above the middle European ſtature, haſty and quarrelſome in their temper, and addicted to the uſe of ſpirituous liquors; but honeſt in their dealings, robbery by violence being almost unknown among them. The chief city is Taſſey Seddein ſituated on the Patchoo. Tibet begins properly from the top of the great ridge of the Caucaſus, and extends from thence in breadth to the confines of Great Tartary, and perhaps to ſome of the dominions of the Russian em­pire. The woods, which everywhere cover the mountains in Boutan, are here totally unknown ; and, except a few straggling trees near the villages, nothing of the sort to be ſeen. The climate is extremely ſevere and rude. At Chamnanning, where he wintered, although it be in latitude 31⁰ 39', only 8⁰ to the northward of Calcutta, he often found the thermometer in his room at 29⁰ by Fahrenheit’s ſcale ; and in the middle of April the ſtanding waters were all frozen, and heavy ſhowers oſ ſnow perpetually fell. This, no doubt, muſt be owing to the great elevation of the country, and to the vaſt frozen ſpace over which the north wind blows uninterruptedly from the pole, through the vaſt deſerts of Siberia and Tartary, till it is ſtopped by this for­midable wall.

“ The Tibetians are of a ſmaller ſize than their ſouthern neighbours, and of a leſs robuſt make. Their complexions are alſo fairer, and many of them have even a ruddineſs in their countenances unknown in the other climates of the eaſt. Thoſe whom Mr Bogle ſaw at Calcutta appeared to have quite the Tartar face. They are of a mild and cheer­ful temper ; the higher ranks are polite and entertaining in conversation, in which they never mix either ſtrained com­pliments or flattery. The common people, both in Bootan and Tibet, are clothed in coarſe woollen stuffs of their own manufacture, lined with ſuch skins as they can procure ; but the better orders of men are dressed in European cloth, or China ſilk, lined with the finest Siberian furs. The uſe of linen is totally unknown among them. The chief food of the inhabitants is the milk of their cattle, prepared into cheeſe, butter, or mixed with the flour of a coarſe barley or of peaſe, the only grain which their ſoil produces ; and even theſe articles are in a ſcanty proportion : but they are furniſhed with rice and wheat from Bengal and other countries in their neighbourhood. They alſo are ſupplied with fiſh from the rivers in their own and the neighbouring provinces, salted and ſent into the anterior parts. They have no want of animal food from the cattle, ſheep, and hogs, which are raiſed on their hills ; and are not deſtitute of game. They have a singular method of preparing their mutton, by expoſing the carcaſe entire, after the bowels are taken out, to the ſun and bleak northern winds which blow in the months of Auguſt and September, without froſt, and so dry up the juices and parch the ſkin, that the meat will keep un­corrupted for the year round. This they generally eat raw, without any other preparation.

“ The religion and political conſtitution of this country, which are intimately blended together, would make a con­ſiderable chapter in its hiſtory. It ſuffices to ſay, that at preſent, and ever ſince the expulſion of the Eluth Tartars, the kingdom of Tibet is regarded as depending on the em­pire of China, which they call *Cathay ;* and there actually reſide two mandarines, with a garriſon of a thouſand Chineſe, at Lahaſſa the capital, to ſupport the government ; but their power does not extend far : and in fact the La­ma, whoſe empire is founded on the ſureſt grounds, perſonal affection and religious reverence, governs every thing internally with unbounded authority. Every body knows that the Delai Lama is the great object of adoration for the various tribes of heathen Tartars, who roam through the vaſt tract of continent which stretches from the banks of the Volga to Correa on the ſea of Japan, the moſt extenſive religious dominion, perhaps, on the face of the globe. See Lama.

“ It is an old notion, that the religion of Tibet is a cor­rupted Chriſtianity : and even Father Diſederii, a Jeſuit (but not of the Chineſe miſſion) who viſited the country about the beginning of this century, thinks he can reſolve all their myſteries into ours ; and asserts, with a truly myſtical penetration, that they have certainly a good notion of the Trinity, ſince in their addreſs to the Deity, they ſay as often *konciok-oik* in the plural as *konciok* in the singular, and with their roſaries pronounce theſe words, *om, ha, hum.* The truth is, that the religion of Tibet, from whatever ſource it ſprung, is pure and ſimple in its source, conveying very exalted notions of the Deity, with no contemptible ſyſtem of morality : but in its progreſs it has been greatly altered and corrupted by the inventions of worldly men ; a fate we can hardly regret in a ſyſtem of error, ſince we know that that of truth has been ſubject to the ſame. Po­lygamy, at leaſt in the ſenſe we commonly receive the word, is not in practice among them ; but it exiſts in a manner still more repugnant to European ideas ; for there is a plu­rality of huſbands, which is firmly eſtabliſhed and highly reſpected there. In a country where the means of ſubſiſting a family are not eaſily found, it ſeems not impolitic to al­low a ſet of brothers to agree in raiſing one, which is to be maintained by their joint efforts. In ſhort, it is uſual in Tibet for the brothers in the family to have a wife in com­mon, and they generally live in great harmony and comfort with her; not but ſometimes little dissenſions will ariſe (as may happen in families conſtituted upon different principles), an inſtance of which Mr Bogle mentions in the case of a modeſt and virtuous lady, the wife of half a dozen of the Teeſhoo Lama’s nephews, who complained to the uncle that the two youngeſt of her huſbands did not furniſh that ſhare of love and benevolence to the common stock which duty and religion required of them. In ſhort, however strange this cuſtom may appear to us, it is an undoubted fact that it prevails in Tibet.

“ The manner of beſtowing their dead is alſo ſingular : they neither put them in the ground like the Europeans, nor burn them like the Hindoos ; but expoſe them on the bleak pinnacle of ſome neighbouring mountain, to be de­voured by wild beaſts and birds of prey, or wasted away by time and the viciſſitudes of the weather in which they lie. The mangled carcaſes and bleached bones lie ſcattered about; and amidſt this ſcene of horror, ſome miſerable old wretch, man or woman, lost to all feelings but thoſe of ſuperſtition, generally ſets up an abode, to perform the diſmal office of receiving the bodies, aſſigning each a place, and gathering up the remains when too widely diſperſed.”

To the account of Tibet which we have given from the communications of Mr Bogle, we may add the information which we have obtained ſrom a later traveller, Mr Saunders@@\* ſurgeon at Boglepoer in Bengal, who made a journey into Tibet in the year 1783. His obſervations chiefly reſpect the natural productions and diſeaſes of the country.

The plants which Mr Saunders found were almoſt all European plants, a great number of them being natives of Britain. From the appearance of the hills he concludes that they muſt contain many ores of metal and pyrites. There are inexhauſtible quantities of Tincal (ſee that arti­cle), and rock-ſalt is plentiful ; gold-duſt is found in great quantities in the beds of rivers, and ſometimes in large masses, lumps, and irregular veins ; lead, cinnabar containing a large proportion of quickſilver, copper, and iron, he thinks, might eaſily be procured. But the inhabitants of Tibet have no better fuel than the dung of animals. A coal

@@@[m]\* Paper to the Phil. Trans. Vol. LXXIX.