JOURNAL

OF A

SECOND VOYAGE ALONG THE COAST OF CHINA, &c.

CHAPTER I.

The expedition of which I am to give an outline, originated in the desire of the factory of the Hon. East India Company in China, to facilitate mercantile enterprise, and to acquire information respecting those ports where commerce might be established. We were instructed to use no force except for self-defence; but by every means so to conciliate the natives, as to establish trade on a basis which would be permanent. We were to visit the coasts of China, Corea, Japan, and the Loo-Choo islands. Mr. Lindsay, our chief and supercargo, a man of the most humane disposition, refined manners, and enthusiastic in such an enterprise, was conversant with the Chinese language. Capt. Rees, the commander, an able seaman and surveyor, was anxious to make accurate charts of the different harbours.

We had also a draughtsman among the officers. There was also a learned Chinese on board. I was charged with the office of interpreter and surgeon. Our ship, "The Lord Amherst," was in very good condition, and commanded by able officers.

On the 25th of February, 1832, we went on board our ship, lying in Macao roads, but from adverse winds and
fogs were unable to sail till the 27th. Next day we passed the Lae-moon passage, where was good anchorage, but, from our eagerness to proceed, we did not anchor. That night we were exposed to a heavy gale, during which my cabin was filled with water. Before we reached the open sea, some servants of the Budha temple in the Lae-moon passage accosted us, and begged for rice. To grant such a request seemed very harmless; but with the interpretation they are known to give to such an act, a Christian can scarcely feel satisfied to do it. For it is customary with the Chinese, previous to every voyage, to implore the protection of Ma-tsoo-po, goddess of the sea, and queen of heaven. They bestow their gifts upon the priests, who, after presenting them before the idol, convert them to their own use. While offering them to the idol, a priest also recites prayers, and burns incense before her, to conciliate her favours. Our gift, therefore, was considered an offering to an idol, and was highly unworthy of professed Christians.

The wind blowing strong from the north-east, our progress against it was very slow. March 5th, we came to anchor at Ma-kung, in the district of Hae-fung. Here we were hailed by the natives, who seemed unused to see foreigners, and exceedingly delighted at our arrival. They ushered us into their houses, and gave us sweetmeats and tea. This village or town seemed very extensive and populous. Their houses were spacious, but very dirty; and most of the inhabitants go out to fish.

It was soon known that we had medicines to give them, when repeated applications were made by those afflicted with various diseases, and they shewed themselves grateful. Here we began to distribute christian books. They had never been seen before, and their contents excited wonder. To see this poor friendly people, anxious for the word of eternal life, but unable to obtain it, is truly distressing.

The next day many men were sent to the shore, very inoffensive, and in the most amicable appearance; however, our appearance gave them much alarm, and ignorant, and took refuge in the ship. One of them, asking a present for his country, was coming on board. A pipe, and marched to the deck, called "Celestial." I had before enquired of the people what was the name of them was very dark; indeed, which were distributed by the convinced of this, his exploit.

Towards evening, a tall mountain in the neighborhood, a few hovels of fishermen, and a few incense sticks, in the buildings, reminded us individually the temple and patches of land, which, the natives, presented rocks. We had a long talk with one, who, though clad in the necessaries of life, was still bright. They were natives of the islands, and spoke a dialect more understood by the natives of any other in the Archipelago. As industrious cultivators and carpenters. As their occupation in their country for forester. They occupy much of
The next day many people came on board; they were very inoffensive, and behaved with great propriety. The appearance, however, of a military officer of the lowest rank, gave them much alarm. This man was extremely proud and ignorant, and took no notice whatever of any objects in the ship. One of his servants was very boisterous in asking a present for his master, for his condescension in coming on board. As we did not gratify his wish, he stole a pipe, and marched off with the stateliness of a bigoted "Celestial." I had here the pleasure of hearing the inquiries of the people about the word of eternal life. One of them was very desirous to know whether the books which were distributed were good books, and when convinced of this, his expressions of delight were extreme.

Towards evening, having left the ship, we ascended a mountain in the neighbourhood. At the foot of this were a few hovels of fishermen, as wretched as human dwellings can be; yet there was a small temple, with an image in it, and a few incense sticks. Even the smallest villages have these buildings, reminding the Christian to strive to become individually the temple of the living God. The small patches of land, which were cultivated with great care by the natives, presented a pleasing sight among the barren rocks. We had a long conversation with the poor people, who, though clad in rags, and scarcely provided with the necessaries of life, were yet cheerful and communicative. They were natives of the Kea district, whose inhabitants speak a dialect more resembling the mandarin, than the natives of any other part of Canton province. They are industrious cultivators of the ground, barbers, smiths, and carpenters. As their population is too dense, they leave their country for foreign lands, especially for the Indian Archipelago. At Bacea and Borneo they are the principal miners, and at Singapore and Batavia, the artisans. They occupy much of the interior of Formosa, and are
spread throughout the Canton province as barbers and servants.

When we had descended the hill, the scene presented to our view was sublime—a boundless prospect of the tranquil ocean, and the adjacent country spread out at our feet. The whole ridge of the mountain was planted with fir-trees. This economy is necessary, as the wood of natural growth is very scarce; and from the supplies required by the immense population, fuel is rapidly decreasing.

The dense fogs which we had experienced at Macao still continued frequently to envelope us. We arrived, March 9, in the bay of Kea-tsze. The inhabitants soon hailed us with joy; amongst them was a very intelligent youth, who shortly became so familiar with us, that he offered his services as a sailor. We were thwarted in our desire to ascend the little stream where the town was built, by the stern commands of the officers of two war junks anchored in a small bay. Our young friend was with us in the boat, and would have suffered severe punishment from these tyrants, for being in the contaminating atmosphere of barbarians, had we not rowed away and put him into a native boat. The commanders of these junks were Fuk-keen men; they would scarcely admit more than two of us on board, and when in their presence, insisted that we should stand, which, however, we refused to do. In the course of the conversation, they upbraided us for our wanton attempt to ascend the river, which would expose them to very severe punishment. They and many of their sailors were devoted opium-smokers, and of the most depraved character.

In the afternoon we visited some villages at the entrance of the bay. Viewed from a distance, their appearance is most romantic; the houses, built of brick, rise up among the high trees, of which there are a multitude overshadowing them. But on a nearer approach the charm vanishes.

Large quantities of manure are spread over the houses themselves here, exceedingly filthy; the houses are built without plan or consent, followed us in every direction. In every street we everywhere observed girls were confined in the house in multitudes accompanied by their mothers, and show their delight. In the streets were people, which excited so much curiosity that we should possess them. We distributed them "without, and got a start, even on the shore, consisting of a castle represents an imposing aspect. We arrived at an old fort. The castle was massive rock, and able to resist the ravine in the neighbourhood.

The next day, which was a Sunday, we proceeded to the right of Kea-tsze, and found on the left, a canal, consisting of an artificial water which is partially evaporated; pure salt appears. This is one of the most important revenues of the country, and merchants who deal in salt are individuals in the country, and though the salt is transported to become very oppressive to the inhabitants.

On the dry ground in front of the canal, and prepared it for use, the soil is very productive of only a few crops, industry, that they say, are all dependent on this soil; and though they might receive a sufficiency. On our return we again proceeded to the right, and on the summit of mountain we finally came.
Large quantities of manure, near the houses, infect the air; the houses themselves have scarcely any furniture, and are exceedingly filthy; the lanes are narrow, and the whole built without plan or convenience. Great crowds of people followed us in every direction. Of the young, also, whom we every where observed to be numerous, the boys (for the girls were confined in the houses with their feet bound up) in multitudes accompanied us, with shouts and gambols, to show their delight. I distributed several books to the people, which excited much interest, as well as wonder, that we should possess books in their language, and should distribute them "without money and without price." The shore here, consisting of numerous projecting rocks, presents an imposing aspect; along this we walked till we arrived at an old fort. The wall of this, in part, was massive rock, and able to resist a heavy bombardment. A ravine in the neighbourhood contains a mineral acid.

The next day, which was very fair, we made an excursion to the right of Kea-tsze. Here are extensive saline works, consisting of an elevated bed of mud, where the sea water is partially evaporated. After this it is boiled till the pure salt appears. The monopoly of salt is one of the most important revenues of the Celestial Empire. The merchants who deal in it are generally the richest individuals in the country. Yet the monopoly, though under the conduct of certain officers, is generally so conducted as to become very oppressive to the poor, and a heavy national burden.

On the dry ground the natives cultivated the sugar cane, and prepared it for use. The soil is here very sandy, and productive of only a few vegetables. Yet such is Chinese industry, that they sow here and reap on the most barren soil; and though they cannot boast of abundance, they receive a sufficiency. After proceeding in various directions, we finally came to a bridge, the first we had hitherto
seen. There was no railing for the sides. At the end was a temple, where some elderly men waited for us, and very gravely questioned us about our country. The filth and stench were here intolerable. Though the crowd of people around us was very numerous, we had no reason to complain of their rudeness or want of respect. It gave me great pleasure to leave with them the words of eternal life. Eternity will show how many a soul may be benefited by the perusal of one little tract.

Notwithstanding the severe prohibitions of the mandarins, we went up the river. In the midst of it stands a rock, and upon it a huge image of the goddess of the sea. Every where the monuments of superstition, and of the most lamentable degradation, meet our eyes. We were pursued by several mandarin boats, which, however, could not overtake us. The people on shore pressingly invited us to visit Kea-tsze. We judged it best not to go on shore, to avoid implicating the people in guilt and danger from our intercourse. It is distressing to see that men are forbidden free intercourse with men, to please the whim of a few tyrants.

March 17th, we were again obliged to come to anchor at Shin-tseuen. The adjacent country is fertile and sown with wheat. The inhabitants were very poor, and were consumed with cutaneous diseases. We proceeded up an inlet, on the left bank of which stands Shin-tseuen. One branch of the inlet turns westward, and a short distance up is a village named Shih-Chow. The old mandarin stationed at the fort at the entrance was very anxious that we should return. Several of inferior rank shewed us the greatest kindness. I asked them why we were not allowed to walk upon our common earth. "The laws of the empire forbid it," was the answer. "You boast of equity and reason in your government: where is the equity or reason of laws against the common laws of nature?" "There is none," they replied. "Why then did you not deport us out of intercourse with those who receive us?" To this the mandarins replied, "We are not of that misanthropic disposition, but generally believe, we suppose, that though our stay was not productive of anything attached to us.

On the 22d, we arrived at Kea-tse, anchorage amidst surroudings of a large sandy plain, destitute of trees excepting pine apple. In crossing the isthmus, we were met by a body of mandarins, where the half-starved and forlorn appearance, and closed aspect of their features were very weak, and expressed the most distressing looks. The inhabitants living in great numbers to this place, but received very pressing importunities, and at last we crossed over the bare, monotonous, sandy country, which reaches far inland and terminates in a deep river. Nothing excepting the inhabitants, whom curiosity and curiosity had occasioned us to visit, a few articles had called us out of the sloughs of mud, and we speedily compelled to land at last. Here were people engaged in various trades, and the article of export immediately in demand by us. Of this, the last of the season. Every where the population is heavier, and it would be a humbling sight to the eye to see the surplus of the
they replied. "Why then are you so very anxious to shut us out from intercourse with a people who would gladly receive us?" To this they gave no reply, but inquired our names, and the name of our ship. We always made it our great endeavour to conciliate the people. As the Chinese are not of that misanthropic cast of mind which foreigners generally believe, we succeeded in our endeavour so far, that though our stay was but short, they invariably became attached to us.

On the 22d, we arrived at ______, and found unsafe anchorage amidst surrounding rocks. The shore is here a large sandy plain, destitute of vegetation except the wild pine apple. In crossing this plain I was strongly reminded of the Arabian desert. There is a fort at the hill, where the half-starved soldiers were much frightened at our appearance, and closed the gates behind them. The walls were very weak, and crumbled down at the least motion.

The inhabitants living at a distance beyond the desert, very soon heard of the arrival of our ship, and came off in great numbers to provide us refreshments. Having received very pressing invitations to visit them on shore, we crossed over the barren tract, and came at last to Kang-lae. This is a very large village, situated near an inlet which reaches far inland, and resembles the water of a deep river. Nothing could exceed the joy of the inhabitants, whom curiosity and the hope of gain from the sale of a few articles had called together. But the stench arising from the sloughs of manure was so offensive, that we were speedily compelled to retreat from this bustling scene. Here were people engaged in the manufacture of sugar, the staple article of export in most of the districts already visited by us. Of this, the larger part goes to the northern ports. Every where the population is abundant to overflowing; and it would be a humane act of the emperor, should he send the surplus of them to the Indian Archipelago
large and fertile tracts of land might be allotted to them for cultivation and subsistence. Though he connives at the emigration of male subjects from Canton and Fukien province, yet he never permits females to leave their country. The consequence is, that Chinese emigrants intermarry with the natives where they reside; and hence, in the offspring are combined the natural vices of both parents, while there is little proficiency in the virtues of either. The greater part of the emigrants, however, live in celibacy and wantonness: those who are fortunate enough to gain a little money, speedily return to their native land to enjoy it, thus draining the colonies of wealth and population. Hence, it is hardly possible that Chinese colonies should extend and flourish to that degree which the industry of the people might lead us to expect. Other nations are desirous to aid colonization in all ways, but the Chinese government assiduously opposes and obstructs it. In the public papers, frequent mention is made of the transforming and salutary influence of the Celestial Empire upon the conduct of its subjects. This could actually be exemplified amid the jungles of Borneo, Lingan, Biletou, &c., were practical virtue, rather than ostentation, the real object of the Chinese government.

After many days of dark weather, we finally enjoyed a fair day, and a favourable breeze for a few hours carried us to How-ta, where we anchored; a considerable village in the neighbourhood of Nan-aou, (or Namoh.) We saw the numerous junks lying at anchor at Ting-hae, (or Ching-hae-heen.) The trade here has always been brisk and advantageous, for the government choose to be unusually liberal to the overflowing population, which here threatened rebellion, if not permitted to engage in mercantile speculations, and to embark as colonists for foreign countries. All the districts belonging to Fuh-chow-foo, to which Ting-hae likewise appertains, send forth a great number of colonists, who spare neither the cost of his passage nor the hardships they will suffer in their native land; and both actuated by a spirit of pittance. A man of trust, the individual subscriber to the remittance engages to go home with a suitable distribution to the persons regularly noted down, as the instructions of this commissioner. Before, however, the amount is given by the subscribers, they must sign a note which human valour, and not of passage. On arriving at any instance where junks have been destroyed by those vessels are sent, and in instances where junks have been destroyed by the amount of these remittances. In cases where great precaution taken to prevent it, and in cases where a trust, it is often happens that the persons entrusted to him, and the independence it was, are regarded by them as surely not a virtue of the boats. On the other hand,oboost, though there are many who say that this was at the same time, it must be remitted to the government towards their kindred in the country of their origin. The distance can withdraw from the main body of the objects left behind at the port, and the colonist can send but a dollar, and the person in whose name he is registered, in order to save it. The colonist, who is, on the whole, a rather entirely cease to exist, and is in a state of substantial than paper, will never atone for the errors of the colonists, who, on the other hand, are really extensive mercantile speculations.
colonists, who spare neither danger or toil to gain a scanty livelihood in their foreign homes. A part of their hard earnings is annually remitted to their kindred who are left in their native land; and it is astonishing to see what hardships they will suffer, to procure and send home this pittance. A man of tried honesty is appointed to collect the individual subscriptions of the emigrants, who also engages to go home with them, and there make an equitable distribution to the donees. The subscriptions are regularly noted down, and a certain per centage paid to this commissioner. Before he goes on board, a banquet is given by the subscribers, and then he embarks with all the wishes which human voices can utter, for his prosperous passage. On arriving at his native shores, he is welcomed by all those who are anxiously waiting for this supply. The amount of these remittances is often large, and there are instances where junks have taken on board more than sixty thousand dollars for this purpose. Notwithstanding the great precaution taken to find a proper man for so important a trust, it often happens that he runs away with the money entrusted to him, and the poor families, whose sole dependence it was, are reduced to starvation. Good faith is surely not a virtue of which the Chinese can generally boast, though there are honourable individual exceptions; at the same time, it must be admitted that their affection towards their kindred is very strong; neither time nor distance can withdraw their attention from the beloved objects they left behind in their native land. If an emigrant can send but a dollar he will send it; he will himself fast in order to save it. Indeed, he will never send home a letter unless accompanied with some present; he will rather entirely cease writing than send nothing more substantial than paper. There are also swindlers among the colonists, who, on their arrival from China, engage in extensive mercantile speculations, and having acquired
credit, and got much property in their hands, either run
away, or abide the consequences in a jail.

The condition of the emigrants in general, on their arrival
in a foreign country, is most miserable, without clothing,
or money for one day’s subsistence. Sometimes they have
not money enough to pay their passage from home (six or
twelve dollars,) and they become bondmen to any body
who pays this sum for them, or fall a prey to extortioners,
who claim their services for more than a year. The junks
which transport them in great numbers, remind one of an
African slaver. The deck is filled with them, and there
the poor wretches are exposed to the inclemency of the
weather, and without any shelter, for the cargo fills the
junk below. Their food consists of dry rice and an allow-
ance of water; but when the passages are very long, there is
often a want of both, and many of them actually starve to
death. As soon as they arrive, they fall with a ravenous
appetite upon the fruits of India, and many die by dysen-
tery and fever. The climate also has often an enervating effect
upon them; but they very soon recover from it, and re-
sume their industrious habits. But disappointed hopes
render them languid in their pursuits; they came to amass
dollars, and can scarcely get cents; they expected to live
in plenty, but can earn a bare subsistence. Many there-
fore become thieves and gamblers to gratify their covetous
desires. This is not strange, for it is generally the de-
graded and vicious of the people who leave their country
for foreign parts, and there they rather advance than recede
in vice. The propagation of the gospel among such a class
of men, is therefore attended with numerous difficulties,
from the prevailing corruptions.

March 27th we anchored in sight of the city of Nan-aou,
and the next day resolved to visit the war junks stationed
here. They signified by their hands and by words, that
we must be off immediately, pointing to the shore where
his excellency, the commander, had preceded, however, in getting
a trader from Formosa, driven by gales, which are very common.
The captain of this junk seemed to have been used to this business
well; and when census the war junks for receiving us, he
I transgress so against the law of his country that I was
soon silenced a boisterous, bullying, unctuous, out-
winning manners contributed to silence of their own weakness, that all
fierce barbarians will assume to enter at all.

We afterwards approached the city of Nan-aou, and found
his excellency had strictly forbidden them to put us
off, that we did not wait upon him and
of his own weakness, that

There are two forts on one near
romantic appearance when
east, Nan-aou, was formerly
infested all the Chinese soldi-
erected; but they are at present
all the military defences of
covering a hill, Pih-shan-gan, which
covered with cottages and
issuing from the hill falls
The people were rather dirty near the
neighbourhood of the city.

We now left the coast and
the shores of Fuhkeen.
sterile soil, present themselves.
The fishermen, whom we met,
very anxious to approach...
his excellency, the commander-in-chief, resided. We succeeded, however, in getting on board a very large rice-trader from Formosa, driven hither by one of the N.E. gales, which are very common in the channel of Formosa. The captain of this junk seemed to understand true politeness well; and when censured by the commanders of the war junks for receiving us, he mildly replied, "How could I transgress so against the laws of hospitality?" He very soon silenced a boisterous mandarin, and Mr. Lindsay's winning manners contributed not a little to remove their objections.

We afterwards approached the city in a boat, but as his excellency had strictly forbidden all intercourse with us, we did not wait upon him as we first designed. Conscious of their own weakness, they are always fearful that the fierce barbarians will assume too much liberty if permitted to enter at all.

There are two forts on an island eastward of the city, and another smaller one nearer to it. The city itself has a romantic appearance when viewed from a distance. It is one of the principal naval stations of the empire, as the island, Nan-aoou, was formerly the haunt of pirates, who infested all the Chinese seas. Hence so many forts were erected; but they are at present almost fallen to ruins, like all the military defences of the Celestial Empire. In ascending a hill, Pih-shan-gan, we reached a most romantic spot, covered with cottages and wheat fields. A streamlet issuing from the hill falls into the sea near a little hamlet. The people were rather disposed to shun us, on account of the neighbourhood of the mandarins.

We now left the coast of Canton, and began to sail along the shores of Fuhkeen. The same barren rocks, the same sterile soil, present themselves to the eye of the passenger. The fishermen, whom we saw in all directions, were not very anxious to approach us, though we encouraged them
by great rewards. We anchored westward of four islands, bearing the names of Tiger, Lion, Dragon, and Elephant, and east of an offing of perforated rock. We landed at the village of Gaou-keo, which is built on a peninsula, and inhabited by fishermen. The hill we ascended exhibited a great variety of stones and strata of earth. Though the inhabitants were very civil, yet they were very cautious in their intercourse. They asked of what ship and country we were, and from their conversation we understood that they were partially acquainted with Europeans before.

The islands here are universally as barren as can be conceived, yet the larger of them are the abodes of fishermen. Formerly the pirates had possession of most of these islands. They were Fuhkeen men, from the Fung-gan district. The owners of their ships generally resided at Amoy or Formosa. Very many of the sailors were men driven to desperation by the mandarins; the rest were worthless vagabonds. Though the Chinese character is generally exempt from cruelty, these men were so degenerate and hardened that they committed the most unheard of crimes from mere wantonness. In their engagements with the imperial fleet they were often victorious, for many of their sailors were taken from the flower of the nation; whilst the imperial fleet has chiefly on board half-starved beings, taken from the dregs of the people, and regardless of military honour. A regular system of piratical extortion once threatened to put a stop to the coasting trade, and to interrupt the supplies which came to the capital by way of Teen-tsin. The chiefs of the pirates gave passports to the trading vessels, and thereby strictly enforced their claim to the command of the sea-ports. Such a ruinous system could not long continue, and hence the mandarins bribed the chiefs by the offer of military rank and service under the imperial banner. They accepted the offer; and many
of them to this period are renowned naval commanders, whilst a few have been executed.

The sea seems here to be receding; for the lands belonging to these people ten years ago were sea, and are yearly increasing in extent. Not far from this fishing village is Chang-poo-heen. We could merely discern that it was an extensive place; for it was already the dusk of the evening, and we could not reach it. The natives were very inquisitive respecting our cargo, and complained bitterly of the system of exclusion enforced by the mandarins. "How gladly," said they, "would we, if permitted, cultivate amicable intercourse with you! but we are always forbidden to obey the impulse of our hearts!"