

increased, the good opinions which, during the first year or two, the Chinese had been led to form of their new acquaintances, was lessened ; for many of the traders were mere unprincipled adventurers, who would scruple at nothing whereby they might obtain wealth. The jealousy of the Chinese was also excited by hearing of their assumption of territory in India and the Malayan Archipelago ; of which the Mohammedans, whose trade necessarily suffered by the presence of Europeans, would not fail to give a particular account. Hence, in the year 1520, we find a Portuguese ambassador to the court of Peking sent back, without having gained any advantage, and eventually imprisoned and slain. After the Portuguese, the Spanish, Dutch, English, and other nations, followed successively, and by their mutual strifes and jealousies, only increased the contempt in which the Chinese had been already taught to hold all foreigners. Yet, notwithstanding their repeated declarations of indifference to foreign commerce, it fully appears that the Chinese were, even at that time, and still are, by no means ignorant of the advantages to be derived from it. At different times the ports of Canton, Macao, and Teenpih, (to the westward,) were severally opened to Europeans in this province ; while Ningpo and Chusan, in Chekeang, and Amoy, in Fuhkeen, also became large marts for their commerce, and remained so during the continuance of the *Ming* dynasty, which possessed the throne when Europeans first reached this country ; but soon after the conquest of China by the present *Mantchou* dynasty, ‘ the nations of the western ocean ’ were required to confine their trade to the ports of Canton and Macao alone. Chusan and Amoy are said, indeed, to be still open to the Spanish ; but the heavy charges attending a commerce at those places, necessarily prevent their frequenting them. The English first turned their attention to China in the year 1596, but the expedition then equipped proved unfortunate, the vessels being lost on their passage out. The next attempt to establish a trade here was in 1634 ; but the opposition of the Portuguese for many years prevented the success of this and several other expeditions. In 1676, the East India Company succeeded in establishing a factory at Amoy, from which they were driven away, in 1680, by the contests between the Mantchous, who had possessed themselves of the imperial throne, and those Chinese who still resisted their government. In 1684, they were permitted to return to their factory; and there they remained until foreign commerce became confined to Canton and Macao. When that occurrence took place they retired, where their trade continued to increase (but with occasional interruptions) until the termination of their charter, in 1833,

Canton is situated on the north side of the *Choo-keang*, or Pearl River, (called by Europeans the Canton River, and the river Tigris.) It is in lat. 23. 7. N. and lon. 113. 15. E. of Greenwich, or 3. 3 l. w. of Peking. To the north of the city there is a line of hills from west to north, running to within two miles of the river. The city is surrounded by a thick wall, built partly of stone and partly of brick, and is divided into two parts by another wall, running east and west. The northern division is called the old, and the southern the new city. III the old city is the Mantchou General, with a garrison of Mantchou troops under his command.\* The lieutenant-governor, or Fouyeen's office, is also in the old city ; but the governor and hoppo reside in the new city, not far from the river.

All the foreign commerce is conducted in the south-west suburb, where the foreign factories are situated, and which, with the other suburbs, is probably not less populous than the city itself. The residence of Europeans is confined to a very small space, on the banks of the river; which might, however, be as pleasant as a crowded mercantile place can well be, were it not for the great number of small *dwelling* boats which cover the face of the river. The people who occupy the larger portion of these boats, are said to have come originally from the south, and being a foreign and despised race, were formerly not allowed to dwell on shore, but most of the distinctions between them and the rest of the people, were removed by the emperor Keenlung, under the influence of general principles of equity.

The population of the city and suburbs of Canton must be considerable, when we know that of shoemakers there are about twenty-five thousand, of carpenters sixteen thousand, of weavers fifteen thousand, of lapidaries seven thousand. The people who live on the river in small boats are computed at fifty thousand ; there are also eighteen thousand boats of various sizes trading along the river between Canton and Whampoa. In the city and suburbs of Canton there are one thousand six hundred houses of ill fame, which pay each a monthly license to the police of two hundred Spanish dollars. There are one thousand seven hundred shops in Canton, which sell only fire-wood

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\* If the governor be a Tartar, it is a rule that the *foo-yuen*, or lieutenant-governor, shall be a Chinese, and vice versa.

The *hoppo* is always a slave belonging to his majesty's household ; he ranks with the governor, but has no authority in the internal affairs of the province ; but if the local government interrupt the trade, he complains that his duties will not be forthcoming—he is, in fact, merely a commissioner for collecting the revenue.

and charcoal, and the dealers have a hall, where they meet for the regulation of their trade. It is known, by the issue of permits, that there are daily slaughtered in the city of Canton *twenty-four thousand pigs* ! The five principal districts contain *each* about one thousand unpaid police ; the middle-sized ditto, three to four hundred; and the smallest, one to two hundred : all these gain a livelihood by preventing, conniving at, or encouraging crime.

We may now proceed to examine the history of Macao, near the entrance of the Canton river, to which Europeans are compelled to resort for half the year, when the trade of Canton is closed.

MACAO, in Chinese *Aou-mun*, “ the entrance to the bay,” is a small granitic peninsula, attached to the island of Heang-shan by a very narrow isthmus, across which the Chinese have built a wall, with a guard-house and barrier. To the south and east of the peninsula is high land, behind which is a stripe of alluvial soil, employed in the cultivation of rice. It is situated in 22. 11½. N. lat., and 113. 32½. lon. E. of Greenwich. The climate is healthy, being freely exposed to the sea air, and the place has good water, bread, and a well-stocked bazaar. On landing, you have before you a spacious semicircular bay, encompassed with rising hills, crowned with forts, convents, churches, and private buildings. The circuit of the peninsula is said to be about eight English miles, its greatest extent three, and its greatest breadth nearly a mile. The good harbour which Macao possesses for vessels of small burden, attracted the attention of Europeans at a very early period of their intercourse with China; and, after having had temporary abodes on it for twenty years, the Portuguese, in the year 1558, after their expulsion from Ningpo and Chingchew, obtained liberty from the local officers to take up their fixed residence at the place, and to build more substantial houses. This liberty was obtained by the seasonable use of bribery with the local authorities, and not by an imperial grant in reward for service done by the Portuguese in driving away pirates. Macao, therefore, still belongs, in fact, to the Chinese government, and in this light it is always regarded by them. The Portuguese, also, virtually acknowledge the fact, by the annual payment of a ground rent, which has varied at different times, but is now limited to five hundred taels. This sum is paid at the beginning of every year to the magistrate of Heang-shang, on the delivery by him of a discharge, signed by the Poo-thing-sze, or treasurer of Canton.

The Portuguese are, however, under the government of their own officers, and subject to their own laws ; though several Chinese authorities have, at various times, been placed among them. The Por-

tuguese officers are, a governor and captain-general, an ouvidor, or chief justice, (called also the minister and the dezembargador,) and a senate, which comprises among its members three vereadores, or inspectors of various branches of the government, two judges, and a procurador, who has the general charge of the town and the revenue, and is also the organ of communication with the Chinese authorities.

Macao was likewise early erected into a bishoprick ; but the see is at present vacant. The Chinese officers are a *Keun-min-foo*, who is an assistant to the chief magistrate of Canton department, a *Tsoo-tang*, or assistant to the Heang-shan district magistrate, two *Wei-yuens*, or custom-house officers, deputed by the Canton hoppo, and a military officer, with a small force under his command, residing at *Tsee-shan*, or Casa Branca, a military station and village, at a short distance beyond the barrier erected by the Chinese in 1597, to prevent the further ingress of foreigners.

The Portuguese and Chinese are both governed by their respective laws and officers ; while foreigners are subject in some degree to the government of both parties. In civil cases between Chinese and Portuguese, the officers of the two nations correspond with each other, through the medium of the procurador, but in several instances of importance the former have shown a determination to dictate to the latter in what way they are to act. Before Canton was opened to European commerce generally, the Portuguese were for nearly a century almost the only carriers between China and Europe ; and possessed an exclusive market at Canton for fifty or sixty years, as they at that time also enjoyed the carrying trade to Japan.

Macao was then a rich and flourishing settlement, “ the best and most important pillar the Portuguese had in all the East.” Hence, when other European nations began to compete with them, it became the constant object of mutual contention and strife. Had the offers then made by the Chinese, (in the years 1717 and 1732,) that Macao should be made the emporium for all foreign trade, and should receive the duties on all imports, been accepted, its former affluence and splendour might not only have been still retained, but might even have been increased. In both cases, however, this splendid offer was declined ‘by the senate, acting under the directions of the viceroy of Goa.

The gradual decline of Macao dates from this period, when other European nations began to compete with the Portuguese in China, and in the general Asiatic market, The illiberal principle on which the merchants frequently acted, accelerated its ruin, which was almost

completed in the reign of *Kanghê*, by a prohibition to all China subjects (among whom the inhabitants of Macao were included) to navigate the southern seas. At this period, 1686, the shipping consisted of but ten vessels, which were reduced, in 1704, to only “two ships, that could neither be mann’d nor fitted out.” The number of vessels now belonging to the port is fifteen, being ten less than the number to which they are limited by the Chinese.

When Portugal became united, in 1581, to the crown of Spain, Macao was also induced to submit to the government of Philip I.; and on the separation of the two kingdoms, about sixty years afterwards, it was still of so much importance as to be considered a desirable possession. Endeavours were, therefore, made to retain it for Spain; but a large majority of the citizens declared their adherence to the new Portuguese dynasty.

In 1622, the Dutch being anxious to obtain a footing and possession in China, attempted an invasion of Macao. Thirteen sail of ships were sent against it, and eight hundred men effected a landing at Casilha’s bay, and began marching towards the town; but, on coming between the two forts of the Monte and the Guia, they were routed and driven back by the Portuguese. To make amends in some measure for their defeat, they then took possession of the Piscadore islands, in the Formoso channel, (belonging to China,) on the pretence that the Chinese had assisted the Portuguese against them. Five years after this, the Dutch made a second attempt on Macao, by blockading the port, and making seizure of all vessels that arrived there. But the Portuguese contrived to take and burn the chief ship, and the others hearing that a Spanish squadron was advancing from Manilla to succour Macao, speedily took their departure.

In 1808, an English expedition, under the command of Admiral Drury, was sent from Bengal to occupy Macao, and defend it for the Portuguese, against the French. But the Chinese government immediately stopped the British trade, and refused to receive any communication from the admiral, so long as the troops remained in the place. After about three months’ stay, they were, therefore, quietly withdrawn.

Though the story of Macao being granted to the Portuguese for their services against the pirates be a fabrication, yet it is not without the appearance of foundation, for, since they have occupied the place, they have more than once been called upon to assist the Chinese in driving away and subduing the numerous pirates who have at all times infested the coast of Canton. In 1809, these pirates had become so

powerful and daring, that they set the imperial squadron at defiance, and frequently plundered European as well as Chinese boats. On this occasion, Macao furnished, at the desire of the Chinese, six vessels, manned and furnished for six months ; and with this assistance, accompanied by promises of rewards and honours, the chief pirates were brought to surrender to the government, while their immediate assistants were severely punished, some by execution, others by transportation.

Macao is the place set apart by the Chinese for the residence of foreigners, when not engaged in business at Canton. The Portuguese government denies this as a matter of right, and has at various times shown a disposition to refuse individual foreigners permission to reside ; but the viceroy of Goa has recently issued an order, directed its being granted in all cases, so long as the court of Lisbon shall issue no orders to the contrary.

For a foreign lady landing at Macao, the Chinese custom-house officers used to exact about one hundred dollars. This was in consequence of an old imperial prohibition against any new females coming to the place, issued at the same time with a prohibition against building houses in any new situations, or rebuilding old ones, without permission. The former prohibition, and consequent connivance, have now been got over ; but the latter prohibition still continues in force. New houses. are, however, built, not without much expense on the score of bribery of the local officers. -See Chinese *Repository*.

In our subsequent numbers we shall give some further details relative to this important country.

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### ASSAM TEA. \*

AMONG all the numerous discoveries for which this age will be justly celebrated, and the extensive benefits which will of consequence result

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\* The use of tea as a beverage has been known from an early period, Soliman, an Arabian merchant, who visited China A. D. 850, describes tea (*sah*) as the usual beverage of the people. Olearius, in 1633, found the use of tea pretty general among the Persians, who procured it from China. In the beginning of the seventeenth century tea was brought to Europe from China and Japan by the Portuguese and Dutch ; and in 1660, by the act of 12 Car. ii. c. 23, a duty of eight-pence per gallon was levied on all tea made and sold in coffee-houses in England. The Princess Catherine of Portugal, on her marriage with Charles II., made tea fashionable, by her introduction of it from the continent. In 1666 Lords Arlington

to future ages—whether in the department of science, commerce, or manufacture - the important fact that tea, suited to the home-market, can be supplied to an almost unlimited extent from the British possessions in India, is a discovery that must be acknowledged as yielding to none either in interest or magnitude.

It is well known, that on the slightest pretence, and, indeed, even without that excuse, the Chinese authorities have frequently suspended our trade, and ordered the “barbarians,” - as Englishmen are still publicly and officially styled, - to quit the country ; a proceeding which has not unfrequently occasioned considerable inconvenience and embarrassment. Recent events, indeed, have fully demonstrated the precarious footing on which England stands with regard to this most important branch of her commerce ; and the best informed among those most interested in its continuance, entertain serious apprehensions that the China tea-trade will be ultimately lost to this country.

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and Ossory brought a quantity of tea from Holland ; its price was then sixty shillings per pound ; and the East India Company, about this time, desirous of tending a handsome offering to royalty, presented the sovereign with *twenty-two pounds of tea*. In 1668 the court of directors of the East India Company ordered their agents at the factory at Bantam in Java to send home by their ships “one hundred pounds weight of the best *tey* (tea) they could get,” and accordingly, in 1699, the East India Company received the first invoice of tea, consisting of two cannisters, containing  $143\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Such was the early importation of an article, the consumption of which in the United Kingdom is now about 40,000,000 lbs. annually, yielding a yearly revenue to the state of £3,000,000, and employing a capital of more than double that amount. The progressive consumption was remarkable : in 1678, an importation of 4713 lbs. glutted the market, and the whole importation for the ensuing six years was only 318 lbs. In 1680 the East India Company first opened a direct trade with China. The consumption of tea was impeded by the high rate of duty levied in England, amounting to 200 per cent. In 1698 and 1699, the average importation was 20,000 lbs. per annum. From 1700 to 1708, it was 60,000 lbs. per annum, the price being then sixty shillings per pound, In 1721 the importation, for the first time, exceeded 1,000,000 lbs. In 1728 there was put up for sale 769,104 lbs., the duty on which amounted to £ 153,820. From 1732 to 1742, the average annual importation was 1200,000 lbs ; thence to 1756, 4,000,000 ; thence to 1766, 6,000,000 ; thence to 1776, 7,260,000 ; thence to 1786, 8,555,000; thence to 1796, 17,868,826 ; thence to 1800, 20,909,457 lbs. The consumption of tea has since progressively increased to 30,000,000, and now to 40,000,000 lbs. per annum. In the space of a hundred years, namely, from 1710 to 1810, there were sold at the East India Company's sales in London 750,219,016 lbs. of tea, the value of which was £ 129,804,595 sterling. From 1800 to 1832, the quantity of tea sold by the East India Company in London was 848,408,119 lbs., and there has been paid thereon into the British exchequer, without any cost or trouble in the collection, £104,856,858 sterling.-

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It cannot be denied that for many years past an earnest desire has reigned in the heart of England, to throw off this galling dependence on the “ Celestial Empire,” by submission to which one of the greatest luxuries, nay, one of the most extensive necessities, is at present obtained ; and it cannot but be anticipated that English merchants will be found, possessed of capital and enterprise, sufficiently anxious to embrace the first promising opportunity which presents itself for rendering their country independent of China with respect to tea.

\* That the tea-plant was indigenous in India, has long been known to the scientific world. The circumstance was brought to the notice of the Court of Directors of the East India Company in the year 1788, in an able paper by Sir Joseph Banks, who suggested the practicability of introducing its cultivation in Rohilcund, but no attempts were made at that time ; and the interesting fact that tea, capable of being appreciated by the English consumer, could be procured from our own possessions, has but very recently been fully demonstrated. For the communication of this discovery to the British public, and for the conduct of the experiment of cultivating and manufacturing the tea to a successful issue, the country are indebted to the East India Company.

We find by the papers printed by order of the House of Commons, during the last session of Parliament, that the first proceedings which appear to have been taken on this interesting subject, are recorded in a minute by Lord William Bentinck, dated the 24th of January, 1834, founded on a report by Dr. Wallick, and a paper written at the desire of Lord Glenelg, when President of the India Board, by a gentleman named Walker ; and the first fair sample of the tea would seem to have been transmitted to Dr. Wallick, by Lieutenant Charlton, who was then employed in the Burmese territories.

The possession of the information communicated by these gentlemen induced Lord William Bentinck to form a tea committee, which consisted of several intelligent and scientific individuals, both European and native, for the purpose of maturing a plan for accomplishing the objects contemplated ; and there is abundance of evidence to show that there are in all the “ varieties of climate and soil between the Himalayas and Cape Comorin, combinations of both, that must be congenial to the tea plant,” and fully to justify the tea committee in holding out the expectation that the culture of the tea plant, “ which appears to flourish over a space embracing many degrees of longitude and latitude,” might be prosecuted with great success, and ultimately become a staple article of commerce from British India.



The best tea which is produced in China is from plants grown between the 27th and 31st degrees of north latitude, at a considerable distance from the sea, where the face of the country is hilly, and even mountainous, but at no great elevation on those hills in their southern aspects, when the cold of winter descends to the freezing point, and snow falls, but does not lie long on the ground ; where rain prevails in March and April, and falls heavily in July and August ; and where the soil is light and gravelly, and formed of disintegrated rocks of sand and granite.

It has been proved that any attempts to produce the tea plant in situations not having the peculiar climate above alluded to, must fail, as it has in Java, St. Helena, the Brazils, &c. Whereas the climate of Assam affords all the facilities which appear to be required, and Captain Jenkins, the Governor General's agent and commissioner in Assam, writing from thence, states, that the tea shrub is not only indigenous in that country, but is " found there through an extent of country of one month's march within the Honourable Company's territories, from Suddeza to the Chinese frontier-province of Yunan," the line in fact passing direct into the Chinese tea countries ; and the tea committee state, without reserve, that, " not only is it a genuine tea plant, but that no doubt can be entertained of its being the identical tea of China, and that the plant which has been brought to light will be found capable, under proper management, of being cultivated with complete success for commercial purposes."

This opinion is fully corroborated by the report of Dr. Wallick, Mr. M'Clelland, and Mr. Griffiths, who state that there is every prospect of cultivating the plant with success, so as to render it an article of commercial profit.

The first tea which arrived from Assam in the year 1836, a specimen of which we have seen, was taken from the wild shrub, and had not undergone any process of manipulation. Since that period, however, Chinamen conversant with the manufacture of both descriptions of tea, green and black, together with Chinese artificers and interpreters, with other assistants, have been established by the India government in Assam, under the superintendence of Mr. Bruce, an able, zealous, and successful officer. Nurseries have been formed in different parts of the country considered most eligible for all purposes of the experiment, and every necessary step taken to further the objects in view.

Samples of the tea from each of these nurseries were forwarded to England early in the year 1838, and were submitted to various tea brokers of the first character in the London trade, whose reports were

highly favourable and encouraging. The value given to the tea by these parties, supposing it to be properly manufactured, and sent in quantities sufficient to offer to the London trade, was from 1s. 3d. to 2s. per lb.

It was suggested, however, that instead of making various sorts, only one description of tea should be manufactured, and that this should be called *Congou*, there appearing, it was stated, to be capabilities sufficient in the samples produced, to form "a good black-leafed tea, such as the tea trade want just now."

With the present establishment in Assam, consisting of about five Chinamen, and a very limited number of persons under their tuition, it is calculated about one hundred chests of tea can be manufactured annually. The country is represented as being thinly populated, but no doubt is anywhere expressed as to the probability of obtaining labour, the price of which is low, and the process of tea manufacture is stated to be "peculiarly suited to the peaceful habits of the Assamees." Chinamen may be procured in any number, if proper means are adopted for that purpose, and it must not be forgotten in carefully considering the subject, that, with respect to transit, in China manual labour is of necessity employed for a very considerable distance, whereas the facilities afforded by means of the Burrampooter river, for conveyance of the produce to the usual anchorage of British ships, is a most important circumstance in favour of Assam.

In November, 1838, twelve chests of tea, grown and manufactured in Assam, called "Paho" and "Souchong," were received in this country by the Court of Directors of the East India Company, who made an extensive distribution of specimens of each sort, which appear to have been much approved of by persons of the first rank and consequence in the country. The court also obtained the opinions of certain scientific bodies, and several tea brokers and tea dealers, which are confirmatory of the opinions before expressed with regard to the quality of the tea, which did not, however come fairly before the public, from the circumstance of its having been very materially injured, owing to a process of re-firing it had undergone at Calcutta, where it unfortunately arrived in a wet and damaged condition.

It is well known that eight of these chests were submitted to public sale in January, 1839; and although the high prices it obtained, namely, from twenty-two to thirty-four shillings per lb., without the duty, cannot be taken as any criterion of the real value, there can be little doubt that Assam tea, if properly manufactured, properly packed, and due care be observed with regard to its transit, will always find a ready sale in the London market.