the country. We now understood, that it was the Yellow river on which we were sailing, probably so called from some communications with the Yellow sea. We passed several lakes, and on the 3d saw a number of fishing-boats employed in their vocations, and procured from them a small fish, about the size of a sprat, but in flavour and form resembling the haddock. On the opposite side of this lake we discovered a very large city, built with a dark-coloured stone, and roofed with tiles of the same hue. This place appears to be about eight miles in circumference; and from the dress and manners of its inhabitants, we could easily determine was both commercial and polite. At the extremity of the wall of this city we dropped our anchor for the night.

Next day we passed two other large lakes; and soon after reached the town of Kiang-fou, which is large and walled. A mandarin and his guards appeared, to give the customary salutes; and at each end of the line of troops, a temporary arch was erected, with a platform reaching down to the river, very elegantly adorned, to afford a landing to the Ambassador, should he happen to be disposed to stop. At a small distance tents were pitched, in the center of which was the mandarin's pavilion, where a collation was ready for the entertainment of his Excellency and the mandarins in our fleet. But the order of the voyage prevented them from accepting this tribute of hospitality and politeness.

Beyond this, we came to another large town of superior beauty, where we stopped to receive a supply of provisions, and to be furnished with men to tow the junks. Here we were gratified with the sight of a number of fine women, whose features were beautiful and complexions uncommonly fair.

In the afternoon we passed a town which could not be less than nine miles in circumference. The walls are of immense height, and seem to be ancient. Several hundreds of junks were moored along its wharfs.

On the 5th we entered a large lake, adorned with a variety of beautiful islands; the most considerable of them contains the palace of a mandarin, with most elegant summer-houses, plantations, and gardens; here also a lofty rock rose amid the trees, and supported on its top a stately pagoda.

We soon entered another river, whose banks became highly picturesque, on which, and the adjoining heights, we saw a variety of villas, with gilt pyramids rising from the roofs, which gave them the appearance of Gothic architecture.



At the city of Mee-you-mee-awng we stopped to take in the customary supply of provisions. Nature seems to have formed this place for the purposes of navigation and commerce, and rural beauty to have fixed her residence in its vicinity.

Another object here presented itself of a very different nature, and which, by its contrast, acquired additional importance. A body of soldiers were drawn up on an esplanade, the line of which extended near a mile; they were divided into companies distinguished by the variety of their uniforms, which, together with the number and colours of their standards, offered a very beautiful spectacle.

No other object, for a considerable time, attracted our notice, except a small dock-yard for building junks, enclosed in a fine grove, which formed a pleasing and picturesque scene.

The river now appeared to be proceeding boldly on into a rich, fertile country, but of more unequal surface than any we had yet seen; when, by an unexpected meander, it brought us back to the city. Here we passed through another large bridge, near a circular bastion which commanded, by its battery, every direction of the river.

On another turn of the stream we discovered a very fine hill before us, the summit of which is crowned with a magnificent pagoda, and the declivities beautified with all the decoration that could be conferred by beautiful gardens and elegant buildings. At the foot of this elevated spot are two stone gateways, which open to a walk that winds gradually up the hill to the pagoda.

This hill appears to form a part of the gardens belonging to the mandarin, whose palace is situated on the banks of the river, from whence a broad flight of steps

ascends to the gate of the outer court. This edifice, in its size and appearance, is suited to the dignity of its possessor, and, like other buildings of the same kind and character in China, is perfectly uniform in all its parts. The body of the house rises to three stories, and the wings are diminished to two. A paved court occupies a large space in the front; and the whole is enclosed by a wall, including a large garden, that extends to the beautiful hill, of which a very inadequate sketch has been already given.

The country continued to make advances in beauty; fields full of fertility, with their shady enclosures; farms embosomed in orchards; villas, and their gardens, we had long been accustomed to behold, but now a mountain rose before us, not rugged and barren, but verdant to its very top; while innumerable herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep, adorned its sloping pastures.

Another town soon succeeded, and to that a lake, surrounded by hills of the same kind, and covered with sheep and cattle. From this delightful situation we passed through a lock, and between a draw-bridge into a canal, that divides another large commercial town. Here we observed a brick-kiln, and a pile of bricks just made; the materials of which appeared to be a kind of sand, mixed up with the mud of the river; the kiln itself was built with the same materials, in the form of a pyramid.

In the evening we passed a large walled city, apparently similar to those we had before seen, and several pagodas being illuminated, in honour of the Ambassador and mandarins, had a very pleasing appearance amid the gloom of night.

The Chinese houses are not only varied in their stile and decorations, but even the towns are in some measure marked by the colour of the materials of which they



are built. On the 6th of November we entered a town of a most dismal hue ; it was wholly erected of black brick, and as the houses were more lofty than those generally seen in this country, being none less than two and many four stories high, its peculiar character made the stronger impression on our minds.

We passed a stone bridge of three arches, and soon after reached the mandarin's palace ; a stone building of singular architecture. On each side of the principal gate are two lofty walls painted red, to prevent the building from being seen but in a front view. The gateway is enriched with sculpture, and the usual accompaniments of Chinese characters ; it is of stone, and supports an apartment. The house itself is painted of different colours, with a stone gallery in front, and covered with a roof of the same material.

The mandarin who resided here had caused a temporary stage, or platform, to be erected, from the palace to the side of the river, in case the Ambassador, and the mandarins, should find it convenient to land. The roof of this building was covered with silk of various colours, a number of lamps fancifully adorned with gauze and ribands were suspended from it, and the floor was covered with a fine, variegated matting. He had also caused a large screen, or curtain, of this matting, to be fixed on the opposite side of the water, for the purpose of hiding some ruinous buildings, that would otherwise have disgraced the gay picture he had contrived by their deformity.

The soldiers under the command of this mandarin were of a different appearance from any we had seen, as they wore red hats with a very high and pointed crown ; on the side of which was a brass plate, that appeared to be fastened with yellow ribands.

Of the elegant hospitality of this mandarin we were not allowed to partake, by the circumstance of our voyage.

A succession of towns, locks, bridges, and pagodas, appeared in rapid succession for some hours, and in the afternoon we saw a very large country residence at some distance, with a lofty pagoda rising, as it prospectively appeared, from the center of it. The tower terminated in a cupola, with a spiral ornament rising from the top, crowned with a ball, from each side of which a chain hung down, till it touched the upper story of the building.

After passing this structure, the banks of the river were, for a considerable distance, so high as to obscure all view of the adjacent country.

In consequence of a complaint against some of the captains of the junks, for embezzlement of provisions, the grand mandarin instituted an inquiry after the fleet came to an anchor this evening; and being convinced of the truth of the charge, sentenced the culprits to be bastinadoed or bamboosed, which was immediately carried into execution.

In the course of the next day, we had a transient view of Chinese husbandry, in the practical parts of digging, manuring, and ploughing; and from the awkward implements employed, our admiration of the fertility of the country, and the labour of the natives was increased.

We passed another town, the houses of which were covered with plaister, and many of them three stories high, and painted black. At the entrance and the extremity of this place of darkness, which is very large, we sailed under a noble arch. We soon reached another town of the same description, where many of the houses



projected over the river, and here our junks were towed by boats.

So various were the features of the river, and so frequent was the interfection of canals, that we were often at a loss to ascertain whether we were sailing on the former or the latter. This, however, is of little importance, as the general outline of the country has been faithfully delineated, though to catch every object would have been impossible.

As it was intended to forward the heavy baggage from Hoang-tchew to Chusan, in order to its being conveyed by sea to Canton, arrangements were made for this purpose. A party of the gentlemen of the embassy, and servants, were to accompany it, and the Ambassador and the remainder were to proceed over land, with only absolute necessaries.

The country still continued the same for some distance, but at length became more unequal; towns and villages rose in constant succession, and the pagodas on the heights seemed to multiply. On the 9th the fleet was ordered to anchor in the open country near the shore, when Van-Tadge-In, the grand mandarin, visited every junk, the owners of which he briefly examined, and then ordered them to suffer the punishment of the bamboo. Their crime we could never learn.

Passing several plantations of tallow trees, we arrived at Hoang-tchew, on the afternoon of the 10th, when the junks were all fastened together, and every person belonging to the suite expressly forbid to land on any account. Indeed, a body of Chinese soldiers pitched their tents opposite us, as if to awe us into compliance. During the time we lay here, no circumstance happened worthy of being recorded. The mandarin of Hoang-tchew, who had accompanied us from Pe-kin, took his leave of us; he was a superior to Van-

Tadge-In, and had of course assumed the supreme direction during this part of our voyage.

The heavy baggage, which was to be sent to Chufan, being separated from the light articles we were to carry with us to Canton, Colonel Benson, Captain Mackintosh, and party, set off to join the Hindostan at Chufan, on the 5th day after our arrival; and the same day we also left Hoang-tchew, after the Ambassador had distributed ten dollars to the owner of each junk, for their respective crews.

The Ambassador, accompanied by his retinue, proceeded on the 14th of November for the Green river, where we were again to embark in smaller junks. On passing the city gates, the embassy received the customary salute. Between the two rivers, the distance could not be less than seven miles, and the whole space was covered by the city and suburbs, and lined with soldiers, who secured us from the pressure of an innumerable multitude of people, who crowded to see us. The streets are narrow, but well paved, the houses two and three stories high, and the magnificence of the shops was beyond any thing we had hitherto seen. In commerce and population, Hoang-tchew is a city of the first magnitude.

At noon we reached the Green river, where the Ambassador was received with military honours. The troops were armed with helmets, and made with their accompaniments a splendid appearance.

A triumphal arch, with a platform descending to the Ambassador's junk, had been erected for the occasion. Our embarkation was attended by a concourse of people, great beyond description. Some were mounted on buffaloes, which animal carried several at a time on its back, and appeared very docile; others were in carts, drawn by the same animal.



Our junks were small, but very neatly fitted up, and our voyage was continued between ranges of mountains, presenting the most romantic scenery. The vallies were covered with tallow and mulberry trees: the former of which is remarkably beautiful.

The river on which we now sailed, was, at a medium, about three feet deep: the water has a green cast, and the bottom is gravelly.

In the evening of the 15th, we saw the city of Zangoua, which made a most brilliant appearance with its illuminations, and the effect was increased by numerous bodies of soldiers ranged along the banks of the river, with paper lanterns.

Next day we passed several stone pagodas; the features of the country through which we sailed, were still mountainous and picturesque, presenting often plantations of tallow and mulberry trees; and the forts and salutes became so frequent, that they grew absolutely tiresome. Indeed, so much military honour was paid to the embassy, that the salutes could only be compared to a train of wild-fire laid from Hoang-tchew to Canton, and continually exploding as we proceeded.

About three o'clock in the morning of the 17th, we were awakened by a discharge of artillery; we perceived, by the number of lanterns, that a large body of soldiers were drawn up on the shore: a lighted torch was fixed to the carriage of every gun, and the bearer of each stand of colours was distinguished by a flambeau, which gave new brilliance and effect to this military illumination.

In an early part of this afternoon, the fleet anchored opposite a small, but very neat town, and, in a short time, the conducting mandarin visited the junks, and distributed to the whole of the Ambassador's train, according to their rank, presents of perfumes, fans, imperial tea, and nankeen.

On the 18th, the country changed to a fine campaign, in which numerous villages rose amidst plantations of tallow and mulberry-trees. This day we passed a group of water-mills, all turned by a small cut from the river, flowing in a circular direction. These appeared to be on the European construction, and, as we understood, were employed in threshing rice.

The provisions which we now received, though by no means deficient in quantity, were far inferior in quality to those we had been accustomed to receive in the former part of our journey; this defect we were given to understand arose from the nature of the country, rather than from any inattention to the comfort and convenience of the embassy. Indeed, there could be no reason to suppose that the Emperor had not even been anxious to render our departure from his kingdom as agreeable as respect and exterior honour could make it.

The following day the banks of the river resumed the usual appearance, and long ranges of mountains rose into the horizon.

The 20th brought us to a large and beautiful town, where we were again to disembark. The scenery here might have advantageously employed the warmest pencil. The river formed a central object; on one side was the town, with its appropriate circumstances, and a military encampment in front, with all its gaudy ensigns; on the other side lofty perpendicular hills bounded the view in the most sublime stile.

Having disembarked, we proceeded next day by land, some in palankins, others in sedans and bamboo chairs, or on horseback, as their fancy led them, for the attendant mandarin always consulted us on the mode in which we wished to travel, and as far as possible accommodated us. We soon reached the city of Chanfoiyeng, where



the Ambassador was received with due distinction. The streets of this city are narrow, and the shops which line both sides of the streets, are in the usual stile of Chinese order and splendour. Leaving this, we passed another walled city, and several villages, and arrived at the city of Yoofaun, where we were again to embark early in the afternoon; here we drank of tea at the palace of the mandarin, and having stowed the baggage on board another fleet of junks, provided for our accommodation, we went on board, anxious to proceed on our voyage, which on account of a heavy rain, we could not do till the 23d.

On the morning of the 24th of November, we found ourselves before the city of Mammenoa. The river now ran between enormous masses of loose stone, without any continuity or connection, exhibiting the appearance of having been subjected to some convulsion of nature. Some of these huge stones had been excavated into dwellings, and every interstice between them was occupied by gardens, and their attendant buildings. This stupendous scenery continued for several miles; it was grand, perhaps unique in itself; and where it admitted of views into the more distant country, it produced a most delightful picture.

We reached the city of Hoa-quoo in the afternoon, where, much to our satisfaction, we found larger junks ready to receive us. The mandarin of the place politely sent a variety of fruits and confectionary for the use of every junk, except that which contained the soldiers. The country through which we passed was rich and fertile, a few red rocks occasionally broke the level of the scene, and a number of rice mills were at work.

The fog was so thick on the morning of the 26th, as to obscure the country; about noon it dispersed, and

the eye ranged over a level extent of rice fields, intersected with villas and gardens.

Our provisions had for some time been very indifferent, not from neglect, but the nature of the country. In proportion as we fared worse, our Chinese junk-men fared better; they received not only our superfluity, but sometimes almost the whole.

The 27th presented a novel scene, a village entirely built of mud, with inhabitants as wretched in appearance as their habitations were mean. For this sight we were unable to account, in a part of the country where the inhabitants seemed industrious, and the earth fertile. We this day received from the mandarin presents of caddies of tea for every person in the suite.

On the 28th the river assumed a formidable breadth, and as the wind was high, the waves and surf resembled those of the sea. We continued through the day to pass numbers of fishing boats, which served to vary the navigation of the stream.

In the afternoon of this day we passed the city of Tyaung-shi-fennau, which, for extent and the advantages of situation, unquestionably deserves to be reckoned one of the first in China. Not less than a thousand junks lay at anchor before it. It is built near the conflux of several rivers, and enjoys a most extensive commerce; the grand mandarin of this city paid a visit to his Excellency on board his junk, and made a variety of presents in silk, porcelain, scarlet cotton, coloured stuffs, tea, and elegant smelling bottles.

The only novelty that presented itself in the course of our voyage on the 29th, was a village built with blue bricks, and covered with tiles of the same colour. Cities, pagodas, and the palaces of mandarins were now become familiar objects, but presented nothing new, and



without this description would be tedious, and the reader will perhaps say we have already been too minute.

We passed two brick kilns and surrounding villages, and the following day we passed a city lying amid beautiful meadows and orchards, about two miles distance from the river. Beyond this the prospect became as delightful as fancy can conceive. Mountains rose into the horizon, forests waved on the slopes, and flocks and herds covered the vales.

Numerous cities and villages lined the banks of the river, which now expanded to a great breadth, and as the wind blew fresh, the junks sometimes appeared to us in danger of being overfet. At this time the thermometer had sunk to forty, and the fields were covered with frost.

It has been remarked before, that there are no public cemeteries, except in the vicinity of populous places. Hence the country becomes a continued burial ground. Which ever way we turned our eyes, some trophy of death appeared, and the degree of embellishment it had received, marked the rank of the deceased. Indeed, it is not unusual for the Chinese to erect their funeral monuments in their life-time, and as the choice of situation is free, many of them become picturesque objects.

On the 1st of December, after passing Taung-faung-*au*, we sailed by the town of Saunt-y-tawn, where several superb pagodas rose above the surrounding groves. Numerous timber yards occupied the banks of the river, and a large quantity of timber was immersed in the stream, which, as we were told, was in a state of preparation for the building of junks, the principal business of the place.

We were this day saluted with more than usual honour by the fort of May-taun-go, which we passed; as

we likewise did a stately pagoda on the opposite side of the river. The cities of Loo Dichean, Morriun Dew, and Chic-a-fou, which we now approached, all lie contiguous to each other, and art and nature have united their efforts to increase the beauty of this charming vicinity. At a distance we observed vast columns of smoke, which rose, as we were informed, from a porcelain manufactory.

In the evening we reached the city of Chinga-fou. Here illuminations, which were peculiarly brilliant, the firing of rockets and of artillery, took place in honour of the Ambassador. We received also a present of fruit and confectionary from the mandarin of the place.

To note every object which arrested and pleased the eye of the traveller, would fatigue the reader without informing him. Every bend of the river opened a new prospect that gratified the sight, to which no description, however vivid, can do justice. The season of the year was now the most unpropitious for landscape beauty, yet the charms of nature, intermixed with the vestiges of art, imparted successive impulses of delight.

On the 2d of December we passed the city of Fie-cho-jeunau; embosomed in plantations of trees. From its apparent population, and the number of junks employed in its commerce, it appeared evidently to be ranked in the first class of Chinese towns.

The next day we had a view of some beautiful ruins of an ancient building, the original destination of which we could not discover, but from the remains still visible, we concluded it must have once been a work of no common magnificence, and it was in all probability a temple.

In this part of the empire situation seems to be duly appreciated. The villas of the mandarins, the pagodas, and even some of the private dwellings, are erected with



a discriminating attention to the circumstances of the place, and the beauty of the scenery.

We observed numbers of fishermen employed in their vocation with rods and lines. In lakes and large rivers, the same kind of bait is frequently used as at sea. Nets, too, are in very common use. In some places bamboo canes, supporting a curtain of strong gauze, are placed across the streams, and then the fish being allured to the spot by baits, are caught in nets with great success.

On inquiry, we found that the rights of fishery, as in Europe, are private property. In those rivers we navigated, a kind of whiting and trout were the most plentiful; these are sold to the crews of the junks, and the demand for them is very great.

But the most extraordinary mode of fishing in this country is by birds trained for that purpose. Nor are hawks or hounds more sagacious in the pursuit of their prey, or more certain in obtaining it, than these birds. The Chinese call them Looau; they are about the size of a goose, with grey plumage, webbed feet, and have a long and very slender bill, that is crooked at the point. This aquatic fowl, when in its wild state, has nothing uncommon in its appearance, nor does it differ from other birds whom nature has appointed to live on the water. It makes its nest among the reeds of the shore, or in the hollows of crags, or where an island offers its shelter or protection. Its faculty of diving, or remaining under water, is not more extraordinary than many other fowl that prey upon fish: but the most wonderful circumstance is the docility of these birds in employing their natural instinctive powers, at the command of the fishermen who possess them, in the same manner as the hound, the spaniel, or the pointer, submit their respective sagacity to the huntsman, or the gunner.

The number of these birds in a boat are proportioned to the size of it. At a certain signal they rush into the water, and dive after the fish; and the moment they have seized the prey, they fly with it to their boat; and however numerous these vessels may be, these sagacious birds invariably return to their own masters, and amidst the throng of fishing junks which are sometimes assembled on these occasions, they never fail to distinguish that to which they belong. When the fish are in great plenty, these purveyors will soon fill a boat with them; and will sometimes be seen flying along with a fish of such size, as to make the beholder suspect his organs of vision. The Chinese repeatedly asserted to us, that when one of them happens to have taken a fish which is too bulky for the management of a single fowl, the rest will immediately afford their assistance. But while they are thus labouring for their masters, they are prevented from paying any attention to themselves, by a ring which is passed round their necks, and is so contrived as to frustrate any attempt to swallow the least morsel of what they take.

We also saw another fishing party, which consisted of at least thirty fishermen, seated like so many taylors on a wide board, supported by props in the river, where they were angling. There was another groupe of these people near the shore, who had embanked a part of the river with sand, where, by raking the bottom with a kind of shovel, they caught large quantities of shrimps and other shell fish.

Early in the afternoon we anchored before the city of Vang-on-chean, where the Ambassador received a visit from the mandarin, and where we staid about two hours; this place occupies a considerable space; on one side it is bounded by the river, and on the other by a range of high mountains.



A succession of towns and villages enlivened our voyage during the succeeding day. The features of the country became craggy and elevated into hills ; but fertility, in every possible situation, shewed the labour of diligent cultivation.

The appearance of indigence is by no means common in China, but this day we observed a cluster of cottages meanly constructed of logs of wood, and indicating internal wretchedness, but the eye had not leisure to give them more than a glance of commiseration, so very alluring were the charms of the surrounding country, of which the pencil of a master might communicate some general idea, but it is not in the power of language to convey any correct image even of the individual objects, much less of the picture formed by the combination of them. When we say that we saw forests, gardens, mountains, vallies, palaces, cottages, cities, villages, pagodas, and mills, with a variety of subordinate, but heightening circumstances, in one view, we certainly inform the reader of the constituent parts of the prospect ; but to give him any proper ideas of their actual arrangement and relative situation ; of their proportions and contrast ; of their general distance from the eye, and comparative distance from each other, is beyond any exertion of description.

On the 5th the river became very shoally, and we anchored before dark to avoid the dangers of such a navigation. This day we passed the city of Yoo-jen-nau, situated at the bottom of a lofty mountain. Here we found that the river on which we had sailed, communicated with another of equal magnitude. The position of a city, at the conflux of two large rivers, readily points out its convenience for trade.

Leaving this place, the stream was divided into two streams by a beautiful islet, in which the manda-

rin had an elegant seat, probably for his occasional retirement.

In the evening, the city of Kaung-joo-fou presented the most brilliant nocturnal illumination we had hitherto seen; and this complimentary attention was heightened by a present of fruits and confectionary from the mandarin.

In our passage down the river, on the 6th of December, we observed a number of machines, with which the Chinese water their grounds. They consist of a wheel of bamboo, turned by a stream, which throwing the water into large reservoirs, it is from thence distributed by sluices into channels which intersect the fields.

A beautiful village, called Shai-boo, situated on a bold elevation above the river, was the principal object in the landscape, till the attention was called away by the pagoda of Tau-ay, the upper part of which being in ruins, gave it a picturesque and impressive appearance, and well accorded with the character of the little burial place at its foot.

The town of Whan-ting-taun was the only place of any importance we passed in this day's voyage. Villages were, however, numerous; and some huts again made their appearance, of the most wretched construction, not being sufficient to shelter the inhabitants from the inclemency of the weather.

The 7th of December was the most remarkable day we had yet experienced, for during our whole progress we saw neither city, town, nor village. A few farm-houses were, however, dispersed over the face of the country. The banks of the river were lofty, and formed of a perpendicular barrier of red earth, streaked with horizontal veins of stone, in a direction perfectly rectilinear.



This natural curiosity continued without any deviation from this regularity for several miles.

The shallowness of the river obliged us again to shift our baggage into junks of lesser burden; this caused such delay, that it was not till late in the evening that we found ourselves in the vicinity of some town or village, which we might now not have noticed, had it not been for the number of paper lanterns we saw exhibited by the soldiers, and the complimentary salute they paid us.

The weather had for some days been temperate, but the face of the country was no longer the same. Barren mountains, separated by plains that seemed to defy the labour of man to produce fertility, now presented themselves on all hands. Some dwarf-trees, however, among which the camphire is said to predominate, broke the abruptness of the slopes, and here and there a village or a pagoda animated the scene.

In this place we observed several sepulchral monuments, with excavations in the rocks beneath, as receptacles for the dead. The most elevated spots, the most abrupt precipices, we generally observed, were appropriated for the repose of the dead. Whether this choice was determined with a regard to notoriety, or from any superstitious opinion, that the body might be placed as near as possible to that heaven where spirits wing their flight, we could obtain no satisfactory information. The amiable virtues, however, of the Chinese, were rendered more conspicuous by the feeling regard they uniformly appear to shew to the remains of those they have once loved or respected.

On the 9th we arrived at a city, where the embassy was to make a day's march over land, and accordingly we disembarked. The landing-place was adorned with a triumphal arch, highly decorated with silken streamers,

and connected, by a platform, with a circular court, surrounded by a screen of silk. In this place a number of horses were collected, with the choice of one of which every person in the suite was indulged for the journey of the day; but the Ambassador, with two or three gentlemen of his suite, were to proceed, as usual, in palankins. The horses being selected, the cavalcade commenced their progress; and perhaps such an exhibition of equestrian exercise and grotesque dress never before amused a Chinese populace. The horses were spirited, many of the riders were new to this mode of travelling. The cries of fear, and the shouts of ridicule, were every where heard; and scarcely could we attend to the passing scene, so much were we engaged by the peculiarities of our own situation.

Naung-aum-foo, through which we passed, is a large walled city; and though the river here does not admit large junks, from the very great number of smaller ones which lined its shores, we concluded it had no inconsiderable pretensions to a commercial character.

At noon we arrived at the foot of a lofty mountain, where we were obliged to dismount; having gained the ascent we passed several villages, and dined at the town of Lee-cou-au, where the road was lined with soldiers in armour, to salute the Ambassador as he passed.

The women, in this part of our journey, were either *educated with less reserve, or allowed a greater share of liberty, than in the country through which we had lately passed, as we frequently saw them indulging their curiosity in observing such a new and extraordinary sight as we must have exhibited.*

The splendor of cultivation was exchanged for the landscape of the barren mountain; however, large patches of camphire and other trees sometimes relieved the eye.



We arrived at the gates of Naung-chin-oa, just as the sun had sunk beneath the horizon; this city stands in a plain, encircled on three sides by hills, and on the fourth by the river on which we were to continue our voyage. The houses are chiefly built of wood, in general two stories high, and the streets are narrow, but well paved: in exterior appearance and decoration, it preserves the general character of Chinese towns.

Soldiers lined the streets to facilitate our passage to the mandarin's palace, a very noble building, consisting of several courts. A splendid entertainment was provided for the whole suite, and such a profusion of lights decorated the principal apartments as are never displayed in Europe on any occasion; indeed illumination, we may affirm, constitutes the grand appropriate feature of Chinese magnificence.

We again embarked in the morning of the 11th of December, on board small junks, corresponding with the depth of the river, and before noon we resumed our voyage, sailing under a wooden bridge of seven arches, with stone pillars, strongly guarded by soldiers at each end. From this point the city appears in a very advantageous view.

At a small distance from the bridge the river divides into two branches, running in almost opposite directions; on that whose stream bore us along we saw a large quantity of small timber in rafts.

In the afternoon we passed a pagoda, of a more singular construction than any which we had seen in our travels through the country. It consisted of five stories, and terminated in a flat roof, with trees growing on it. The body of the building, from many parts of which also shrubs appeared to sprout forth, was covered with a white plaister, and decorated with red paint in its angles and interstices.

The country still remained barren and mountainous; nor was its rude and dreary aspect enlivened by any appearance of cultivation. A considerable town, called Chang-fang, was the only place of consequence which we passed in the short voyage of this day.

The face of the country still continued dreary, and artificial circumstances increased the gloom. Sepulchral monuments were the chief objects which we saw in the course of the day; the only novelty was floating rafts, with several bamboo huts, well tenanted, which we passed near the village of Ty-ang-koa.

On the 13th, after passing a considerable town, we came to the city of Shaw-choo, where the houses adjoining the river appear to be so slenderly supported, as to threaten constant ruin to their inhabitants and the passengers. At the extremity of this city the fleet anchored; and here the Ambassador experienced the elegant attention of the mandarin in a very superior degree.

In the evening he sent the suite a very handsome present of china, together with a large supply of provisions; we also, at a later hour of the evening, received a quantity of tobacco, some ducks cured in the manner of hams, of a very delicate flavour, together with a considerable quantity of dried fish.

At this place, junks of larger dimensions were again prepared to receive the embassy; and next day we passed through a country sometimes varied with patches of cultivated ground, though mountainous sterility was still the predominant feature.

Towards evening we found the hills gradually approaching the river, till at last they seemed to close, and admit only its course: this gloomy scene continued for some time, as if to heighten the contrast that was to open. We now reached a mountain of immense per-



pendicular height, the upper part of which appears to project over the stream. Its contour is bare rock and shaggy foliage, and this extends for nearly two miles: its termination, like its commencement, is abrupt. At the extreme point, a pyramidal rock appears to rise above the edge of the precipice, and this is separated by an intervening plain from another enormous rock, of the same character, though of a different form.

As a range of hills may be said to have conducted us along the river to these stupendous objects, so a succession of the same kind continued during a course of several miles after we had left them; but it was the peculiar office of this extraordinary night to awaken our astonishment by the grand exertions of art, as well as by the stupendous works of nature; for, at the conclusion of this chain of hills, that had so long excluded any view into the country, we were surpris'd with a line of light extending for several miles over mountains and vallies, at some distance from the river, and forming one uninterrupted blazing outline as they rose or sunk in the horizon.

In some parts of this brilliant, undulating line, it was varied or thickened, as it appeared, by large bands or groups of torches; and, on the most conspicuous heights immense bonfires threw their flames towards the clouds. Nor was this all, for the lights not only circumscribed the outline of the mountain, but sometimes rose up it in a serpentine form, and connected, by a spiral stream of light, a large fire blazing at the bottom, with that which reddened the summit.

The number of lanterns, lamps, or torches, employed on this occasion, are beyond all calculation, as the two extremities of the illuminated space, taken in a straight line, without estimating the sinkings of the vallies, or the inequality of the mountain tops, could not contain

a less distance from each other than three miles. Whether these lights were held by an army of soldiers, or were fixed in the ground, we could not learn; but it was certainly the most magnificent illumination ever seen by any European traveller, and the most splendid compliment ever paid to the public dignity of an European ambassador. Successive discharges of artillery were, at regular distances, added to the honour of this superb spectacle.

On the 15th the grand mandarin ordered the fleet to come to anchor, for the purpose of indulging the embassy with a view of the mountain of Koan-yeng-naum, one of the natural curiosities of China. It has a perpendicular ascent from the water, terminating in a peak; and from the face towards the river, such enormous masses project, as apparently menace every moment to fill up the channel of the stream.

But art has heightened the curious circumstances of this extraordinary mountain. It contains several caverns. One of them is about forty feet above the level of the water. To this there is access by a flight of steps, guarded by a rail. On reaching the top of the flight, we enter a room of good dimensions, excavated from the rock, in which stands an image sacred to Chinese devotions. An artificial staircase conducts to two other superior apartments; and the whole is fitted up by the mandarin to whom the mountain belongs, in a stile of rude magnificence, corresponding to the character of the place.

Proceeding through a country presenting many sublime features, we reached the city of Schizing-ta-heng about noon. This place enjoys every local advantage that can contribute to render it picturesque in a high degree.



Lofty banks for a considerable space shut out our view of the land; and where a casual opening gave a wider prospect, it was not marked with any new features. Similar objects occurred—varied only by shape, or discriminated by light and shadow.

The evening was cheered with an illumination of the distant hills. The coup d'œil was extremely grand, but inferior to what we had witnessed before.

Next day we saw a number of steep rocks, in various grotesque forms; they were sometimes tinted with foliage, and sometimes the traces of laborious taste, were the prevailing character of the landscape they afforded. Among them arose a large mountain, shaded by an hanging forest, which was also accompanied with circumstances that enlivened and adorned it. At the foot of it a road had been cut out of the solid rock, and to communicate with it, a large arch of stone has been built across a deep chasm. In the centre of the wood, there is the palace of a mandarin, surrounded with detached offices, and at some small distance a temple, which belongs to it, and contains the image which is the usual object of religious worship. There are several burying places in different parts of the wood, which are the mausoleums of the mandarin's family to whom the palace belongs. It is called Tre-liod-zau.

This magnificent scene, which, on a particular turn of the river presented itself, is much heightened by a contrasted succession of bare and barren mountains.

We now reached the city of Tsing-yan-yeun, a place well fortified, and of great extent and population. The number of junks which lay before it, indicated an enlarged commerce, and the timber yards on the banks of the river pointed out its principal trade. Triumphant arches decorated the beach; and several regiments of soldiers paid the military honours as we passed.

From this city the river takes a direct course for some miles, amidst fertile and highly cultivated meadows, and the mountains fall into the back ground.

This afternoon one of the junks was in imminent danger of being consumed by fire occasioned by a spark falling unobserved from a tobacco-pipe. Indeed, where smoaking is so generally used, it is a matter of astonishment that accidents are not more frequent and fatal.

On the 17th we passed the extensive village of Ouz-chouaa, where a number of manufactories appear to be established. The country now resumed its fertility and beauty; and provisions became both plentiful and excellent.

In the evening we reached the city of Sangs-we-yenno, where the Ambassador received every honour that the most elegant attention on the part of the mandarin could pay, or his Excellency expect. The illuminations displayed here were peculiarly grand.

On the following morning we passed a series of very large and populous towns, so closely connected, that we seemed for some hours to be sailing through one city of immense extent. The salutes were almost incessant as we proceeded; and every place poured forth thousands of its inhabitants, though at a very early hour, to obtain a transient view of an European embassy.

We now approached the city of Tayn-tsyn-tau, a place of great importance and the most extensive trade. The suburbs lie on both sides the river for several miles; and if we may judge from those circumstances that fell under our inspection, in extent, population, and commerce, this city is only inferior to Pekin or to Canton. Thousands of junks covered the river for a vast space; and scarcely had we overcome the difficulties and impediments of this crowded navigation, before we found ourselves approaching to Canton, the termination of our voyage.



Our arrival being notified at Canton, several mandarins waited on his Excellency; and these were soon followed by the gentlemen of the English factory with the British commissioners and Colonel Benson. This officer brought with him the public dispatches for the Ambassador, and a packet of private letters from our friends in England, together with the newspapers which had arrived by the last ships. Those only who have been so long cut off from any communication with the land which contained all that was dear to them, can form an adequate idea of the anxious joy we felt at opening a letter from the relative or friend we loved.

Next day we were moved into larger junks. The magnificence of the river at this place baffles description. Its surface was almost covered with vessels, engaged in trade, or attracted by curiosity. The banks were lined with soldiers, and covered with elegant houses; and a succession of forts thundered out salutes with almost incessant rapidity.

We reached the English factory about one in the afternoon; and both it and the Dutch factory paid his Excellency the usual salute, hoisting at the same time the standard of their respective countries.

For some days it had been a common sight to see the boats generally rowed by women. We sometimes observed a child tied to its mother's back, and another at her breast, while she was plying the oar. To a feeling mind this spectacle could not fail to give pain; and it may be remarked, that in Tartary, and the northern provinces of China, where the women are lamed, either by fashion or policy, from their infant years, such laborious occupations can never fall to their lot.

A temporary residence for the Ambassador and suite had been provided by the East India Company's supercargoes; and in point of accommodation and domestic

arrangement, we found it superior to the first palaces in which we had lodged, during our long peregrination in China.

As we have already given a description of Canton, we shall forbear adding any thing respecting it in this place.

For several days, during the time of dinner, the Ambassador was entertained with Chinese plays, performed on a stage erected before the windows of his apartments, and the Viceroy visited him once during his stay, which was followed by large presents of porcelain, nankeen, and sugar-candy to the whole retinue.

On the first day of the new year, 1794, his Excellency and suite were splendidly entertained by the gentlemen of the British factory. The band of music which had accompanied the embassy, on the request of the factory, were permitted to enter into its service; and in a country where amusements are so few and confined, it could not fail to be a valuable acquisition.

Degeneracy of manners evidently marks the character of the inhabitants of Canton, and this reflection is the more melancholy, as there is too much reason to suppose the contagion of European example has infected the simplicity of the Chinese general character; and rendered themselves objects of contempt to the Chinese government.

On the 8th of January the Ambassador proceeded to Whampoa to join the ships. At the same time a deputation of the retinue was dispatched to Macao, to make preparations for his Excellency's reception at that place.

Whampoa, beyond which European ships are never permitted to pass, is an elegant and populous village, about eighteen miles below Canton. The river near this place is defended by a sand bank, which prevents the passage of large ships, except at high water; and two



necks of land, projecting on each side of it, form the celebrated strait of Bocca Tigris.

At this place Van-Tadge-In took his farewell leave of the Ambassador. Our praise or censure will not reach a person of his rank ; but in bestowing praise on this deservedly distinguished personage and most amiable of men, we gratify the best feelings of the human heart, and at the same time do honour to ourselves. This excellent character can never be forgotten by those who experienced his assiduous care, his mild condescension, and his enlightened conduct, during a long and troublesome attendance on the embassy. He held an exalted rank in the Chinese army—perhaps the highest ; but no dignity of situation had rendered him inattentive to the minutest offices of duty. His mind seemed capable of reflecting honour on any rank ; with the most benevolent heart he attached himself to the interests of those in whose service he was employed ; he had even contracted a friendship for some ; and his last adieu to the Ambassador and suite was accompanied by the tears of affection.

On the 14th Lord Macartney landed at Macao ; and took up his residence with Mr. Drummond, one of the supercargoes of the East India Company. Here the gentlemen of the several European factories have their houses ; as they are not permitted to remain at Canton longer than is absolutely necessary for the purpose of trade.

The long intercourse which has subsisted between Europeans and the Chinese in this place, has not altered the established customs and habits of the latter. The Chinese never deviate from the usages of their country, which may be considered as invariable.

Without the wall is the common burying-ground of the Chinese ; and in it we saw several memorials of our countrymen, whose ashes repose here. Those who die

In the Roman Catholic faith have separate cemeteries: the Chinese, more liberal than the Catholics, suffer their dust to mingle with ours.

Here Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, though offered an handsome establishment if he chose to return to Europe, quitted the service of the embassy. He left his English friends with sensible regret; but naturally preferred passing the remainder of his days in the bosom of his family and his country.

On the 8th of March, Lord Macartney and retinue embarked for Europe, amid the salutes of forts and ships; and being joined by a large homeward-bound fleet of Indiamen, on the 17th proceeded to sea.

Nothing of any particular consequence happened during our voyage. We arrived at St. Helena on the 19th of June, and remained there till the 1st of July.

On the 3d of September we were seriously alarmed by running foul of a large fleet off Portland Roads, which proved to be the Grand Fleet commanded by Earl Howe. Two or three of the Indiamen received some damage; but, except in this instance, our voyage was free from accident, and barren of interesting occurrence.

In the afternoon of this day we anchored safe at Spithead, after an absence of little less than two years from our native land.

In the course of the preceding narrative, it was mentioned that Captain Mackintosh, and a part of the embassy, proceeded from Hoang-tchew to Chufan.

The same kind of scenery, we are informed, presented itself in the passage to Chufan as has been described in the route we made: but the river itself was of a different nature from that on which we sailed; its course was occasionally broken by cataracts of a formidable aspect; and required all the ingenuity of the Chinese to contrive means to obviate the difficulties of such a navi-



gation. Yet, strange as it may appear, they apply the mechanical powers to raise vessels into a higher level of the river, or sink them to a lower: to effect which, two strong stentions are fixed in the centre of the river, from which two large beams project over the water; to these blocks strong ropes are attached, and the junk being well secured fore and aft, is in a few moments hoisted, with all its contents, from one level to another. Persons accustomed to the business are stationed at these places; and so certain and secure is their operation, that it is scarcely regarded as an impediment or hazard. The same attention, we understand, was paid to Captain Mackintosh and his party, during their passage to Chusan, as to the embassy itself.

FINIS.





**CHINA**  
with the  
**TRIBUTARY STATES.**  
By J. Russell.























