

A

N A R R A T I V E

OF THE

BRITISH EMBASSY

TO

CHINA,

IN THE YEARS 1792, 1793, AND 1794.

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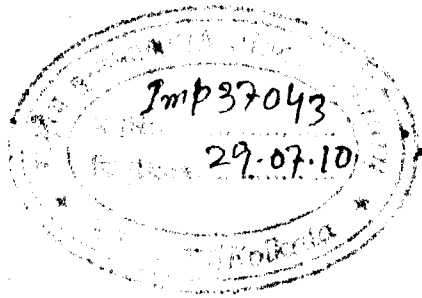
CONTAINING
THE VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EMBASSY,
WITH ACCOUNTS OF
CUSTOMS AND MANNERS OF THE CHINESE;
AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE
COUNTRY, TOWNS, CITIES, &c. &c.

By ÆNEAS ANDERSON,

THEN IN THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY EARL MACARTNEY, K. B. AMBASSADOR FROM
THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

LONDON:
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1795.



P R E F A C E.

AN embassy to China was a new event in the diplomatic history of this country, and very naturally excited a general curiosity concerning it: for, without considering the great commercial objects it had in view, the universal ignorance which prevailed respecting the interior parts of that empire, and the consequent novelty which must be produced by any authentic history of it, would irresistibly attract the attention of our enlightened country, to the only civilised nation in the world, whose jealous laws forbid the intrusion of any other people.

It is not my design to examine those writers who have preceded me on the subject of China: it is not for me to point out their contradictions, or display their fabulous
interpo-

interpolations—my only business is to relate what I saw in the course of this embassy, in every part of which I had the honour to attend Lord Macartney, who was appointed to be the representative of his Britannic Majesty at the Court of Peking.

The disadvantages which oppress the trade of European countries with China are well known, and to remove them in behalf of our own, was an object well worthy the attentive wisdom of our government. It was not, however, a mere speculative project; as a sufficient intimation had been made to the Court of London, that an Ambassador from thence would be graciously received by the Emperor of China: ministers, therefore, acted with a strict political attention to the commercial interests of this country, by preparing an embassy, suited to the dignity of the Court of Great Britain, and fitted out in a manner to attract the attention of the Chinese people, as well as to command the respect, and secure the regard of the Court of Peking.

The Honourable Colonel Cathcart was, accordingly, invested, in the year 1788, with the important character of minister from this country to the Empire of China; a man whose superior talents, amiable manners, shrewd sagacity and active perseverance qualified him, in a pre-eminent degree, to forward the important objects of his mission: but
the

the premature death of that able, excellent, and accomplished man, which happened on his voyage, thwarted the progress of the embassy he was appointed to conduct; and as no person had been named in the King's commission, to succeed to his diplomatic office; if he should not reach the place of his destination, that embassy died with him; and may be said to have been buried on the distant shore where his ashes repose.

The wise attentions of government were not, however, to be turned aside from such an important, national object as a commercial alliance between the Courts of London and Pekin: the character of Ambassador to China was accordingly revived, with additional splendor, in the person of Earl Macartney; and an embassy was re-appointed in such a manner as became the empire it was to represent—and the empire before which it was to appear.

It is impossible to speak in higher terms of the anxious care and liberal attention of government to this diplomatic mission than it deserves. The superior talents which direct the board of controul, and the commercial spirit which animates the direction of the East India Company, combined to form those arrangements which certainly deserved success, if they did not obtain it. No narrow, or fordid views, mingled with the preparations of it: the means of exterior figure, and the allurements of national

national productions, in every branch of art, science, and manufacture, were amply supplied; and though the embassy has failed in its object, its failure cannot be attributed to those who framed and fashioned it in this country, and set it forward to its distant destination.

I have accurately related every circumstance that came under my observation, with many occurrences which I heard from those, whose authority it would be impertinence, to say no worse, in me to resist. My design is to attempt no more than I am qualified to fulfil; and this volume will be more particularly found to contain a faithful account of the British embassy, with its progress through China, from the time that the Lion man of war, and the Hindostan East-India Company's ship, anchored before Mettow, in the Yellow sea, to its arrival at Canton. This Narrative is faithfully given according to the best of my abilities, and from the most accurate observations in my power to make, during the journey of the embassy by land, or its voyages by water, or its temporary residence in Pekin and Tartary.

Others, who possess a brilliant fancy, or a glowing imagination, might give to their description of the scenes through which this volume will conduct the reader, those bright colours which we see on the Chinese
manufac-

manufactures that are imported into this country, to decorate the apartments of elegant opulence: but my principal object is to give a strong and accurate outline of the picture; and I would rather be accused of the dulness and tautology of truth, than risque a suspicion that I had sacrificed to a creative imagination. Indeed, in a journey, or a voyage, or by whatever name it may be distinguished, of upwards of two thousand miles, some repetition must be expected and forgiven, not only from a similitude of objects, but from the impossibility of displaying, by literal description, those differences between them, which, though evident to the eye, cannot be transferred to the page. Cities, towns and villages, mountains and rocks, rivers, canals and lakes, &c. &c. will oftentimes admit of nothing more than general denominations. The regularity, also, with which the British embassy was conducted in its progress through China, will give an occasional uniformity to the narration, that may sometimes check the interest which, I trust, it will be generally found to excite: but I beg leave to assure the reader that, if unfortunately he should not be always amused by this work, he will never be intentionally deceived; and the merit of faithful representation is all I have to claim, and all I wish to receive.

I have preceded the history of the journey through China with an account of the voyage to it; and have consequently mentioned places which have already been

described by others, and are to be found in the volumes of modern geography ; but I was advised by those, on whose judgment I could very much rely, to give this introductory part of it, according to my own knowledge, and ~~from~~ the result of my own observation.

I have also added the journal of the Lion and the Hindostan from Chusan to Canton, as it contains much curious and useful information relative to the navigation of a long range of the coasts of China not generally known, and may be, therefore, important to the future voyager of the seas that wash them. The river of Canton is so well known, that I have compressed my account of it into a very small compass. The homeward-bound voyage, also, which was accompanied with no circumstance worthy of particular attention, is contained in a few pages. To these I have added a short glossary of such Chinese words and expressions, as I had myself acquired, and no more.

As to the names of cities, villages, &c. I have given the orthography according to their sounds, and as I was instructed by those natives, whose knowledge of the English language was sufficient to assist me.

I shall offer no apology to my country for publishing the journal of a voyage, which had excited such universal attention. If this volume contains a faithful narrative of the public transactions of the late embassy to China, with such an account of the country and its inhabitants, as the circumstances of it, and mode of travelling through it, would allow; an apology must be considered as insulting the public; to whom the work is presented: and, if it should be found to contain nothing that can interest or amuse the public, the book itself will be an insult, and beyond the reach of apology.

But I indulge myself in better expectations; nor am I without a flattering hope, that this volume contains information which will gratify reasonable curiosity, and enlarge the knowledge of a country so little known to the other nations of the globe.

*Westminster, Marsham-street,
April 2, 1795.*

LIST
OF THE
GENTLEMEN
WHO COMPOSED THE RETINUE OF
EARL MACARTNEY.

SIR George Staunton, Bart. Secretary to the Embassy ;
Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, Commandant of the Ambassador's Guard ;
Lieutenant H W. Parish, of the Royal Artillery ;
Lieutenant J. Crewe ;
Mr. Achefon Maxwell, . } Joint Secretaries to the Ambassador ;
Mr. Edward Winder, }
Mr. Baring, Assistant Secretary, outward bound ; Son of Sir Francis
Baring, Bart.
Dr. Gillan, Physician and Philosopher to the Embassy ;
Dr. Scott, Surgeon and Physician 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.
Mr. Thomas Hickey, Portrait painter ;
Mr. Alexander, Draftsman ;
Mr. Hutner, Preceptor to Master Staunton ;
Mr. Plumb, Interpreter.

Commissioners sent by the East India Company to Canton, to notify the intended Embassy of Earl Macartney.

Messrs. Jackson, Irwine, and Brown.

His

His Excellency's Servants, &c. consisted of

A Steward, and an under ditto,
2 Valets de Chambre,
A Cook,
2 Couriers,
A Footman,
A Baker,
A Band of 6 Musicians,
A Carpenter and Joiner,
A Saddler,
A Gardener,
A Taylor,
A Watchmaker,
A Mathematical Instrument-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 with us from England.

The Military Establishment, or Guards, consisted of

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

The Ships which were employed to take the Embassy to China, were
The Lion, of 64 guns, Sir Erasmus Gower, Commander ;
The Hindostan East Indiaman, Capt. William Mackintosh, Commander ; and
The Jackall brig for a tender, manned by officers and men from the Lion.

List of the Officers on Board his Majesty's Ship Lion.

Sir Erasmus Gower, Knight, Commander ;
Mr. Cambell, 1st. Lieutenant ;
Mr. Whitman, 2d. ditto ;

List of the Officers on Board his Majesty's Ship Lion.

- 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. Tippett, ditto ;
Mr. Simes, ditto (dismissed from the ship at Bātavia) ;
Mr. Lowe, ditto ;
Mr. Roper, ditto ;
Mr. Warren, ditto (son of Dr. Warren, Physician to his Majesty,
and the Prince of Wales), promoted to be acting Lieutenant ;
Mr. Kent ;
Mr. Chapman, (appointed Gunner, vice Corke, deceased).

Midshipmen.

- Right Hon. Lord Mark Kerr, (son of the Marquis Lothian), pro-
moted to be acting Lieutenant ;
Hon. Wm. Stuart, (son of the Earl Bute) ;
Mr. Bromely,
Mr. Swinbourne,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Dilkes,
Mr. Trollope,
Mr. Heywood,
Mr. Hickey,
Mr. Thompson,
Mr. Waller, (died at Wampoa) ;
Mr. Beaumont, (returned home from Angara Point, for the
recovery of his health) ;
Mr. Snipe,
Mr. Wools,
Mr. Montague,
Mr. Chambers,
Mr. Scott,
Mr. Bridgeman,

List of the Officers on Board his Majesty's Ship Lion.

Mr. Perkins,

Mr. Sarradine.

Mr. Tothill, Purser, (died at Cochin China) ;

Mr. West, Captain's Clerk ;

Mr. Nutt, Surgeon ;

Mr. Anderson, Chief-mate ;

Mr. Cooper, 2d. ditto ;

Mr. Thomas, 3d. ditto ;

Mr. Humphries, Schoolmaster.

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C H A P.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE

TO AND FROM

CHINA, &c. &c.

CHAP. I.

From England to Batavia.

EVERY necessary arrangement having been made, the Right Hon. Earl Macartney, with his whole suite, went, from the Point at Portsmouth, in several barges, on board the Lion man of war, then lying at Spithead.

1792.
Friday,
Sept. 21.

Hoisted in the launch—fired the signal gun for all the officers and men on shore to repair on board. Sunday 23.

At eleven A. M. a signal was made for the Hindoostan and the Jack-all to weigh: the Alfred and Orion of seventy-four guns weighed at the same time; and, at five o'clock in the afternoon, we took our final departure from Spithead. Tuesday 25.

We got into Torbay, where we found the Hannibal and Niger men of war. Sir George and Mr. Staunton, with Dr. Gillan, went ashore, and penetrated into the country as far as Exeter; from whence they returned the next day. Saturday 29.

B

A leak

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CHAP. I

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Saturday 29.

1792.

Wednesday,
Sunday 30.

A leak was repaired that had sprung in the side of the Lion.

October 10.

We made land at an early hour of this morning; and at eight saw the Defenter's Island at the distance of about four leagues; and the island of Porto Santo at the distance of about three leagues. These islands are subject to the crown of Portugal, and form a part of the Madeiras: the latter of them is chiefly appropriated as a place of exile for those who commit any petty depredations on the island of Madeira. It is about fifteen miles in circumference, and very mountainous: it contains no harbours; but has a large bay wherein ships may be tolerably secure, except when the wind blows from the south-west; and is frequented by Indiamen outward and homeward bound. The island produces corn, but in no great quantity; it has also pasturage for cattle; and its thickets furnish shelter for wild boars. The inhabitants, who are few in number, are subject to the government of Madeira. The Desert, or Defenter's Island, is an inconsiderable barren rock, and serves also as a prison for criminals, who are there obliged to pay the penance of their offences by various kinds of labour.

Thursday 11.

We arrived in Funchal Bay, in the island of Madeira, and anchored in forty-four fathom water; the town of Funchal being to the N. N. E. about a mile.

Friday 12.

After breakfast, Lieutenant Campbell was sent on shore to the governor of the Madeiras, to notify the arrival of Lord Macartney; and, on the return of that officer, the Lion saluted the garrison with thirteen guns, which was immediately returned. The British Consul then came on board, attended by several English gentlemen, among whom were the most respectable merchants of the place, to pay their respects to the Ambassador, and to invite him ashore.

His Lordship having accepted of the invitation, the ship's company were ordered to get themselves clean dressed in white jackets and trowsers as preparatory for manning the yards: and, as I publish this Narrative, not merely for the use of seamen, but for the entertain-
ment,

ment, and, as I hope, for the information of those who know nothing of maritime life, I shall endeavour to explain what is understood by manning the yards; a ceremonial never observed but on particular occasions, as well as in honour of distinguished characters, and has not only a very peculiar, but, in some degree, a very beautiful effect. The ship's company being all equipped in their best cloathing, the sailors stand upright on the yard-arms, as close to each other as the situation will admit, with their hands clasped together, and their arms extended; ropes being drawn across, to prevent them from falling. In this curious manner the whole yards of the ship are filled with men up to the main-top-gallant royal. In this position the ship's company remained, till Lord Macartney had landed on the island.

On this occasion the matrosses were drawn up under arms on the larboard side of the quarter-deck, and the marines on the starboard side, lining both sides of the deck, as far as the accommodation ladder. The troops saluted his Lordship as he passed from the cabin, and the band of music continued playing till he had left the ship. Lord Macartney and Sir Erasmus Gower proceeded in one barge, and the gentlemen of the suite followed in another. The Lion then fired a salute of fifteen guns, which was answered by the same number from the fort on shore. On this occasion every mark of mutual respect was paid, while the Governor of Madeira, with the British Consul and the principal inhabitants, were ready at the landing-place to welcome the Ambassador on his arrival at the island.

I went on shore this morning after breakfast, with several of the midshipmen, and landed at Brazen-head rock. Opposite to this landing-place stands a rock called the Loo, in which there is a pretty strong fort, surrounded with a rampart, mounted with several pieces of cannon, and garrisoned with soldiers. This rock is in the form of a pillar, being very high, perpendicular on all sides, and commands the bay: the only entrance to the fort is by a narrow flight of steps hewn out of the rock, and properly guarded. It is situated about three quarters of

1792.

October.

a mile from the shore, and in water of near forty fathom, so that there can be no communication with the land but by means of boats. The landing-place of the island is to the north-west of the Loo rock, and from the depth of the sea, which, at the water's edge, is fifteen fathom, the violence of the surf and the rocky shore, is extremely dangerous. Steps are formed in the rock to ascend to the top of it, which communicate with the road to Funchal, the principal town of the island.

This road is very rough and narrow, being no more than four feet and an half in breadth, with a low wall on either side. It first leads to an high ascent, on each side of which are a few unenviable dwellings of the lower class of inhabitants. On the succeeding declivity is a small church, in the front of which there is an altar and a cross, which is supposed to possess some healing powers of peculiar efficacy, as we saw several poor wretches afflicted with various diseases, lying naked there, and exposing their bodies covered with sores and blotches. The church has so little the appearance of any thing like a place dedicated to the worship of God, that, till I perceived the cross, which was its distinguishing decoration, it appeared to me to be a barn or stable; at the same time I was informed, that the inside of it was very properly fitted up and furnished for the sacred purpose to which it was dedicated. Its situation is beautiful beyond description: it stands in a very elevated position, commands a very grand and extensive view of the sea, with Porto Santo and the Deserter's Island; overlooking, at the same time, the charming vineyards in its own immediate vicinity. Many delightful gardens are seen on either side of the road, abounding in delicious fruits; and, on the northern side of it, the vineyards stretch away to the extremity of the rock, which possesses a perpendicular height of several hundred feet above the sea.

About half a mile beyond the church is the entrance to the town of Funchal, through a gate, from whence a mean, dirty, narrow street leads to a public walk disposed in the form of a garden, which has a
principal

principal alley or avenue in the center, with orange and other trees on either side of it, and lamps placed between them: the whole is terminated by the cathedral church, a large Gothic building, which is fitted up in a very suitable manner for the purposes of that religion to which it is consecrated.

1798.

October.

I went after breakfast to the house of the British Consul, which is in the neighbourhood of the cathedral; and saw Lord Macartney, attended by his whole suite, among whom was the Hon. Mr. West, brother to the Earl of De Lawarr, dressed in the uniform of the embassy, walk in procession to visit the Governor of the island; who received the Ambassador with every mark of attention and respect, and requested his company to dinner on the succeeding day. His Lordship then returned to the Consul's in the same order and formality.

Monday 15th.

As in the afternoon of this day I completed my view of this place, I shall here finish my account of it.

Madeira is extremely mountainous, and presents a most beautiful object from the bay. It lies between thirty-two and thirty-three degrees of north latitude, and between eighteen and nineteen degrees of west longitude from London. Its length is seventy-five miles, and its breadth thirty. In the center of the southern side of the island, at a small distance from the sea, and on the first rise of an amphitheatre of hills, is the town of Funchal: its population is very considerable, and it contains several churches, as well as monasteries of both sexes, of the different orders of the church of Rome: the houses are built of stone, and the greater part of them are covered with white plaster, and generally roofed with tiles: the streets are very narrow, ill paved, and dirty, having no foot-path for passengers, with all the inconvenience arising from unequal ground and continual declivity. Except the residence of the Governor, and of the British Consul, and the houses of some principal merchants, glass is an article of very rare use: the houses are in general about three stories high, with lattice windows, and balconies in the front, where the female inhabitants are continually seen to amuse themselves in observ-

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October.

ing what happens in the streets, or conversing with those who are passing along. There are neither courts, squares, or principal streets in this town; the whole place composing a scene of architectural deformity. The custom-house, which is on the sea side, is surrounded by a rampart mounted with cannon, and contains barracks for soldiers.

The town is about three miles in length, and one in breadth. Its inhabitants consist of Portuguese, mulattoes, negroes, and a few English, who reside there for the purposes of commerce. The wine of this island, so well known for its cordial and peculiar qualities, is the great object of its trade, and the principal source of its riches. The dress of the poorer sort of people is a kind of cap, made of cloth, which they wear instead of an hat, a short jacket, and clumsy trousers, with a kind of boots of coarse undressed leather; though many of the lower class are seen almost naked, and manifest no common appearance of distress and misery. The religion is catholic, and the clergy possess the same power as in the mother country. The natives are of a very courteous disposition, and treat strangers with all the punctilio of respect and politeness.

* No carriages are kept in this island, but by the Governor and the British Consul: the substitute for them, among the higher order of the inhabitants, is a very fine silk net, of various colours, capable of containing a person to sit in it: it is borne by two men, by means of a long pole run through the four corners, which draws the net close on each side like a purse; a silk curtain is then thrown over the pole, that entirely obscures the person who sits in this curious vehicle, which is the elegant mode of conveyance in visits of ceremony, and to the occasional entertainments of the place. These, however, are always in private houses, as there are no theatres, or any places of public entertainment, except the public garden, where there are frequent exhibitions of the most brilliant fire-works.

There are very few horses in this island; mules and oxen being principally employed both for draught and burden: nor is it easy to

conceive the sagacity and agility of these animals in adapting their powers to the inequalities of this very mountainous country.

The military establishment of the Madciras is very limited, and does not consist of more than three hundred men. The native militia, however, are numerous, but they are never embodied, except in time of danger and alarm. These soldiers are most wretchedly clothed; the regimental consisting of a very coarse blue jacket, with a vest and breeches of the same colour; the whole bound with a coarse yellow worsted lace, and enlivened with red facing. They wear on their heads a kind of leathern helmet; but the artillery soldiers are distinguished by hats: their arms and accoutrements are of the worst kind, and kept in the worst order: in short, such was their appearance, that when some of our matrosses and light horsemen were permitted to go on shore, the inhabitants, from the superiority of their appearance, could not be persuaded but that they were all officers in the British service.

The town is defended towards the sea, from east to west, by a strong wall, mounted with cannon, and a fort at either end. The climate of Madeira is well known for its salubrious influence, as, excepting the month of January, when there are frequent rains, accompanied with violent thunder, it seldom undergoes any change of season. Those who have money may purchase here, as in other places, all the luxuries of life; but they in general bear a very extravagant price, though the first people live in a stile of great plenty and elegance. Even the wine, which, as it is the produce of the spot, might naturally be supposed to be purchased at a reasonable rate, could not be obtained by us for less than four shillings a bottle. This island, however, notwithstanding its mountainous state, must be considered, altogether, as a very fertile colony; and, as a picturesque object, nothing can exceed the romantic and beautiful views it contains, and the delightful spots that are covered with gardens and vineyards.

Lord

1792.

Tuesday,
October 16.

Lord Macartney, with the principal people of the island, were very handsomely entertained by the British Consul, at dinner; and, in the evening, Mr. Scot, an English merchant, gave a ball and supper, in honour of his Lordship, which wanted nothing, in point of elegant hospitality, that our country can afford. The English servants also partook of the attention paid to their Lord, and were entertained with the greatest plenty, and in the most agreeable manner, beneath the same roof.

Wednes-
day 17.

We, this morning, paid a visit to a convent of ladies, about three miles to the east of Funchal. It is a very handsome building, situated near the summit of an hill, and in the midst of vineyards, commanding a most beautiful, various, and extensive prospect; comprehending the adjacent country covered with gardens, the town of Funchal, and an expansive view of the ocean.—Here the nuns are permitted to converse very freely with strangers, whom they compliment with toys, and other articles of their own manufacture. I saw among them several very pretty women; who, as far as I could judge by their manners, seemed to regret the loss of that society for which they were formed, and to sigh after a communication with the world, which they were qualified to adorn.

Having taken a particular view of this charming spot, we proceeded to the country residence of the Governor, where Lord Macartney and his suite had been invited to dinner. This entertainment consisted of three very splendid courses of fifty dishes; and at a certain part of it, Lord Macartney proposed to drink the health of the King and the Royal Family of England; which, being notified by a signal, the Lion, at that instant, fired a royal salute of twenty-one guns; and was immediately answered by the same number of guns from the fort. The Governor then observed the same ceremony respecting the Royal Family of Portugal, which was followed by the same salutes from the Portuguese battery and English man of war. A very fine display of fire-works concluded the entertainment, which

was

was equally to the honour of the distinguished persons who gave and received it.

1792.
October.

We returned on board, where we found several friars, whose curiosity had led them to take a view of the ship; where they were received with that kindness and hospitality as to call forth the most grateful expressions; and to obtain from them, all they had to give, their repeated benedictions. Thursday 18.

The entire forenoon of this day was employed in making preparations for a breakfast in the ward-room, to which Lord Macartney had invited the Governor of the island, the British Consul, and the principal inhabitants. This entertainment consisted of tea, coffee, and chocolate; cold meats of all kinds, with fruits, jellies, and variety of wines: the whole being decorated with ornamental confectionary. About noon Lord Macartney returned on board the Lion, with the usual formalities; and was soon followed by the Governor, with his attendants, in very elegant barges. The bishop of Funchal accompanied him on the occasion. The British Consul arrived soon after them. The company then partook of the repast, during which the healths of the royal families of England and Portugal were drank with becoming ceremony; and, having taken a view of the ship, they returned on shore. In the evening we weighed anchor, and quitted Madeira.

At five in the afternoon we saw the extreme points of Teneriffe; at midnight we saw the east point of that island; and, early in the morning, stood in for land. Saturday 20.

We anchored in twenty-two fathom water in Santa Cruz bay; where we found a French frigate, who had called here on her homeward bound passage from the West Indies; but, in consequence of the revolution in France, she was detained till the pleasure of his Catholic Majesty should be known, respecting the part he intended to take with the confederated powers, then at war with the national assembly. Sunday 21.

1792.

October.

assembly. The Governour being then at the Grand Canary island, and the Commandant informing Lieutenant Campbell, that there was not a sufficient quantity of powder in the magazine to admit of a salute, that ceremonial was waved on the present occasion.

The island of Teneriffe is one of the Canary islands, and subject to the King of Spain. It lies between twenty-eight and twenty-nine degrees north latitude, and between seventeen and eighteen degrees west longitude. It is about fifty miles in length, twenty-five in breadth, and one hundred and fifty in circumference. Though it is the second in point of precedence, it is the most considerable with respect to extent, riches, and commerce. The principal place in this island is the city of Laguna, and is the residence of the Governor; but as we did not visit it, I shall confine myself to the description of Santa Cruz, before which we lay at anchor.

This town lies on the north-east side of the island, and has an haven for shipping; the best anchorage not being more than half a mile from shore, and very deep, with a rocky bottom. The shore is bold and steep, with the peak, which renders this island so famous, rising beyond it to the clouds.

Santa Cruz is about three quarters of a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth: the houses are strongly built of stone, and in the same fashion as those of Madeira. It has several neat churches, two of which being decorated with large, square, and lofty towers, add much to the effect of the town from the bay. There is one pretty good street, and not inconveniently paved; but the rest answer to no other character than that of dirty lanes. There are two forts at the eastern and western end of the town which command the bay. There are but few troops in this or any of its sister islands, and they are equally deficient in cloathing, equipment, and discipline. The militia is numerous, but never embodied, or called forth, except on very particular emergencies. The town, though by no means large, is very populous: the inhabitants are chiefly Spanish, and suffer all the disadvantages

disadvantages that arise from the proverbial pride and indolence of their character: for, notwithstanding the abundant fertility of this island, which yields the greatest plenty to the smallest exertions, the general appearance of the people most evidently betray their poverty and wretchedness. There is another fort to the west of Santa Cruz, on a very elevated point, which appears to be built with great strength, and commands a part of the bay.

1792.
October.

The climate of this island is warm, and, like that of Madeira, not subject to change. During our stay here, the thermometer stood in the shade, from seventy to eighty degrees, varying a little, on board the ship. The Governor resides chiefly at the island distinguished by the name of the Grand Canary, about twelve or fifteen leagues distant from Teneriffe.

Sir George and Mr. Staunton, with the Doctors Gillan, Dinwidie, and Not, Messieurs Maxwell, Barrow, and Alexander, together with Colonel Benson, having formed a plan to visit the peak; they set out at eight o'clock in the morning of this day, from the hotel at Santa Cruz, with every proper aid and provision to carry the design into execution. The thermometer then stood at seventy-seven degrees. They proceeded on mules, and under the direction of guides hired for the purpose, with little or no interruption, till they had advanced about eight miles up the mountain, when the air became so cold, that every one was glad to make some addition to his cloathing: at the same time the thermometer had fallen upwards of twenty degrees. Here the party added some very necessary refreshment to the change in their dress, and then proceeded on their journey till they arrived at the foot of the peak, which was entirely covered with snow, six feet in depth: but difficulties every moment occurred to impede their progress; Sir George Staunton had been thrown from his mule at a moment of great danger; the animal on which Doctor Gillan rode, had fallen with him, and it was at length determined, from the awful appearance of the journey before them, the exhausted condition of the party, and the late hour of the evening, to pass the night

Wednes-
day 24.

1792.

October.

on the mountain. A kind of rude pavilion, therefore, was formed by a sail, which, being lined with cloaks, and great coats, soon produced a comfortable apartment. A fire was then kindled near the tent; and after taking an hasty supper, every one laid himself down to repose.

Thursday 25.

At six o'clock in the morning, the arduous journey was renewed; the thermometer being at that time considerably below the freezing point which, after infinite fatigue and considerable hazard, proved fruitless as to its principal object; and about three o'clock in the afternoon, the different gentlemen of the party, who had taken different ways to ascend the peak, were, at length, happily re-assembled at the place where the mules had been stationed. It was, however, necessary, as the distance from Santa Cruz was at least eleven or twelve miles, to pass the night of this day, as we had passed the preceding one; and, on the following morning, the party returned to Santa Cruz, after a most fatiguing expedition of two days and two nights, in which curiosity, at least, had received considerable gratification.

The peak of Teneriffe is one of the highest mountains in the world, and may be seen at the distance of an hundred miles. It rises in the center of the island, and takes its ascent from Santa Cruz and Oratavia, another principal town of this island, in an oblique direction for near twenty miles; being surrounded by a great number of inferior mountains. The lower parts towards Santa Cruz, are covered with woods and vineyards; its middle is clad in snow, and the top disembogues flames from a volcano, which the natives call the Devil's Cauldron. In travelling to the peak, the best way is on the side of Oratavia, both as to the convenience of ascent, and the consequent diminution of danger. In some parts of the mountain there are hot, burning sands; in other places there is snow; and to that succeeds a strong sulphurous vapour. Though the top of the peak, from its great height, appears to finish in a point, it contains a flat surface of at least an acre of ground. We experienced three distinct changes of climate in the course of our journey. In the first stage of it the air is

warm, to that succeeds intense cold, which is followed by a volcanic heat. The bottom is continual fertility, the middle is snow and frost, and the top is smoke and flames; giving the successive effects of a garden, an ice-house, and a furnace.

1792.

October.

Soon after our return to Santa Cruz, a signal was given for our going on board, which was obeyed with all possible expedition. On our return to the ship, we found several young ladies, inhabitants of the island, who, having been educated in England, were naturally induced to visit a ship belonging to a country to which they apparently owed the sincerest acknowledgements. They were received with the greatest politeness by Lord Macartney; and the band of music was ordered to play during the whole of their very agreeable visit.

Friday 25.

The French frigate, which we have already mentioned as detained here, was, this day, released from its embargo, and set sail from the island.

About eleven o'clock at night the wind blew a very fresh gale, and the *Indostan* drifted so fast towards the shore, that it was thought prudent to let go her sheet anchor. But this precaution was not sufficient to prevent the danger from becoming so imminent, that Captain Mackintosh fired a gun for assistance from the *Lion*; when Sir Erasmus Gower immediately ordered off three boats, by whose exertions the *Indostan* was disengaged from her unpleasant situation, when she put to sea; after having lost her anchors, from the rubbing of the cables against the rocky bottom.

At one in the morning we weighed anchor, and took our leave of Santa Cruz.

Saturday 27.

At three in the afternoon we saw *Mayo*, one of the Cape de Verd islands, bearing W. S. W. at the distance of four or five leagues. Hove too, and hoisted out the launch. At seven, we spoke to a ship from

November.
Friday 2.

1792.
November. from Topsham, in Devonshire, which had been out thirty-two days. At eight in the evening, the town of Saint Jago, a town of the island of that name, bore north, half west, seven miles; and, at three quarters after eleven, we came too in Port Praya bay. The thermometer at noon stood at 82 degrees.
- Saturday 3. After the usual salutes, several boats were employed in watering. The ~~Seine~~ was also hauled, and fresh fish served to the ship's company.
- Monday 5. Lord Macartney went on shore in a private manner; and, after a short stay, returned to the Lion.
- Tuesday 6. This day arrived three French and one American South-sea whale fishermen.—A canoe came along-side the Lion, with grapes, coconuts, and other fruits, for sale. This is the only kind of boat used in these islands, and nothing could exceed, in the exterior appearances of wretchedness, the owner of it. The thermometer stood, this day, on shore, at 90.
- Wednesday 7. Several of the men belonging to the corps of artillery went on shore to wash and dry their linen; when they returned extremely scorched, and their legs covered with blotches, from standing in the burning sands. Having given my linen to be washed by a man of Praya, and having reason to apprehend, that I might share the fate of others, who had not found the natives of the country perfectly correct in their returns, I went in quest of my washerman, and was obliged to be content, not only with paying an exorbitant price for what he had done very ill, but with the loss of several articles which he could not be persuaded to restore. I, however, took this opportunity of viewing the town of Praya; in which there is very little to excite curiosity, or encourage description.

Saint Jago is the largest of the Cape de Verd islands, which lie between twenty-three and twenty-six degrees of west longitude, and between

tween fourteen and eighteen north latitude. It is very mountainous, and has much barren land on it; nevertheless, it is the most fruitful and best inhabited of them all—and is the residence of the Viceroy, or Governor.

1798.
November.

Praya is situated on the east side of the island, and is built on the top of a flat hill, about an hundred yards above the surface of the bay; having a miserable fort on the western side, which, however, such as it is, commands the entrance into it. The only landing place is opposite the Governor's house, which is situated in a considerable valley, formed by two large mountains. A very rugged and ascending path, of about a quarter of a mile, and taking an easterly direction, leads to an arched gate-way, which forms the entrance to the town; a mean and miserable place, consisting of nothing more than one wide street, about half a mile in length, formed of low houses, built of stone and mud, and covered with trees; and, except two, reach not beyond the first story. The furniture of such as we could look into, was perfectly suited to the exterior appearance; consisting of nothing more than planks, which answered the double purpose of seats and tables, while the beds were as humble as solitary straw could make them. There is but one shop, and one public house in the town; and the former is as deficient in point of commodities, as the other is incapable of convenient accommodation. The church, and the governor's house partake of the general appearance of the place. The natives are all negroes, who speak the Portuguese language, with an intermixture of exiles, banished from the Brazils and the Madciras for capital offences. There is one convent in the island, and the whole is subject to the spiritual jurisdiction of a Popish bishop.

There appears to be great plenty of goats here, but the scorching heat of the climate, and the consequent scarcity of every kind of herbage, is not calculated to give them a very thriving appearance.

Praya

1792.
November.

Praya has a good port, and is seldom without ships; those outward bound to Guinea or the East-Indies, from England, Holland, and France, frequently touching here for water and refreshments.

While we were rambling about this miserable place, we heard the signal to repair on board, and, hastening to the shore, found a boat waiting to receive us, and a crowd of the naked inhabitants standing there with their fruits for sale.—At noon we left Port Praya.

Sunday 18.

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, we found ourselves under the Equator, where the burlesque and ridiculous ceremonies frequently allowed by the commanding officers of ships were completely observed, by permission of Sir Erasmus Gower, to the great entertainment of the ship's company.

December,
Saturday 1.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, we came to anchor in the Rio Janeiro harbour, in fifteen fathom water. Passed by this afternoon into the harbour the Hero of London, a South-sea whaler, from the South-seas, bound for London. A great many ships were at this time at anchor in the river, and, among the rest, was a Portuguese East-Indiaman homeward bound; by whom it was intended to have sent letters to England, by way of Lisbon, had not the arrival of the Hero afforded a more ready, as well as more secure conveyance.

The country offers from the river a most delightful prospect, consisting of a fine range of hills covered with wood, whose intervening vallies are adorned with stately villas, affording at once a scene of elegance, richness, and beauty.

Sunday 2.

The cutter was hoisted out, and the first lieutenant dispatched on shore, to acquaint the Viceroy with the arrival of the Ambassador, and to demand the salute; but, as that officer was at his country residence, the usual formalities were necessarily suspended.

In

In the morning of this day, the deputy viceroy came, accompanied with guards and attendants, in elegant barges, to wait on Lord Macartney, to know his intentions, and to acquaint him with the regulations to which all foreigners must submit on landing at Rio Janeiro. But, his Lordship having been for some time afflicted with the gout, and still remaining very much indisposed, Sir George Staunton and Sir Erasmus Gower received the deputy viceroy, who, after an introductory conference, partook of a cold collation, and returned on shore.

1791.
December.
Monday 3.

The deputy viceroy, with his attendants, paid a second visit to the ship, and accompanied the general message of congratulation from the Viceroy to the Ambassador, on his arrival at the Brazils, with an invitation to accept of an house for his residence, during the time he might find it necessary to stay there. This obliging proposition was accepted by Lord Macartney; and Sir George Staunton went on shore to make the necessary preparations for his reception, as soon as he should be sufficiently recovered to quit the ship.

Tuesday 4.

The Viceroy's secretary, attended by several gentlemen, came on board the Lion to inquire when the Ambassador would come on shore; who was pleased to appoint the following day at one o'clock, to make his entrance into the city of Rio Janeiro.

Thursday 6.

At noon, Sir Erasmus Gower having been on shore to notify to the Viceroy that Lord Macartney was ready to land, he returned to the Lion in order to conduct him; and they soon arrived with all the ceremonials suited to the occasion. The landing-place, which is immediately opposite to the Viceroy's palace, was lined on each side by a regiment of horse, and the Viceroy's body-guards. The Viceroy himself was also there with his official attendants, and he most distinguished persons of the city, to receive the Ambassador, who was conducted along the line, and distinguished by every military honour. The ceremony had altogether a very grand appearance, and a

Friday 7.

1792.

December.

prodigious crowd of people had assembled to be spectators of it. They then proceeded to the palace of the Viceroy, and passed through a large hall lined with soldiers under arms, and enlivened by the sound of martial music, to the state apartments. Here the company remained for some time, when Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton were conducted to the Viceroy's state coach; Sir Erasmus Gower and Capt. Mackintosh were placed in a second; and the whole British suite being accommodated with carriages, the cavalcade set off, escorted by a troop of light cavalry, to the house appointed for Lord Macartney's reception, which is about two miles from the city: the Ambassador receiving, as he passed, every honour due to the high character with which he was invested. A captain's guard, appointed by the Viceroy, was also drawn up in the front of the house, who received the British visitors with colours flying and music playing, and every military distinction. Thus concluded the ceremony of the Ambassador's reception at Rio Janeiro.

It would not only be tedious, but altogether unnecessary, to mention the common daily occurrences during our stay at the Brazils; I shall, therefore, confine myself altogether to such circumstances, as from their novelty and importance may interest the mind, and reward, in some degree, the attention, of the reader.

Monday 10.

Lord Macartney, with his whole suite, paid a visit of ceremony to the Viceroy, and was received with every mark of attention and respect. The gentlemen who attended on the occasion, afterwards dined with his Lordship; and, in the evening, visited the public garden of the place; this garden is about half a mile in length, and half that space in breadth; it is surrounded by a strong high wall, and guarded at the entrance by a party of soldiers. The interior disposition consists of large grass-plots and gravel walks, agreeably shaded with trees, and perfumed with flowers. In the center is a large basin of water, and a great number of lamps are placed between the trees, on each side of the walks, for the purpose of illumination. At one end

of the garden is a large building for balls and music; but, as the season of amusement at this place was passed when we were there, we must be content with giving a description of the spot, without speaking of the diversions to which, at certain seasons of the year, it is applied, as we doubt not, to the recreation of the inhabitants.

1792.
December.

All possible preparation was made in the long gallery and great room of Lord Macartney's house to receive the Viceroy, who had given notice of his intention to return the Ambassador's visit in the morning of this day. At ten o'clock, Sir Erasmus Gower, with the officers from the Lion, dressed in their best uniforms, as well as Capt. Mackintosh, with the officers of the Hindostan, came on shore to attend the ceremony. Tuesday 11.

At eleven, the Viceroy's departure from his palace was announced by a discharge of artillery from the garrison; when the guard, appointed by the Viceroy to attend the British Ambassador, immediately paraded in front of the house; and, in about half an hour, the Viceroy arrived in grand procession; preceded and followed by a squadron of horse, and attended by all the principal officers and persons of distinction in the city. His Excellency was received at the door of the house by Lord Macartney, and conducted to a sofa at the upper end of the best apartment. Sir George Staunton then presented all the gentlemen attached to the embassy, according to their respective rank, to the Viceroy; who, after partaking of a very elegant repast prepared for him and his company, returned in the same form, and with the same ceremonies, as distinguished his arrival.

The dress of the Viceroy was scarlet cloth, very much enriched with gold, embroidery, and precious stones; his attendants wore a splendid livery of green and gold, and he had several black running footmen, who were dressed in fancy uniforms, with large turbans on their heads, and long sabres by their sides.

1792.
December.
Wednes-
day 12.

This morning, at an early hour, Sir George and Mr. Staunton, accompanied by Mr. Barrow and a Portuguese gentleman, set off on a short excursion into the country. At the same time, I took an opportunity of visiting the place, of which I shall now proceed to give such a description, as my capacity for observation will enable me.

This city, which is by some called Saint Sebastian, and by others, Rio Janeiro, stands on the west side of the harbour of the latter name, in a low situation, and almost surrounded by hills, which, by retarding the circulation of the air, renders the place very unsalutary to European constitutions. Its extent is very considerable, being from east to west about four miles in length, and from north to south about two miles in breadth. The streets, for there are no squares, are very regular and uniform, intersecting each other at right angles: they are well paved, abound in shops of every kind, and are composed of houses equally well built, and adapted to the climate. In the center of the city, and opposite to the beach, stands the palace of the Viceroy: it is a large, long, and narrow building, without any attraction from its exterior appearance, but contains within a succession of spacious and noble apartments. It consists only of two stories; the lower one being appropriated to the domestics and menial officers, and the upper range of building containing the apartments of the Viceroy: it is built of rough stone, plastered with lime, and covered with pan-tiles. The Viceroy's chapel is a neat edifice, near the palace, but detached from it. The streets are not only spacious and convenient, but remarkable for their cleanliness; many of them containing ranges of shops and warehouses that would do credit to the cities of Europe. There is a custom here, which appears to be worthy of imitation in all places of considerable trade and commerce, that all persons of the same profession occupy the same street or district; and a deviation from this rule is very rarely known in this city. Of the population of this place, I could not procure any accurate information, but from its extent, and the general observations I was enabled to make, it may, I think, be considered, without exaggeration, as amounting to two hundred



hundred thousand souls. The people, who are Roman Catholics, are very much attached to the ceremonials of their religion, which they observe with extreme superstition. The churches are very numerous, and fitted up with ostentatious finery. On the festivals of their patrons these edifices are richly adorned, and beautifully illuminated. Some of them, indeed, during our stay, were lighted up with so much splendor, as to offer a very striking spectacle, and to bear the appearance rather of a public rejoicing, than a partial act of parochial devotion. Near the middle of the city, and on a commanding eminence, there is a public observatory furnished with an astronomical apparatus.

The inhabitants are very ostentatious in their dress; and every rank of people are in the habit of considering swords as essential to their public appearance; even children are not considered as exempt from this ornamental weapon. The dress of the ladies bears a near resemblance to that of European women, except in the decoration of the head. Their hair is smoothed back in the front, and adorned with artificial flowers, beads, and feathers, fantastically arranged; behind, it falls down in a variety of plaited tresses, intermixed with ribbons of various colours, each tress terminating in a rose made of ribbon. They also wear a large mantle of silk, hanging loosely behind in the form of a train, which is borne by one servant, while another holds an umbrella to shade the face of his mistress from the sun. The females of Brazil are generally of a pale complexion, but have a certain delicacy of feature which renders them very pleasing objects; and the affability of their manners heightens the agreeableness of their personal attractions.

The trade of this place is very considerable, and the source of great wealth to the inhabitants, as well as to the mother country. The various articles which are exported from hence, are the same as those produced in other parts of the Portuguese settlements in Brazil. The wharfs are very large and peculiarly commodious; and we were
very

1792.
December.

very much amused on observing the dexterity with which the slaves loaded and unloaded the barges that lay along side them. The rice, of which great quantities appeared to be exported from this settlement, was all contained in undressed bullock's hides.

At a small distance from the city, on the west side of it, is a large convent, but more remarkable for strength than elegance. It is built round several quadrangular courts, paved with large flat stones, surrounded by piazzas, and kept in a state of perfect cleanliness. It is divided into two parts, each containing a great number of apartments, each part being respectively appropriated to a religious community of either sex.

The persons who composed Lord Macartney's suite were indulged with the permission to visit this convent, and the nuns took opportunities to throw out to them a variety of little elegant toys of their own fabric. Nor had even their confined and devoted situation prevented them from knowing the art of manufacturing another kind of article, called *billets doux*, which they contrived to have conveyed to some of the English visitors. They even applied to Lord Macartney, by the director of the convent, for the use of his band of music, which accordingly performed at several morning concerts, within these sacred walls. There is also a very spacious garden, where the religious ladies are allowed to enjoy such recreation as they can find in a place, surrounded with walls of at least forty feet in height; which, as if they did not form a sufficient security, are constantly guarded on the outside by a party of soldiers.

On the north-west side of the town there is a stupendous aqueduct, which is an object of uncommon curiosity. It is in the form of a bridge, contains eighty arches, and in some parts is, at least, one hundred and fifty feet in height; and is seen, in some points of view, with peculiar effect, rising gradually above the loftiest buildings of the city. This immense chain of arches stretches across a valley, and unites the hills that form it. The object for which it was erected is completely answered, as it conveys water from perennial springs, at
the

the distance of five miles, into the town, where, by means of leaden pipes, it is conducted to a large and elegant reservoir at the beach, opposite to the Viceroy's palace. This water is of the best quality, and is withal so very abundant, as not only to afford an adequate supply for all the wants of the inhabitants, but to furnish the ships that come into the harbour with this necessary element.

1792.
December.

The military establishment at Rio Janeiro is on a very respectable footing. The soldiers are not only well clothed and disciplined, but are allowed to enjoy all the privileges of citizens. It seems to be a policy of the Portuguese government, and a very wise one it is, to render the situation of the soldiery in their American settlements, not only comfortable in itself, and respectable in its character, but, in some degree, as I should imagine, the source of pecuniary advantage. Thus the loyalty and zeal of the soldiers are happily secured in a situation so important from its value, and where vigilance and fidelity in those who guard it become more necessary in proportion to its remoteness from the mother country. Whether it is that their pay is proportionably advanced in the service of these settlements, or that they are allowed any distinct advantages, I cannot tell, but they certainly appear to be in a state of comparative affluence, which no other soldiery that I have ever seen or heard of can be supposed to possess. The number of troops in Rio Janeiro, including cavalry and infantry, amount to twenty thousand men; and the militia are, at least, double that number. At the same time the place is admirably fortified, both by art and nature. It is situated about two miles from the mouth of the bay, and is defended by nine strong forts, well supplied with artillery, and sufficient garrisons. There are also two small islands in the middle of the bay, one at the entrance, called Santa Cruz Fort, and another at a small distance, which still add to the strength of the situation, and the difficulty of attacking it with advantage.

Sir George Staunton set off with a party on an excursion to the Sugar Loaf Hill, a very high rock situated on the left side of the entrance to the harbour; and at five o'clock in the afternoon, Lord Macartney,

Saturday 15.

ney,

1792. ney, who was still very much indisposed, accompanied by Sir Erasmus
December. Gower, returned, in a private manner, on board the Lion.

Sunday 16. All the baggage being put into carts to be carried to the beach, the officers who commanded the guard at the house where Lord Macartney had resided, ordered a party of soldiers to attend each cart, till the whole of their cargoes was deposited on board the boats which were in waiting to receive them. While I was attending on this duty, I had an opportunity of seeing the Viceroy return in great state from the church, where he had been to attend some particular ceremonial of his religion.

Monday 17. At half past ten in the morning we weighed anchor, and worked down to Santa Cruz Fort, and came too, soon after, in fifteen fathom water. The next day we soon ran out of the harbour, and took our leave of Rio Janeiro.

Nothing now occurred for some time, in the course of the voyage, which requires particular notice; nor even that change of weather which would justify a circumstantial account of it. The weather was, in general, moderate; light airs, fresh breezes, with occasional haziness and drizzly rain, would include every description of it during the remainder of the year 1792. It may not, however, be thought altogether improper in me to mention, that, though so far removed from our friends and native clime, with such a waste of water around us, and so long a track of ocean before us, the festival of Christmas-day was not forgotten, and that its social distinctions were practised and enjoyed in the little world that bore us along.

Tuesday 25.

Monday 31. About ten in the morning we saw the island of Tristan de Cunha. It is a barren, uninhabited, and almost inaccessible island, situated in the heart of the southern ocean, in thirty-seven deg. seven min. and thirty sec. south latitude, and about forty-five deg. east longitude. When we first observed this mountain rising above the clouds, it appeared to be
as

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January.

as high as the peak of Teneriff. It is a natural place of resort to prodigious numbers of wild birds; while the surrounding sea is the habitation of whales, sea-lions, and other monsters of the deep. Lieutenant Whitman, who was sent on shore in the cutter, to sound for anchorage, gave a very favourable report of the beach, as well as of a run of water which issued from a cliff, and, flowing across the shore, discharged itself into the sea.

Mr. Whitman, on this occasion, shot a sea-lion and an albatross; the latter of which he brought on board. It measured nine feet from the bill to the extremity of the tail, but weighed no more than three pounds and an half.

In consequence of this information, Sir Erasmus Gower proposed to send a watering party on shore the next morning; while Sir George Staunton suggested an excursion thither at the same time, to see what this island offered to his observation in any branch of natural history: for this purpose, a certain number of artillery men were ordered to be in readiness by three o'clock in the morning, and to be properly equipped for the expedition against the amphibious monsters of the shore. At midnight, however, a very heavy gale came on, which caused the ship to start her anchor, and our situation became very alarming; for if the wind, which blew directly on the rock, had not changed, we must inevitably have perished. This unexpected alteration in the weather frustrated the designs which had been formed of obtaining further information relative to this curious place.

Tuesday 1.

The weather continued to be moderate, with light airs, and fresh breezes, till this day; when there came on an heavy gale of wind, which occasioned such a rolling of the ship, as to interfere with those enjoyments which make seamen forget the inconveniencies of their situation.

Sunday 20.

The moderate weather returned, with all the comforts that usually attend it.

Tuesday 22.

E

About

1793.

February.
Friday 1.

About four o'clock in the morning saw land, bearing E. N. E. supposed to be ten leagues distant; which, in about four hours, was discovered to be the island of Amsterdam, situate in the Indian ocean, and lying in latitude thirty deg. forty-three min. south, and seventy-seven deg. twenty min. east longitude. As we approached the island, we could plainly discover three men on the shore; in consequence of which the ensign was immediately hoisted. We here saw great numbers of water snakes, and a prodigious quantity of fish resembling cod; and weighing, in general, about three to eight pounds. At noon the yawl was hoisted out, and the master sent to sound for anchorage. In consequence of his information we hove too, and anchored with the best bower, in twenty-eight fathom water, on the east side of the island. The master also gave an account that there were five men on the island, who had come from the Isle de France, for the purpose of killing seals, with which this place abounds.

Wednesday 6.

Sir George and Mr. Staunton, with several other gentlemen, accompanied by a party of artillery soldiers, properly armed, went on shore, and made great destruction among the natives of the place: such as seals, penguins, albatrosses, &c. Great quantities of fish were also caught here, and salted, for the service of the ship.

On the north-east end of the island, nearly opposite to where the Lion lay at anchor, there is a very commodious basin, about a mile in diameter, and surrounded by inaccessible and perpendicular rocks; at the entrance of which, on the north-west corner, stands a lofty insulated rock, which bears the form of a sugar-loaf. This basin might, at a small expense, be made a place of safe retreat for ships of any burthen; as it contains, in many parts, thirteen fathom water, and possesses an excellent landing place. We here caught great quantities of fish which resemble our lobster, both in shape and size, but of a very superior flavour. We also observed great numbers of sharks all round the island; which is the more extraordinary, as the shark is seldom seen in these latitudes.

On our landing, we were met by the five seal-hunters, whom we have already mentioned; who, with great civility, conducted us to an hut at a small distance from the beach. They were natives of France and America, who had made a commercial engagement to come and reside in this island for the space of eighteen months, in order to kill seals, whose skins are sold to very great advantage to ships which touch at the isle of France. At this time they had only been six months in their present situation, when, according to their account, they had already killed eight thousand seals.

At a small distance from their hut, these men had, with much labour, and no small hazard, formed a path, by which they contrived to get over a mountain to kill seals on the other side of the island. On ascending this path, we came to a small spring, whose water is equal to boiling heat; and some fish which we put into it, were as perfectly dressed in six minutes, as if they had been cooked on board the ship. It should be also observed, that while we were attending to this process, we distinctly heard the same kind of bubbling sounds as proceeds from water boiling in a vessel over the fire. On the top of the mountain there is a volcano, from whence a substance issues, which these men represented as bearing the appearance, and possessing the qualities, of salt-petre.

This island is about eight miles in length, and six in breadth; in some parts it is altogether flat, particularly to the west, and gradually rises to the very high land in the center of it. It is a very barren spot, bearing neither tree nor shrub, and whose only produce is a kind of coarse, tufted grass, with very thick stalks. Every thing in this island bears the mark of having undergone the action of fire. The earth, and even the rocks and stones, on approaching the volcano, were so hot as to scorch our skin, to burn our shoes, and blister our feet. We were conducted about this desolate place by the five seal-hunters; whose care and kind attentions preserved us not only from inconvenience, but danger, which it would have been impossible for us to have avoided, if we had not been subject to their direction.

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February.

The volcanic mountain is about three miles in its ascent, which is very steep and rugged; and in its ascent, as well as descent, attended with continual difficulties. In short, we had met with so many obstacles both in going up and coming down it, that two signal guns had been fired from the Lion, which, with the Hindostan, were both under weigh, when we reached the shore; where, after an interval of no common alarm and apprehension, we found a boat that conveyed us on board. The night being dark, we saw the flames of the volcano bursting forth in six different places, at a considerable distance from each other, which formed a grand and affecting spectacle.

It may here be proper to remark, that the thermometer, which, on board, stood at fifty-five degrees, rose on the island to seventy-four; and, towards the top of the mountain, to seventy-seven degrees and an half: a circumstance which must be attributed to the heat of the volcano.

Friday 15.

This morning, at three o'clock, a very large meteor, or fire-ball, rose from the north-north-west, and continued in view for some minutes, passing off, without any explosion, to the south-south-east. It threw a kind of blue light over the sails and decks; but the illumination was so strong, that the most trifling object could be distinguished.

Monday 18.

At eight o'clock in the morning discovered the Trial rocks, about a league to the windward; the sea beating over them to an immense height. These rocks are not visible, as they do not rise above the surface of the water, nor are they much beneath it. They are situated in the Indian ocean, in about one hundred and six degrees of east longitude, and twenty-five, or twenty-six degrees of south latitude.

Thursday 28.

In proceeding up the straits of Sunda, we saw the Hindostan lying at anchor, near the north island. In the afternoon a Dutch prow came along-side the Lion, laden with turtle, poultry, and fruit, for sale. The owner of the prow was a Dutchman; but those who rowed it were Malays, and some of them females.

At

At three o'clock in the afternoon we came too in Batavia road, in five fathom water: the careening island bearing west-north-west. We were saluted by all the English ships in the road, and one French vessel. At sun-rise we saluted the Dutch garrison with thirteen guns, which were returned: at seven we returned the salutes of all the ships; and at eight received the members of the Dutch council with the same honours. Those gentlemen composed a deputation from the Governor-General of Batavia, to invite Lord Macartney on shore, and to know on what day and hour he would be pleased to land. His Lordship, accordingly, fixed on Friday, the 8th inst. at nine o'clock in the morning, that being the anniversary of the birth-day of his Serene Highness the Prince of Orange.

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Wednesday 6.

At six o'clock in the morning, a salute of twenty-one lower-deck guns was fired, in honour of his Serene Highness: and, at the time appointed, the Ambassador, attended by his whole suite, went on shore with the usual formalities.

Friday 8.

In a short time after Lord Macartney had quitted the ship, a Dutch officer of distinction, with several ladies and gentlemen, came on board the Lion, from Batavia, to take a view of her. They were received with all possible politeness by Lieutenant Campbell, and appeared to be much satisfied with their reception. A very fine young English lady was one of the party, and enhanced the honour of the visit.

In the afternoon I went on shore in the launch, having charge of the baggage belonging to the suite, which was, with some difficulty, rowed up the canal, and safely landed before the door of the royal Batavian hotel, where the packages were distributed in the apartments of the gentlemen to whom they respectively belonged. The Ambassador, with Sir George and Mr. Staunton, were received at the house of Mr. Wiggerman, one of the members of the supreme council.

At

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At six o'clock Lord Macattney went in form to an entertainment at the Governor-General's country residence, at which the principal persons of both sexes in Batavia were present. The whole concluded with a magnificent supper and ball, which lasted to a very late hour of the following morning.

Sunday 10.

While I was at breakfast this morning, my ears were assailed by the most dreadful shrieks I ever heard; and, on making the inquiry which humanity suggested, I discovered that these horrid sounds proceeded from a Malay slave, whom the master of the hotel had ordered to be punished for some omission of his duty. This poor wretch, who was upwards of seventy years of age, was standing in a back court, while two other slaves were scourging him in the most unrelenting manner with small canes. This horrid punishment they continued for thirty-five minutes, till the back and hips of this victim to severity exhibited one lacerated surface, from whence the blood trickled down on the pavement. The master then commanded the correcting slaves to give over their tormenting office, and sent the smarting culprit, as he was, and without any application whatever to his wounds, to continue the laborious duties of his station. On remonstrating with the master of the hotel, for this cruel and barbarous treatment of his servant—he answered, that the Malays were so extremely wicked, that neither the house, nor any one in it, would be safe for a moment, if they were not kept in a state of continual terror, by the most rigid and exemplary punishment. But this was not all; for another act of necessary severity, as it was represented to me, though of a different kind, immediately succeeded. Two slaves, in carrying off the breakfast equipage from our table, contrived between them to break a plate; for which offence, as it could not be precisely fixed upon either, they were both ordered to suffer. They were, accordingly, each of them, furnished with canes, and compelled to beat each other; which they did with reciprocal severity; as two other slaves stood with bamboos, to correct any appearance of lenity in them.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the extreme heat of the weather, I was impatient to take a view of the city; and the result of my observations I now present to the reader.

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The city of Batavia is situate in the island of Java, and is the capital of all the Dutch settlements and colonies in the East Indies. It lies in one hundred and four degrees of east longitude, and six degrees of south latitude; and from its situation between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn, the climate is insupportably hot.

The city is built in a square form, and surrounded with a strong wall, about thirty feet high. There are four gates, one in each angle, with a fort, battery, and barracks for soldiers at each gate. The forts are mounted with artillery, garrisoned with troops, and surrounded with ditches, over which draw-bridges are let down during the day; but after nine o'clock at night there is no passage over them without a signed order from the Governor-General.

The streets of the city are broad, handsomely built, and well paved; and in the center of every principal street there is a canal of about sixty feet broad; so that there is no communication between the two sides of the same street but by bridges, of which there are great numbers thrown over the water at no great distance from each other. The houses are, in general, three stories high; and each story very lofty, on account of the excessive heat of the climate. They are all built according to one general design, and possess a certain degree of grandeur, both in their external and interior appearance. The lower story of the houses is built of stone, covered with marble; and the upper part is composed of a fine red brick: the windows, which are very large, are coped with marble, and the wooden frame-work richly gilt and ornamented. The inhabitants appear to have a very great pride in preserving the exterior beauty of their houses, and use a sort of red paint for that purpose, with which they wash, or colour the fronts of them at least once a week.

On

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On each side of the canal there are two rows of evergreen trees, which add very much to the beauty of the streets. There are also in different parts of each street, small square buildings, with seats in them for the accommodation of passengers, as shelter or shade may be necessary, from the violence of the rain or the heat of the sun.

The only public buildings which merit particular attention, are the palace of the Governor-General, the arsenal, the stadthouse, and the high church.

The first of them forms a termination to the principal street of the place, its fore-court is handsomely railed, and the front gate is guarded by centinels. This edifice is of stone, and of an imposing appearance: it consists of four stories, with a central dome crowned with a turret: there are also large wings projecting on either side from the main body, with surrounding piazzas. There is a battalion of soldiers constantly on duty here, which consists chiefly of Malays commanded by European officers. I saw also a few European soldiers, who, though they were much better clothed and accoutred than the native troops, have such a meagre, pale, and ghastly appearance, as to be but ill-qualified for the duties of their own, or any other profession. I was informed by some of them, that not one in twenty of the military who came from Europe, ever returned there; and that even those who escape from hence, and survive all the dangers and disorders of the climate, generally go back to their own country with emaciated forms and debilitated constitutions.

This palace appears to have been built at several distinct periods, from the dates which are engraved in different parts of it. The dates 1630, 1636, and 1660, mark, as I suppose, the particular periods when certain principal parts of it were erected. Before the court there is a kind of lawn, with a walk in the middle, shaded with rows of trees; and to the left of this lawn, at a small distance from the palace, stands the arsenal, before which lay a great number of new brass guns, gun-carriages,

carriages, shot of all kinds piled up, and fifty large cannon completely mounted. This building, as may be supposed, is more remarkable for its strength, than the beauty of its external appearance, and contains an immense quantity of all kinds of ordnance and military stores, both in its chambers, and in the deep vaults beneath the building.

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Beyond this lawn or walk is a canal, over which a drawbridge communicates with one of the forts; and near it is a very elegant stone building, with corresponding wings, built in a very pleasing stile of architecture: it is called the small armory, and, as I was informed on the spot, contains two hundred thousand stand of arms. Around this edifice, there are several large courts, which contain residences for the principal officers, as well as barracks for twenty-thousand men; but this vast range of buildings is no longer inhabited, on account of the contagious disorders that are so frequent in this city. The officers have all of them places of residence at some distance from the town; and all the European regiments are quartered in the country; the guard on the city duty being regularly relieved every morning. The regiment appointed for duty marches every day into town, at six o'clock in the morning, to the grand parade opposite the Governor's palace; one battalion of which attends the Governor's duty, and the other is distributed among the several guards round the city.

Near the fort, which has been already mentioned, stands the custom-house, belonging to the Dutch East-India Company, with their store-houses, and other commercial erections. There is also a small dock-yard, where boats and a few inconsiderable vessels were building. There is a chain thrown across the canal, every night, to prevent all communication with boats after a certain hour, and a fort has been erected near the custom-house, with a view, as it appears, to protect it; but, without pretending to any knowledge in the science of defence, or military tactics, I could discover that this place was in no condition to

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resist a well-appointed enemy ; nor could I reconcile the defenceless state of this valuable settlement to the wealth and importance of it.

At the end of the street leading from the Governor's house, and in a handsome square, stands the stadthouse, where the courts of justice are held, and the supreme council meet to proceed in their deliberations : it is a very fine building, with an interior court surrounded by a piazza. At a small distance from the stadthouse is the principal church of the city, which is surrounded by a cemetery. It is a large, plain, square building, with a dome in the center, and a lofty turret springing from it ; the inside is fitted up in a very beautiful manner : the tribune belonging to the Governor General is very much enriched ; the pews are very commodiously arranged ; and, indeed, every part is admirably adapted to the purposes of that religion to which it is devoted. The walls of the church are entirely covered with escutcheons and painted inscriptions, sacred to the memory of the dead : these inscriptions are of different sizes, but being painted in the same form, enclosed in gilt frames, and disposed with judgment, produce a very beautiful effect.

The civil government of Batavia and the island of Java is perfectly arbitrary, and vested in the Governor and Supreme Council in all matters, excepting those of trade and commerce, which are subject to an officer called a Director General, from whose decisions there is no appeal.

The severity of the laws, and the rigour with which they are executed, could find no justification in a settlement belonging to an European government ; were it not for the savage and ferocious disposition of the natives of the country, whom no punishments, however frequent or severe, are able to maintain in that state of discipline and good order, which is so necessary to the well-being and comfort of civilised life.

The number of regular troops quartered in the neighbourhood of Batavia, including both the European and Malay regiments, amounts to about twelve thousand men: there are also upwards of twenty-thousand native militia, who are regularly clothed and paid; but though they are frequently mustered, by order of the Governor, they are never actually embodied, but in time of war, or in consequence of some civil commotion. The European troops are clothed in a manner suitable to the climate, are allowed to carry on any trade or profession for which they are qualified, and otherwise remunerated by particular privileges; if any thing can remunerate them for the dangers and inconveniencies that result from this ungenial climate. The Malay troops, on the contrary, are destitute of any decent clothing; none of them at least being allowed shoes or stockings; and in this miserable state of equipment they do their duty.

Batavia is extremely populous; and among its inhabitants may be found the natives of every European country: the larger proportion of them, however, are Chinese, who appear to be a quiet and industrious people. It seemed to be a general opinion among those, of whom I had an opportunity to make the inquiry, that this city contains two hundred thousand souls; one half of which are supposed to be Chinese, and the other, Europeans and native Malays: nor when I consider the extent of the city and its suburbs, do I conceive it to be an exaggerated calculation.

On my return to the hotel after the morning's excursion, of which I have given the information it produced, I found, with great concern, that Lord Macartney had been seized with a violent fit of the gout, and was returned on board the Lion; so that all the various entertainments which were preparing to have enlivened the time of our stay at Batavia, were frustrated by this very unpleasant change in the health of the distinguished person who was the object of them.

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I supped this evening at the Batavian hotel, in company with two French gentlemen, who had been so fortunate as to escape from a band of Malays. The villains had attacked them in the street: a circumstance which often happens, and particularly to strangers who pass the streets after it is dark.

Tuesday 12.

I repeated my excursions through the city.

Wednes-
day 13.

Several gentlemen of the Ambassador's suite being taken ill, they were ordered to go on board their respective ships, and large quantities of fruit were purchased for their use and refreshment,

. In the evening I went to see the tragedy of Mahomet, and paid a six-dollar for admission. The theatre is situated in the middle of a large garden, which is a place of public resort for the Batavians of every rank and denomination, It is a spacious brick building, decorated with great elegance, and fitted up with front and side boxes, and galleries; its orchestra also contained a tolerable band of music.

The play, as far as I could judge from the attitudes of the actors, and the expression of their countenances, for the whole was in the Dutch language, was very well performed. The entertainment was Barnaby Rattle, and afforded a great deal of amusement. The audience was very brilliant, but the more splendid part of it arose from the superior figure, appearance, and beauty of some English ladies who graced the boxes on the occasion.

Thurs-
day 14.

At noon there was an auction, or, as it is here termed, an outcry, of certain lands and estates, belonging to some of those fortunate individuals, who, having escaped the dangers of the climate, return with the large fortunes they have acquired here, to enjoy the comforts and luxurious ease of Europe.

These

These sales cannot take place, but under the inspection of the Commissary General, or his deputies, who must always be present on the occasion. Notice is given of these auctions throughout the city and suburbs by a certain number of men, who beat gongs to collect the people together in the different streets, when a person authorised by the Commissary General reads over the articles to be sold, and the conditions of sale: in every other respect, these sales are conducted in the same manner as those in England.

Capt. Mackintosh came on shore, and purchased a French brig, to answer the purpose of the Jackall, from whom we had been so long separated, that we despaired of seeing her again. Friday 15.

This evening I have reason to consider as one of the most fortunate of my life, having escaped from a gang of the Malays, who certainly formed a design, as they had an almost irresistible temptation, to destroy me. Saturday 16.

The principal part of the baggage belonging to the Ambassador's suite having been already sent on board the respective ships, I was charged by Mr. Maxwell to see that the rest of the packages, and a chest of dollars, were put on board a proa hired for that purpose, and ordered to go down with the proa to the boom, and remain there till Mr. Maxwell arrived, which he promised to do in half an hour. I accordingly set off, and arrived at the boom about eight o'clock, when I fastened the boat to the custom-house quay, and anxiously waited the arrival of Mr. Maxwell. In this unpleasant situation I remained till nine o'clock, when the boom was thrown across the water, and the bridge drawn up. My uneasiness now became of a very serious nature, as I well knew that Mr. Maxwell could not reach me but by a special order from the Governor; while I was not only in danger of losing the property under my care, from the Malays, who were continually running backwards and forwards in the proa, and examining the articles on board, but of being myself sacrificed to make the

the

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the booty more secure to them. In this situation, I formed the resolution of making the best of my way to the Lion; and, accordingly, ordered the Malays to row off for the ship, which they at first refused; but after shewing them some money, they took the oars, as I expected, to comply with my wishes; but, instead of making towards the ship, they rowed the proa close to the shore, about a gun-shot from the mouth of the canal, and at least half a mile from any house. They then all run ashore, and, in spite of threats or entreaties, left me to myself in a much worse situation than I was before, as I was now more remote from any assistance, in case I should be in a situation to require it.

* In about twenty minutes these wretches returned in greater numbers, which increased my apprehensions, as they all entered into the proa, and, putting off from the shore, attempted to row into the bay: in short, a violent scuffle ensued between us, in which I at length succeeded, by means of a drawn sword that I used with some effect, in driving them all on shore, except one man, whom I compelled, by terror of the same instrument, to row the vessel to the custom-house, where I waited till past eleven; and, despairing of seeing Mr. Maxwell till the next day, I took all the articles out of the boat, and lodged them in a public-house for further security. I had, however, scarce finished this necessary arrangement, when I saw Mr. Maxwell, attended by several slaves with flambeaus, arrive on the opposite side of the water. I instantly hailed him; when he came over to me, and, all the packages being again put into the proa, we set sail for the Lion, and some time after midnight arrived on board.

The hotel in which the Ambassador's suite resided, during our stay at Batavia, is a very superb building of its kind, and was erected at the expense of government for the accommodation of foreigners and mercantile strangers: it is under the sole management and controul of the Governor General and Council, by whose regulations the business of the house is conducted.

It is called the Royal Batavian and Foreign Hotel, and this title appears in large golden letters in the front of the house, with the date of 1729, the year in which it was built. It contains three regular stories; and, as each floor is very lofty, for the benefit of the air, the building rises to a very considerable height. It is constructed, like the other edifices of the place, with brick painted of a red colour, while the seams of mortar between are proportionably whitened; the windows are also very large and broad, the frames of which are gilt or curiously painted; the whole forming a very large and handsome structure.

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There are three doors in the front, and a kind of terrace raised above the pavement before them, which is covered by a portico; where the company resident in the house usually sit after dinner and smoke their pipes: each of these doors forms an entrance into an hall about two hundred feet in length, and about sixty in breadth; at the further end of which there is a large stair-case that leads to the bed-chamber apartments, and the flat roof above them.

In the center hall there are at least thirty elegant lamps and chandeliers, which are lighted up every night, and, opposite to them, on the wall, is a range of looking-glasses, which reflect, and, of course, heighten the brilliance of the illumination: the piers between them are adorned with paintings. In the center of the middle hall is a large arch, from which a silver chandelier is suspended: the other halls have each a door of the same dimensions exactly opposite, and these respectively lead to an apartment with an alcove roof, neatly ornamented with stucco, which contains a billiard table surrounded with lamps. From the center of the principal hall the coup d'œil at night is perfectly enchanting, from the great number of lights, and the regular order in which they are placed: the billiard rooms also with their lamps, corresponding exactly with each other.

Behind

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Behind the house there is a spacious gallery with piazzas, from whence a large shade of silk, fancifully painted with figures and grotesque characters, is occasionally lowered in the day, as the heat of the sun may require, and in the evening it is entirely dropped, when the gallery is lighted up, in the same manner as the apartments already described. Beyond this gallery, there is a court paved with large flat stones, and surrounded with a variety of offices for poulterers, butchers, and other domestic uses, with a spacious kitchen, and every necessary accommodation. The upper story of this range of building is divided into granaries and chambers for the principal and other slaves, of which there are altogether at least ninety, of both sexes, who belong to the master of the hotel. These menial persons are promoted according to their merits; and, if they are industrious and attentive to the duties of their several departments, they may, from the emoluments of their situation, which are very considerable, be soon in a condition to purchase their freedom.

In the great hall on the first floor, which serves as a vestibule to the sleeping apartments that surround it, there is a chrystal lamp replenished with cocoa-nut oil, always burning on a table at the door of each room, which is ready for the person who occupies it, at whatever time he may chuse to retire to his repose; as it is the custom of the hotel that every one should keep the key of his own room, as a security against the Malays, who are of such an incorrigible nature, that no punishment can ultimately deter them from indulging their disposition to pilfer.

The public regulations of the house resemble those of European hotels, and the table which was kept for the Ambassador's suite was very superb. The breakfast always consisted of tea, coffee, chocolate, and cocoa, with every kind of cold meat, broiled fish, and eggs; to which were added, jellies, sweetmeats, and honey, with various kinds of wines and confectionary, all furnished in great abundance, and arranged in the handsomest manner. Both the dinner and supper consisted

of.

of the most delicate dishes, and dressed in a superior stile of cookery. The servants table was also supplied with equal propriety and plenty.

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March.

The rate of living here, however, is very expensive, and the prices of liquors very exorbitant: small beer and porter were charged half a crown English per bottle. But when the prodigious rent of this hotel, amounting, as the landlord himself assured me, to sixty thousand rix-dollars per annum, and the expense of importing liquors and other commodities from Europe, with the duties on them, is considered, the high price of living, in such a situation, could no longer be regarded either with surprise or discontent.

The dress of the inhabitants of Batavia takes its rise from the custom of their respective countries. The European ladies, indeed, seem not to be altogether governed by this principle, but suit their dresses to their own peculiar fancy, and the circumstances of the climate; while the Dutch and the Malay women, in some degree, imitate their fashions. The head-dress of the latter, however, is altogether different, and of a very curious appearance.—The hair is combed backward from the forehead, and smoothed with oil and essences in such a manner as to wear the appearance of being japanned: it is then twisted hard, and, being laid in a circular form round the crown of the head, is fastened by a large comb with a number of gold and silver pins, the heads of which are formed of precious stones, according to the rank of the wearer. Hair powder is very little used in Batavia, and by the Europeans alone. It was, however, with no small degree of exultation that I saw the decided superiority which the few English ladies who reside here, possess over every other denomination of females, not only as to the gracefulness of their persons, and the sweetness of their countenances, but, also, in the simplicity of their dress and the elegance of their manners.

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The suburbs of Batavia, or, as it is generally called, the Chinese town, being mostly inhabited by those people, lie on the south and west sides of the ditch that furrounds the city wall, and are scattered about the country for several miles. The houses are, in general, of wood, and have no pretensions to elegance or beauty; though their warehouses are fitted up with a certain degree of glare and gaudiness. A great variety of manufactures are carried on here by the industrious Chinamen: indeed, all the artificers and mechanics in Batavia are from China; the Europeans, through a foolish and unpardonable pride, considering it as beneath them to perform any mechanical operations; and the Malays appear to be cursed with a natural incapacity to be instructed in any thing above the drudgery of manual labour.

The whole of these suburbs forms a scattered mass of deformity and confusion; and the horrid stench which arise from stagnant water and various filthy causes, cannot be described. In the surrounding country there are a great many beautiful seats and villas, with fine gardens; but the ground being every where swampy, the number of drains, with which it is necessarily intersected, renders it more or less unwholesome in every part.

In passing through the fish market, I was under the necessity of retiring into a tavern, to get some Madeira and water, in order to recover myself from the overcoming effects of the putrid smells that assailed me. There appeared, however, to be a great abundance of fish in this obnoxious place; but, except turtle, they bore a very exorbitant price.

The city and suburbs of Batavia certainly form one of the most unwholesome spots in the world, and may be justly termed the grave of Europeans: but the unwholesome and infectious nature of the place might

might be very much alleviated by an attention to cleanliness, which seems to be not, in the least, considered by the government or police of the city. A company of scavengers would be of infinite use to the comfort and health of the inhabitants of Batavia; but there is no such establishment.

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The heat of the sun is so great, that the canals are frequently dried up, or their waters rendered putrid: but this is not so malignant a source of pestilential disease, as the nastiness that prevails among the lower classes of the people, and the inattention to remove the receptacles of putrefaction among the higher orders of them. Nor is it easily to be reconciled, that the spirit of cleanliness, so prevalent in Holland, should so totally evaporate in a voyage to the most important of its Asiatic possessions. Nay, it has been considered by political writers, that the inattention to remedy the evils which have been described, is to be attributed to the commercial policy of the Dutch, in order to discourage foreigners from settling among them, and sharing the great, but hazardous advantages to be derived from participating in any branch of commerce in this oriental emporium: or, in case of a foreign war, to deter any enemy from invading a place, the very airs of which are more hostile to human life, than the weapons of battle. I shall only add, that, within the last twenty years, no less than ninety-eight thousand deaths appear on the records of the public hospital in Batavia.

At six o'clock in the morning we weighed anchor and made sail, running between the island of Onroost and the main. Sunday 17.

This island is situated in the middle of the bay, and about four miles from Batavia. Its length does not exceed three quarters of a mile, and it is no more than half a mile in breadth. It contains, nevertheless, an handsome populous town, with a strong fort. In

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this little spot there are several founderies and manufactures, and the whole is a scene of industry and landscape beauty. It is also surrounded with several islands of the same description, most of which are inhabited; great numbers of people wisely preferring these situations; which though immoderately hot, are free from those contagious diseases that infect the city and suburbs of Batavia.

C H A P. II.

The Jackall brig rejoins the Lion. Leighton, the carpenter, murdered by the Malays. Lord Macartney views the spot where Colonel Catbcart was buried. Came to Pulo Condore; some account of its inhabitants; their alarm. Passed various islands. Arrived at Turon bay, in Cochin China. Several mandarins came on board the Lion; an account of them. The chief minister of the King of Cochin China visits Lord Macartney. Presents received. Lord Macartney returns the visit on shore in form. The master of the Lion seized by the natives, but released in a few days. The interment of Mr. Totbill, purser of the Lion.

THE owner of the French brig came on board, and was paid for her in dollars.

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March.
Monday 18.

The weather insupportably hot: Lord Macartney was still so much indisposed as not to see company.

Tuesday 19.

The new brig joined us, which Lord Macartney was pleased to name the Clarence, in honour of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence.

Wednes-
day 20.

Boarded the Achilles, from Ostend to Batavia, who gave some account of the Jackall brig, with whom we parted company in a gale of wind, in the Bay of Biscay.

Thursday 21.

This morning, at six, we discovered a sail at a great distance, which, from the account given by the Ostend vessel, was supposed to be the Jackall. After a long series of doubts, conjectures, and sollicitudes on
the

Saturday 23.

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the subject, Sir Erasmus Gower dispatched Lieutenant Cox, in the pinnace, to ascertain the truth. At noon, the pinnace returned with the agreeable intelligence, that the ship we had seen was the Jackall brig, whom we had long ago supposed to have been lost.

Sunday 24.

Mr. Saunders, from the Jackall, came on board to deliver his log-book to Sir Erasmus Gower. At four o'clock, we saw a sail, which proved to be the Concord, from China to Bengal.

Friday 29.
Good Friday.

William Leighton, Lord Macartney's joiner, who went ashore, in order to wash his linen at the watering-place at Sumatra beach, was murdered by the Malays. His body being found covered with wounds, was brought on board the Lion, and afterwards interred, with all becoming ceremony and respect, on North Island. He was a very ingenious artisan, and an honest, intelligent, and amiable man. But the melancholy which pervaded every countenance throughout the ship's company, on his death, is a more honourable and decided testimony of his merit and character, than any expressions of regard which I might employ on the occasion.

April.
Monday 1.

At half past six, A. M. we weighed and came to sail; at eight, Mortnay Island, south by east; Stroome Rock, south-east, half a mile: at eleven, came to, in seventeen fathom water. Angara Point, flag-staff, south by east. The cap, north-north-east, and button, north by east. The accommodation ladder was hoisted out after dinner, and soon after Lord Macartney, accompanied by Sir Erasmus Gower, went ashore, and viewed the spot where the Honourable Colonel Cathcart, brother to Lord Cathcart, a former Minister from the King of Great Britain to the court of China, was interred; and whose death put an end to that diplomatic expedition.

The weather continued moderate, with occasional fresh breezes and light airs, for the succeeding fortnight, which was employed in wooding, watering, receiving buffaloes on board, and making the
necessary

necessary arrangements for the remaining part of the voyage. We passed, and, occasionally, anchored at Ninah Island, and the Polar, Hound, and Tamarind islands.

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April.

At four in the afternoon the body of Tharbuny Island bore north-north-west ; at five came into fifteen fathom water. Found here the Sullivan homeward bound Indiaman, the Jackall, and the Clarence, with an Imperial ship. Arrived the Royal Admiral Indiaman.

Sunday 14.

The Sullivan and the Royal Admiral, Indiamen, failed for England. Tuesday 16.

We continued coasting along, and passed by numerous islands, with moderate weather ; which was only once interrupted by a squall, accompanied by rain, and followed by thunder and lightning, till we came to anchor in the south-western extremity of Pulo Condore bay.

A party, soon after our arrival, went on shore, after having called at the Hindostan, for Sir George and Mr. Staunton, and Mr. Niaung, one of the Chinese interpreters. We reached the shore in about an hour and a half ; and, on our landing, some of the natives came out to meet us on the beach, with whom we proceeded towards a wood, with six men from the boats, properly armed with muskets and ammunition. We had not, however, proceeded more than an hundred yards, when we came to a few miserable huts, built of bamboo, and scattered about the place where they are situated. One of them was inhabited by a person styled the chief, or mandarin, in whom was vested the government of the island. This hut, like the rest, was raised about three feet from the ground, with a roof of bamboo, and supported by four posts fixed in the earth. Such is the only miserable shelter which the inhabitants possess.

May.

Thursday 16.

In this house, if it may be thought to deserve that name, there were several people, all natives of Cochin China, but who spoke the Tartar language. None of them, except the chief, had any covering

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May.

covering but a strip of linen round their waists, and a kind of black turban on their heads. The chief, to whom the rest paid great obedience, was distinguished by wearing a loose black gown, made of a stuff like crape; under which he wore a wide pair of black silk trowsers. Over his shoulder was thrown a silver cord, to which was suspended behind a small embroidered bag of very exquisite workmanship. His head was also covered with a black turban; but he was, in common with the rest, without shoes.

At the distance of a few yards from the hut stood their temple, whose exterior form was the same as the other buildings. The inside was furnished, or, as it must have been considered by them, ornamented with some old fire-arms, a few cutlasses, and three daggers. One swivel, and some long spontoons, were laid across the roof: there were also several lances, and creases (a kind of poisonous dagger, used by the Asiatic savages) piled up against a bamboo post, in the middle of the building. It was evident, from the conduct of these people, that they were not accustomed to the use of fire-arms, as they appeared to consider these warlike instruments as objects of adoration. This opinion was confirmed by the alarm and astonishment they expressed on my discharging a musquet at the trunk of a tree; and the eagerness with which they examined the place where the ball had entered. But this did not content them; for they contrived to extract the ball, which they shewed to each other with marks of extreme amazement.

We remained near two hours on shore, and entered into a treaty with the chief, to procure us as many buffaloes, with as much poultry, fruit, &c. as could be spared from the island, and for which he was to be paid his own price: to this proposition he readily agreed, and promised that the commission should be immediately executed, and the different articles be ready for delivery on the next day. After the agreement was thus amicably settled, the chief offered us a regale of rice and fish, of which we all tasted. He then pointed to some cocoa-nut trees,

trees, as if to know if we should chuse to have any of them; and no sooner was it signified to him that a present of that fruit would be very acceptable, than a number of his people were instantly ordered to gather them. It was surprizing to see with what agility they climbed up those very lofty trees; and as they threw down the nuts, others below immediately skinned and handed them round to the company. We then took our leave of the mandarin, and on our way to the beach saw several canoes which were building, and one of them appeared to be of a very ingenious construction.

The island of Pulo Condore has but few inhabitants, and those it possesses are not collected together in any town, but live in bamboo huts, scattered up and down the country. It produces no fruit but cocoa-nuts and water-melons, and no grain but some coarse rice. It has, however, plenty of buffaloes, with a kind of wild-duck, and the common fowls, some of which are domesticated with them. This island, however, has a noble bay, which produces a fish that resembles our whiting, in great abundance, and has a safe anchorage, except along the shore, where for about three quarters of a mile it is full of shoals. The island is subject to the King of Cochín China, and lies in the Chinese ocean. Long. one hundred and seven deg. twenty-six min. east. Lat. two deg. forty min. north.

On returning to the ships we met with a very heavy squall, attended with violent rain.

This morning I went ashore with a party, accompanied by Mr. Niaung, in order to receive the several articles for which a bargain had been made with the mandarin on the preceding day.

Friday 17.

On our landing, and going to the hut belonging to the Chief, we found, to our utter astonishment, that the people had deserted their habitations, and carried off every article with them: even the temple

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was

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was stripped of all its warlike treasure. This extraordinary and unexpected circumstance was, however, explained in a letter, which we found in the Chief's hut. It was written in Chinese characters, and expressed the apprehensions of the islanders at seeing our ships in their bay; a sight they had never beheld before. In short, this appearance was so formidable to them, that they concluded our designs must be hostile; and in order to avoid the destruction which they imagined us to have meditated against them, they had, during the night, conveyed away their effects, and retired to the mountains. The letter also represented their extreme poverty, and implored us with the most humble expressions, not to burn or destroy their huts, as they proposed to re-inhabit them as soon as the squadron had sailed. We, therefore, returned to the ships as we left them, without fruits, or fowls, or buffaloes.

- Saturday 18.** Heavy gales. At four in the afternoon, squally; at eight, weighed anchor, and came to sail.
- Thursday 23.** Having passed in the intermediate time several islands of different forms, we, this day, saw the extremes of Pulo Canton, an island off the coast of Cochin China, bearing north by west, to north-west by west.
- Sunday 26.** At nine in the evening anchored in Turon Bay, in Cochin China. Found here a Portuguese brig, who saluted us with eleven guns.
- Monday 27.** The ship's company employed in watering. The water here is of a reddish colour. Several proas came along-side the Lion with ducks, cocoa-nuts, and joghry, for sale. Several mandarins also came on board to see the ship.
- Tuesday 28.** Men were sent on shore to raise tents for the sick.

The Ambassador was visited by several mandarins, with a great train of attendants. They were entertained with wines and liquors of various kinds, which, however, they were very cautious in tasting, till Lord Macartney banished all apprehension by setting them the example: they then drank, without reserve, whatever was offered to them; but they appeared to prefer cherry and raspberry brandy, above all the other liquors with which they were regaled.

The dress of these persons consisted chiefly of a black loose gown, of a kind of crape, with silk trowsers, slippers, and a black turban: a girdle, of silver cordage, was also tied round their waists. Some of them, but whether it arose from accident, or was a badge of distinction, I cannot tell, wore dark blue gowns of the same stuff. The domestics were clad in a plaid, or Tartan dress; their trowsers were tucked up to the knee, and they wore no shoes or slippers; their legs were entirely naked; and their turban was of plaid, like the rest of their very curious dress.

In the evening, the Prime Minister of the King of Cochin China, came on board the Lion, accompanied by several mandarins, and a considerable train of attendants, to request the Ambassador's company to dinner, in the name of the King, who had given his minister a special commission to make this invitation. It was, accordingly, signified to this distinguished personage, that his Excellency received the message with the utmost respect, and would, in consequence of it, go on shore on Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock.

Friday 31.

After this conference, the Chinese minister, and his suite, returned in their barges, which were decorated in a very gaudy manner. They were saluted on their departure from the ship with five guns.

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June.
Saturday 1.

In the forenoon the Ambaffador received a vifit from two mandarins, who brought from the King of Cochin China a present, confifting of

10 Buffaloes
50 Hogs
100 Fowls
150 Ducks
200 Bags of rice, and
6 Large jars of famptfoo.

The laft is a liquor made in China, and imported from thence.

Sunday 2. I went afhore in the forenoon and faw the town, the name of which is Fie-Foo. It confifts of nothing more than a crowd of wretched bamboo huts, though it contains a fpacious market-place, well fupplied with ducks, fowls, eggs, cocoa-nuts, and fruits. The furrrounding country is flat, and very fertile: but the natives feem to have little or no idea of cultivation, which would make it the fcene of extreme abundance. Their principal traffic feems to be with their women, by configning them, for a certain confideration, to the fociety of Europeans who touch here. They have no coin, but a fort of fmall caxee; and all their filver is in the form of long bars, or wedges. The refidence of the principal mandarin confifts of a large open range of bamboo huts, of a better form, and more elegant appearance than the reft; containing feveral rooms of a tolerable fize and proportions, which are fitted up and furnifhed in a neat and ornamental manner.

Monday 3. In the afternoon the Ambaffador's guards, with fome of the marines, went on fhore to praftife the ceremonial duties that had been affigned them for the following day.

Tuesday 4. This morning the Ambaffador, attended by his whole fuite, in full uniform, with Sir Erasmus Gower, Captain Mackintosh, and feveral
of

of the officers of the Lion and the Hindostan, went on shore with great ceremony ; when, in honour of the birth-day of our most excellent Sovereign, George the Third, he was saluted with twenty-one guns by the Lion, the Hindostan, and Portuguese brig. The British troops, with their officers and band of music, had been previously sent ashore to wait his Excellency's arrival.

On this day the royal standard of Great Britain was displayed at the main-top-gallant-royal mast ; the St. George's ensign at the fore-top-gallant ditto ; and the union at the mizzen.

The Ambassador was received, on his landing, by several mandarins with every mark of attention and respect ; when he proceeded, under an escort of his own troops, to the house of the Prime Minister, where a collation in the best manner of the country was prepared for him. Here his Excellency remained for some time ; and, after an exchange of mutual civilities, returned to the Lion, when he was saluted by fifteen guns from all the ships lying at anchor.

I went ashore in the afternoon, and purchased some fruit and sugar of a very good quality : it is made in large cakes, and resembles fine bread, for which, at some small distance, it may be actually mistaken. I also saw six large elephants, which had been brought for the amusement of the mandarins : they appeared to be perfectly innocent, were obedient to every command, and performed many feats of unwieldy agility. These huge animals moved at the rate of eight miles an hour. Wednesday 5.

On this morning the sick were received on board the ships from the station on shore. Friday 7.

Mr. Jackson, master of the Lion, went in the cutter to take soundings in the bay ; but having gone up the mouth of the river Campvella, which rises about eighty miles up the country, and forms a confluence with
the

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June.

the river that discharges itself into Turon Bay, he inconsiderately began to survey, and take plans of, the coast; but, in attempting to execute this design, he, with the seven men who accompanied him, were made prisoners by the natives, who seized the boat, and carried them to the capital city of the kingdom.

This very disagreeable intelligence was communicated from the shore by the mandarins, whose good offices were earnestly solicited by Lord Macartney, and Sir Erasmus Gower, to obtain the return of these men to the ship. Indeed, this unreflecting conduct of the master might, as it was apprehended, be attended with consequences that would have interrupted the course of the embassy; as the country of Cochin China is tributary to the Chinese empire, and sends an annual Ambassador to the court of Peking; so that all this business might have been misrepresented in such a manner to the Chinese government, as to have lessened the good dispositions we were disposed to believe that they entertained towards the British embassy. In short, it appeared, that very serious apprehensions were entertained on that subject, by those who were the best qualified to form a right judgment of the policy and temper of the court which was the object of our destination.

Tuesday 11.

Mr. Niaung, one of the interpreters, went on shore with some of the Ambassador's suite, to inquire concerning the British prisoners, and he was informed by the mandarins, that they had been released, and were on their return.

Wednesday 12.

William Tothill, Esq. purser of the Lion, died this morning, after an illness of a few days.

The King of Cochin China sent another large present of rice to the Ambassador.

The

The body of Mr. Tothill was interred on shore with every possible mark of respect and regard: Sir Erasmus Gower also ordered an inscription to be cut in wood, which was afterwards placed on his grave.

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June.
Thursday 13.

At four o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Jackson returned with the cutter and his men, from their imprisonment; during which period they had undergone the severest sufferings both in body and mind; and no circumstance, but their belonging to the British embassy, could have preserved them from being put to death.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

Leave Turon Bay. Sir George Staunton, &c. sail in the Jackall for Macao. Enter the Yellow Sea. Lieut. Campbell goes to Mettow. Present from the mandarin of Chusan. Number of sick on board the Lion. Messrs. Huttner and Plumb go to Mettow to arrange the landing of the embassy. A mandarin arrives on board. The soldiers, mechanics, and suite go on board the junks, with the presents, baggage, &c. The Ambassador lands at Mettow. Description of that place.

1793.
June,
Sunday 16.
Thursday 20.

AT four in the afternoon weighed and set sail from Turon Bay.

The weather was moderate and fair. At six P. M. saw the land 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 charged with letters and business to the commissioners, Messrs. Brown, Irvine, and Jackson, who were sent from England to notify in China the expected embassy, and who were then at Macao. They accordingly set sail in the Jackall brig, accompanied by the Clarence, for that place, to execute their commission. Mr. Coa and Mr. Niaung, the Chinese interpreters, accompanied them on the occasion, with the design to proceed over land to the place of their nativity.

These worthy and amiable men took a very affectionate leave of their friends on board the Lion, with whom they had made so long a voyage;

voyage; but with all the impatience natural to those who had been removed at such a distance, and for so great a length of time, from their relations, friends, and native land.

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June.

At half past eight in the morning we came to anchor in eleven fathom water, on the north point of the Grand Ladrone island.

The Jackall and ~~the~~ ~~return~~ returned from Macao. Sir George Staunton soon after came on board; and, from the intelligence communicated to him by the Commissioners, the most sanguine hopes were entertained that this extraordinary and important embassy would be crowned with success.

Sunday 23.

We now entered the Yellow Sea, when nothing material happened, that can justify particular description, till we arrived at the end of this branch of our voyage. In our passage, we saw many islands, and occasionally met with Chinese junks, fishing-boats, and other circumstances, which denoted our approach to that part of the continent to which we were destined.

There being several rocks on the Chinese coast, in the Yellow Sea, that had no denomination in any chart, Sir Erasmus Gower thought proper to name them after the three principal characters of the embassy. Thus we find our journals contain, in this part of the voyage, the names of Cape Macartney; Cape Gower, and Staunton's Island.

At six o'clock in the afternoon, the Lion came to an anchor in Jangangfoe Bay; Mettow Islands bearing from north, to north-west by west, two miles off shore.

July,
Sunday 21.

Lieut. Campbell, with Mr. Huttner, Mr. Plumb, and Lieut. Omaney, went in the cutter to Mettow, to be informed if there was any track by which the Lion could enter the river, or if there was any river on that coast, which was navigable for ships of her burthen, and
by

1793.

July.

by whose navigation she could make a nearer approach to the capital. If the answers to these inquiries did not prove satisfactory, those gentlemen were then to concert measures with the mandarin of the place for the disembarkation of the suite there.

- Monday 22. The brig Endeavour arrived from Macao and Canton with dispatches from the Commissioners.
- Tuesday 23. This morning a mandarin of Chufan sent a present of twelve fine small bullocks, a number of hogs, with a large quantity of fruit, garden stuff, and rice.
- Thursday 25. The cutter returned with Lieut. Campbell and his company, who gave a very favourable account of the hospitality of the Chinese at Mettow; where they were not only received with the greatest civility, but furnished with every possible accommodation, and supplied with the greatest plenty and abundance. At the same time Mr. Campbell reported the absolute impracticability of proceeding further, as the whole way to the mouth of the river forms a chain of shoals, while a bar runs across the entrance of it, which is not more than six feet deep, even at high water. In consequence of this report, Sir Erasmus Gower resolved to proceed no further.
- Saturday 27. The report of the surgeon amounted to ninety-three men sick on board the Lion.

The Jackall and Clarence sailed with Mr. Huttner and Mr. Plumb to Mettow, to make arrangements with the mandarins for the landing of the embassy, and to fix the time when the Ambassador should go on shore: the result of whose commission was, that large junks would be sent for the reception of the suite and baggage, as soon as the wind served.

1793.

August.
Friday 2.

A present of sixteen bullocks, thirty-two fine large sheep, some hogs, with vegetables, tea, sugar, &c. was sent on board the *Lion*. A principal mandarin also came on board from one of the junks, and dined with Lord Macartney; where he appeared in a very awkward situation, as the Chinese do not know the use of knives and forks. This officer finally settled with his Excellency that the succeeding Monday ~~should be~~ the day of his disembarkation; but that the heavy baggage, &c. should be previously transhipped into the junks. The mandarin expressed great surprise at our wooden palace, and could scarce believe the various arrangements and wonderful conveniencies of it. He was hoisted into one of our boats in the accommodation chair; a ceremony with which he appeared to be infinitely delighted.

A mandarin came on board to dinner. The presents, baggage, &c. were all shipped into the junks; on board which vessels the soldiers, mechanics, and great part of his Excellency's servants, were also sent. Sunday 4.

This morning at four o'clock several junks came along side the *Lion* to receive the remainder of the Ambassador's baggage. His Excellency then took his breakfast on board, and was joined by the remainder of his suite from the *Hindustan*. Monday 5.

At eight o'clock Sir Erasmus Gower gave orders for the ship's company to man ship, previous to his Excellency's disembarkation, which took place almost immediately; when he was saluted with three cheers from the seamen, and the discharge of nineteen guns from the *Lion* and *Hindustan*.

At nine o'clock the remainder of the suite took their stations on different junks; the Ambassador, Sir George Staunton and son, having gone on board the *Clarence* brig, the accommodations of the junks being not only very inconvenient, but extremely dirty, and otherwise very unfit to receive them.

1793.

August.

The number of junks employed on this occasion for the reception of the suite and baggage, amounted to twenty sail, of about an hundred tuns burthen.

At two o'clock in the afternoon we saw the town and fort of Mettow; at three the junks came to anchor at the mouth of the river, where we found the Jackall, Clarence, and Endeavour arrived before us. From the several short windings at this part of the river, we were obliged frequently to anchor and weigh, in order to avoid the shoals.

At four the whole fleet came to anchor opposite the palace of the principal mandarin.

The town, though extensive, has not the charm of elegance or the merit of uniformity; indeed, its situation is such as to exclude any encouragement to beautify and adorn it, as it is situated on a swamp, occasioned by the frequent overflowing of the sea, notwithstanding the precaution of the inhabitants to make an embankment on the shore.

The houses, or huts, for they rather deserve the latter name, are built altogether of mud, with bamboo roofs: they are very low, and without either floors or pavements. At a small distance from the town there are several buildings of a very superior form and appearance, 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, which are very pretty, and painted of various colours, of the latter material: they are of a square form, and three stories in height; each story having a surrounding range of palisades, which are richly gilt and fancifully painted. The lower story, or ground floor, is fronted with piazzas, which are 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.

Each mandarin is attended by a great number of guards, consisting both of infantry and cavalry, who live in tents pitched round the residence of the personage whom they serve.

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Notwithstanding its unfavourable situation, the immense crowd of spectators who assembled to see the Ambassador come on shore, proves Mètow to be a place of prodigious population. Many of these curious people were on horseback and in carriages; so that the banks of the river where our junks lay at anchor were entirely covered with them.

The only fort in this place consists simply of a square tower, and seems to have been constructed for ornament rather than public utility; for, though it stands on the very margin of the sea, and commands the entrance of the river, not a single piece of ordnance appears on the walls.

The breadth of this part of the river is about a furlong, and the colour of the water is muddy, resembling that of the Yellow Ocean with which it mingles: its depth is very unequal, being in some parts nine, and in others six feet deep; but in no part less than two. At the entrance, as has been already mentioned, there is a bar or bank of sand, which stretches across it, and at full tide has not more depth than six or seven feet; though on the side towards the sea, and at a few yards only from the bar, there is upwards of six fathoms water.

The environs of the town present, on both sides the river, an expanse of flat country. The soil is rich, and can boast extraordinary fertility.

In the evening we received from the mandarin a very refreshing and acceptable present of dressed meats and fruits.

C H A P. IV.

An account of the mandarin appointed to conduct the accommodations for the embassy. Various presents of provisions. Gross habits of the Chinese respecting their food. Description of the junks. Order of those vessels fitted up for the accommodation of the British Ambassador and his suite.

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Tuesday 6.

THE whole of this morning was employed in transhipping the baggage to the accommodation junks, hired for the embassy by *Van Tadge-In*, a mandarin of the first class, who had been appointed by the Emperor to conduct the business of the embassy, in every thing that related to the residence, provisions, and journey of the suite.

This person became interesting to us, as he was appointed to attend the embassy during the whole time we should remain in China. He was about five feet nine inches in height, stout, well made, and of a dark complexion, but of a remarkable pleasing and open countenance: his manners and deportment were polite and unaffected; and the appointment of such a man, so admirably qualified to fulfil the peculiar duties to which he was nominated, gave us a very favourable opinion of the good sense of the Chinese government, and served to encourage our hopes of success in the important objects of this distinguished embassy.

We received at noon, from the mandarin's boat, which was accompanied by Mr. Plumb, Lord Macartney's interpreter, a quantity of raw beef, with bread and fruit: the beef, though not fat, is of a very good quality; but the bread, though made of excellent flour, was by no means pleasant to our palate: as the Chinese do not make use of yeast,

yeast, or bake it in an oven, it is, in fact, little better than common dough. The shape and size of the loaves are those of an ordinary wash-ball cut in two. They are composed of nothing more than flour and water, and ranged on bars which are laid across an iron hollow pan, containing a certain quantity of water, which is then placed on an earthen stove: when the water boils, the vessel, or pan, is covered over with something like a shallow tub, and the steam of the water, for a few minutes, is all the baking, if it may be so called, which the bread receives. In this state we found it necessary to cut it in slices and toast it, before we could reconcile it to our appetites. The fruits, which made a part of this present, consisted of apples, pears, shad-docks, and oranges of a superior flavour.

In the afternoon we received another very large supply of provisions ready dressed, consisting of beef, mutton, pork, whole pigs, and poultry of all sorts, both roast and boiled.

The roast meat had a very singular appearance, as they use some preparation of oil, that gives it a gloss like that of varnish; nor was its flavour so agreeable to our palates, as the dishes produced by the clean and simple cookery of our European kitchens. Their boiled meat, being free from the oily taste of that which is roasted or baked, was far preferable.

We were, however, in some degree, affected by the accounts we had heard of the indifference of the Chinese, concerning their food; and that they not only eat all animal food without distinction, but do not discard even such as die of diseases, from their meals. This circumstance made several of our party very cautious of what they eat; and as to their hashes and stews, many refused their allowance of these dishes, from the apprehension of their being composed of unwholesome flesh.

But

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But it was not merely from the information of others that we felt a disgust at Chinese cookery, as we had ocular demonstration of the gross appetites of the Chinese people. The pigs on board the Lion being affected with a disorder, which is always fatal to these animals, several of them were thrown overboard;—which circumstance being observed by the Chinese belonging to the junks, they instantly got out their boats and picked up these diseased carcases, which they immediately cut up, and having dressed a part of them, appeared to make a very comfortable meal, that was accompanied with frequent marks of derision at the English for their foolish extravagance.

We were at first disposed to believe that this grossness of appetite was confined to the lower classes of the people, who were generally in such a state of indigence, as to be glad to obtain meat in the accidental way which we have just mentioned: but we afterwards learned, that the more independent classes of people, and even the mandarins themselves, are not exempt from a custom, in domestic œconomy, at which the eager appetite of the starving European would revolt.

In the warm season, this part of the country swarms with mosquitos, that tormenting insect which is so distressing to the inhabitants of the warmer climates.

Wednes-
day 7.

This morning I went on board the accommodation junk, occupied by Captain Mackintosh, of the Hindostan, who was required to accompany the embassy to Peking. The squadron, in the mean time, received instructions to return to Chusan harbour, and to wait there till further orders.

The junks, or Chinese vessels, are formed on a construction I never remember to have seen in any other part of the world. They are built of beach wood and bamboo, with a flat bottom: they are of different sizes, from thirty to an hundred feet in length; the breadth of

of the largest are from twenty to thirty feet, and the smaller ones in proportion.

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In this junk there was on the first deck a range of very neat and commodious apartments, which were clean, and decorated with paintings. They consisted of three sleeping apartments, a dining parlour, 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 apartment 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 apartments. On the outside there is a coloured curtain, 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 windows on the outside, 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; and the more elegant vessels of this kind, which I have just described, are only calculated for the navigation of a river:

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as they are not constructed with sufficient strength to resist the violent effects of wind and weather.

It is usual for all vessels which navigate the rivers in China, to have a lamp, with a lighted candle in it, hoisted to the mast head, as soon as it is dark, to prevent those accidents which would otherwise very frequently happen from vessels running foul of each other. These lamps are made of transparent paper, with characters printed on it, to notify what junk it is, or the rank of any passengers on board it: if they are persons of distinction, three of these lanterns are usually suspended. The vessel is also illuminated in other parts of it, particularly round the deck; and the number of lights are generally proportioned to the rank of the persons who occupy the junk. The same service which the lamps perform by night, as far as relates to notification, is performed in the day-time by silken ensigns, whose printed characters specify in the same manner, the existing circumstances of the vessel. It may be easily conceived, that, from the prodigious number of junks which navigate this river, a very pleasing, and sometimes, indeed, a grand effect is produced, by such an assemblage of lights moving along the water.

I am not qualified to determine whether it proceeds from the domestic policy of the Chinese, from prejudice, in favour of long-established habits, or an ignorance of mechanics, but they have not made any advancement in the science of naval architecture: the junks of the last century, and those of the present day, are invariably the same.

The order in which the vessels, appropriated for the purpose of conveying the British embassy to Pekin, proceeded, was as follows:

- The grand Mandarin, and his suite, in five junks.
 Junk, No. 1. His Excellency the Earl Macartney.
 Ditto, — 2. Sir George and Mr. Staunton.
 — — 3. Mr. Plumb, the Chinese interpreter.

- Junk, No. 4. Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, Lieutenant Parish, and Lieutenant Crewe.
- Ditto, — 5. Captain Mackintosh, of the Hindostan, Mr. Maxwell, Doctor Gillan, and Mr. Huttner.
- — 6. Mr. Barrow, Mr. Winder, and Mr. Baring, (son of Sir Francis Baring).
- — 7. Doctor Scott, Doctor Dinwiddie, Mr. Hickey, and Mr. Alexander.

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These, with the junks which contained the soldiers, mechanics, and servants, completed the naval procession.

C H A P. V.

Lord Macartney leaves Mettow, and sets sail for Pekin. Beauty and fertility of the country. Various circumstances of the voyage. The soldiers of China described. The navigation of the river. Some account of the tea-tree, with the manner of making tea as a beverage. Prodigious population of the country. Arrive at the city of Tyen-sing. Some account of it. A Chinese play. Description of the mandarin's palace, &c.

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Thursday 8.

THIS morning the Ambassador paid a visit to the principal mandarin of Mettow, to take leave, on his departure for Pekin: and at eleven o'clock, the fleet of junks, with his Excellency and the whole suite on board, proceeded on their voyage.

We received a large supply of provisions, ready dressed, together with tea, sugar, bread, vegetables of all sorts, and a large quantity of fruit, consisting of apples, pears, grapes, and oranges, which never failed to make a part of those supplies for the table with which the embassy was at all times furnished, in the greatest abundance. We also received, at this time, a provision of wood and charcoal, for culinary uses. I made some inquiries after mineral coal, but it was not known at Mettow, nor could I learn whether it is found or used in any part of China.

We had proceeded but a very few miles up the river, when the country displayed prospects of such peculiar novelty and beauty as would baffle any attempts of mine to describe them. The view on all sides presents fields rich in various cultivation, with extensive meadows covered with sheep and the finest cattle. Their gardens appeared to be equally disposed for domestic use and pleasure; producing

producing at the same time abundance of vegetables, and the finest fruits; while the eye was charmed with the beauty of their scenery, and the gaiety of their decorations. On the first glimpse of their grounds, whether applied to the more solid uses of agriculture, or the more elegant arrangement of their gardens, in raising grain and esculent plants, or cultivating fruits and flowers, I was convinced that the Chinese were no mean proficient in botanical knowledge, as well as the science of farming, and the art of ornamental gardening. I also observed, that the fields were as well guarded by fences, both in the form of hedges and stone walls, as any I had seen in the enclosed parts of my own country.

During the day, the guards belonging to the mandarin marched along the banks of the river; and at night pitched their tents opposite to the station where the junks lay at anchor; when they kept a regular watch till the hour of the morning when the fleet proceeded on its voyage. The front of each tent was adorned with lamps, so that the camp on shore, and the junks on the water, formed together a considerable illumination, and produced a very uncommon and pleasing effect.

The centinels on shore have, each of them, a piece of hollow bamboo, which they strike at regular intervals, with a mallet, to announce that they are awake and vigilant in their respective stations. This custom, as I was informed by the peyings, or soldiers themselves, is universal throughout the Chinese army.

We were awakened at a very early hour by the sound of the gongs, Friday 9. which was the signal for sailing.

The gong is an instrument of a circular form, made of brass; it resembles, in some degree, the cover of a large stewpan, and is used as bells or trumpets are in Europe, to convey notice, or make signals from one place to another: when they are struck with a large wooden mallet, which is covered with leather, a sound is produced that may be distinctly heard at the distance of a league.

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We received the usual supply of provisions, with the addition, for the first time, of some wine of the country in a stone jar: its colour is nearly that of what is called Lisbon wine in England, and is equally clear: it is rather strong, but is of an unpleasant flavour, being harsh and sharp, and, in short, has more the taste of vinegar than wine. The jar which contained it was equal, in measure, to three English gallons; and the mouth of it was covered with a large plantane leaf, closed in with a cap of clay; on which was fixed a red label, marked with certain Chinese characters, to denote, as I suppose, the contents of the vessel.

We passed several very populous towns on both sides of the river, but situated at some distance from it. The Ambassador, however, received military honours from the soldiers belonging to them, who were drawn up on the bank, on either side, contiguous to their respective cantonments; and surrounded by an immense crowd of spectators.

The uniform of the soldiers consists of a large pair of loose, black nankeen trowsers, which they stuff into a kind of quilted cotton stockings, made in the form of boots. They always wrap their feet in a cotton rag before they draw these boots over their trowsers; they add also a pair of very clumsy shoes, made of cotton, the soles of which are, at least, an inch thick, and very broad at the points. These trowsers have no waistband, so that they lap over, and are tied with a piece of common tape, to which is generally suspended a small leathern bag, or purse, to contain money. These soldiers do not use either shirts, waistcoats, or neckcloths; but wear a large mantle of black nankeen, with loose sleeves, which is edged with nankeen of a red colour. Round their middle there is a broad girdle, ornamented in the center with what appears to be a pebble of about the size of half-a-crown, though, as I was informed, it is an hard substance or paste made of rice. From this girdle is suspended a pipe and bag to hold tobacco, on one side, and a fan on the other; which are
annually

annually allowed them by the Emperor, as well as a daily portion of tobacco, a plant that grows in the utmost abundance in every part of China.

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The Chinese troops were always, when I saw them, drawn up in single ranks, with a great number of colours or standards, which are chiefly made of green silk, with a red border, and enriched with golden characters. They wear their swords on the left side, but the handle or hilt is backwards, and the point forwards, so that, when they draw these weapons, they put their hands behind their backs, and unsheath them without being immediately perceived; a manœuvre which they execute with great dexterity, and is well adapted for the purposes of attack, as a foreign antagonist, who is not accustomed to this mode of assault, would be probably wounded, at least, before he was prepared to defend himself against it. Under their left arm is slung a bow; and a quiver, generally containing twelve arrows, hangs on their backs; others are armed with match-locks of a very rusty appearance.

Their heads are shaved round the crown, ears, and neck, except a small part on the back of the head, where the hair, which is encouraged to grow to a great length, hangs down their backs in a plait, and is tied at the end with a riband. They wear a shallow straw hat very neatly made, which is necessarily tied under the chin with a string, and is decorated with a bunch of camel's hair, dyed of a red colour.

On all occasions, similar to that which brought these troops to the banks of the river to do military honour to the British Ambassador, a temporary arch covered with silk is placed at each end of the line, in which the mandarins sit till the procession, or person to be saluted, appears, when they come forward and make their appearance. Near these arches are three small swivels about thirty inches in length, which are fixed in the ground with the muzzle pointing to the air: these are discharged as the person to be honoured with the salute passes the mandarin.

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mandarin at the end of the line. This mode of firing salutes the Chinese very sensibly adopt to prevent accidents, observing, at the same time in their account of it, 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 supposed that Europeans can derive any one improvement from the inhabitants of the east; but we well know, nevertheless, that very melancholy, and sometimes fatal accidents are occasioned from the want of similar regulations, by the discharge both of great guns and small arms on our days of public rejoicing.

The houses, scattered on the banks of the river, were chiefly built of mud, rarely intermixed with some of a better form, which were constructed of stone, and finished with great neatness; producing a very pretty effect, as we passed them, from the water.

The women at these places, of whom we saw great numbers, have their feet and ankles universally bound with red tape, to prevent, as it is said, their feet from growing of the natural size: so very tight is this bandage drawn round them, that they walk with great difficulty; and when we consider that this extraordinary practice commences with their infancy, it is rather a matter of surprize that they should be able to walk at all. If we except this strange management, or rather mismanagement, of their feet, and their head-dress, there is very little distinction between the dress of the males and females.

The women wear their hair combed back on the crown of the head, and smoothed with ointment: it is then neatly rolled into a sort of club, and ornamented with artificial flowers and large silver pins: the hair on the back part of the head is done up as tight as possible and inserted beneath the club. In every other respect their dress corresponds with that of the men: they differ, indeed, in nothing from that of the soldiers, which has been already described, but that they bear no arms, have no red border on their clothes, or tuft of hair on their hats.

As

As far as I could judge of the length of this day's voyage, it could not have exceeded twenty-four miles; in the course of which we reckoned upwards of six hundred junks that passed us, and I may say, without the least fear of exaggeration, that we saw twice that number lying at anchor; nor shall I hesitate to add, that, on the most moderate computation, we beheld at least half a million of people.

The river, besides the variety and extent of its navigation, is in itself a grand and beautiful object, and enriched with an equal distribution of rich and picturesque scenery; its course waves in the finest meanders; its banks on either side are adorned with elegant villas and delightful gardens; while the more distant country offers the intermingled prospect of splendid cultivation and landscape beauty.

The fleet came to anchor close into the shore at eight o'clock in the evening.

The gongs, as usual, gave the signal for weighing anchor, and proceeding on our voyage. The weather was extremely hot and sultry, and the country continued to wear that appearance of fertility, which had hitherto distinguished it. Saturday

We for the first time saw some plantations of the tea tree, an object which was rather interesting to the natives of a country, where, though the climate will not admit of its growth, it has descended, from being a luxury, into a necessary of life.

The tea tree is of a dwarf size, with a narrow leaf resembling myrtle. It was the season when these trees were in blossom, which the Chinese pluck and dry; and the younger the blossom is, when plucked, the higher the flavour of the tea is considered with which it is mixed.

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It is a curious circumstance that, although this province is so abundant in its produce of tea, it appears to be a very scarce commodity among the lower class of people; as the men belonging to our junk never failed, after we had finished our breakfast, to request the boon of our tea-leaves, which they drained and spread in the sun until they were dry; they then boiled them for a certain time, and poured them with the liquor into a stone jar, and this formed their ordinary beverage. When the water is nearly drawn off, they add more boiling water; and in this manner these leaves are drawn and re-boiled for several weeks. On some particular occasions, they put a few grains of fresh tea into a cup, and, after having poured boiling water upon it, cover it up: when it has remained in this state for a few minutes, they drink it without sugar, an article which the Chinese never mix with their tea.

We this day passed several populous villages, composed of very neat houses of one story, and built of brick; and from every one of them the Ambassador received those honours which have been already described. The crowds of people which assembled to see a parade of so much novelty as the fleet that conveyed the British embassy, were beyond all calculation, and almost beyond belief, and gave us a complete idea of the immense population attributed to the Chinese empire. Nor was the state of the navigation that appeared on the river less astonishing; the junks which we continued to see at every moment of our passage, were sometimes so numerous, that the water was covered with them.

The fleet came to an anchor at the usual hour of eight o'clock in the evening.

Sunday 11.

At four o'clock in the morning we renewed our voyage; the country still appearing in its usual state of fertility and beauty; and as far as the delighted eye could reach, an uncultivated spot was nowhere to be seen.

The banks of the river were now varied with fields of millet and rice. The stalks of the former are very tall, with branching leaves, and the points of them bear the seed, which is a very principal article of food in this country. The rice grows very much like our corn, and thrives best in a marshy soil: I observed, indeed, that some of the rice fields were entirely covered with water.

About six o'clock we approached the city of Tycn-sing, where we were met by crowds of spectators, both in junks and on the shore, that exceeded all calculation.

As we proceeded, we saw a long range of heaps, or ricks, of salt, in ranks, or columns of fifty each, from front to rear: these heaps are about eighteen or twenty feet square, and twenty-four feet in height, and are covered with matting to preserve them from the effects of the weather; each of them containing, as I was informed, about five hundred tons of salt. In this order, and without variation, or interruption, the range continued for two miles along the banks of the river. For what purpose this immense quantity of salt was deposited there I could not learn; nor was there any appearance of a manufactory to justify the idea of its being made there.

At nine o'clock we entered the city, amidst the noise and shoutings of, I doubt not, some hundred thousands of spectators. The houses of this place are built of brick, and, in general, are carried to the height of two stories, with roofs of tiles: they were all of a lead colour, and had a very neat and pretty appearance. The place, however, is not formed on any regular plan: the streets, or rather alleys, are so narrow, as to admit, with difficulty, two persons to walk abreast; and have no pavement. It is, however, of great extent, and populous beyond all description.

Before the palace of the mandarin, a larger body of troops was drawn up than we had yet seen, who carried, at least, one hundred and fifty standards.

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At half past ten, the Ambassador, attended by all his suite, guards, &c. in full formality, went on shore to pay a visit to the chief mandarin of the city, whose palace is at a small distance from the river, and placed in the center of a very fine garden: it is a lofty edifice, built of brick, with a range of palifadoes in the front, fancifully gilt and painted. The center building has three, and the wings two stories. The outside wall is decorated with paintings, and the roof is coloured with a yellow varnish that produces a very splendid effect. This building contains several interior courts, handsomely paved with broad flat stones.

The Ambassador, and his suite, were entertained with a cold collation, consisting of dishes dressed in the fashion of the country, with tea, fruit, and a great variety of confectionary; a branch of table luxury, which is well understood by the Chinese.

A play was also performed on the occasion, as a particular mark of respect and attention to the distinguished visitor. The theatre is a square building, built principally of wood, and is erected in the front of the mandarin's palace. The stage, or platform, is surrounded with galleries; and the whole was, on this occasion, decorated with a profusion of ribbons, and silken streamers of various colours. The theatrical exhibitions consisted chiefly of warlike representations; such as imaginary battles, with swords, spears, and lances; which weapons the performers managed with an astonishing activity. The scenes were beautifully gilt and painted, and the dresses of the actors were ornamented in conformity to the enrichments of the scenery. The exhibition was varied also, by several very curious deceptions by slight of hand, and theatrical machinery. There was also a display of that species of agility which consists in tumbling, wherein the performers executed their parts with superior address and activity. Some of the actors were dressed in female characters; but I was informed at the time, that they were eunuchs, as the Chinese never suffer their women to appear in such a state of public exhibition as the stage. The performance

formance was also enlivened by a band of music, which consisted entirely of wind instruments: some of them were very long, and resembled a trumpet; others had the appearance of French-horns, and clarinets: the sounds of the latter brought to my recollection that of a Scotch bag-pipe; and their music, being destitute both of melody and harmony, was of course, very disagreeable to our ears, which are accustomed to such perfection in those essential points of music.* But we had every reason to be satisfied with the entertainment, the circumstances of which were replete with novelty and curious amusement.

The dress of the soldiers was, with their arms and accoutrements, the same as those which we have already described, except in the colour, which was both white and blue, though equally bound with the same broad red binding: some of them, on the present occasion, were employed, with long whips, to keep off the crowd from pressing on the procession of the Ambassador and his suite.

His Excellency was saluted, both on his arrival and at his departure, with three pieces of small ordnance: and, soon after his return to the vessel the fleet set sail, amidst the greatest concourse of boats and people I ever beheld:—indeed, so great was the crowd of both, that I considered it to be impossible for us to pass on without being the witnesses of considerable mischief. One very old junk that lay at anchor had such a number of people on board it, to see the extraordinary sight of the day, that the sternmost part of the deck yielded to the enormous pressure, and suddenly gave way, when about forty of these curious people fell into the river, and several of them were unfortunately drowned. Some were, indeed, saved by clinging to the ropes which were thrown out to them; though it was very evident to those who witnessed the accident, that curiosity rather than humanity prevailed on the occasion; and that the people were more anxious to get a sight of the foreigners, than to save the lives of their countrymen.

We

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August.

We received the usual supply of provisions of all kinds, and a large jar of wine, from the mandarin, which contained about ten English gallons : it was found to be of a much superior quality to that which had been received on a former occasion, and had not only the flavour, but the colour, of mountain.

A considerable proportion of these provisions was distributed among the crews of the junks, who received such an acceptable mark of kindness with the utmost gratitude and delight. The superfluous hospitality of their country proved, as it ought to do, a source of occasional plenty to these poor people, during the course of that voyage in which we were conducted by their skill and labour.

It may here be mentioned that, as the quota of provisions allotted by the Chinese government for the maintenance of the embassy, was on the calculation that every individual kept a separate table, it must have been, as it really was, infinitely beyond the possibility of being consumed by those alone for whose use it was presented.

C H A P. VI.

Violent storm of thunder and lightning. Presents distributed among the suite of the embassy. The manner of towing the junks. The ordinary meals of the Chinese, and their mode of preparing them. The increasing appearance of the navigation. Strange habit of the lower classes of the natives. Passed the town of Cho-tang-poa. Circumstances of the river. A visit from the mandarin of Tyen-sing to the Ambassador. His procession described. The neatness, fertility, and various productions of the fields on each side of the river.

ABOUT four o'clock in the morning there was a most tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which lasted about two hours.

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August.
Monday 12.

The Mandarin of Tyen-sing having sent three parcels of coloured silk, as a present, to be distributed among the embassy, Mr. Maxwell, by Lord Macartney's order, delivered two pieces of it to each gentleman in his suite: but as the remainder did not allow of a similar division, the lots were all separated and numbered; when the mechanics, servants, and musicians, took their chance in drawing them, and, except three persons, they all obtained two pieces of the manufacture. The soldiers received, each of them, half a piece: these pieces were only half a yard wide, and about seven yards and an half in length; the colours were green, mulberry, and pink; but the silk was of a very indifferent quality, and would not, in England, be worth more than eighteen-pence a yard. It may, therefore, be very easily imagined that, on the spot, the present was of little or no value to those who received it.

During

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August.

During the great part of this day the junks were towed along by men particularly hired for that purpose: and the mode of drawing these vessels, as may be supposed, is very different from that employed on similar occasions in any of the European rivers.

On all the rivers of China there are large bodies of men, whose business it is to drag, or tow the junks, when the wind or tide fails. The method of proceeding in this business is by fastening one rope to the mast, and another to the head of the junk, which, being properly secured, the draughtsmen take the rope on shore along with them; the length of which must depend, in a great measure, on the breadth of the river. These men have, each of them, a piece of wood, about two feet and an half in length, with a piece of stout cord at each end, by which it is fastened to the ropes attached to the junk: these pieces of wood being thrown over their heads, rest upon their breasts, and by leaning against them the towers increase the power of their exertions: they are thus harnessed, if I may use the expression, in a strait line, at the distance of about a pace and an half from each other, and when they are all ready, the leader of them gives the signal: they then begin a particular kind of march, the regularity of whose step is essential to the draft of the vessel, and can only be maintained by a sort of chime which they chant on the occasion: this chime, or cry, is a kind of brief song; but the words, as far as I could learn, have no more meaning annexed to them, than the bawling tones employed by our seamen, as notices to pull at the same moment: they appeared, however, to give the following distinct, articulate sounds, not altogether unlike some of those which we might hear on the Thames, or the Severn.—Hoy-alla-hoya;—which word, for it is delivered as one, was regularly succeeded by the following ones—hoya, hoy, hoy—waudi-hoya. These words are sung in a regular tune; and so universal is this custom among the class of labouring Chinese, that they cannot perform the most ordinary work, where numbers are employed together, without the aid of this vocal accompaniment; which I was disposed to think, had some agreeable notes in it.

It seemed, indeed, to be necessary that these poor men should have consolation to support, or some aid to assist, them in the prodigious labour of dragging these large junks, both night and day, which is frequently increased by muddy banks, and marshy shores, where I have sometimes seen them wading up to their very shoulders, and dragging one another, as well as the vessel, after them.

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August.

This morning, at seven o'clock, we received our usual supply of provisions, which we were obliged to dress ourselves, as the Chinese are so very dirty in their mode of cookery, that it was impossible for the inhabitants of a country where cleanliness is so prevailing a circumstance of the kitchen, unless impelled by severe hunger, to submit to it. Their manner of dressing meat is by cutting it in very small pieces, which they fry in oil, with roots and herbs. They have plenty of soy and vinegar, which they add by way of sauce. Tuesday 13.

The diet which the common people provide for themselves is always the same, and they take their meals, with the utmost regularity, every four hours: it consists of boiled rice, and sometimes of millet, with a few vegetables or turnips chopped small, and fried amongst oil: this they put into a basin, and, when they mean to make a regale, they pour some soy upon it.

Their manner of boiling rice is the only circumstance of cleanliness which I have observed among them: they take a certain quantity of rice, and wash it well in cold water; after which it is drained off through a sieve: they then put the rice into boiling water, and when it is quite soft, they take it out with a ladle, and drain it again through a sieve: they then put it into a clean vessel, and cover it up; there it remains till it is blanched as white as snow, and as dry as a crust, when the rice becomes a most excellent substitute for bread.

The table on which they eat their meals is no more than a foot from the ground, and they sit around it on the floor: the vessel of rice is

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then

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then placed near it, with which each person fills a small basin; he then with a couple of chop-sticks picks up his fried vegetables, which he eats with his rice; and this food they glut down in a most voracious manner. Except on days of sacrifice or rejoicing, the common people of China seldom have a better diet. Their drink, which has already been described, is an infusion of tea-leaves.

We this day passed several very populous villages, though, as far as our Experience qualified us to determine, there is no such thing as a village which is not populous; and perhaps, after all, among the wonders of this country the population is the greatest.

The shores of the river was this day lined with such crowds of people to see us pass, as to baffle all description; and the number of junks which we passed in this day's voyage, I solemnly believe, without the least exaggeration, amounted to at least four thousand: and if I calculate the people we saw in the different villages at twenty times that number, the account, I believe, is very much below the reality. At each of these places the Ambassador was saluted in the manner which has been already described.

Although it is not a very delicate picture to present to the attention of my readers, yet, as I profess to give a relation of every thing which I saw, I shall not omit to mention, that, this evening, two of the Chinese belonging to our junk stripped themselves naked, and, picking off the vermine, which were found in great plenty on their clothes, proceeded to eat them with as much eagerness and apparent satisfaction, as if they were a gratifying and delicate food.

Wednes-
day 14.

The weather was extremely hot and sultry; and the musquitos so troublesome during the night, as to prove a very painful interruption to our repose.

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

In the forenoon we passed a large town, whose name is Cho-tung-poa. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river, and is a place of considerable extent. The houses are of brick, and in general do not ascend beyond one story: they were here remarkable for the walls which were erected in the front of them, over which a great number of ladies were seen taking a view of the junks as they passed before the town; while the spectators, whom curiosity had led to the banks of the river, were, as usual, in such numbers as to renew our astonishment.

We now came to a fork of the river, and over the lateral branch of it there were two bridges of two arches, built of stone on a pleasing form, and constructed with the appearance of no common architectural knowledge. At a small distance from them were the ruins of another bridge of one arch: it had been built of hewn stone, and the part which remained bore the appearance of a regular design and European masonry. At a small distance from this ruin, and on a gentle eminence, was the seat or villa of the mandarin. It is a new stone building of two stories, in a pleasing style of architecture, with a flight of steps rising to the door. The approach to it was through a neat gateway, which was not quite finished; the masons were then employed in completing it; and I was rather surprised on observing that their scaffolding was erected on the same principle, and their work conducted very much in the same manner, as is employed and practised by the builders of our own country.

The junks were towed during the greatest part of this day; and at six o'clock in the evening they came to an anchor near the shore.

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In a short time after the fleet came to its moorings, the grand mandarin of Tyen-sing, escorted by a numerous train of attendants, came to pay a visit to the British Ambassador.

The procession commenced with an advanced troop of men, who were employed in shouting aloud as they came on, in order to notify the approach of the mandarin, that the way might be cleared from passengers, and any accidental obstacle removed which might impede his progress. This party was followed at some distance by two men carrying large umbrellas of red silk, with a broad pendent curtain of the same materials: they are used to shelter the palanquin from the burning rays of the sun. A large band of standard-bearers then succeed; the foot soldiers follow; the palanquin next appears which bears the mandarin, and a large escort of cavalry closes the procession.

Such is the manner in which persons of distinction travel in China; and their particular rank and quality is marked by the number of their attendants.

The mandarin of Tyen-sing remained with Lord Macartney about an hour; and, on his return, the procession was illuminated by a great number of people bearing lamps and torches, which produced a very splendid appearance.

Thursday 15.

The heat still continued to be extreme: the country varies not in the fertility of its appearance, and the large fields of corn which we passed to-day, appeared to be as fine, both as to crop and cultivation, as those which are the boast of England. We also passed a large plantation of tea, and a very great number of boxes ranged in order, for the purpose of packing the tea, and sending it to Canton.

In this day's voyage, the banks of the river appeared in such various clothing of art and nature, as to distract the attention; and the alternate view of extensive meadows, luxuriant fields, and the most beautiful

beautiful gardens, did not suffer the gratification of the eye, or the mind, to be for a moment suspended.

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In the evening I went on shore, and walked along the banks of the river for a couple of miles; and, on a nearer examination of the corn-fields, I found that the grain, which was now almost ripe, was of a superior quality, and the husbandry equal to that of the English farmer.

C H A P. VII.

Arrive at the city of Tong-tchew, where the voyage ends. The embassy disembarks; ceremonies on the occasion. The place appointed for the reception of the presents and baggage described. Description of the building appropriated for the residence of the Ambassador and his suite. The domestic worship of the Chinese. The entertainment of the embassy. An account of the city of Tong-tchew. Circumstances relative to its civil government. The presents for the Emperor examined. The artillery exercised. Visit from the mandarin. The death of Mr. Eades, and his funeral. The Ambassador receives notice of the time appointed for his departure for Peking.

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Friday 16.

AS we proceeded on our voyage, the villages became more frequent, and the people more numerous. We continued to receive our usual supply of meat, fowls, vegetables, and fruit; and about five o'clock in the afternoon of this day, we arrived at the city of Tong-tchew, which is situated at the distance of twelve miles from Peking, and where our voyage up this fine river found its termination. It may appear to be a continual repetition of the same subject, but the circumstance appeared to be so extraordinary, that I cannot fail to repeat it, by observing that, at this place, the people who covered the banks of the river far exceeded in number any thing that we had yet seen.

Soon after the arrival of the fleet at this place, Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton, accompanied by the conducting mandarin, Van Tadge-In, went on shore to inspect the place allotted for the landing the presents and baggage, which the Chinese had previously erected for that purpose. It contained about the space of an acre, fenced in with matting, and furnished with long sheds made of uprights of wood and matting,

matting, with a roof of the latter, in order to prevent the packages from being injured by the rain or dew. The ground was entirely covered with mats, and the place well guarded on all sides by petty mandarins and soldiers.

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The grand mandarin of the place sent to inform the Ambassador that a public breakfast would be prepared at the temple allotted for the residence of the embassy, during its stay at Tong-tchew, on the following morning at seven o'clock; to which Lord Macartney and his whole suite, including mechanics, soldiers, and servants, were invited. Notice of this general message was consequently given to each junk, and orders were at the same time issued to prepare for disembarkation.

At six o'clock this morning two palanquins were sent for Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton, who, in about an hour after their arrival, left the junks, and were carried to the temple already mentioned, as the place appointed for their residence, escorted by a party of Chinese soldiers and an immense concourse of spectators.

Saturday 17.

The breakfast consisted of a profusion of stews and made dishes, meat of all kinds, tea, wines, boiled eggs, with a great variety of fruits, and elegant confectionary.

A certain number of coolies, in small boats, were ordered to each junk, to remove all the articles belonging to the embassy to the place already mentioned as prepared for their reception. During the greater part of the forenoon I was employed in taking care that the proportion of baggage committed to my charge, was conveyed in safety to the sheds.

At the gate of this inclosure there were two Chinese officers, who inspected all cases and packages which were brought from the junks: they first took their dimensions, of which they appeared to take a written

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written account, and then *packed*, as it seemed to me, a counterpart of their minute on every separate article ; nor was a single box, package, or parcel, suffered to pass, till it had undergone this previous ceremony ; which was specially ordered, as I was informed, to ascertain to the Emperor the quantity of presents and baggage in possession of the embassy.

Every exertion was made both by us and the natives to complete the landing of our cargoes from the junks ; and so much expedition was used on the occasion, that the whole of the private baggage, and a great part of the presents, were safely brought on shore, and placed in the depot, in the course of this day.

The temple, which had been appropriated by the Chinese government for the residence of the British Ambassador to Tong-tchew, is situated about three quarters of a mile from the river, and about one mile from the city, and stands on a rising ground ; the building has a neat appearance, but is so very low, as to have no claim to that distinction, which it might be expected to possess, when we consider the purposes to which it was applied.—It rises no higher in any part of it than one story.

The entrance to this building is a common square gateway, that opens into a neat, clean court, which was occupied by the soldiers belonging to the embassy, as a kind of barracks : another court beyond it, and to which there was an ascent of three steps, contained several small buildings, occupied by the Chinese who belonged to the house : immediately adjoining to it, Lord Macartney's servants occupied a similar situation. Opposite to the servants quarter was a small square building, which is used as a place of worship, and contains only one room of common dimensions : in the middle of this chamber there was an altar, with three porcelane figures as large as life placed upon it ; there were also candlesticks on each side of it, which are lighted regularly every morning and evening, and at such other times as persons

sons come there to pay their devotions. Before these images there is a small pot of dust, in which are inserted a number of long matches, that are also lighted during the times of worship. When the period of devotion is past, the candles are extinguished, and the flame of the matches blown out, but the matches are left to moulder away. When this ceremony is over, an attendant on the altar takes a soft mallet, with which he strikes a bell, that is suspended to it, three times: the persons present then kneel before the images, and bow down their heads three times to the ground, with their hands clasped in each other, which they extend over their heads as they rise: a low bow is then seen to conclude the ceremony of the daily worship of the Chinese, which is termed by them, chin-chin-josh, or worship of God.

Such is the domestic mode of worship that prevails throughout the whole empire of China, as every inhabitant of it, from the meanest peasant to the Emperor himself, has an altar and a deity: the most wretched habitation is equally furnished in regard to its idols, though, as may be supposed, in proportionate degrees of form and figure, with the Imperial palace. Nor are those who are confined to the occupations of the water without them; every kind of vessel that navigates the sea, or the river, being provided with its deity and its altar.

The court adjoining to this domestic chapel is occupied by the Chinese, and employed 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 very handsome and spacious court, which was used as a dining apartment on the occasion: on one side of it there was an elegant 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. This place was furnished also with beautiful lamps, regularly dispersed all around it: they consist of frames made of box-wood, lined with transparent silk and flowered

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gauze of various colours, which, when the lamps are lighted, add very much to the pleasing effect of the illumination. The two principal sides of the court were occupied by the gentlemen of the suite, who slept in two equal divisions in these separate apartments. Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton were each accommodated with a distinct and separate wing of the building.

At two o'clock dinner was served up for the Ambassador and his company; it consisted of about one hundred various dishes, dressed according to the cookery of the country; they consisted principally of stews, and were served in small basons: there were neither table-cloths or knives and forks; and the only method these people have of conveying their meat to the mouth is by small pointed lengths of wood, or ivory, in the form of pencils. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that their solid food should be cut in small pieces.

During the time of dinner, a great number of Chinese, who belonged, as I suppose, to the mandarin, whose office it was to superintend the arrangements for accommodation of the embassy, crowded round the table; when they not only expressed their surprise by peculiar actions and gestures, but frequently burst into shouts of laughter.

Sunday 18.

In order to give all possible dignity and importance to the embassy, a guard of British soldiers was ordered to attend on the Ambassador's apartments; but as they were removed from public view, these sentinels were placed at the outer gate, and the entrance of the inner court, that they might attract the notice of the Chinese, and elevate the consequence of the diplomatic mission, in the general opinion of the people of the country; a circumstance on which the success of it was supposed, in a great measure, to depend.

In the several apartments of the building appropriated to the residence and uses of the embassy, Chinese servants were distributed, to supply those who were disposed to call for drink, with the beverage
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of the country : such as kie tigau, hot tea ; liang tigau, cold tea ; with liang swee, cold water ; kie swee, hot water ; pyng swee, ice water ; and any of these liquors were ready to be brought whenever they should be demanded, from an early hour of the day, till night.

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This morning I took the opportunity to visit the city of Tong-tchew, with its suburbs ; and with no small fatigue, and some trouble, I traversed the greatest part of it.

It appears to be built in a square form, and is defended by a very strong lofty wall, with a deep ditch on the outside of it in the most accessible parts : the wall makes a circuit of about six miles, is thirty feet high, and six broad : it has three gates, which are well fortified, each being defended by ramparts mounted with cannon : there is also a strong guard within them towards the city, in a state of regular duty. These gates are always shut at ten at night, and opened at four in the morning ; the keys of which are always lodged with the mandarin of the city at night, and returned to the officer of the guard in the morning ; on which occasion a report is made of whatever may have occurred, and such orders are issued as circumstances may require.

The houses of this city are like the greater part of those I have seen in China, and rise no higher than one story : they differ, however, in some degree, from the common habitations of other places which we have passed, that they are here almost universally built of wood ; as there is very rarely a stone or brick house to be seen, but such as are inhabited by the mandarins of the place.

The exterior appearance of the houses is very pleasing from the prettiness of their decorations ; but they are most wretchedly furnished within, if that term can be applied where there is very little or no furniture at all. They have only one apartment behind their shops, which is without floor or pavement, and must serve them for every

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domestic use and employment. Before the doors of the shops, wooden pillars are erected, from which an awning is suspended during the day, to protect not only the passengers, but the shopkeepers themselves, from the rays of the sun: some of these pillars are considerably higher than the houses before which they stand; and are not only gilt and painted, but decorated with streamers, which serve as signs to denote the commodities of the particular shops: the tops of them also are frequently mounted with a wooden figure, which serves as a direction to the spot.

As to variety, either in the form and dimensions of the houses or shops, there is none; for an almost universal sameness prevails in the streets of this extensive city: they differ, indeed, in breadth; and the inhabitants of those which are narrow, spread matting from the tops of the houses quite across the street, which is a very agreeable circumstance in the hot seasons; there is also, for the convenience of foot passengers, a pavement of four feet in breadth on each side of every street.

Glass is not any where used in China for windows, and the common substitute for it is a thin glazed paper, which is pasted on the inside of a wooden lattice: silk, however, is employed for this purpose in the houses of the higher classes of the people.

Tong-tchew is a place of great trade, as appears from the vast number of junks which we saw lying in the river before it; and the astonishing number of its inhabitants; which is very generally believed, as I was informed by some of the resident merchants, to amount, at least, to half a million of people.

During the summer and the autumn months the heat here is very sultry and oppressive: the winter, however, brings inclemency along with it, as ice of thirty inches thick is preserved here, in subterranean caverns,

caverns, till the summer. It is considered as an article of great luxury among the people, who mix it with their drink, to give it a refreshing coolness in the hot seasons of the year.

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In the course of my excursions through the city, I endeavoured to make myself acquainted with the nature of its municipal government. Of this important subject it is not to be supposed that I could learn much : I was, however, in one way or other, made to understand, that all civil causes are determined by a certain number of inferior mandarins expressly appointed to the judicial office ; but that their decisions are subject to the review of the chief mandarin of the place or district, who may confirm or reverse them at pleasure : this officer, and his decrees, are also subject to the Viceroy of the province, from whom, in all civil causes, there is no appeal.

In capital offences, the final determination rests with the Emperor alone ; though it is very rare indeed, that a criminal is sentenced to die : but if such a circumstance should happen in the most remote corner of the empire, application must be made to the Emperor himself to annul, to mitigate, or enforce the sentence. Executions, however, are very seldom seen in China. I was very particular and curious in my inquiries on this subject, wherever I had an opportunity to make them, and not one person that was questioned on the occasion, and some of them were, at least, seventy years of age, had ever seen or known of a capital execution. Nor are the lesser crimes so frequent as might be expected in such a populous and commercial country ; as the more obnoxious classes of them, at least, are kept down by the vigour of the police, and the promptitude of punishment, which follows conviction without the delay of a moment :—a regulation which might, in many cases, be adopted with the best effects by the boasted judicature of Great Britain. Nor shall I hesitate to observe, that whatever may be the defects or excellencies of the Chinese government, of which I am not altogether qualified to judge, the people of
China

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China seem to be happy and contented under it, and to enjoy as much liberty as is consistent with the best arrangements of civilised society.

The palaces of the mandarins are the only public buildings which I could discover, or was informed of, in this extensive city: they are built of brick, and appeared to be very spacious; but were more remarkable for extent, than elegance or grandeur.

I finished this curious excursion in the evening, when I was not only very much fatigued by my walk, but very much harassed by the curiosity of the people. I was sometimes surrounded by twenty or thirty of them, who pressed so much upon me, that I was frequently under the necessity of taking shelter in shops, till the crowd that persecuted me was dispersed; and, in return for the protection afforded me, I made some purchases of fans and tobacco-pipes, which were formed with curious neatness and ingenuity.

Monday 19.

This morning Mr. Barrow, the comptroller, received the whole of the remaining part of the presents, which were lodged in the depot already described. Lieut. Parish of the royal artillery, with a party of his men, attended there to examine the ordnance stores: they also uncased the guns, and got them mounted on their carriages: they consisted of six new brass field pieces, two mortars, and one wall piece, with complete artillery apparatus. On the report of the state of the ordnance, &c. being made to the Ambassador, he was pleased to come to the sheds, attended by Col. Benson, the officers, and other gentlemen, to see the guns exercised; when several rounds were fired with great quickness, activity, and exactness. His Excellency remained there about two hours, when he returned to his residence, where the gentlemen of the embassy dined in the same manner as on the preceding day.

In the evening the Ambassador received a visit from the attendant mandarin, accompanied by the chief mandarin of the city. The band

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was ordered on the occasion to play on the platform, and the Chinese visitors appeared to be infinitely delighted with the European music.

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This evening, at eight o'clock Mr. Harry Eades, one of the mechanics attached to the embassy, died in consequence of a violent flux, with which he had been for some time afflicted. Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, was requested to order a coffin on the occasion; and, as these sad receptacles are always ready made in China, our departed companion was soon placed, with all possible decency, in a situation to receive the last act of respect which we can pay to each other.

The coffins of this country are all of the same size, and bear a stronger resemblance to a flat-bottomed boat, than to those of Europe: they are very strong and heavy, and the lid is not nailed down, as with us, but fastened with a cord.

About eleven o'clock there began a most tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which continued without any intermission till four o'clock.

This morning the Ambassador gave orders for the funeral of Mr. Harry Eades, which, in order to give the Chinese a favourable impression even of our funeral solemnities, was directed to be performed with military honours. Tuesday 20.

All the servants, mechanics, and musicians, attached to the embassy, were ordered to be in readiness on the occasion: Col. Benson also issued orders to the troops to appear with their side arms, except a serjeant and six privates of the royal artillery, who were ordered to be armed and accoutered for firing over the grave. As no clergyman accompanied the embassy, I was appointed to read the funeral service of the Church of England on this melancholy occasion.

At

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At nine o'clock the procession began in the following order :

Detachment of the royal artillery, with arms reversed.

The coffin supported on men's shoulders.

Two fifes playing a funeral dirge.

The person appointed to officiate at the grave.

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

The troops then followed, and closed the whole.

This procession was also accompanied by several of the gentlemen belonging to the embassy.

Thus we proceeded, with all due solemnity* to the burying-ground, which is situated about a quarter of a mile from the Ambassador's residence ; and where permission had been granted for the interment of our countryman, with a liberality that would not have been practised in some of the countries of enlightened Europe. Such a ceremonial, as may well be imagined, had excited the curiosity of the city, and we were attended by a concourse of spectators that the most interesting, and splendid spectacles would not assemble in the cities of Europe.

On our arrival at the place of interment, the soldiery formed a circle round the grave,* with the firing party standing on the side of it. * The coffin being placed on two planks of wood, the funeral service was then read; when the body was committed with the usual ceremonies to the earth, and the party discharged three vollies over the grave,—which, according to a custom of the country that we cannot reconcile with the general good sense of the people, had no greater depth than was just necessary to cover the coffin.

In this burying-ground there was a great number of marble and stone monuments with inscriptions on them. Some of these memorials were gilt, and enriched with various devices of no ordinary sculpture: this funeral

funeral spot is very extensive, but without any enclosure. There are, indeed, no public places of burial, but near large towns and cities; as, in the country, every one is buried on the premises where he had lived.

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When the grave was closed, and this last act of duty performed to the dead, the procession returned in the same order that has been already described.

The Ambassador was visited by several mandarins, a mark of respect which we were disposed to consider as a favourable prognostication of success in the great objects of this extraordinary mission. His Excellency also received notice that the following day was appointed for the departure of the embassy to Peking, and that every necessary preparation was made for that purpose.

It is a curious circumstance that the place of residence appointed for the embassy, proved, after all, to be the house of a timber merchant, whose yard was adjoining to it; but the communication between them was, on this occasion, closed up by a temporary fixture of deals that were nailed across it. On making inquiry concerning the truth of what had been suggested to me, a Chinese soldier pointed to the timber yard; and, at the same time, made me understand, that the owner of the place sold that kind of wood which was employed in the building of ju-

C H A P. VIII.

Leave the city of Tong-tchew. The road to Peking described. Arrive at a large town called Kiyeng-Foo. Halt there to breakfast. Prodigious crowds of people to see the embassy pass. Arrive at Peking. Some account of that city. Customs and manners of the Chinese. Leave Peking. Arrive at the imperial palace named Yeuman-man-yeumen.

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Wednes-
day 21.

THIS morning at two o'clock the general was beat through all the courts of the house, as a signal for the suite to prepare for their departure. After an hasty breakfast, the whole of the embassy was ready to proceed on their journey. The soldiers were first marched off to covered waggons provided for them; the servants then followed, and were received into similar machines; the gentlemen of the suite next proceeded in light carts drawn by a single horse. Lord Macartney, Sir George Staunton, and Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, were conveyed in palanquins, which were each of them borne by four men.

The vehicles which carried the soldiers and servants were common hired carts, drawn by four horses, unequally coupled together, and covered with straw matting. The harness, if it may deserve that name, was made of rope and cordage. The single-horse carts were covered with blue nankeen, and had doors of lattice work lined with the same stuff: the drivers walked by the side of them.

At four o'clock this procession was in motion, which consisted of sixty carts for the soldiers and servants, and twenty for the conveyance of the gentlemen belonging to the suite, exclusive of carts for the private

private baggage, and the coolies, or porters, employed to carry the presents and heavy baggage, which were conveyed on their shoulders; four hundred of whom were employed on this extraordinary occasion.

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About five o'clock we had quitted the city of Tong-tchew, and entered immediately into a fine level country of the most luxuriant fertility, which, as far as the eye could reach, appeared to be one immense garden.

The road along which we travelled, is not only broad but elegant; and is a proof of the labour employed by the Chinese government to facilitate the communications between the capital, and the principal parts of the kingdom. The middle of this road consists of a pavement of broad flag stones about twenty feet wide, and on each side of it there is sufficient space to admit of six carriages to run abreast. The lateral parts are laid with gravel stones, and kept in continual repair by troops of labourers, who are stationed on different parts of the road for that purpose.

At seven o'clock the cavalcade stopped at a large town, whose name is Kiyeng-Foo. To call it populous, would be to employ a superfluous expression, that is equally appropriate to the whole kingdom, as every village, town, and city; nay, every river, and all the banks of it, teems with people. In the country through which we have passed the population is immense and universal: every mile brought us to a village, whose inhabitants would have crowded our largest towns; and the number of villas scattered over the country, on each side of the road, while they added to its beauty, were proofs of its wealth. Those which we approached near enough to examine as we passed, were built of wood, and the fronts of many of them were painted black, and enriched with gilded ornaments.

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The day of our journey from Tong-tchew to Peking was, I doubt not, a matter of general notification, from the prodigious concourse of people who absolutely covered the road; and, notwithstanding the utmost exertions of the mandarins to keep it clear, the pressure of the crowd was sometimes so great, that we were obliged to halt, for at least a quarter of an hour, to prevent the accidents which might otherwise have happened from the passage of the carts amidst this continual and innumerable throng. I cannot but add to the obstacles which we received from the curiosity of the Chinese people, some small degree of mortification at the kind of impression our appearance seemed to make on them: for they no sooner obtained a sight of any of us, than they universally burst out into loud shouts of laughter: and I must acknowledge, that we did not, at this time, wear the appearance of people, who were arrived in this country, in order to obtain, by every means of address and prepossession, those commercial privileges, and political distinctions, which no other nation has had the art or power to accomplish.

At Kiyeng-Foo, which is about nine miles from Tong-tchew, the whole embassy of all ranks alighted from their respective carriages: here the inferior department found tables spread for their refreshment in an open yard, but covered at the same time, with great plenty of cold meats, tea, fruits, &c. while the upper departments were served with their regale in some adjoining rooms of a very miserable appearance.

Before the procession re-commenced its progress, the conducting mandarin, with his usual attention, ordered some Joau, an harsh sour white wine, to be offered to the attendants of the embassy, to fortify their stomachs, as a considerable time might probably elapse before they would obtain any further refreshment: we were then summoned to prepare for our departure, when a scene of confusion and disturbance took place among ourselves, which, whatever its real effects might have been, was not calculated at least to give any very favourable

favourable impression of the manners and disposition of the English nation. In short, from the crowd of people assembled to see us, the neglect of a previous arrangement, and distribution, of the carts, together with the inconsiderate eagerness to set off among ourselves, it was a matter of no inconsiderable difficulty for the mandarins to assign the people to their respective vehicles.

At eight o'clock we took our leave of the town of Kiyeng-Foo, which is a very considerable and extensive place: the streets are broad and unpaved, and the houses are built altogether of wood, at least in the part which we traversed there were none constructed of any other materials. The shops made a very pleasing appearance, and seemed to be well furnished with their respective commodities.

Of the country, which occupies the few miles from this place to Peking, I have little to say, as the crowds of people that furrounded us, either intercepted the view, or distracted our attention.

At noon we approached the suburbs of the capital of China, and I cannot but feel some degree of regret, that no alteration was made in the ordinary travelling, and shabby appearance, of the embassy, on such an important occasion. Whatever reasons there might be to prevent that display, which it possessed such ample provisions to make, I cannot pretend to determine, but our cavalcade had nothing like the appearance of an embassy, from the first nation in Europe, passing through the most populous city in the world.

On entering the suburbs, we passed beneath several very beautiful triumphal arches, elegantly painted, and enriched with various fanciful ornaments: the upper part of them was square, with a kind of pent-house, painted of a green colour, and heightened with varnish: from the inside of this roof was suspended the model of an accommodation junk, admirably executed, and adorned with ribbons and silken streamers.

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These suburbs are very extensive, the houses are of wood, the greater part of them two stories in height, and their fronts painted in various colours. The shops are not only commodious for their respective purposes, but have a certain grandeur in their appearance, that is enlivened by the very pretty manner in which the articles of the respective magazines are displayed to the view of the public, either to distinguish the trade, or to tempt the purchaser.

We proceeded gradually through spacious streets, which are paved on either side for the convenience of foot passengers. The whole way was lined with soldiers, and, indeed, without such a regulation, it would have been impossible for the carriages to have proceeded from the crowd that attended us.

At two o'clock we arrived at the gates of the grand imperial city of Peking, with very little semblance of diplomatic figure or importance: in short, for I cannot help repeating the sentiment, the appearance of the Ambassador's attendants, both with respect to the shabbiness of their dress, and the vehicles which conveyed them, bore a greater resemblance to the removal of paupers to their parishes in England, than the expected dignity of the representative of a great and powerful monarch.

Pekin, or as the natives pronounce it, Pitchin, the metropolis of the Chinese empire, is situated in one hundred and sixteen degrees of east longitude, and between forty and forty-one degrees of north latitude. It is defended by a wall that incloses a square space of about twelve leagues in circumference: there is a grand gate in the center of each angle, and as many lesser ones at each corner, of the wall: they are strongly arched, and fortified by a square building, or tower, of seven stories, that springs from the top of the gateway; the sides of which are strengthened by a parapet wall, with port-holes for ordnance. The windows of this building are of wood, and painted to imitate the muzzle of a great gun, which is so exactly represented, that the deception is not discoverable but on a very near approach: there

there are nine of these windows to each story on the front towards the suburbs. These gates are double; the first arch of which is very strongly built of a kind of free-stone, and not of marble, as has been related by some writers: the depth of it is about thirty feet, and in the middle of the entrance is a very strong door of six inches thick, and fortified with iron bolts: this archway leads to a large square which contains the barracks for soldiers, consisting of mean wooden houses of two stories: on turning to the left, the second gateway is seen, whose arch is of the same dimensions and appearance as that already described, but without the tower.

At each of the principal gates there is a strong guard of soldiers, with several pieces of ordnance placed on each side of the inner entrance. These gates are opened at the dawn of day, and shut at ten o'clock at night, after which hour all communication with the city from the suburbs is impracticable; nor will they be opened on any pretence, or occasion whatever, without a special order from the principal mandarin of the city.

The four lesser gates are defended by a small fort built on the wall, which is always guarded by a body of troops.

The wall is about thirty feet high, and ten feet in breadth on the top: the foundation is of stone, and appears about two feet from the surface of the earth: the upper part is of brick, and gradually diminishes from the bottom to the top. Whether it is a solid structure, or only filled up with mortar or rubbish, is a circumstance concerning which I could not procure any authentic information.

This wall is defended by outworks and batteries, at short distances from each other; each of them being strengthened by a small fort, though none of the fortifications are garrisoned but those which are attached to the gates; and though there is a breast-work of three feet high, with port-holes for cannon, which crowns the whole length of the

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the wall, there is not a single gun mounted upon it. On the side towards the city, it is, in some places, quite perpendicular; and in others, forms a gentle declivity from the top to the ground. It is customary for bodies of soldiers to patrol the wall every night during the time that the Emperor resides in the city, which is from October to April, when his Imperial Majesty usually goes to a favourite palace in Tartary. From its perfect state of repair and general appearance, I should rather suppose it to be of modern erection, and that many years cannot have passed away since it underwent a complete repair, or was entirely rebuilt.

The distance from the south gate, where we entered, to the eastgate, through which we passed out of the city, comprehends, on the most moderate computation, a course of ten miles. The principal streets are equally spacious and convenient, being one hundred and forty feet in breadth, and of great length, but are only paved on each side for foot passengers. The police of the city, however, spares no pains to keep the middle part clean, and free from all kind of nuisance; there being large bodies of scavengers continually employed for that purpose, who are assisted, as well as controlled, in their duty by soldiers stationed in every district, to enforce a due observance of the laws that have been enacted, and the regulations which have been framed, for preserving civil order among the people, and the municipal œconomics of this immense city. I observed, as we passed along, a great number of men who were sprinkling the streets with water, in order to lay the dust, which, in dry weather, would not only be troublesome to passengers, but very obnoxious also to the shops; whose commodities must be more or less injured, were it not for this beneficial and necessary precaution.

Though the houses at Peking are low and mean, when considered with respect to size and domestic accommodation, their exterior appearance is very handsome and elegant, as the Chinese take a great pride in beautifying the fronts of their shops and dwellings;

dwellings; the upper part of the former is ornamented with a profusion of golden characters; and on the roofs of the latter are frequent galleries, rich in painting and other decoration; where numerous parties of women are seen to amuse themselves according to the fashion of the country. The pillars, which are erected before the doors of the shops, are gilded and painted, having a flag fixed at the top, whose characters specify the name and business of the owner: tables are also spread with commodities, and lines attached to these pillars are hung with them.

I observed a great number of butchers shops whose mode of cutting up their meat resembles our own; nor can the markets of London boast a better supply of flesh than is to be found in Peking. My curiosity induced me to inquire the prices of their meat, and on my entering the shop, I saw on a stall before it an earthen stove, with a grid-iron placed upon it; and on my employing a variety of signs to obtain the information I wanted, the butcher instantly began to cut off small thin slices of meat, about the size of a crown piece, and broiled as fast as I could eat them. I took about a dozen of these slices, which might altogether weigh seven or eight ounces; and when I paid him, which I did by giving him a string of caxee, or small coin, he pulled off, as I suppose, the amount of his demand, which was one conderon, or ten caxee, the only current money in the empire. I saw numbers of people in other butchers shops, as I passed along, regaling themselves with beef and mutton in the same manner.

The houses for Porcelain utensils and ornaments are peculiarly attractive, having a row of broad shelves, ranged above each other, on the front of their shops, on which they dispose the most beautiful specimens of their trade in a manner full of fancy and effect.

Besides the variety of trades which are stationary in this great city, there are many thousands of its inhabitants who cry their goods about, as we see in our own metropolis. They generally have a bamboo placed

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across their shoulders, and a basket at each end of it, in which they carry fish, vegetables, eggs, and other similar articles. There are also great numbers of hawkers and pedlars, who go about with bags strapped on their shoulders like a knapsack, which contain various kinds of stuff goods, the folds of which are exposed to view. In selling these stuffs, they use the cubit measure of sixteen inches. Barbers also are seen running about the streets in great plenty, with every instrument known in this country for shaving the head and cleansing the ears: they carry with them for this purpose a portable chair, a portable stove, and a small vessel of water, and whoever wishes to undergo either of these operations, sits down in the street, while the operator performs his office, for which he receives a mace. To distinguish their profession, they carry a pair of large steel tweezers, which they open with their fingers, and let them close again with some degree of violence, which produces a shrill sound that is heard at a considerable distance; and such is their mode of seeking employment. That this trade in China is a very profitable one may be pronounced, because every man must be shaved on a part of the head where it is impossible to shave himself.

In several of the streets I saw persons engaged in selling off goods by auction: the auctioneer stood on a platform surrounded with the various articles he had to sell; he delivered himself in a loud and bawling manner, but the smiling countenances of the audience, which was the only language I could interpret, seemed to express the entertainment they received from his harangue.

At each end of the principal streets, for there are no squares in Peking, there is a large gateway fancifully painted, with an handsome roof coloured and varnished; beneath which the name of the street is written in golden characters: these arches terminate the nominal street, or otherwise there would be streets in some parts of the city of at least five miles in length, which are formed into several divisions
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by these gateways. They are very handsome, as well as central objects, and are railed in on each side from the foot pavement.

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The narrow streets are enclosed at each end with small lattice gates, which are always shut during the night; but all the considerable streets are guarded both night and day by soldiers, who wear swords by their sides, and carry long whips in their hands, to clear the streets of any inconvenient throng of people, and to chastise such as are refractory in ordinary decorum or good behaviour.

Notwithstanding the vast extent of this place, there is little or no variety in their houses, as I have before observed, but in the colours with which they are painted; they are in reality nothing better than temporary booths, erected entirely for exterior shew, and without any view to strength or durability. It is very rare, indeed, to see an house of more than one story, except such as belong to mandarins, and even those are covered, as it were, by the walls which rise above every house or building in Peking, except a lofty pagoda, and the imperial palace.

There are no carriages standing in the streets for the convenience of the inhabitants, like our hackney coaches in London: the higher classes of people keep palanquins, and others of less distinction have covered carts drawn by an horse or mule.

The opinion, that the Chinese women are excluded from the view of strangers, has very little, if any, foundation, as among the immense crowd assembled to see the cavalcade of the English embassy, one fourth of the whole at least were women; a far greater proportion of that sex than is to be seen in any concourse of people whom curiosity assembles in our own country: and if the idea is founded in truth, that curiosity is a peculiar characteristic of the female disposition in Europe, I shall presume to say that, from the eagerness which we observed in the looks of the Chinese women as we passed by them,

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that the quality which has just been mentioned is equally prevalent among the fair ones of Asia.

The women we saw on our passage through Peking possessed, in general, great delicacy of feature, and fair skins by nature, with which, however, they are not content, and therefore whiten them with cosmetics; they likewise employ vermilion, but in a manner wholly different from the application of rouge among our European ladies, for they mark the middle of their lips with it by a stripe of its deepest colour, which, without pretending to reason upon it, certainly heightened the effect of their features. Their eyes are very small, but powerfully brilliant, and their arms extremely long and slender. ~~The only difference~~ between the women of Peking, and those we had already seen, as it appeared to us, was that the former wear a sharp peak of black velvet or silk, which is ornamented with stones, and descends from the forehead almost between their eyes; and that their feet, free from the bandages, which have already been mentioned, were suffered to attain their natural growth.

When we had passed through the eastern gate of the city, some confusion having arisen among the baggage carts, the whole procession was obliged to halt. I, therefore, took the opportunity of easing my limbs, which were very much cramped by the inconvenience of the machine, and perceiving a number of women in the crowd that surrounded us, I ventured to approach them; and, addressing them with the Chinese word *Cbou-ou*, (or beautiful) they appeared to be extremely diverted, and gathering round me, but with an air of great modesty and politeness, they examined the make and form of my clothes, as well as the texture of the materials of which they were composed. When the carts began to move off, I took leave of these obliging females by a gentle shake of the hand, which they tendered to me with the most graceful affability; nor did the men, who were present, appear to be at all dissatisfied with my conduct, but, on the contrary, expressed, as far as I could judge, very great satisfaction at

this public attention I paid to their ladies. It appears, therefore, that in this city, the women are not divested of a reasonable portion of their liberty, and, consequently, that the jealousy attributed so universally to the Chinese men, is not a predominant quality, at least, in the capital of the empire.

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Among other objects which we saw in our way, and did not fail to attract our notice, we met a funeral procession, which proved to be a very striking and solemn spectacle: the coffin is covered by a canopy decorated with curtains of satin, enriched with gold and flowers, and hung with escutcheons: it is placed on a large bier or platform, and carried by at least fifty or sixty men, who support it on their shoulders with long bamboos crossing each other, and march eight abreast with slow and solemn step. A band of music immediately follows, playing a kind of dirge, which was not without a mixture of pleasing tunes: the relations and friends of the deceased person then followed, arrayed in black and white dresses.

Having passed through the eastern suburbs of the city, we entered into a rich and beautiful country, when a short stage of about four miles brought us to one of the Emperor's palaces named Yeumen-manyeumen, where we arrived about five o'clock in the afternoon, oppressed with fatigue from the extreme heat of the day, and the various impediments which obstructed our passage, arising from the immense crowds of people that may be said to have filled up the whole way from Tong-tchew to this place, a journey of thirty miles.

In a short time after our arrival, we received a very scanty and indifferent refreshment, when the whole suite retired to sleep off the fatigue of the day.

C H A P. IX

Description of the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen. Disagreeable circumstances belonging to it. Disputes with the natives who guarded it. Lord Macartney applies for a change of situation. The embassy removes to Pekin. Description of a pagoda. Arrive at the palace appointed for the residence of the embassy. Description of it. The arrangements made in it. Several mandarins visit the Ambassador.

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Thursday 23.

THE whole of this morning was employed in removing the baggage, &c. belonging to the embassy, from the outer gateway, where it had been deposited, to the different apartments appointed for the gentlemen who composed it.

The palace of Yeumen-manyeumen is in a very low situation, about a quarter of a mile from a village of the same name, and is a very mean, inconvenient building of no more than one story.

The entrance to this palace, if it may be said to deserve that name, consisted of a very ordinary stone gateway, guarded by soldiers, and beyond it was a kind of parade, where the baggage was placed on its being taken out of the carts that had brought it hither. In the center of this parade there is a small lodge, where several mandarins of an inferior order were in waiting; and through it is the passage that leads to the body of the palace, which being no more than four feet wide, the carriages could make no nearer approach than to this lodge.

The position of this palace is not only low, but in a swampy hollow, and between two ponds of stagnant water, whose putrid exhalations cannot add to the comfort of this unwholesome situation;

and some apartments which were on the banks of one of these ponds, were occupied as barracks by the British soldiers. To the west of these buildings there is another gate, but constructed of wood, which leads to another building, where I observed a considerable number of Chinese soldiers; but, on my approach to take a view of them, they suddenly retired, and locked the door against me. Indeed, the native jealousy of these people respecting strangers seemed to be awakened in a very great degree, when they thought it necessary to watch all our actions with such a minute and scrutinizing attention.

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The palace, for I must by way of distinction continue to give it that name, though unworthy the residence of the representative of a great monarch, is divided into two square courts, with a range of apartments all round them, which were not only destitute of elegance, but in a wretched state of repair: there is a paved footway around them, with a wooden roof painted and varnished. Before the principal doors of the building, and in the midst of a large court, there are a few trees of no very peculiar figure or beauty; but the ground itself is covered with a kind of gravel. There are some small fields of grass that belong to the place, which wear an appearance of neglect we should not have expected to find in a country where we had not hitherto seen an uncultivated spot.

The windows of the apartments consisted of lattice work covered with a glazed and painted paper. In the ~~the~~ seasons the doors are opened during the day, and their place supplied by cooling blinds made of bamboo, fancifully coloured, and wrought as fine and close as a weaver's reed; they certainly served to refresh the rooms where they were placed, and afforded some degree of coolness to alleviate the heat of the day; but at night the doors were restored to their office, and these blinds were rolled up and fastened to the wall over them.

The whole range of apartments contained no other furniture than a few very common tables and chairs; not a bed or bedstead was to
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be seen in the whole place; it was, therefore, a fortunate circumstance for us that we providently brought our cots and hammocks from on board the ships, or we should not have slept in a bed, at least during our residence in China. The natives have no such comfortable article of furniture in their houses, but sleep on a kind of mattress, and cover themselves with a cushion stuffed and quilted with cotton. They pull off a very small part of their dress when they go to rest, and when the weather proves cold, they increase the number of these cushions as the circumstances of the season may require. In the place of bedsteads they use a large wooden bench, which is raised about two feet from the ground, and covered with a kind of elastic basket work made of bamboos, on which seven or eight persons may spread their bedding. I have also seen some of them formed of planks, and covered with carpets.

This habitation had a most ungracious and deserted appearance; and, from the state in which we found it, a long time must have elapsed since it was inhabited by any thing but centipes, scorpions, and musquetos, which infested it in every part. It is surrounded by a very high and strong wall of stone, which excluded every external object; nor was any person belonging to the embassy permitted, on any pretence whatever, to pass its boundaries, mandarins and soldiers being stationed at every avenue to keep us within the precincts of this miserable abode; so that we were in reality in a state of honourable imprisonment, without any other consolation for the loss of our liberty, but that we were supplied with our daily provisions at the expense of the Emperor.

The Ambassador's apartments were guarded both night and day by British centinels; and, to support the dignity of his great diplomatic character, his Excellency required that a table should be, in future, furnished for himself and Sir George and Mr. Staunton, distinct from the gentlemen of his suite. This requisition found a ready compliance, and this day he dined in his own apartment, while the upper ranks

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.

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The place where the presents were deposited, was so exposed to the sun, that it was apprehended some of them would receive considerable injury from their unfavourable situation; a temporary shed was therefore immediately erected, to which they were speedily removed. Friday 21.

Lord Macartney being very much dissatisfied with his situation, made a serious requisition for the appointment of a residence more suited to the character with which he was invested, as well as to the convenience and proper accommodation of the embassy. To obtain this object, Mr. Plumb, his Excellency's interpreter, made several visits to Peking: little, therefore, occurred worthy of a recital during the remainder of our stay in this uncomfortable abode. It continued, however, till the twenty-seventh day of this month, which was appointed for the Ambassador's departure for Peking; a more commodious residence having been allotted for the embassy, in consequence of Mr. Plumb's negotiation with the Chinese government on the occasion.

This interval was not passed by any of the gentlemen of the suite, or the inferior attendants, with satisfaction or patience; and Col. Benson was so hurt and mortified at being denied the liberty of passing the walls of the palace, that he made an attempt to gratify his inclinations, which produced a very unpleasant affray, when he was not only forced back from his design, but threatened with very illiberal treatment from the Chinese who were on duty at the gates.

Several other disputes of a similar nature took place between the suite and the natives who guarded the palace: It was, without doubt, a very humiliating circumstance for Englishmen, attending also as they were upon a mission, that by the law of nations possesses the most enlarged and universal privileges, to be treated in a manner

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so ill-suited to their individual, as well as political, character: at the same time, it would, perhaps, have been more discreet to have spared those menaces which were continually expressed against persons charged with an official duty, and acting under the direction of their superiors; and to have submitted with patience to those regulations, which, however unpleasant, were such as were adopted by, and might be the usage of, that government, whose partial favour and friendship it was the interest, and, therefore, the duty of the British embassy, by insinuating address and political manœuvre, to obtain and establish.

Saturday 24. The pleasure that was this day felt by the whole of the suite of every ~~denomination~~, is not easily described, when orders were received to prepare for quitting this horrid place on the Monday following.

Sunday 25. This and the succeeding day were employed in removing the greater part of the baggage and presents, which was accomplished, as it had hitherto been, by the coolies, or porters.

The chandeliers, mathematical apparatus, together with the clocks and time-pieces, were left at the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, as such frequent removals might materially injure, if not altogether spoil those pieces of mechanism, the wonders of whose operations must depend upon the delicacy of their movements.

Monday 26. At ten o'clock in the morning single horse carts were provided for the whole train of the embassy. The soldiers, mechanics, and servants, were lodged two in a cart; and each of the gentlemen had a cart to himself; but the Ambassador, with his secretary and interpreter, were, as before, accommodated with palanquins.

The business of our setting off was, as it had hitherto been, a scene of confusion and disorder; but by eleven o'clock, we had, to our extreme satisfaction, bid adieu to our late uncomfortable residence.

fidence. We soon passed through the village from whence the palace appears to derive its name, amidst a vast crowd of spectators; and, at one o'clock, arrived at the north gate of the city of Peking; which is the counterpart of that we have already described. In our progress through the streets we passed a pagoda, which is the first we had seen in China. In our voyage up the river, or in our journey from Tong-tchew to Peking, we had not seen one of these buildings, which are, in a great measure, peculiar to this part of the east, till we arrived in this city: it is situated in the center of a very pretty garden adjoining to a mandarin's palace.

This pagoda is a square structure, built of stone, and terminates gradually from the bottom, till it terminates in a spire. It had only one gallery, which encircled it near the top, and was guarded by a rail: a curtain of red silk at this time, hung from a projecting canopy, and gave this part of the building, when seen at a distance, the appearance of an umbrella. It was seven stories in height, and was without any kind of exterior ornament, but that which I have already described.

As our return to Peking was not only sudden but unexpected, our re-entry was not particularly interrupted by the public curiosity, and, at half past two in the afternoon, we arrived, without having met with any material impediments at the princely palace, which had been appointed for the future residence of the embassy. It is the property of John Tuck, a name generally given by Englishmen, but why, or wherefore, I cannot tell, to the Viceroy of Canton, who was now here as a state prisoner, for some embezzlement of the public treasures, or other misdemeanors respecting his government there.

This palace is built of a grey brick, and is extremely spacious, containing twelve large and six small courts. The bricks are cemented with such curious care, that the seams of mortar between them are as small as a thread, and placed with such peculiar uniformity, that a mi-

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nute examination is necessary to convince the spectator that it is not the work of a painter, rather than that of a bricklayer, and that the pencil has not been employed to produce the effect instead of the trowel. These bricks have the smoothness of marble, are sixteen inches in length, eight inches broad, and two and an half in thickness.

The whole range of buildings, except two distinct parts, which were inhabited by the Ambassador and Sir George Staunton, occupy but one, though a very lofty story. The courts are spacious and regular squares, and paved with large flat stones. Before the building, in each of these squares, there is a raised terrace of about three feet, to which ~~there are~~ regular flights of steps in the center of each angle, and, of course, corresponding with each other. Over these terraces there is a projecting roof, which extends the breadth of them, and is supported by light pillars of wood, ranged at equal distances, and connected by a railing of fanciful contrivance. The whole is gilt and painted with much prettiness, as to pattern and colour; and forms a most elegant piazza, that not only adds to the grandeur, but, which is a better thing, to the convenience of this superb mansion.

Here I first observed the superiority of the Chinese in the art of house painting, to which they give a gloss equal to japan, that not only preserves the colours from fading, but never suffers any injury itself from the exposition of air, or sun, or rain. I at first considered this effect to have been produced by varnish; but I afterwards discovered that it proceeded from certain ingredients with which the colours are originally mixed, and not from any second operation.

The apartments are very commodious and of large dimensions; some of them were hung with a glistening paper of a pattern, both as to colour and beauty, far superior to any I had ever seen in Europe: others were curiously painted and enriched with gilding. Those occupied by Lord Macartney were numerous and elegant, and contained a private theatre. The latter is of a square form, with a paint-
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ed gallery which runs entirely round it for the audience: the stage is raised from the floor about three feet, and has the appearance of a large platform: it is surrounded by a wooden railing, and has a passage of eight feet wide all round it: behind the stage is a suite of rooms for the convenience of the actors, who dress in them, or retire thither to make any necessary transformation in their characters during the performance. The building is very lofty, and the roof elegantly painted. The apartments of Sir George Staunton were also very handsome and convenient. The whole suite were likewise accommodated in a manner that gave them the most entire satisfaction.

The windows are covered with glazed paper, and the doors of the principal rooms consist of gilded frame-work, which is fitted up with fine silk gauze, instead of glass. The frames, both of the doors and windows, are richly gilt; and, in the warm seasons, the former being always kept open, a curtain, if it may be so called, of painted fret-work, made of bamboo, supplies their place, as I have already observed in former descriptions.

In several courts of the palace there are artificial rocks and ruins of no mean contrivance, which, though not very congenial to their situation, were formed with considerable skill, and were, 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.

This noble mansion is of great extent, and calculated to afford every kind of princely accommodation; but, with all its magnificence, as to the number of the apartments, and the general display of the whole, its only furniture was some chairs and tables, and a few small platforms covered with carpets and bamboo matting.

Beneath the floor, in each of the principal apartments, is a stove, or furnace of brick-work, with a circular tube that is conducted round the

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the room where it stands, which is sufficient also to warm the apartment above it. They are, in cold weather, constantly supplied with charcoal, and communicate their heat in the manner of our hot-houses in England. The houses here have no chimnies that I could discover, and, of course, no other means of administering heat can be employed but those which have just been mentioned.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, the whole suite sat down to dinner, which consisted, as usual, of a great variety of stews and hashes. Indeed, a joint of meat is seldom or ever seen, but on festival days; of which I shall speak more hereafter. His Excellency and Sir George Staunton dined together. But with all the superiority of accommodation we enjoyed here, we continued to be guarded with the same suspicious vigilance as in our late residence. On no pretence whatever was any one permitted to pass the gates, and every accessible part of the place was under the active care of military power.

This palace, according to the reports of the country, was erected by the Viceroy of Canton, from the fruits of his exertions during his government there, and particularly on the shipping of the English nation at that port; for which acts of injustice and oppression he was, as I have before mentioned, at this time, a prisoner at Peking. The money expended on this immense building amounted to ninety-seven thousand pounds sterling. A most enormous sum in a country where the materials for building, and the labour which puts them together, are to be obtained at so cheap a rate.

Tuesday 27. This day was principally occupied in arranging the various apartments for the convenience of the gentlemen, &c. to whom they were allotted, as well as in providing suitable places for the reception of the heavy baggage.

The cloths and bale goods, with that part of the more valuable presents which were of the smallest compass, were distributed between

the apartments of Lord Macartney and Sir George Staunton: the remainder was removed to several large chambers, which formed a large and commodious magazine for their reception. The six pieces of small ordnance and two mortars were placed in the inner court, with all their appendages, and mounted on their carriages, in front of the Ambassador's apartments.

These arrangements being made in the most proper and convenient manner which our situation would admit, it remained for us to wait with patience, till his Imperial Majesty's pleasure should be known, whether the embassy was to proceed to Tartary, or to be cooped up in its present abode till the usual season of his Majesty's return to the capital of his empire. To obtain this intelligence so important to us, a mandarin had been dispatched, on our arrival at Tong-tchew, to the Emperor's summer residence in Tartary, and we were in continual expectation of the return of this messenger.

In the course of this day, the British Ambassador was visited by a company of mandarins, among whom were several persons, natives of France, who had been of the order of jesuits; but being prohibited from promulgating their doctrines in this country, had assumed its dress and manners; and, on account of their learning, had been elevated to the dignity of mandarins. These French gentlemen, who were, as may be very readily conceived, well acquainted with the interests of the country in which they were now naturalized, encouraged Lord Macartney to hope for the most satisfactory and beneficial issue of the embassy which he conducted.

C H A P. X.

Lord Macartney receives notice, that it is the Emperor's pleasure to receive the embassy at the Imperial residence in Tartary. The persons selected to attend the Ambassador in his progress thither. The particular occupations assigned to those who were left at Peking. Arrangements for the journey into Tartary. Leave Peking; circumstances of the journey.

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August.
Wednes-
day 28.

THE Ambassador received a visit this morning from the mandarin Van-Tadge-In, who informed his Excellency, that the messenger who had been sent to know his Imperial Majesty's pleasure respecting the British embassy, was returned, and that the Emperor desired the Ambassador to proceed to Tartary, where he wished to see him, and to receive his credentials.

Thursday 29. This morning the final arrangements were made respecting that part of the suite who were to accompany the embassy into Tartary. They consisted of

Sir George Staunton,
Mr. Staunton,
Lieutenant-Colonel Benfon,
Captain Mackintosh, of the Hindostan,
Lieutenant Parish,
Lieutenant Crewe,
Mr. Winder,
Doctor Gillan,
Mr. Plumb, the interpreter,
Mr. Baring, and,
Mr. Huttner.

Mr.

Mr. Maxwell remained at Peking, with three servants, in order to settle the household of the Ambassador, as, on his return from Tartary, it was intended that his establishment and appearance should be, in every respect, suited to the character and dignity of the sovereign whose representative he is.

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Doctor Scott was also to be left, in order to take care of several of the soldiers and servants, who were, at this time, very much afflicted with the bloody flux.

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Alexander were to be employed in preparing the portraits of their Britannic Majesties, which, with the state canopy, were to be the appropriate furniture of the presence chamber of the Ambassador.

Doctor Dinwiddie and Mr. Barrow were to regulate the presents that had been left at the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, and to put them in a state to be presented to the Emperor, on the Ambassador's return to Peking.

The guards, musicians, and servants received orders to hold themselves in readiness, to set out on Monday morning, with no other baggage but their bedding, and such necessaries as were absolutely indispensable on the occasion.

The gentlemen of the suite were likewise requested to content themselves with the uniform of the embassy, a common suit of clothes, and such other articles as they might judge to be absolutely necessary for their own comfort, and the formality of the occasion.

Mr. Maxwell received orders to distribute to each of the musicians and servants, a suit of the state liveries, in order that the attendants might appear in that uniform dress, which would add to the dignity and splendor of the Ambassador's entrance into Jehol.

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 August.
 Friday 30.

The carpenters were employed this morning in unpacking an old travelling chaise belonging to Sir George Staunton, in which Lord Macartney proposed to travel to Jehol. This carriage greatly attracted the notice of the Chinese, who flocked about it to see the nature of its construction, and the materials of which it was formed, which they examined with a very singular curiosity; and some of them were so anxious to understand all its parts, that they made various drawings of it. But so familiar are the eyes of these people to the glare and glitter of colours and gilding, that, however they might admire the mechanism and contrivance of the carriage, they did not hesitate to express their disapprobation of its exterior appearance; which, I must own, did not possess any very uncommon degree of attraction.

At noon Mr. Plumb came to inform the suite, on the part of Van-Tadge-In, the attendant mandarin, that such as preferred to travel on horseback, were to give in their names, that horses might be prepared for them, and those who chose the conveyance by carts, should be provided accordingly.

After these travelling arrangements were settled, the musicians, servants, &c. attended, at Mr. Maxwell's apartment, to receive the clothes in which they were to make their public appearance at Jehol. A large chest was produced on the occasion full of clothes: they were of green cloth, laced with gold; but their appearance awakened a suspicion that they had already been frequently worn, and on tickets, sewed to the linings, were written the names of their former wearers; and as many of these tickets appeared, on examining them, to be the visiting cards of Monsieur de la Luzerne, the late French Ambassador, it is more than probable, that they had been made up for some gala, or fete, given by that minister. But whether they were of diplomatic origin, or had belonged to the theatres, is of no consequence, they were never intended for actual service, being made only for a few temporary occasions, whatever they might

might be. With these habiliments, however, such as they were, every man fitted himself, as well as he could, with coats and waist-coats; as there was a great dearth of small-clothes, of which there were not more in the whole package than were sufficient for the accommodation of six persons. The Chinese may not be supposed to be capable of distinguishing on the propriety of our figure, in these ill-fitted uniforms; but we certainly appeared in a very strong point of ridicule to each other. The two couriers were furnished with beaver helmets, but not an hat was distributed to accompany these curious liveries; which, after all, the servants, were ordered not to put on till the day when they were to add so much to the entry of the embassy into Jehol.

When the chaise was put in complete order for the journey, a difficulty arose, against which, as it was not foreseen, no provision could be made; and this was no less than to get a couple of postillions: at length, however, a corporal of infantry, who had once been a post-boy, offered his service, and a light-horseman was ordered to assist him in conducting the carriage.

This morning such of the presents and baggage as were intended to be forwarded to Tartary, were sent off: some of them were carried by mules, others in carts; but the more valuable articles, and those of delicate fabric and curious construction, were borne by men. Saturday 31.

This important business being dispatched, a great number of horses were brought to the palace, when each of the gentlemen and the other persons of the suite who proposed to ride, made choice of his horse, and the animals which were thus selected for the service of the approaching journey, were then delivered to those persons whose office it was to take proper care of them till the time of our departure.

The postillions were permitted to exercise the horses in the chaise for an hour, through the streets of Peking. They were guarded both

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August

by mandarins and soldiers; and, indeed, such were the crowds which assembled to see this extraordinary spectacle, that some kind of authority and exertion was necessary to give the drivers an opportunity of shewing their skill, and exhibiting the equipage and its apparatus to advantage. The corporal being also furnished on the occasion with the jacket, helmet, &c. of the light horse, the postillions not only made an uniform, but a very pretty, appearance.

The Ambassador received a visit from several mandarins; when the band played on the stage of the theatre for their entertainment.

Lieut. Parish exercised his men in the ordnance evolutions, to keep them in practice, as it was thought very probable that, on presenting the artillery to the emperor, he might desire to see an exhibition of European tactics.

September.
Sunday 1.

As it was ordered that the embassy should set out to-morrow morning at two o'clock, some of the baggage, to prevent as much as possible the confusion which had been hitherto experienced, was sent forward this evening.

Monday 2.

Soon after one o'clock this morning, the drums were beat through all the courts of the palace, and in half an hour the whole suite was in motion. The bedding was then sent on in carts; and the Ambassador, with his attendants, having made a slight breakfast, quitted the palace at half an hour past three o'clock, under a strong escort of Chinese cavalry. But, even at this early hour, the crowd of spectators was so great to see our departure, that the progress of the cavalcade was very much impeded, especially the carriage of the Ambassador, which, from the concourse of people, and the awkwardness of the horses that had not been properly broke into their new gear, was for some time very much delayed.

At seven o'clock we passed through the city gate, and in about half an hour had exchanged the suburbs for a very rich and finely-cultivated country. The road, though very broad, had no pavement in the center, like that which leads from Tong-tchew to Peking. At the end of six miles we stopped at a considerable village called Chingihoh, where we stayed to take the usual refreshments of the morning, which have been so often mentioned. Our route was then continued through a great number of villages, and near two o'clock arrived at one of the Emperor's palaces named Nanshishee, where we were appointed to remain during the first night of our journey.

The mandarin Van-Tadge-In, whom I have had such frequent occasion to mention, rather increased than diminished his activity on the present journey; which might arise, perhaps, from our being more particularly under the Imperial care and protection. We were here provided with every requisite accommodation, and in a very comfortable manner. To our dinner each day was added a regale of Jooaw and famthoo: the former is a bitter wine of the country; and the latter, a very strong spirit distilled from rice and millet, whose appearance resembles that of British gin.

In the evening the soldiers were exercised by Lieutenant Col. Benson.

We computed the journey of this day to be about twenty-five miles; and, though it may appear but dull travelling to persons accustomed to the expedition of English roads, it will be considered as no very tardy progress, when the obstacles are known which tended to impede it.

The same horses were to take us the whole journey, and the same men to carry the baggage; besides, the whole of our provisions was ordered and dressed at the several places through which we passed on the road, and conveyed in bowls, carefully covered up in

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in trays, on men's shoulders, to every stage of our journey, for our refreshment there.

The distance from Peking to Jehol is one hundred and sixty miles, which was divided into pretty nearly equal journies of seven days. This arrangement was made that the embassy might be accommodated each day beneath an Imperial roof; as the Emperor, for his own convenience and dignity, has a certain number of palaces built at equal distances on the road from Peking to his summer residence in Tartary. This privilege was considered to be a most flattering mark of distinction, as it is never granted to the first mandarins of the empire.

Of this palace we can say but little, as no parts of it were open to us but those which we inhabited. It did not rise higher than one story; nor, from what we had an opportunity of seeing, did it appear that the interior apartments were superior to the external form; which had nothing either of elegance or figure to attract attention. The central part of the courts was planted with trees and flowers of various kinds, which had a very pleasing effect. An extensive garden surrounded the palace, but we could not, to our very great disappointment, obtain access to it.

Tuesday 3.

We continued our journey at four o'clock this morning, with the same guard of Chinese cavalry; and, after having passed the village of Cantim, which possesses the usual characteristic of every Chinese village we have yet seen, an overflowing population, we arrived at the town of Wheazou, a place of some consideration; and, after the usual refreshments, proceeded beneath a burning sun along dusty roads, but through a very fertile country, to the palace of Chanchin, where we arrived at one o'clock. It is a very extensive building of one story throughout, and contains ten or twelve spacious courts, surrounded with piazzas, and adorned with a garden, in the center, planted with

trees and shrubberies that were intersected by walks. The country around it boasts a continuation of that fertility which has been already mentioned. It was enclosed, and fed innumerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep: the former are small but very fat, but the sheep are both large and fat, with white faces, and a short thick tail, which is a lump of fat, and weighs several pounds.

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We set off this morning at five o'clock. The distant country appeared to be mountainous, and rose boldly in the horizon. That fertility of which so much has been said, began sensibly to diminish, and the richness of the soil was proportionably decreasing. At half past seven o'clock we arrived at a small village, called Cuaboocow, where we breakfasted, and, from some accidental circumstance, not in the usual stile of plenty, in a place like a farm yard. Wednesday 4.

The road, as we proceeded on our journey, became extremely rugged and disagreeable, and the heat of the weather continued without any alleviation.

At noon we saw a very large walled city, called Caungchumfoa; the walls of which were built of stone, and, though not so lofty, in the same form as those of Peking.

We passed at least two hundred dromedaries and camels carrying very heavy loads of wood and charcoal, as it appeared, to the city which has been just mentioned. This large drove was under the direction of one man, who seemed to manage them all without the least difficulty. These animals are among the most docile of the brute creation; besides, the length of time they can fast, and the burthens they can bear, render them invaluable in the commerce of the east.

The palace where the embassy was received at the end of this day's journey, derives its name from the city of Caungchumfoa, near which it stands:

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stands : it is furrounded with gardens, but has little to distinguish it from those which we have already inhabited.

This was the most fatiguing and unpleasant day of our whole route, both from the heat of the weather and the badness of the road, which was so rugged and narrow in many places, that some of the carts were overturned; but, happily, without any accident to those whom they conveyed.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

Arrive at the town of Waung-chauyeng. Description of Chinese soldiers, &c. Pass the great wall. Description of it. The different appearance of Tartary and China. - Pass an extraordinary mountain. Arrive at the palace of Chaung-shanwe; the circumstances of it. Example of the industry of the peasants, and the cultivation of the country. Some account of the tenure by which lands are held in China. Arrive at the palace of Callachottueng. Description of it. Arrangements settled for the manner in which the embassy was to make its entrance into Jehol.

AS the country was now become very irregular and mountainous, the roads were proportionably fatiguing. At nine we arrived at the town of Waung-chauyeng. At a small distance from it, we passed an arch of great strength, which stretched across a valley to unite the opposite hills, and is guarded by a broad wall on either side of it. A little further, the road proceeds up a very steep hill, on the top of which there is a fort, with a strong wall or rampart stretching on either side of it, to the distance of two or three miles. From the elevated situations which the inequality of the road frequently offered, this wall was a very visible object in its whole extent, and appeared to be in a state of decay.

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Thursday 5.

Beneath the fort is a strong, thick, stone archway, through which the road conducted us down a hill, whose declivity was such, as to oblige the drivers to have but one horse in each carriage, and to secure a wheel with ropes, to prevent a too rapid descent. At the bottom of this hill, and in a most romantic valley, stands the town of Waung-chauyeng, which resembles those places of the same kind that have been already described, except in the uniformity of them; this being

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September.

built with greater irregularity than any we have yet seen. It is about a mile in length, as well as I could judge from our passage through it, but I had no opportunity of ascertaining its breadth: populous it was, of course, and appeared to be a very busy place.

After breakfast we proceeded towards a spot on our journey, of which we had all heard or read with wonder and astonishment; which so few Europeans had ever seen, and which no one of our own country would probably ever see but ourselves: this was the great wall, the ancient boundary of China and Tartary, through whose portals our passage lay.

At the end of the town which has been just mentioned, there was a temporary triumphal arch erected in honour of the embassy, finely decorated with streamers and filks of various colours; at the entrance of which the Ambassador was saluted with three guns. There we passed between a double line of soldiers, which extended on either side of the road, from the triumphal gateway towards the great wall.

These were the only soldiers we had yet seen in China, who possessed a martial appearance; and, according to my notion of such things, I never saw a finer display of military parade. They were drawn up in a very regular manner, each regiment being distinguished by a different dress, and divided into companies: these were ranked in close columns, and in their front stood the officers with two stands of colours. They were all arrayed in a kind of armour, which consisted of a loose coat or robe, in imitation of a coat of mail, with steel helmets that covered their heads and shoulders. Their implements of war were various, comprising matchlocks, sabres, daggers, spears, halberts, lances, bows and arrows, with some other weapons, of which I knew not the name, and cannot particularly describe. Those companies of soldiers who wore no warlike instrument but the sword, had a shield to accompany it. In short, every one of these
military

military divisions, was distinguished by their dress and arms, and arranged with the utmost propriety, not merely as to regularity of position in their general distribution, but as to the effect of contrast in the variety of external appearance. On each side of the road there were seventeen of these divisions, each consisting, as I should think, of about eighty men; and a band of musicians, placed in a building, erected, as it appeared, for the occasion, continued to play, as the cavalcade of the English embassy passed between the lines.

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On approaching the wall, there were cantonments for a considerable army, at the extremity of which there is a very strong gateway, built of stone, and still strengthened with the addition of three vast iron doors; on passing them, you enter at once into Chinese Tartary. On the outside of another gateway is a strong redoubt, from whence I ascended the hill, and contrived to get on the top of the great wall which formerly separated the two empires.

This wall is, perhaps, the most stupendous work ever produced by man: the length of it is supposed to be upwards of twelve hundred miles, and its height in the place where I stood upon it, for it varies in its circumstances, according to the nature of the surface, is upwards of thirty feet, and it is about twenty-four feet broad. The foundation is formed of large square stones, and the rest is brick: the middle is of tempered earth, covered with broad stones: there is also a parapet wall or breast-work of stone, three feet thick, on each side of an embattled wall.

When it is considered that this immense structure is not merely carried along level ground, but passes over immense rivers, where it assumes the form of bridges, some of which contain double rows of immense arches; or stretches, in the same expansive shape across deep vallies, to connect the mountains that form them; and that it not only descends, but also ascends, the steepest declivities; the idea of its gran-

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deur, and the active labour employed in constructing it, in the short space of a few years, is not easily grasped by the strongest imagination.

Where it climbs the heights, the ascent is aided by large flights of steps, so that the passage along it is at once easy, secure, and uninterrupted. In short, it formed a fine military way, by which the armies of China, employed to defend its frontier against the Tartars, could march from one end of the kingdom to the other. There are also, at proper distances, strong towers, from whence, by certain signals, an alarm could be communicated, in a very short space of time, across the whole empire; and wherever the wall attains the summit of an hill, or mountain, there is a strong fort designed to watch the excursions and movements of the enemy.

The part of this wall, on which I stood, commanded a very extensive view of it, with all the romantic scenery connected with it. From hence I saw the amazing fabric take its course for many miles over a beautiful plain, watered by a large river, which it crossed in the form of a bridge. A little to the westward it ascends a very lofty mountain, which, on that side, completes the prospect.

But the most stupendous works of man must at length moulder away; and since Tartary and China are become one nation, and, consequently, subject to the same government, the wall has lost its importance: it being no longer necessary for defence or security, no attention is now paid to its preservation; so that the time is approaching when this stupendous monument of persevering labour; when this unparalleled effort of national policy, will become an enormous length of ruins, and an awful example of decay: many parts of it are already fallen down, and others threaten to encumber the plain that they were reared to defend.

One

One of the mandarins informed me, as we were walking together on the wall, that, according to the histories of his country, it had been finished upwards of two thousand years ago; and, consequently, two hundred years before the Christian æra.

I must, however, acknowledge that, after all, this renowned barrier of China did not, altogether, satisfy my expectations. The wonder of it consists in its extent, of which a small part is to be seen, and the short time in which it was erected, may equally astonish by reading an account of it. When I stood on the top of it, I was still obliged to exercise my imagination as to the astonishing circumstances connected with it, and saw it also in a comparative view with natural objects infinitely superior, at least, to any partial appearance of it.

When we had passed the wall, there was an immediate change in the appearance of the country, as well as the temperature of the season. Instead of a level range of various and unceasing cultivation, of the habitations of wealth; the crowd of population, and the exertion of industry; we beheld a wide and barren waste, sinking into vallies, and rising into mountains; where no harvest waved, no villages poured forth its inhabitants, or splendid mansions enriched the scene. The traveller, however, is amply compensated by the variety of natural objects which present themselves to him; and the lover of picturesque beauty finds, amidst all the increasing inconveniencies of his journey, a source of enchantment which makes him forget them all.

At the distance of about seven miles from the great wall, we came to 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 another proof of the genius and indefatigable spirit of the Chinese people in all works that relate to public utility. It is thirty feet in breadth, cut through a solid rock; and, which is the more extraordinary part of this undertaking, the incision made from the top of the mountain to the surface of the road, is, at least, one hundred

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hundred feet:—a stupendous labour. But with this aid in easing the passage, the beginning of the ascent has a very fearful appearance; but on the other side the way slopes down with a gentle declivity between two large mountains towards a beautiful valley.

At two o'clock, we arrived at the palace of Chaung-shanuve, which is situated on a small elevation, at the distance of a mile and a half from the bottom of the hill which has been just described. 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 I saw peeping over the partition which separated their apartments from the part of the palace assigned to the accommodation of the embassy. Though it was not permitted for any of the Ambassador's suite, as may well be supposed, to visit these ladies; the guardians of them, who were all eunuchs, came to visit us. There were, indeed, several mandarins among them, to whom was consigned the care and conduct of the female community. This palace was surrounded with very extensive gardens, but, from the particular service to which it was applied, it would have been a strong mark of folly, as well as an idle risk of danger, to have made any attempt to see them.

Friday 6.

We left Chaung-shanuve this morning, at half past six, and found the weather extremely cold and piercing. The road continued to take the form of the country, which was very mountainous and irregular, as well as naked, and without any other marks of cultivation but such as denoted the poverty of it. But this barren appearance does not proceed from the inactivity of the inhabitants, who seize on every spot capable of being tilled, and in situations which are accessible only to the adventurous peasant; whom necessity impels to gather a scanty and dangerous harvest. One example of this hazardous industry, which I observed this morning, will sufficiently illustrate the barrenness of the country, and the spirit of its scattered inhabitants.

On

On a very high mountain I discovered several distinct patches of cultivated ground, in such a state of declivity, as to be altogether inaccessible; and while I was considering the means which the owner of them must employ to plant and gather his vegetables on these alarming precipices, I beheld him actually employed in digging a small spot near the top of the hill, and in a situation where it appeared to me to be impossible, without some extraordinary contrivance, for any one to stand, much less to be following the business of a gardener. A more minute examination informed me, that this poor 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 square yards of ground gave him encouragement to plant his vegetables, or 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, this industrious peasant had erected a wooden hut, surrounded with a small piece of ground, planted with cabbages, where he supported, by this hazardous industry, a wife and family. The whole of these cultivated spots do not amount to more than half an acre; and situated, as they are, at considerable distances from each other; and, abstracted from the continual danger he encounters, the daily fatigue of this poor man's life, they offer a very curious example of the natural industry of the Chinese people.

It is, certainly, a wise policy in the government of China to receive the greater part of the taxes in the produce of the country; and is a considerable spur to improvement and industry in every class of the people, who are to get their bread by the exertions of genius, or the sweat of their brow. The landlord, also, receives the greater part of his rents in the produce of his farms; and the farmer pays his servants, in a great measure, by giving them pieces of waste uncultivated land, where there are any, with occasional encouragement to excite their industry. Such are the customs which prevail throughout China, and tend so much to preserve the prosperity, and promote cultivation of every part of that extensive empire.

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By ten o'clock this morning we arrived at the palace of Callachottueng, near a small village of the same name, where we remained the whole of this day, on account of the length of the next stage; and in order to make a more equal division of the rest of our journey.

This palace is situated in a plain, between two very large and lofty mountains: in form and external appearance it resembles those we have already described; but appears to be of modern erection; and its apartments are fitted up in a better style than any we had yet seen. In some of the courts there were artificial ruins, a favourite object in the ornamental gardening of this country, surrounded with plots of verdure.

As the embassy now approached the termination of its journey, and was soon to appear before the sovereign, to obtain whose favour and friendship it had traversed so large a part of the globe, the Ambassador gave orders for rehearsing the procession, with which we were to make our appearance at the imperial court. This evening, therefore, the ceremonial was arranged, and performed, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, and approved by the Ambassador. The band played the Duke of York's march during the time of our rehearsal.

C H A P. XII.

Arrive at the palace of Callachotreshangsu. Stop at one of the Emperor's pagodas. The public entry into Jehol; and circumstances of it. Description of the palace provided for the British embassy. A principal mandarin pays a visit of ceremony to the Ambassador. Singular conduct respecting the provisions supplied for the suite. The presents unpacked and displayed. An account of them.

WE set off this morning at six o'clock, when the air was cold and piercing, and passed through a very hilly and mountainous country. After having breakfasted at a village of the name of Quanshanglin, the route was continued.

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Saturday 7.

The villages we now passed were well peopled, but the difference is very great indeed between the population, as well as cultivated state, of China and Tartary. On this side of the wall, the picture is extremely varied, the face and productions of the country are no longer the same; nor were there any towns of consideration in the latter part of our journey.

At two o'clock in the afternoon we arrived, very much fatigued by the badness of the roads, and the jolting faculties of our carriages, at the palace of Callachotreshangsu. It is a spacious and noble edifice, but has not been lately inhabited; as might well be supposed, from the great number of squirrels running about the courts, and haunting the apartments.

The embassy continued its route at six o'clock, and, in about two hours, arrived at one of the Emperor's pagodas, about three miles from

Sunday 8.

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the Imperial residence. There a more abundant display of refreshments was prepared than we had seen for some time, from the difficulty of procuring them in the country through which we passed. Some time was also necessary for every part of the suite to arrange their dress, and settle their appearance. At half past nine, however, we arrived at a small village, called Quoangcho, at about the distance of a mile from Jehol! Here the suite alighted from their horses and carriages, and put themselves in a state of preparation for the entry; which proceeded in the following manner, amidst a prodigious concourse of people, whom curiosity had led to see such a spectacle as they had never seen before, and will never, I believe, behold again.

The soldiers of the royal artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Parish;
 The light-horse and infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Crewe;
 The servants of the Ambassador, two and two;
 The couriers;
 The mechanics, two and two;
 The musicians, two and two;
 The gentlemen of the suite, two and two;
 Sir George Staunton in a palanquin;
 The Ambassador and Mr. Staunton in the post-chaise, with a black-boy, dressed in a turban, behind it, closed the procession.

There was, indeed, somewhat of parade in all this business, but it was by no means calculated to impress a favourable idea of the greatness of the British nation, on the minds of those who beheld it: they might be pleased with its novelty; but it did not, in any degree, possess that characteristic appearance which was so necessary on the present occasion. The military departments made a respectable figure, and the gentlemen of the suite cannot be supposed for a moment to derogate from the diplomatic character in which they were involved; but the rest of the company exhibited a very awkward appearance: some wore round hats, some cocked hats, and others straw hats: some were in whole boots, some in half boots, and others