CHAPTER VII.

AUGUST 22.—Yesterday, we passed Sulphur island, from which great quantities of smoke were rising. This island seems to be entirely volcanic, and destitute of vegetation. We wished much to go ashore; but the wind blew too hard, and the sea was too high to permit us to land. After experiencing sudden gusts of wind, we arrived, today, safely at Napa-keang, the principal anchorage of Great Loo-choo. This island has been repeatedly visited by Europeans, and has engaged the attention of the ablest writers.

Soon after anchoring, we set out to go ashore, at the temple of Lin-hae. We saw several Japanese vessels in the harbour, and observed the junk returned which we had seen at Fuh-chow.

Some of the mandarins immediately invited us on shore. They spoke the mandarin dialect fluently, and showed us every attention, but objected strongly to our going further than the jetty. We told them, however, that we could not converse in the midst of the water, and went up to the temple without taking notice of their objections. Surrounded by a great crowd, we squatted upon the ground, drank tea, and smoked, whilst we stated whence we came, and with what intention. They showed us a cart, left by Captain Stevens, of the Partridge, who had been here in February. We saw also the commencement of an English and Loo-choo dictionary, written in their own and the Chinese character. In their behaviour
they are friendly and polite, though very inquisitive about the China men whom we had on board; but when they saw our wish to walk, they were highly displeased. Those whom we saw were small in size, pleasing, but effeminate in appearance. They did not hesitate to tell us lies, whenever it suited their purpose; but they were as ready to retract what they had uttered. A faint recollection of the English visitors, who had formerly been here, was all that remained to them of those past transactions. The names of Captains Maxwell and Hall were almost forgotten, and Captain Beechey was only slightly remembered. We could perceive a certain distrust, and an extreme reserve, about them, which seemed to us unaccountable.

August 23.—The wind blew hard, and nobody came on board. In the afternoon we landed near the place where the observatory had been erected, during the stay of the *Alcestis* and *Lyra*. We were conducted by several mandarins to the temple, which at that time had been converted into a hospital by the humane Loo-choons. Though not so picturesque as the description would lead us to suppose, it is indeed a beautiful place. We went to visit the grave of the sailor who had been buried there; and, for the information of the natives, translated the inscription into Chinese, for which they were highly grateful.

Anjah, so often mentioned by Captain Beechey, was introduced to us to-day. He spoke some phrases in Chinese; but soon recollected a few sentences of English, which he repeated very formally. He likewise was very reserved at first; but soon forgot the restrictions laid upon him, and uttered his feelings in unrestrained, and often striking remarks. They were generally so very complimentary, and so excessive in their professions of friendship, that we were at a loss how to answer all their polite observations.

I distributed, to-day, some books among them, which they received very gladly. I perceived no reluctance to receive freely what we gave; and, as we shall see, that the principal of the people to take them.

August 24.—Anjah to-day made us a visit; we have not yet received. We talked to him in a language, which seemed to us so far as we could judge from the Chinese vocabulary. He answered by the same, and treated us in the same manner, with a very few words, and all improbable that he had been in the colony from Japan. The Chinese empire has given to every place a kind of prudence amongst the officers, and almost exclusively in the mandarins, that they had been educated in the mandarin dialect was almost the same as the Chinese. The majority of the people, however, do not know that they are Chinese.

We received the first watermelons and other vegetables. They are in a manner in making us to like them, enhanced by it.

To-day we visited the shadow of the canvas of the sails, the immense rudder, and the huge portionate, the space of the ship of curiosity for strangers. They were very friendly and grateful; and we sent some books to them, but for the mandarins, who were much deautoured by every man.
receive freely what we offered freely; but could plainly see, that the principal mandarins by no means wished the people to take them.

August 21.—Anjah, with Tche, and an elderly mandarin, to-day made us a visit on board, the first which we have yet received. We took an opportunity of examining their language, which seemed greatly to resemble the Japanese, so far as we could compare it with Mr. Medhurst's Japanese vocabulary. The alphabetical writing is nearly of the same form, and the letters are pronounced in the same way, with a very few exceptions. It is, therefore, not at all improbable that the Loo-chooans were originally a colony from Japan. Their present vassalage to the Chinese empire has given to the mandarin dialect a great ascendancy amongst the officers, who converse among themselves almost exclusively in this dialect. Many of them told us that they had been educated at Peking, and that the mandarin dialect was also taught in schools on the island. The majority of the people understand the Chinese characters, but do not know how to read it in the mandarin dialect. The same is the case throughout Japan.

We received the first provisions, consisting of fruits and other vegetables. The Loo-chooans have so graceful a manner in making their presents that the value is quite enhanced by it.

To-day we visited the Japanese junk. The substantial canvas of the sails, the broad structure of the vessel, the immense rudder, and main-mast, which is quite disproportionate, the spacious accommodations, were all objects of curiosity for strangers. Most of the sailors were naked: they were very friendly, and received our christian books gratefully; and we should have gained much information from them, but for the interference of the Loo-choo mandarins, who were much displeased with the visit, and endeavoured by every means to get us away from the junk.
They pictured the treachery of the Japanese, and the danger of our lives in becoming too intimate with them. Yet we protracted our visit as much as possible, and viewed every part of the junk.

We found in the Lin-hae temple a great number of mandarins, anxiously awaiting us, where they had prepared a very palatable collation. They showed more good sense in their conversation to-day than ever we had observed in China. By their questions respecting the trade which several European nations carried on at Canton, they discovered much geographical knowledge. They were able to converse upon politics with great volubility, and gave us to understand that they preferred the friendship of China to that of England, because the former was nearer to them. We do not doubt that they have received strict orders from China to keep strangers aloof, and to treat them with distance and reserve, yet they were too good-natured to confess it. Though they frequently alluded to their intercourse with China, at Fuh-chow, where Anjah had seen us this year, yet they disclaimed all intercourse with Japan, and said that those three junks from Satsuma, which lay in the harbour, had been driven hither by stress of weather. Several of their own craft were in the harbour, all built in the Chinese fashion, with a green head like the Fuhkeen junks.

They entered afterwards upon religious topics. When they heard we did not worship idols, they said, "We also abhor this worship; those which you see here are the property of the Buddhists, and we do not batter our heads against them." This has been the general reply of many mandarins when I inquired upon this subject. They disavow practical idolatry, because their reason disapproves the theory, yet they do in fact persevere in their unreasonable worship.

August 25.—I had found several patients on board the Japanese junk; and therefore we set out this morning to try whether benevolence might not be popular with that people. There is no reason to suppose that the consequence of visiting Fuh-chow was to occasion a little assistance, for we were met with a great deal of gratitude. The Loo-chooans were more kind to us than yesterday. They did not give us a pipe without smoking it, and they all offered to share the contents. How anxious the Japanese look at what we do, and how much mortified they are when we object to their acceptation! They disdain to show the same respect to what we bring. I have often observed that to which none of our mandarins of high rank object is the precious word of God, and that there are not few who will be known ere long. It is chiefly through their individual endeavours, and not through the influence of a country, that benevolence will bless those to whom it is sent. They have been taught the word of God. It is chiefly through the influence of their individual endeavours, and not through the influence of a country, that benevolence will bless those to whom it is sent. They have been taught the word of God.
try whether benevolence would open a free communication with that people. The patients were wasted by disease, the consequence of vice, for which they expressed the warmest gratitude. The Lo-chiao mandarins watched them more closely than yesterday, and did not allow them even to offer us a pipe without a special permission. We gave to all the inmates who could read the Chinese characters, Christian books, though the Lo-chiao mandarins strongly objected to their accepting them. It was painful to see how anxious the Japanese were to conclude our favour, and how much mortified they were when they were pre- vented from showing their good intentions. While giving the work of faith, it is chiefly the work of faith, no less, therefore, the work of God.
gave any thing else privately they would gladly accept it, though they have taken the books in preference; but every thing openly offered them was always declined. For the least thing which we gave them they offered something in return, but their giving and receiving was all by stealth.

We tried to-day to go into the village, and, notwithstanding their extreme anxiety to prevent us, succeeded. We entered a house, or rather a temple, around which the tablets of their ancestors were very neatly arranged. We afterwards scrambled over the splendid mausoleums, which are built in magnificent Chinese style. Their reverence for the dead is very great; they decorate their silent abodes with whatever may contribute to give them a mournful appearance. From the food which was placed near them we concluded that they were as profuse in their offerings to the manes of their forefathers as the Chinese are. I am anxious to know how they will regard the treatise on the immortality of the soul which I gave them.

August 26.—The promise which they yesterday made of sending us the provisions to-day, they kept punctually. They were liberal also in their presents. We, on our part, had sent to his majesty the king, or rather the Chefoo of the island, a variety of presents, and among them three Bibles, which were very well received. O that the glorious gospel may enter the hearts of these amiable people, and form them for heaven!

During my stay here I had an opportunity of rendering them some medical assistance, especially in cutaneous diseases. The consequence was that a doctor was sent off to us to make inquiries respecting the drugs which had been used so effectually to cure them; and with him I had a very long conversation. He was very desirous to know every particular of our pharmacology, and his inquiries bespoke much intelligence and knowledge of the Chinese pharmacopœia. After having satisfied his curiosity, and given him all I could write, I presented him with a set of books, which were gladly received in my cabin, where only a few days before I had been averse from such company with us.

To-day we received a petition from the mandarins that we should petition the English Government to trade with the English. The innovation contrary to custom had been averse from such a proceeding with us.

To-day we dined in the cool of the evening on savoury dishes prepared for us by the mandarins upon japanned tables in order and propriety, and with order and propriety exchanged for our imports. The liquor was very clear, and of excellent quality. The crowd of spectators was remarkable.

After dinner we took a walk through the groves of this delightful country, where we were working very hard in the markets which were in a manner to be poorly clad and shrewd. We were more polite as polite as the most polished people we had ever met. The potatoes occupied the place of bread, and tea to constitute the principal dish.

While our friends were想不到 the people who had collected for us, we were engaged in making the best use of the book that had been given us.
curiosity, and given him the most important directions in writing, I presented him with some drugs. These he refused most pertinaciously, till I sent them into the boat, and told him that I could not receive them back.

All my patients were very grateful for the assistance bestowed upon them, and to them I distributed a great many books, which were gladly received, because it was done in my cabin, where only a few spectators witnessed it.

To-day we received an answer to our request, that the mandarins should consult whether it was advisable or not that we should petition his majesty for permission to trade. They wrote back in answer, that their country was poor, and unproductive of anything which they could give in exchange for our imports; that besides, they had never traded with the English, and therefore this would be an innovation contrary to law; and that from the first they had been averse from having any commercial dealings with us.

To-day we dined in the Po-tsang temple. The most savoury dishes were placed, with much order and taste, upon japanned tables, and presented to us in regular succession. The liquor with which they treated us was very clear, and of excellent flavour. We admired the good order and propriety exhibited in the feast, among a great crowd of spectators. Good manners seem to be natural to the Loo-chooans.

After dinner we took a long walk among the hills and groves of this delightful island. We saw several women working very hard in the fields; and the peasantry appear to be poorly clad and in poor condition; yet, they were as polite as the most accomplished mandarins. Sweet potatoes occupied the greater part of the ground, and seem to constitute the principal food of the inhabitants.

While our friends were rambling, I gave books to those people who had collected in the yard of the temple. As
they were not under the scrutiny of a mandarin, they secured to themselves the word of life with very great eagerness. After making an additional present of a spy-glass and watch, we departed, to their great joy; for they had been much annoyed with our walking and entering villages, though they themselves laughed at their groundless fears.

We took an affectionate leave of our kind hosts. In reviewing our intercourse with them, I think that their politeness and kindness are very praiseworthy. They are, however, by no means those simple and innocent beings which we might at first suppose them to be. Upon inquiry we found that they had among them the same severe punishments as at Corea; that they possessed arms likewise, but are averse to use them. The Chinese tacl and cash is current among them, but very scarce; their manufactures are few and neat; their houses and clothes are always kept clean. They are certainly a very diminutive race; and every thing which they possess or build, seems proportionably small. While the Japanese regard them with the utmost contempt, as an effeminate race, we will freely acknowledge that they are the most friendly and hospitable people which we have met during all our voyage.

August 30.—After three days' sailing, we perceived Botel Tobago, bearing north, in lat. 21° 40'. A very heavy sea and frequent showers of rain made this day one of the most gloomy which we have experienced.

September 5.—Entered Kap-sing-moon, after groping our way in a dark and stormy night. God has always protected us amidst the greatest and most imminent dangers, and his name be praised to all eternity!

Mr. L. and myself went immediately to Macao, where Dr. Morrison received us very kindly into his house.

THIRD VOYAGE.

After much consideration of my own mind, I embarked, accompanied by A. R., on the Sylph. The Sylph was a fine vessel without a single armed. She had to wait for the monsoon, and to enable her to reach her destination.

From the moment we set foot on our whole course against the gales, accompanied with thunder, lightning, and the barque. But the Sylph was so for itself; and though the picturesque Lascar was swept away, we could lend no assistance; we were thoroughly in our boats around us. Many a vessel which dashed against us, and none of them might have saved us.

October 26th, we then ran into Ke-sea rather