through an extent of country of one month’s march from Suddya and Beesa to the Chinese frontier province of Yunnam. For this most important and valuable discovery we are chiefly indebted to the indefatigable researches of Captain Jenkins, Lieutenant Charlton, and C. A. Bruce, Esq.

Mr Abel the botanist, who accompanied Lord Amherst upon his embassy to China, says,—

“ The green-tea districts in the province of Keang-nan are em­braced between the 29th and 31st degrees of north latitude, and are situated on the north-western base of a ridge of mountains which di­vide the provinces of Keang-nan and Keang-see.

“ The black-tea districts in the province of Fo Kien are contained between the 27th and 28th degrees of north latitude, and are situated on the S. E. declivities of a ridge of mountains, dividing the pro­vince of Fo Kien from that of Keang-nan. Thus the whole range of the great districts of China from which Europe is supplied with tea, from the highest to the lowest degree of latitude, is from 31° to 27°. According to the missionaries, the tea-plant thrives io the more northern provinces, as at Pekin ; and from Kempfer, it would appear that it is cultivated in Japan as far as 45° north.

“ From every account given of the tea-plant, it succeeds best on the sides of mountains, where there can be little accumulation of vegetable mould ; our opportunities of seeing its cultivation were few, but were all in favour of this conclusion. The plantations were al­ways at some elevation above the plains, in a kind of gravelly soil, formed in some places by disintegrated sandstone, and in others by the debris of primitive rocks. A large and flourishing plantation of all the varieties of the tea-plant (brought together by Mr Bell, the prin­cipal tea-inspector at Canton) is situated on an island close to Macao, in a loose, gravelly soil, formed by the disintegration of large grained granite. Judging from the specimens collected in our route through the province of Keang-nan, whence the green tea is provided, the rocks consist chiefly of sandstone, schistus, and granite. As to the precise nature of the rocks of the black-tea country in the province of Fo Kien, I have no exact information ; but as the great ridge, sepa­rating that province from Keang-see, is a continuation of one sepa­rating the latter from Canton, it is perhaps legitimate to conclude, that their constituent rocks are the same, and that the hills and soil on the eastern side are the same as we found them on the western side of the ridge, and that they are covered by a soil like that in which the camellia flourishes ; the vegetation chiefly consists of the same kind of plants. But the success of the American plantations proves that the tea-plant will flourish within the tropics ; and that it will grow vigorously within them, is proved by the fine plants in Sir H. Low’s plantations at St Helena.”

In China the hills on which tea is cultivated are not high, and the plantations where the soil is favourable ex­tend over their entire face from the summit to the base. The difference of the temperature from that of the adjacent plains is scarcely perceptible ; but it is on the nature of the soil that the quality of the tea principally depends. Rain falls in March and April in moderate showers, and the at­mosphere is extremely moist ; the finest leaves appear at this time, and are plucked early in April. In May the rain is very heavy, and the leaves begin to be of inferior quality.

The seeds are put into the ground towards the end of February, or early in March, and spring up almost immedi­ately. The plants stand about three feet and a half distant from each other. They require scarcely any manure; only at first a little mud or thick mucilage is applied to each plant. No other tree is planted among the tea-shrubs, but they are propped up with bamboos. Seedlings of one year’s growth, if too thick, are thinned ; but their leaves are not used for two years. After this the leaves of every plant are gathered three times ayear, young and old indiscriminately. The gatherers and the driers of the tea are quite distinct classes, the wages of the former being from fivepence to sevenpence of our money per day, while some of the latter receive as much as 200 dollars for the season. A man can gather about fifteen pounds of tea-leaves per day; the price of labour in India being only from twopence to three­pence per day. Should the plantations which have been com­menced in that quarter succeed, the teas of Assam should be procured at one half the cost of those of China.

The districts of India in which the native tea has been discovered, lie between 94° and 96° of east longitude, and 26° and 28° of north latitude. Muttuck, which is to the

south of the Delree river, is a country that abounds in tea, and it might be made one extensive beautiful tea-garden ; and were the hills and valleys of Assam all cultivated, they would be sufficient to supply the immense demand of Britain.

The tea-plant, which is an evergreen, grows in China to the height of from three to six feet, but seldom more than three. The plants which have been discovered in Assam are much taller. Mr Bruce relates, that in going over one of the low hills behind Jeypore, he came upon a tea-tract which must have been two or three miles in length, on which the wild tea trees were as thick as they could grow ; and one of them he found to be three feet in circumfer­ence and about sixty feet in height, but this was an extra­ordinary instance: and he is of opinion that the effect of regularly cultivating the plants in tea-gardens, transplanting and trimming them, and plucking off all the young leaves from month to month as soon as they appear, will tend to stunt and shorten the growth, so that they will not gene­rally rise higher than in China.

The tea-plants in Assam have in general been found to thrive best near small rivers and pools of water, and in those places where, after heavy falls of rain, quantities of water have accumulated and cut out for themselves numerous small channels. In Assam the wild tea-plants are never met with growing in the sun, but invariably under the shade in thick woods or jungle.

The following extracts are from Mr Bruce’s Report on the Tea Plantations in Assam.

“ With respect to the tea-plant being most productive on high or low ground. I cannot well say, as all our tracts are on the plains; but from what little I have seen of the hill tracts, I should suppose they were not more productive. In China, the hill tracts produce the *best* teas, and they may do the same here. Almost all my tracts on the plains are nearly on the same level, I should think. *Nudwa,* perhaps, is a little higher than *Tingri,* and *Tingri* a little higher than *Kahung;* but I believe they are equally productive» although, if I leaned to­wards any side with ray limited experience, I should say that the low land, such as at *Kaung,* which is not so low as ever to be inundated by the strongest rise in the river, is the best. The plants seem to love and court moisture, not from stagnant pools, but running streams. The *Kahung* tracts have the water in and around them ; they are all in heavy tree-jungles, which makes it very expensive to clear them. An extent of 300 yards by 300 will cost from 200 to 300 rupees (from L 20 to L.30) ; *i. e.* according to the manner in which the miser­able opium-smoking Assamese work....Last season it was with the greatest difficulty that I could get a sufficient number of hands to gather the leaves. The plucking of the leaves may appear to many a very easy and light employment, but there are not a few of our coolies who would much rather be employed on any other job. The standing in one position so many hours occasions swellings in the legs, as our plants are not like those of China, only three feet high, but double that size, so that one must stand upright to gather the leaves. The Chinese pluck theirs squatting down. We He under a great disad­vantage in not having regular men to pluck the leaves ; those that have been taught to do so, can pluck twice as many as those that have not ; and we can seldom get hold of the same men two seasons run­ning. 1 am of opinion that our trees will become of a smaller and more convenient size after a few years’ cultivation ; because, trimming of the plants, and taking all the young leaves as soon as they appear, month after month, and year after year, and the plants being deprived of the rich soil they had been living on from time unknown, must soon ■tell upon them. Transplanting also helps to stunt and shorten the growth of these plants. The Chinese declared to me, that the China plants now at *Deenjoy* would never have attained to half the perfection they now have under ten years in their own country.

“ I may here observe, that the sun has a material effect on the leaves ; for as soon as the trees that shade the plants are removed, the leaf, from a fine deep green, begins to turn into a yellowish colour, which it retains for some months, and then again gradually changes to a healthy green, but now becomes thicker, and the plant throws out far more numerous leaves than when in the shade. The more the leaves are plucked, the greater number of them are produced. If the leaves of the first crop were not gathered, you might look in vain for the ■leaves of the second crop. The tea made from the leaves in the shade is not near so good as that from leaves exposed to the sun ; the leaves of plants in the sun are much earlier in season than of those in the shade ; the leaves from the shady tract give out a more watery liquid when rolled, and those from the sunny a more glutinous sub­stance. When the leaves of either are rolled on a sunny day, they emit less of this liquid than on a rainy day. This juice decreases as