CHAPTER II.

After many delays we finally arrived at Amoy. This place is situated on a very large island, on the left side of a bay, which deeply indents the country, and forms numerous islands. The city is very extensive, and contains at least two hundred thousand inhabitants. All its streets are narrow, the temples numerous, and a few large houses owned by wealthy merchants. Its excellent harbour has made it, from time immemorial, one of the greatest emporiums of the empire, and one of the most important markets of Asia. Vessels can sail up close to the houses, load and unload with the greatest facility, have shelter from all winds, and in entering or leaving the port, experience no danger of getting ashore. The whole adjacent country being sterile, forced the inhabitants to seek some means of subsistence. Endowed with an enterprising spirit and unwearyed in the pursuit of gain, they visited all parts of the Chinese empire, gradually became bold sailors, and settled as merchants all along the coast. Thus they colonized Formosa, which from that period to this has been their granary; visited and settled in the Indian Archipelago, Cochin-China, and Siam. A population constantly overflowing demanded constant resources for their subsistence, and this they found in colonization. This they have promoted all along the coast of China up to Manchou Tartary. As soon as the colonists amass sufficient money they return home, which they leave again when all is spent.

- This constant emigration contributes very much to the happiness. It is a general thing that a large proportion of the Chinese population is perpetuated without any form of marriage, and to ask a man of any sort of a father, is a mark of great contempt, nor the moral sayings of benevolence a nefarious custom. They provide for their children, and distribute their property. The boys enjoy an education. Their birth is considered one of the most fortunate events in China. They are indulged to a high degree, and assumes a certain author of the city.

- carried on a regular trade, revolting to humanity and the laws of the bush, however, to stimulate the progress and moral instruction of those who are engaged in the trade, by giving them the gospel of true gospel, which alone can elevate their rank in society. It is this way, for which we since, the groans will be much all the nations. The English continued it for their influence at Foochow they have nominal permission to
This constant emigration of the male part of the people contributes very much to the destruction of domestic happiness. It is a general custom among them to drown a large proportion of the new-born female children. This unnatural crime is so common among them, that it is perpetrated without any feeling, and even in a laughing mood; and to ask a man of any distinction whether he has daughters, is a mark of great rudeness. Neither the government nor the moral sayings of their sages has put a stop to this nefarious custom. The father has authority over the lives of his children, and disposes of them according to his pleasure. The boys enjoy the greater share of parental affection. Their birth is considered one of the greatest and most fortunate events in a family. They are cherished and indulged to a high degree; and if the father dies, the son assumes a certain authority over his mother. There is also carried on a regular traffic in females. These facts are as revolting to humanity as disgusting to detail. They may serve, however, to stimulate the zeal of christian females to promote the welfare of one of the largest portions of their sex, by giving them the glorious gospel of our Saviour—that gospel, which alone restores females to their proper rank in society. It is pleasing to observe, that there is now a benevolent association in England for the express purpose of instructing Chinese females at Malacca. If this institution can ever exert any influence upon China in this way, for which we sincerely pray, we are persuaded that the degradation and oppression under which the nation now groans will be much alleviated.

Amoy was formerly a resort for ships of different foreign nations. The English were forced to relinquish the trade by the severe extortions to which they were subject. The Dutch continued it for a longer time, but neglected it when their influence at Formosa ceased. The Spanish have nominal permission to trade there to this day, but they
have preferred to send their ships to Macao. They reta-
liated upon the Chinese junkys which annually arrive at
Manilla from Amoy and Shang-hae, by imposing upon
them higher duties than they themselves paid at Amoy.
This has embittered the Chinese against them, given rise to
smuggling, and greatly impeded the trade.

We arrived at Amoy harbour about three o'clock.
Scarcely had we come to anchor when a mandarin boat
approached, and one of the men joyfully exclaimed,
"O! she is a trader!" A young man now came for-
ward, and delivered us a paper sent by a principal man-
darin, desiring us to report "whence we came, and for
what purpose we had entered the harbour." At the same
time he invited us to an entertainment the next day at his
master's house, where we should see the Te-tuh, or admiral.
Two mandarins with gold buttons came very shortly after,
and also desired our report. They were followed by two
others, one with a blue and the other with a white button,
who were exceedingly reserved. An elderly man, belong-
ing to the custom-house office, was of quite a different
character. He told us very candidly that this was the
best place to which we could come, because the wealthiest
merchants resided here, who would gladly engage with us
in mercantile business.

Scarcely had we dined when the two mandarins first
mentioned brought us notice, "that the admiral desired us
to leave the harbour as speedily as possible, and they
would supply us with water." We thanked them for this
show of hospitality, and merely replied, that we could by
no means be guilty of so great a breach of politeness as to
neglect paying our respects to his excellency before our
departure; that as the wind was against us, we had time
enough to spare. We begged them to treat us as we
treated their countrymen when they arrived at our colonies.
This tended to soften their harsh language, and confound
their reasoning about the Empire. But nothing more
than what we were at their well-mounted boats, which
in our behalf than the mandarins had done. Several
men were now made to come on board; but all the time
while they deeply regretted the impossibility of staying
on deck.

April 3.—Several of the natives; some were in the
duty, got permission on board.

When several mandarins came on board, we were
treated immediately. They adressed us in the first
words towards us, and professed to know the reason
hence they had stationed a man at the ship, was that "according to
doctrine of the government, to watch the foreign merchants, and not suffer from the temptation to cheat them.

We were asked what kind of characters we were, and
that "according to the law of the land, we were rated as
thieves and scoundrels." This seemed to be a surprise
that the admiral had not thought of before. We began to talk
with his excellency, and tried to make him understand that our presence was not to be construed as a sign of permission to trade.

In going up to the admiral's house, I saw an inscription on it, the letters of which I could not ascertain. Before
took a button, who had been in the admiral's house, and was most attentive, came forward and led me through this unknown building, which was patched up and patched into a shape in which it was not very easy to recognize the place.
their reasoning about the inviolable laws of the Celestial Empire. But nothing inspired them with so much respect as our well-mounted long guns, which silently spoke more in our behalf than the best harangue of Demosthenes could have done. Several respectable merchants were anxious to come on board; but as no permission had been given, while they deeply regretted it, they did not venture to come on deck.

April 3.—Several boats anchored around us, to keep off the natives; some watermen, by seeing the mandarin on duty, got permission to come on board.

When several mandarins, our friends of yesterday, came on board, we were again importuned to leave the harbour immediately. They pretended to be very hospitable towards us, and professed themselves our sincere friends,—hence they had stationed boats around us, that we might not suffer from the treacherous people. We simply replied, that “according to our foreign customs, friends are not watched like thieves, and guests are not driven away like scoundrels.” This answer seemed so conclusive that they began now to talk about the probability of an audience with his excellency, the admiral. He had pledged himself to provide us provisions. But as the trade with foreigners was restricted to Canton, he could give us no permission to trade.

In going up to the city we passed a large rock with an inscription on it, the purport of which we were too distant to ascertain. Before landing, a mandarin with a white button, who had been aboard the ship, and had shown us every attention, came up to us in a boat. He apologized for his sudden appearance, and offered himself as our guide through this unknown place. He had evidently been despatched by his superiors to prevent our landing, but feeling the uselessness of the order, he did not once mention it. In our walk around, we saw many shops well furnished
with the necessaries and the luxuries of life, such as could
scarcely be supposed in a district almost destitute of any
natural productions. The insufferable stench, and the
great crowd of people, prevented our penetrating far. We
visited several respectable merchants, who treated us with
every mark of civility, and would have entered into com-
mercial speculations with us, had not the presence of the
mandarins overawed them. Many large houses which we
passed bespoke the wealth of the inmates. A military
escort attended us, which rendered our visit very awkward,
though the commander repeatedly assured us, that it was
merely for our protection. When we objected to this, that
the people were friendly to strangers, and gave every sign
of being delighted with our visit, the mandarin replied,
"These are the orders from our superiors; I cannot justify
them myself; but come to-morrow again, and you will
enjoy greater liberty."

We sailed afterwards up the inlet. At the entrance we
found from six to ten fathoms of water, so that the largest
ships could anchor opposite the city. There were, in all,
about one hundred and fifty junks in the harbour, many of
them undergoing repairs in the docks, which are very com-
modious. Daily arrivals from Formosa, with cargoes of
rice, increased the number. Notwithstanding the abundant
supply, rice was very dear, and soon after our departure
rose to an enormous price. Farther up the inlet are shoals
and numerous rocks above water. On our return to the
ship we found that our learned China-man had fallen over-
board, but was providentially rescued by our second mate,
Mr. Jemison, a gentleman of great intrepidity.

April 4.—I was roused by the arrival of all the man-
darins who had formerly been aboard. They told us that
we had nothing to expect, but must immediately leave the
port. At the same time we received a document from the
Te-tuh, containing an imperial edict, issued the twenty-
first year of Koa Kow (the new embassy,) to the officers of the
provinces. They were enjoined not to come near the coast or
to anchor for a moment, and not to conive at any

All these orders had no relation to our case, yet did he pass
his conduct. The language was written by his severity, in
"along-side" of us, the design not only to impress the
in the eyes of the native not only to impress
at his harsh treatment,

We often conversed with them concerned their eternity,
exhorted them to religion. It was this kind-hearted person's unhappiness in being cut off from intercourse, yet always it is to behold such men. It is deep ignorance! What have they done, their "idol" superstitions, a stain do they stand when the Creator and Protector reference to their God, ignorant of these rest to be capable of being excused and the neglect of their high duties, tenacing any mental evils, whatever the temporary favour of stupidity.
first year of Kea King, (1817, a year after the British embassy,) to the officers in the Fuhkeen and Che-keang provinces. They were not to permit a barbarian ship to come near the coast of those two provinces, not to allow her to anchor for a moment, but to drive her instantly away, and not to connive at the people's going on board.

All these orders had been neglected by the admiral, in our case, yet did he plead this document as the sole rule of his conduct. The last clause, however, he had overstepped by his severity, in cruelly beating the people who came "along-side" of us, merely to look at our ships; with the design not only to intimidate them, but also to disgrace us in the eyes of the natives as unworthy of notice. In this design he failed, for though the people seemed astonished at his harsh treatment to us, they could not forbear to be kind to strangers whom they considered as their friends.

We often conversed with them upon the things which concerned their eternal happiness; we gave them books, exhorted them to read them with diligence, and we left this kind-hearted people, with a deep impression of their unhappiness in being formed for improvement from foreign intercourse, yet always debarred from it. How deplorable it is to behold such numbers of rational beings in a state of deep ignorance! Whatever other attainments they may have made, their idolatry is degrading to humanity; their superstitions, a stain upon the human understanding. How do they stand when viewed in their relations to their Creator and Protector? How can we regard them in reference to their God and Saviour? Though they are ignorant of these relations, they have immortal souls capable of being enlightened, and responsible for the neglect of their highest duties. A government discon-tenancing any mental advancement cannot deserve applause, whatever the temporal advantages may be from laws in favour of stupidity. Every candid reader will agree with
me, that no government has a right to seclude its subjects from all foreign intercourse. There are innate rights which no human prohibition can destroy, and the right of reciprocal intercourse between the nations of the world is one of these.

What authority on earth, even of the Chinese emperor, as "vicegerent of heaven over all the globe," can enact laws forbidding to acknowledge the Creator of the universe and Saviour of the world? This, in effect, has been done in China. Though we cannot alter their laws to exclude foreigners and the true religion, yet we do not consider them so binding upon us, as inhabitants of the same planet, and Christians in faith and practice, that we may not enter the empire. We have strenuously debated these two points with them: and the mandarins have conceded that this system of exclusion is unreasonable, but throw the whole work of reform upon the emperor. This convenient way of ridding themselves of conscientious scruples, may be styled political popery; nothing is more common throughout the empire.

Whilst we were in a temple near a fort at the entrance of the inlet, whither we had been invited to come to an audience at noon, those poor people who happened to come into the neighbourhood of the ship were treated most barbarously. After being severely beaten on board the war-junks, so that we might hear the lamentations of the sufferers, they were then exposed in the pillory with a canque* about the neck, and a label inscribed with their

* This is an instrument of corporeal punishment often used in China. It is made of two oblong pieces of wood, which, when joined, form a square. Each of the pieces is hollowed out a little at the place where they are to join; and this hollow encircles the neck of the criminal, round which the "canque" is placed. It is sometimes very heavy, and the criminal, while wearing it, can neither raise his hand to his mouth, nor see where to set his feet. He is sometimes obliged to carry it for weeks, or even months.
CONFERENCE WITH THE TE-TUH.

crime; not of leaguing with barbarians, or going aboard, but of looking at the barbarian ship. Thus the mere sight of us was contaminating! We could not have been worse treated, even if we had had the plague aboard. Only a few people before this had come on board, and they were immediately driven away. The clerk, who had previously invited us to his master's house, came in a great hurry, earnestly beseeching us not to mention this invitation, for, if known, it would cost him his life.

Towards noon we put off in a boat, to present our petition to the Te-tuh. In our way up to the temple we passed ranks of soldiers, dressed in tiger uniform; some without a nose, others with one eye, and the greater number old and emaciated beings. Their officers, who were in full uniform, armed with bows, and very elegantly dressed, presented a striking contrast to the soldiers. In a hall adjoining the temple, we found the admiral and the Tsung-ping-kwan of Kin-mun, a military station in the neighbourhood, besides several others. We yielded the point of standing in their presence. This circumstance, trivial in itself, encouraged the mandarins to treat us insolently. After having handed the petition, we were requested to retire to the temple, till we should receive an answer. Wang, the clerk, became the bearer of our messages. Our request to buy provisions from the merchants, was refused. The admiral, who was no personal enemy, but rather our friend, agreed to depute a person to act as comprador. In the course of our conversation, we stated our friendly intention in coming to this port. Mr. Lindsay expostulated with all the firmness and politeness of an Englishman. The unalterable laws of the Celestial Empire were held forth to justify the treatment we had experienced. "If the laws are indeed unalterable," we replied, "then we ought to come hither freely, for the ancient edict issued under Kang-he, permitted foreigners to enter all Chinese
ports. The unchangeable laws, which, as you assert, allow not the least deviation from ancient custom, are in our favour, and we plead them in our behalf. We allow your junks to enter all our Indian ports; they come and trade freely, without being surrounded by our men-of-war, or inspected in their intercourse with our fellow-subjects. Moreover, we allow your nation, and especially the natives of this province, to settle in our colonies, and to enjoy the same liberties as our own people, without being oppressed by any authorities. If we, therefore, asked in return, not all of the same privileges, but only the permission to trade to every port, our demand is just by the common law of nations. Besides, we have been repeatedly told, that the emperor compassionates foreigners; this compassion has never reached us yet, and we humbly hope that we may participate in it, by being permitted to trade to these ports according to ancient custom."

This whole conversation was not very palatable to the mandarins. We were frequently interrupted, and I myself was charged with impoliteness in aduding the honesty we had exhibited, as a pledge that we would leave the port after obtaining provisions. "Don't fear," continued I, "that we shall not perform what we promised." "Fear you!" the Tsung-ping-kwan replied, "fear you!" exclaimed he, with a contemptuous sneer. After inviting them to come aboard the ship, and receiving a scornful refusal, we returned.

We had now tried what could be effected by petition, and by unremitting submission, and were forced to give ourselves up to the mercy of these Celestials. After dinner we took an excursion round an island opposite to Amoy. All the surrounding country is barren rock, except some valleys capable of cultivation, where a few potatoes grow. These vales are filled with the greatest care, and richly repay the labours of the peasant. The country has a romantic appearance, and is one of those undulating slopes of the Chinese coast. We climbed the great heights of those hills upon which we ascended, and oft did I sing,—

"O'er the clouded thatched roofs,
Look there, look there,
All the world droops,
With a look like a smile,

Let the yoke break, and the load fall.

While musing thus, I weighed my dwelling as a burden, but with the hope of a short, eternal life. I felt the innumerable blessings I had had the pleasure to receive in the library of an old man. The houses were built very clean; but the occupation of the male part were very distant from foreign parts. A sad spectacle of a pretty girl, who had been killed. "What did this mean? They are not killing a girl." It is a general custom among the female infants immediately after birth. The families seldom take care of themselves, to rear these children, and they are the arbiters to take them away. This is an emigration, the prolongation would make their daughters.
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romantic appearance. There is something grand in the
sight of those undulating barren ridges of hills along the
Chinese coast. We have frequently gazed from the tops
of these hills upon the tracts of land spread beneath us,
and oft did I sing,—

"O'er the gloomy hills of darkness
Look, my soul, be still and gaze.
All the promises do travail
With a glorious day of grace:
Blessed Jubilee!
Let the glorious morning dawn."

While musing thus, I turned and saw a poor man carry-
ing a burden, but willing to converse upon the things of
eternal life. I felt consoled by this, and rejoiced that I
was permitted to tread on these barren hills. To day we
entered a village at the foot of a very high hill, and were
gladly received by the inhabitants. They did not hesitate
to converse freely upon any topic which we introduced. I
had the pleasure to add a few books to the well-worn
library of an old man; he examined them carefully. The
houses were built very substantially, and kept tolerably
clean; but the occupants were very poor people, of whom
the male part were either at work at Amoy, or were gone
to foreign parts. At the beach we were shocked at the
spectacle of a pretty new-born babe, which shortly before
had been killed. We asked some of the bystanders what
this meant. They answered with indifference, "It is only
a girl." It is a general custom in this district to drown
female infants immediately after their birth. Respectable
families seldom take the trouble, as they express them-
selves, to rear these useless girls. They consider them-
selves the arbiters of their children's lives, and entitled
to take them away when they can foresee that their
prolongation would only entail misery. As the numerous
emigrations of the male population render it probable
that their daughters, if permitted to live, would not be
married, they choose this shorter way to rid themselves of the encumbrance of supporting them.

Thus are the pledges of conjugal love, the most precious gift of the Most High, the most important trust confided to men by the Supreme Being, deliberately murdered. Brutes love their young, and cherish and defend them; but man can divest himself of natural affection, and degrade himself far below the brute creation.

I had sent my servant, Eo, on shore during the night, to visit his family, which resides here. He came off during the night with provisions. The people who came with him were astonished at the barbarous treatment which we had hitherto experienced. They blamed us for having yielded too much to the mandarins. Since matters had come to this state, however, they saw no possibility of opening a private intercourse with the natives. They deeply regretted this result. When they saw our ship enter their port, they had flattered themselves with the hope of renewing the foreign trade which was formerly carried on here.

April 5.—We waited till this time to receive a comprador from the admiral; but instead of this we perceived that our "friends" were making warlike preparations. They went so far as to point the guns of the war-junks at us. Though this could but cause us smile—for the most martial preparations in China, directed by those possessing neither skill nor courage, can never intimidate any European sloop of war—yet we could hence perceive their ill-will emboldened by our tacit submission.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a magnificent view from one of the highest peaks in the environs of Amoy. The islands at the mouth of the harbour, Hia-mun, in the background, and all the many hills, valleys, with the villages interposed, and the city, all before us, afforded us one of the highest enjoyments we had had. O! when will this populous district become the Lord's?
BIGOTRY OF THE INHABITANTS.

The Amoy people, though otherwise very reasonable men, have always shown themselves bigoted heathen. Whether at home or abroad, they have everywhere built splendid temples, chiefly in honour of Ma-tsoo-po, "the queen of heaven," to whose intercession they attribute the increase of their wealth. They rival Rome in the adoration of images, and are most devout after a profitable voyage, or an escape from storm. From their intercourse with foreign ports they have often enjoyed the high privilege of becoming acquainted with the gospel, and they have often rejected the great salvation. Proud, selfish, and stubborn, they find it entirely agreeable to reject a religion, at the portal of which is inscribed humility. But we look for better times.

The mandarin boats, which followed us wherever we went, kept at a respectful distance, and scarcely attempted landing where we did; so that we enjoyed the undisturbed privilege of conversing with the natives. To-day we distributed more books than usual. They were at first cautious in taking them; but seeing that we asked nothing in return, they made no scruple to accept them, and with gratitude.

We were to-day unexpectedly visited by a sailor, who "claimed friendship" with me. He had formerly seen me in Mantchou Tartary, and received some medicines for his brother which had restored him to health. Anxious to show his gratitude, he had asked permission to come on board. The mandarins had granted it under condition that he became our comprador. He described, in the most lively colours, the alarm which our unexpected appearance had excited in the breasts of the mandarins. We sent him with a list of the articles needed, and he was very prompt in procuring them. We cannot account for the fact, that the inferior mandarins have not been permitted to hold any further intercourse with us, unless their superiors
feared that they would be seduced by our arguments to favour us.

April 6.—To-day I received applications for medicines from mandarins of the highest rank, who were afflicted with the "itch." In our excursion of to-day we received, on our return, a military escort. These soldiers were much astonished at the singular structure of our muskets. When we asked them the reason of this escort, we were told again that it was merely for our protection against the people; though they have always shown themselves our warmest friends, and sympathized with us whenever we were treated insolently.

Our poor sailor came on board this evening very much agitated. He had been made responsible for our leaving the port. The junk to which he belonged was now ready to sail for Formosa, but could not proceed till we had left the port. He was also threatened with corporeal punishment if he failed to persuade us to depart. He besought us, therefore, with tears, to leave the harbour early the next day; or if we could not do this, to move farther out. We could not doubt the sincerity of this man, but regretted that the mandarins must have recourse to such expedients, to make up for the want of personal bravery, and to enable them to report to the emperor that they had driven away the barbarians.

April 7.—To-day we got under way. I cannot omit to notice a few more particulars respecting this most celebrated emporium of Fuhkeen, and one of the greatest in Asia. Its harbour is excellent, and accessible to the largest men-of-war. The natives of this district seem to be born traders and sailors. Their barren country, which furnishes employment for only a few hands, but far more their inclination, prompts them to leave their home, either for Formosa or the principal emporium of the Chinese empire, or the Indian Archipelago, or for the fisheries along their native shores. They are often wealthy, and commonly settled in the provinces, as well by the influence of enterprise and industry. At home, they either return to a small property, or they are employed in the manufacture of the merchants, settled annually with their profits. Therefore, that a large amount of Amoy merchants, and engaged in the coasting trade, this barren tract is one of the outstanding enterprises of the inhabitants; and the best harbours for ships, both for its situation, it is a Chinese exports. At has long had a factory here; the Dutch long the day a nominal right to the cessation of trade has not the emperor, as the great The renewal of commerce influence both upon the the Chinese.

It is highly desirable that be established here. The divine word are greater in of China. The Spanish but it seems to be almost intercourse with thousand met with one Christian and Boldness, pride, and of the natives. They have governmental encroachm
along their native shores. Wherever they go, they are rarely found in a state of abject poverty; on the contrary, they are often wealthy, and command the trade of whole islands and provinces, as well by their capital as by their superior enterprise and industry. Strongly attached to their early home, they either return as soon as they have acquired a small property, or they make large remittances. Many of the merchants, settled in the north part of China, return annually with their profits. It is not surprising, therefore, that a large amount of Chinese shipping belongs to Amoy merchants, and that the greater part of capital employed in the coasting trade is their property. Hence this barren tract is one of the richest in China, from the enterprise of the inhabitants. Here is doubtless one of the best harbours for European mercantile enterprise, both for its situation, its wealth, and the stores of all Chinese exports. At an early period the Portuguese traded here; the Dutch followed them; the English for a long time had a factory here; and the Spanish have to this day a nominal right to come hither. The cause of the cessation of trade has not been so much the prohibition of the emperor, as the great extortion to which it was subject. The renewal of commerce will have the most beneficial influence both upon the nation engaging in it, and upon the Chinese.

It is highly desirable that a Christian mission should be established here. The facilities for disseminating the divine word are greater in this place than in any other part of China. The Spanish have a mission in the environs; but it seems to be almost unknown. Though I have had intercourse with thousands of Amoy men, I have never met with one Christian among them.

Boldness, pride, and generosity, are the characteristics of the natives. They have always been obstinate against governmental encroachments. They were the last who
kept up resistance to the Tartar usurpation; and many of
them preferred a voluntary exile in Formosa or India, to
compliance with the customs of their conquerors and sub-
mission to barbarians. They defended themselves bravely
at Formosa, and became notorious for piracy. Successful
in resisting the attacks of the imperial fleet, they established
a maritime government; and were never entirely subdued
by force, but finally yielded to persuasion and bribery.

Literary fame is no object of their ambition; but they
generally learn to count and to make up bills. Their lan-
guage differs widely from the mandarin dialect, and they
are obliged to learn this with the same labour as we acquire
Latin. In their dealings, they have a name for honesty
above all other Chinese. Though incessantly hunting for
gain, they are not mean, and they are anxious to establish
a fair character. Solicitous to cultivate friendship with
strangers, they have always associated with them freely,
whenever beyond the reach of government. They have
been frequently entrusted with high offices, by those foreign
states where they have resided as colonists. One of their
descendants, as late as the middle of the last century,
ascended the throne of Siam. I am acquainted with his
son, who became a physician instead of a king, but who,
notwithstanding this degradation, possesses royal virtues,
and too much sagacity to be a usurper. He is wise enough
to prefer a quiet humble life, to the pageantry of royalty,
with the dissatisfaction of a nation, indignant at seeing a
foreigner on the throne.

When we had left our anchorage, and got beyond the
reach of the fort, their large guns were fired, and most of
the men-of-war joined them in this act of heroism. Several
of them escorted us out, to protect us, no doubt, from
the treacherous natives. However, we had no reason to
complain, for we had received all the necessaries we
had requested, though in a very awkward manner. His
excellency even sent us a note, acquainting us that he
was present, for which, however, we were not compelled to furnish them.

On the whole, we may little regret the sudden
and all possible insult upon us; and with the view of the people, and the
Celestial Empire. Other nations will avoid this by every
devotion, and anchoring among the islands, before their reasonable discovery,
will thereby gain their ends, and avoid trouble both mandarins and
this course to us, of whose tolls, ports, and to our great astonishment, if not firmly demanded
Chinese. Justice and fair
we should do our utmost
of kindness; we should make
honest dealings, and perform
we should never allow any
our account. They should claim friendship with the
interfere with the interests;
merely tolerated as mere
unlawful acts committed
of the laws.

April 9.—After an un
under way, and reached
anchoring at Se-seu, a
ous islands, various in
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junks, which continually
As the north-east win
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FISCADORES ISLANDS.

...monkey's excellency even sent us several boat-loads of stores, as a present, for which, however, we paid the people, who were compelled to furnish them.

On the whole, we may say the Amoy mandarins heaped all possible insult upon us, to render us despicable in the view of the people, and to maintain the dignity of the Celestial Empire. Other ships which may come hereafter will avoid all this by entering the harbour without delay, and anchoring among the junks. They ought not to move before their reasonable demands are complied with, as they will thereby gain their end, expedite the business, and less trouble both mandarins and people. The natives suggested this course to us, of which we made experiment in other ports, and to our great advantage. The most trivial things, if not firmly demanded, will meet a refusal from the Chinese. Justice and forbearance should be on our side; we should do our utmost to conciliate, by unequivocal acts of kindness; we should prove ourselves Christians by honest dealings, and philanthropists by our religion; yet we should never allow any native to be unjustly punished on our account. They regard us as their friends, and we claim friendship with them. We have surely no right to interfere with the internal laws of a country, where we are merely tolerated as merchants; but we may restrain the unlawful acts committed on our account by the guardians of the laws.

April 9.—After an unsuccessful attempt to proceed, we got under way, and reached the Pang-hoo, or Piscadores, anchoring at Se-seu, a very barren island. These numerous islands, various in extent, are all extremely sterile; but having good harbours, they serve as a refuge for the junks, which continually pass between Formosa and China. As the north-east wind generally blows strong a greater part of the year in the Formosa channel, many junks must be lost, if they could not find shelter among them. On
the largest of the islands there are the ruins of a fort, built by the Dutch, called Hung-mao-ching—"Red-bristle fort." The Chinese garrison is very numerous here, because the security of Formosa depends upon the possession of these islands. Several war-junks are also stationed in the harbour. Though the colonists have tried their utmost to draw something for subsistence from so unfruitful soil, yet they would be reduced to starvation but for the supplies of rice from Formosa. Government always favours them greatly. There was lately a scarcity of grain, and the government sent the Tsung-ping Kwan to distribute large quantities among them. The majority of the inhabitants are emigrants from the Kin-mun district, of Fuhkeen province, and in general very poor.

We went ashore, where a great number of the populace were present at a play, given at the expense of a captain of a junk. Scarcely had the people beheld our books, when they grasped them with eagerness, and read them with great attention. The village has a very wretched appearance, but the houses are built substantially of granite. We walked up an eminence, followed by several people, who put to us very curious questions, and gave themselves the air of merchants. We were surprised to find a lighthouse on the highest part of the island, for this is a thing no where seen on all the Chinese coast; perhaps it was built by the Dutch. Scarcely had we gone down to the beach, when an old mandarin, with a blue button, ordered us very peremptorily to stop. He then seated himself, and, with a firm voice, commanded us to leave the port immediately, since his excellency, Woo, who resided on the opposite islands, would by no means allow us to stay.

April 10.—The old mandarin made us another visit. When he delivered his message yesterday, the people around us showed him so little respect, that he found his authoritative orders would be lost upon us if not duly repeated. He came, therefore, put again the usual question, "who are we embarked, &c. The incident is rather childish at the same time present of a few lion butts, a map of the island, and as to change his commandant, and if there is in his native place and is there under the charge of a mandarin, probably Spanish. He read from the sacred books of heaven, and showed them the value of the Catholic religion, and acquainted with papacy. Afterward, he ordered us to go to Formosa, where we were to meet several junks in the harbor, in order to return to Formosa for cabins.
repeated. He came, therefore, with his whole retinue, and put again the usual questions—from what country, where we embarked, &c. They were all in good humour, and rather childish at the sight of so many novelties. The present of a few lion buttons so pleased the old mandarin as to change his commands to requests. He informed us, that in his native place several Christians are living, who are under the charge of an European missionary—very probably Spanish. He repeated the name of Maria, mother of heaven, and showed that he was a convert, or, at least, acquainted with papacy. When leaving us, he advised us to go to Formosa, where we might trade. There were several junks in the harbour, waiting a favourable wind to return to Formosa for cargoes of rice,