CHINA;

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL,

AND

SOCIAL;

IN AN OFFICIAL REPORT TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

BY

R. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, Esq.,

LATE HER MAJESTY'S TREASURER FOR THE COLONIAL, CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICES IN CHINA; AND A MEMBER OF HER MAJESTY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT HONG KONG.

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DEDICATION.

TO THE QUEEN.

MADAM,

The gracious permission to dedicate these Volumes to Your Majesty, induces me to solicit a consideration of the great interests involved in the British relations with China; an Empire first opened to our commerce by the patriotic spirit of Queen Elizabeth,* and with which our intercourse has been enlarged during the auspicious reign of Your Majesty.

To extend personal communication with nearly four hundred million comparatively civilized people—to establish mercantile relations with the immense regions of Central Asia—and to promote the blessings of Christian civilization among myriads of mankind, are the principal objects of this work; and, however imperfectly developed, I trust they will receive the favourable notice of Your Majesty.

* Vol. ii., page 1.

A vast Empire, which has been almost miraculously preserved for more than two thousand years, is now in friendly alliance with Your Majesty, and with two of the most powerful Sovereigns of Europe, (those of France and Russia),—the isolation of ages has been destroyed—and China is now admitted into the social compact of the western hemisphere.

England, France, and Russia, are the representatives of three great principles in politics—the Aristocratic—the Democratic, and the Absolute; they are also identified with three forms of Christianity—the Protestant—the Romanist, and the Greek; they are antagonistic in Creed, Constitution, and Character. The dominions of Your Majesty, and those of the Emperor of Russia, now adjoin those of the Emperor of China.

It is consistent with the experience of history, that at no distant period a rivalry will arise in the East, that a strenuous endeavour will be made to establish a dominant influence in China—to stamp an impress on a materialist people admirably adapted for the reception of superior intelligence, and to wield for ulterior purposes a mighty nation which, although long dormant, is capable of producing an extraordinary influence on mankind.

It is, therefore, of great importance that international relations be established on the most amicable basis, and that the divine principles of Justice, revealed for the guidance of kingdoms as well as of individuals, shall characterize every transaction with the Chinese government and people.

It is thus only that England can possess a valuable and

permanent influence in China,—it is by such means a mutuality of interests may best be consolidated,—and an opening intercourse be disarmed of that fear or jealousy which destroys confidence, and may eventually lead to hostilities between the two Empires.

The exalted character of Your Majesty precludes the idea that any other course of policy would receive the Royal sanction; and I am, therefore, emboldened to entreat the attention of Your Majesty to the section in this Report on the "English Opium Traffic in China."* It is impossible to peruse the official documents on this point without acknowledging that Your Majesty's subjects are engaged in the commission of a fearful crime in China; that they are actively embarked in a traffic which is destroying the lives and deteriorating the morals of thousands of our fellow creatures; and that the Emperor of China, after waging an ineffectual war to stop this calamity, is now compelled to endure the continued and encreasing perpetration of an offence which would not be permitted against any Sovereignty in Europe; and which our superior strength enables us to commit with impunity.

The island of Hong Kong was ceded to Your Majesty by the Emperor of China, as a residence for British merchants, and as a careening station for their ships. That island has been converted by the Representative of Your Majesty into an Opium depôt, and under the purchased license of Your Majesty, a drug justly denominated by the Emperor of China, as a "flowing poison," is sold in defiance of the Chinese Government, for the avowed purpose of being smuggled into China,—or for the use of such of His

* Vol. ii. p. 174 to 262.

Majesty's subjects as may seek protection under the flag of England, from the adjacent mainland, where the "opium offence" is punishable with death !*

I crave the attention of Your Majesty to another matter discussed in this Report.† It is a suggestive fact that England did not become a colonizing and commercial nation until Protestanism was established, and the Bible translated for dissemination in distant lands. A maritime and mercantile nation appears to have been specially chosen by the Supreme Disposer of Events for this hallowed purpose.

The English language is now more extensively spoken than any other in the World, and in due time will most probably be the medium of communication among all Nations; the British Sovereignty is more widely spread than that of any known Empire,—the richest plains,—the loftiest mountains,—the largest rivers,—the most capacious lakes,—the best placed islands,—the securest havens, and the strongest fortresses are all within the dominions of Your Majesty,—the commerce and wealth of this Empire have no parallel in Ancient or Modern record; enterprize, skill, and capital have brought the most distant regions of the earth by steam navigation within constant, speedy, and certain communication; and the blessings of civil and religious liberty,—of political and moral freedom, are firmly established throughout an Empire—on which the sun never sets.

Such have been the glorious results of the principles established

* Vol. ii. p. 186, 187, 188, 221.

† State of Religion and Christianity in China. Vol. ii. ch. 10, p. 428 to 501.

and inculcated by the regal predecessor of Your Majesty, Queen Elizabeth; their operating effects were manifested in the foundation of Colonies,—in the extension of commerce,—and in the dissemination of a pure Christianity to which colonies and commerce have largely contributed.

Yet the British Empire is but in the infancy of its power, and we have scarcely commenced the moral and spiritual duties for which dominion has been granted.

We are still on the threshold of an Empire, whose territory is nearly as large as Europe, with a population equal in numbers to one third of mankind; and we have no intercourse whatever with the extensive and populous kingdoms of Japan, Corea, Cochin-China, and Siam, which contain about one hundred million of civilized inhabitants,* and which I humbly seek permission to open to British trade and intercourse.

An interchange of the peculiar products of each Country tends to the establishment of friendly relations, and may be made the medium for promoting civilization. Commerce is thus rendered auxiliary to the extension of Christianity, which rightly understood is inseparable from the enjoyment of the highest range of earthly power and happiness.

There is, therefore, every inducement to encourage the establishment of a pure faith in the regions recently opened, and still to be opened, to British intercourse; it is thus only, under Divine

* Vol. i., c. ix. p. 295 to p. 361.

Providence, that the sceptre of Your Majesty may be upheld, and it appears to be for this sacred purpose that vast power and wide spread dominion have been granted to England.

I should have been unworthy of the honourable station entrusted to me by the Gracious favour of Your Majesty, had I failed to prepare to the best of my ability, the statements contained in these volumes, which have occupied my sedulous attention for the past three years; I conceived it to be an object of national importance to examine in detail our new and complex position in China;—to investigate the value or worthlessness of Hong Kong;*—to check to the utmost of my power, a wasteful application of the resources of Your Majesty's treasury;—and to point out what appeared to be an erroneous course of national policy, which required timely correction *previous* to the evacuation of Chusan.†

To accomplish these objects, I conscientiously believed that I should most efficiently fulfil my grateful duty as a servant of the Crown, by returning without delay to England, even at the sacrifice of my position in China, to lay this official report before Your Majesty's government.‡

If it be deemed that I have erred in so doing, I trust Your Majesty will indulgently consider the originating motive, and that a zealous desire to promote the welfare of my country, may be pleaded in extenuation.

With an heartfelt prayer, that it may please an Overruling

* Vol. ii. page 317. † Vol. ii. page 369.

‡ Correspondence on resignation, vol. ii. p. 404 to 410, and Appendix, p. xiv. to xviii.

Providence to vouchsafe to Your Majesty a continuance of that Wisdom which can alone benefit the counsels of a nation;—and a full enjoyment of those blessings which have hitherto resulted from the admirable fulfilment of the exalted station devolving on the Sovereign of this great Empire,—I beg permission to subscribe myself,—

Your Majesty's dutiful subject,

R. M. MARTIN.

London,
March 1st, 1847.

CHINA;

GEOGRAPHICAL, POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND SOCIAL.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The Chinese Empire extends through about thirty-five degrees of latitude, and about sixty-five degrees of longitude, bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean for upwards of 2000 miles; on the south by Cochin-China, Tonquin, Laos, Siam, Birmah, Assam, and Tibet; on the west by Independent Tartary or Great Bukhara and Turkestan; and on the north by the Russian Empire, the Siberian region, and tribes of nomadic Tartars.

The length of the territory, including the dependent provinces, is computed at 3000 miles, the breadth at 2000 miles, and the area at *five* million square miles; of which about 1,300,000 square miles are covered by *China Proper*, which extends from Pekin in 40° N. to the Gulf of Tonquin in 20° S., and from the sea coast in 121° E. to the frontiers of Tibet in the 100th degree of longitude. There are also several large islands attached or tributary to China; such as Hainan in 20° N. latitude, Formosa in 25°, the Chusan Archipelago in 30°, and Segalien in 50° N.

The physical aspect of China, so far as we know, is varied by three great features: an elevated northern region, or plateau, on which Pekin is situated; an alluvial plain through which the Yangtzekang and Hwang-ho rivers flow to the sea; and a broken, undulating territory in the south, with broad valleys and lofty mountains. The coast line from Hainan Island in 20° S., to the Quesan group of islets in 29° 22′, forms a segment of a circle, and consists generally of a bold, rugged, mountainous sea-frontage sloping to the westward, seldom assuming a tabular form, but frequently rising to cones, or "haycocks" of 1000 feet, with supporting spurs or buttresses in every direction; some connected with an inland ridge of mountains, which, at a distance of about 150 to 200 miles from the coast, traverse the provinces of Fokien and Chekeang, and is then

continued to the northern boundary of Kwantung (Canton) province, and to the westward towards Bootan. The whole of this coast line is broken into bays, inlets, and coves, with numerous islands and rocks, allowing free entrance, and affording good shelter for vessels. There are few hidden dangers; the rocks have generally deep water alongside; and as the wind seldom blows direct on the shore, navigation is comparatively easy and safe. The aspect of the south coast is very sterile; its geological formation appears to consist of red and grey sandstone, intermixed with coarse granite in various stages of decomposition. As the sea is receding from the land, large boulder stones, and grotesquely formed rocks, worn by wind and water, give a wild and singular appearance to the coast. At every nook, or on any rock containing the smallest patch of arable surface, a fishing village or small trading town is to be found; but the general feature is aridness, and its concomitant poverty. There are, therefore, only three large maritime cities, Canton, Amoy, and Fuchoo, in this division. The first deriving its support chiefly from foreign, European, and American commerce; the second principally from its trade with Canton, Formosa, Singapore, and the Eastern Archipelago; and the third owing its importance to being the principal city of the large province of Fokien.

Passing northward from the Quesan Group, the aspect of the country begins to change, the land dipping to the northward as the delta of the Yangtzekang is approached. At the Chusan Archipelago, the geological structure appears to be principally a porphyritic claystone, tabular, and columnar; no granite is seen; the hills and mountains are clothed with stately trees, or cultivated to their very summits with crops requiring various altitudes; rich vegetation and continuous grain and cotton cultivation abound; cattle and sheep become more plentiful; the sea runs deeply into the land, which is watered by numerous rivers, and which, together with the adjacent seas, abound in varieties of fish.

Chekeang is indented with bays and rivers. Keangsoo is accessible by the large rivers Yangtzekang and Hwang-ho or Yellow River, so called from its immense discharge of yellow clay and sand, which colours the neighbouring sea. Shantung is rugged, and marked by promontories; the southern part of Chih-li province is flat and sandy. Tientsen, or the White River, is the only port available for vessels of burthen.

In such a vast extent of territory the aspect and climate must be very diversified:—thus there are some tracts similar to the swampy plains of Holland; others like the mountains and valleys of Switzerland,—the fertile plains of Lombardy—the champagne country of France—the dreary steppes of Russia—the sandy deserts of Africa—and the beautiful hills and dales, the corn and woodlands, of our own incomparable country.

It is difficult to trace the mountain ridges: one appears to ex-

tend from the province of Yunnan, through Canton province in a N.E. direction, through Fokein to Chekeang; it is through this ridge that the Meling road or pass has been cut, for interior traffic between Canton and Keangsoo. Another chain passes from Sze-chuen to Shense, and gives the Yellow River a northerly direction through the great wall. Two mountains extend westward of Peking. Generally speaking, the mountains in the N.W. are not continuous ranges, but "table lands," which extend N. and S. of the Yellow River, over the provinces of Kansuh and Shense.

The provinces of Shanse, Shense, Sze-chuen, and Yunnan constitute a part of the table land of central Asia. In Yunnan the mountains are said to form a gigantic wall, with but one pass, which is closed with two gates, guarded on one side by Tonquinese, on the other by Chinese.

The three lines of mountains, which begin respectively at the Yellow Sea, at the Yangtzekang, and at the coast of Canton, run their course to the eastward, north-east and south-east, until they unite in the great range of European Tibet, a spur or buttress of the mighty Himalaya. Two great branches from the Tibetian chain, are called by the Chinese *Pih-ling* (northern) and *Nan-ling* (southern) chain. The *Yunling*, which is an offshoot of the *Pihling*, separates China from Tibet, and branches to lake Kokonor (Blue Sea.) The *Yang* range N. W. of Peking is a portion of the *Yin* elevation, which divides China Proper from Mongolia, and which is continued to the Corean mountains.

The three basins which determine the course of the water-courses, are, 1st, that S. of the Nanling chain, through which the rivers flow in the Fokeen and Canton provinces;—2nd, the middle basin N. of the Nanling, and S. of the Pihling mountains, which collects the waters that become tributary to the Yangtzekang,—the 3rd is N. of the Pihling, extending to the mountain ridges of Tartary, called the *Yang*, through which the Hwang-ho flows into the Yellow Sea.

It is estimated that two-thirds of China Proper are studded with lofty mountains, some of which are perpetually covered with snow. The Chinese geographers enumerate 5,270 celebrated mountains, of which they say 467 yield copper, and 3,609 iron. There is no known volcano in China; some natives say a lofty mountain peak near Yunnan occasionally emits flame. In Shen-se there are said to be two mountains which have chasms on their summits, which give off flame and smoke when dry grass is thrown therein.

The lakes of China are of two descriptions; those of the mountains, and those of the plains. The surface of the upland districts, and especially that of the province of Yunnan, is diversified with frequently occurring and widely extended collections of water, lodged in the depressed and pent-up places of the glens and valleys. The lakes of the plains are mere dilatations of the rivers, or the estuaries in which they terminate; and they are so numerous and

expansive, that, inclusive of the marshy places with which they are associated, they are supposed to occupy a fourth part of the whole surface of the low country. The plains of China are to all appearance usurpations of the land upon the once undisputed domains of the water. This enlargement of the land is in active operation, by the continued deposition of alluvial matter. The Yellow Sea, with all its creeks, bays and gulfs, is daily becoming less deep, and more broken with banks and islands. The Po-yang, the largest of these lakes, lies between 28° and 30° North in the province of Keang-soo, and receives rivers from most points of the compass; the water of which collected into one stream, forms one of the tributaries of the Yangtzekang. This lake, including its marshes, is said to be 100 miles in length, and is called the "Inland Sea."

Two hundred miles westward of this lake, in the province of Hunan a labyrinth of lakes spreads over an extensive surface on both sides of the river Yangtzekang.

Of this group the lake *Tong-ting* is said to be the largest; it is estimated at nearly 300 miles in circumference. It form is irregular, and it receives the waters of many rivers of various sizes.

A great portion of the Imperial Canal lies through a dreary waste of morass, which occasionally assumes the appearance of a sea, interspersed with islands.

When the floods subside, the district still retains numerous groups of large and permanent lakes; among which are the Po-yang, and the Lemaare to the west of the canal; the Tai, extended at the feet of picturesque hills; together with many more dispersed over the space which intervenes between the two great rivers.

The *Si-hu* Lake, situated in the department of Hangchoo, in the province of Chekeang, covers an area of about four miles in diameter. Barrow says, its natural and artificial beauties far surpass any others he met with in China. The lake extends from the walls of the city to the foot of the mountains, spreading its arms here and there into the wooded valleys. The margin of the lake is adorned with summer houses, grottoes, and light fancy buildings, and it is covered with innumerable pleasure-boats; the lake teems with fish, is not deep, has a gravelly bottom, and excellent water.

The Great River, Yangtzekang, is the largest in Asia, and is scarcely inferior to any in America; it is said to measure 2,283 miles in length. It is seen in the western part of the Kokonor country, the southern division of Mongolia. Its sources are probably in the mountain ridge that furnish the Bhramaputra, and Irrawaddy. There seem to be three branches, which flow in an easterly direction and unite at a place called Woo-shoo-too-sze-too, in latitude 26°; from thence the river runs south-east and enters Szechuen province. Even in Tsing-hae many places are situated on its banks; which proves that the region around it must be fertile, and the river navigable. This river, by means of canals and lakes, stands in connection with the whole empire; it is the key to

China and central Asia, and has been aptly named the "girdle of the empire." The mouth of the Yangtzekang is about thirty miles wide, between the 31° and 32° N. latitude, divided into several channels by low islands, defended by dykes and cultivated by Chinese. The largest, *Tsungming*, lying W. N. W. and E. S. E, is thirty miles long by six to nine broad, and richly productive. We know, from our fleet under the able command of Admiral Sir William Parker, that this noble river is navigable 200 miles for the largest class vessels. Coal abounds everywhere on its banks; and under a wise policy, our steam-boats would be freely traversing this vast artery to the rich central regions of China, and spreading civilization, peace, commerce, and science among millions of mankind.

The *Hwang-ho*, or Yellow River, affords inland communication for nearly 2,000 miles; but from its low and loose banks and rapid floods, the country on its margin is subject to frequent inundations. From both these great rivers we are still excluded.

The Grand Canal, called in Chinese the *Yunho*, or "Transit River," is a stupendous work—especially when we consider the period at which it was finished; namely, in the fourteenth century. It connects the Yangtzekang and Hwang-ho Rivers at a point near their embouche, where they are about 100 miles apart. The canal passes through the great plain which extends from Peking through the deserts of Chihli, part of Shantung, and Keangsoo, to Hang-choo in Chekeang. We are excluded from traffic on this canal, and have no port or trading station on its banks. The canal is about 800 miles long, and, in Shantung, where it is fed at its greatest elevation by the *Wien-ho*, the banks are protected by strong masonry. Vessels of large burden are raised over the sluices (which serve instead of locks) by rude but effective machinery constructed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Chinkeangfoo, on the Yangtzekang, communicates with the Grand Canal, and would be an excellent station for our trade.

The far-famed Great Wall of China was commenced by the Emperor Hwangte, who reigned B.C. 246. His reign may be justly termed an iron rule, that drew forth sufficient means and men to complete in a few years this gigantic work. The intention and object of this wall was to fortify China against the inroads of the Tartars. The wall is 1,500 miles long; in height varying according to the locality—in some parts the elevation is twenty-five feet, with towers forty feet high erected at not more than 100 yards distance from each other, for a considerable portion of the entire wall. The country on which a portion of the wall is erected is hilly and wild; it is built on the steep sides of mountains, between five and six thousand feet above the level of the sea; it surmounts their summits, and again descends into the valleys: on crossing a river it forms a ponderous arch. A large mound of stone erected in the province of Chih-li, east of Peking, formed the beginning of this mighty bulwark. Its principal direction is from E. to W.; the ram-

part runs along the northern confines of three provinces, Chih-li, Shan-se, and Shen-se; and thus defends in some measure a population of fifty million of inhabitants, which are scattered along the whole northern frontier of the empire. This great wall terminates in latitude 40° 4′ N., longitude 120° 2′ E. A sketch was taken of its termination by one of our war-party in 1840. The wall, after descending from the highlands, which are very rugged, stretches northward a few miles across a narrow plain to a ledge of rocks, with which it seems to unite, and there loses itself in the waters of the gulf of Leaontung. The celebrated passes through the Great Wall, proceeding westward from the coast, are the following: Hifung-kau, lat. 40° 26′ N., Kupe-kau, lat. 40° 43′ N., (Lord Macartney's embassy passed through Kupe-kau gate), Tushi-kau, lat. 41° 19′ 20″ N.: the fourth gate is the key of the commerce of Russia and China; it is called Chang-kau, in lat. 40° 51′ 15″ N. and is the fixed residence of a great number of merchants, who carry on a large trade with Mongolia. It is the residence of the Commander-in-Chief, or the Keeper-General of Chahar, who has a large military force at his command at all times.

In order to convey some idea of the topography of the different provinces, the following abstract is subjoined.

CHIH-LI or PE-CHELE has had its northern boundaries greatly extended. It was anciently called *Yu* and *Yen*, and is now the capital province of the Empire. The sea coast forms the boundary from Shan Tung Province to the Great Wall, which for a short distance divides Chih-li; thence a palisade is the separating line, to the River Hwang-ho. This river marks the northern boundary of the province from the palisade to its source among the peaks of the Hingan. Thence the boundary runs nearly due east and west, in lat. 42° 30′ N. The western boundary running nearly N. and S. extends over more than seven and a half degrees of latitude, and divides Chih-li from Shense and Honan. The western parts of the province are flat, and slope towards the sea, but the country towards Shan-se rises and is hilly. There are two lakes in the E. and S. division of the province. The great canal passes through the E. part, and falls into the Pei-ho in lat. 39° 11′, long. 0° 48′ east of Peking. The Pei-ho river takes its rise a little beyond the Great Wall and disembogues in the gulph of Pe-chele. It has no tides, but flows very rapidly. The entrance to the river Pei-ho is rather shallow, in consequence of a bar which stretches for a considerable distance into the sea. The province is divided into districts and and departments, called *foo, ting, chaw* and *heen*. A *foo* is a large portion or department of a province. A *ting* is a division of a province smaller than a foo. A *chaw* is a division similar to a ting, and, like it, independent of any other. A *heen* may be called a district, or small division of a department, whether of a foo, or of an independent chaw or ting. Each foo, ting, chaw, and heen, possesses one walled town, which is the seat of its government.

This province contains eleven foo, six chaw departments, three ting districts, seventeen chau districts, and one hundred and twenty-four heen districts; and is compared in size with England and Wales united, or to Michigan, Illinois or Arkansas in the United States.

SHANTUNG (*i. e.* "East of the hills") province, anciently called *Tsi* and Lu, bounded by Chih-li, is a mountainous country, the coast bold and well indented. The whole surface of the province is intersected by rivers, at no great distance from each other. The Tatsing-ho is the largest river in the province, the Yu-ho, is a branch of the Pei-ho. The rivers are short. The grand canal commences at Lingsing-chau; from this point north to Tientsin, the communication is along the channel of a branch of the Pei-ho. The native maps point out numerous harbours and bays, which are almost unknown to foreigners. Shantung is about the size of Wales in Great Britain, or of Georgia in the United States.

SHAN-SE province, called "West of the Hills," anciently *Tsin* and *Chau*, is one of the central divisions of the Empire. It is bounded on the east by Chih-li and Honan; on the south by Honan; on the west by Shensi; and on the north by Chahur in Mongolia. The whole western, and half of the southern boundary, are formed by the Yellow River. The province is nearly in the form of a parallelogram, of which the river is one of the longest sides. Its boundaries are marked to the north by the Great Wall, which separates the province from Mongolia. Shan-se is mountainous, has no lakes, but numerous rivers; the Hwang-ho runs for 180 miles through the province.

HONAN province, anciently called Yen and Yu, the centre region of China, borders to the north on Chih-li, Shan-se, and Shantung, south upon Hoo-pih, east upon Keang-nan, (Keangso and Anhwin), and west upon Shan-se. Its greatest limits to the north, are lat. 37°; to the south, 31° 30′; to the west, 6° 20′ west of Peking; to the east, 25′ long. east of Peking. The northern part stretches into the provinces of Chih-le, and Shan-tung. The river Hwang-ho runs through its whole breadth. The rivers in the north are the Chang-ho, Hin-ho, and Ke-ho; in the south there is the Foo-ho, with several others. Ho-nan-foo, in lat. 34° 43′ in the western part of the province, near Hwang-ho river, is surrounded with mountains, and lies between three rivers, which disembogue into the Hwang-ho.

KEANG-SOO AND GAN-HWUY provinces were formerly united under the name of Keang-nan. On the north they border Shantung and Honan; on the south Keang-si and Che-keang; on the east the Yellow Sea; on the west Hoo-pih and Hu-nan. The country extends from 29° to 35° 8′ lat. N., and from 5° 10′ E. of Peking, to 1° 30′ W. The rivers are mostly tributary to the Yangtze-kang, or to the river Hwai. Those that flow into the last, come from Honan, and run to the S.E. Mountains are seen in the

southern part of the province; and the ranges form the high lands on each side of the Great River, where many of the streams have their sources. The coast is low and flat. The country, for ten miles inland, is alluvial soil. The only island along the sea coast of any height is Tac-shan, to the north of the Yellow River, in lat. 34° 40′; and this is intersected by a double ridge of hills. The province is about half as large as Spain.

Kiang-si (west of the river) extends from lat. 24° 30′ to 30° 10′, and from long. 1° 50′ E. of Peking; bounded on the N.E. by Hupih and Anhwui; on the E. by Che-kiang and Fo-Keen; on the S. by Kwang-tung; and on the W. by Hunan. Its shape is irregular, about 400 miles up the Yangtzekang, in a north-westernly and then in a south-westernly, direction, through the united provinces of Keang-soo and Anhwui. On the north-eastern borders of Kiang-si, the river leaves the province, after a course of about eighty miles along its northern frontier, through a part of which distance it forms the boundary line. The country is hilly, but not mountainous. The south-western hills separate it from Kwang-tung Province. The province is about the size of Virginia, U.S., or twice the size of Portugal.

Foo-Keen, anciently called Min or Ho-Keen, borders towards the N. upon Che-Keang, S. upon Kwang-tung (Canton), E. upon the Ocean and Formosa Channel, and towards the W. on Keang-se. It extends from lat. 25° 35′ to 28° 47′, from long. W. of Peking 0° 22′, to long. E. of Peking 4°, (the Formosa island not included). The province is very mountainous. Its sea-coast abounds with harbours, many of them spacious and safe; the whole coast is more indented than any other maritime province. Not far from the main are several islands, the principal ones are Namoa, Tungshan, Heaman, Kinmun, and Haytan. The Min is the chief river; its branches extend over half the province, and unite into one channel near the city of Fuchoo. Nearly every branch of the Min has its fountain-head within the boundaries of the province. A high range of mountains extend from S. to the N., the highest forming the line of demarcation between Kiangse and Foo-keen. In its general features it presents very little level ground.

Chekiang province, originally the country of *Yue*, is of a circular form, extending from lat. 27° 20′ to 31° 20′ N., and from long. 1° 48′ to 6° 30′ E. of Peking, and includes the principal islands of the Chusan Archipelago. On the N. it is bounded by the province of Kiang-see, E. by the sea, S. by Foo-keen, and W. by Kiang-si and Anhwui. The country is in general hilly. The rivers of the province are numerous, and all of them have a westerly course. The chief river is the Tang-keang, a navigable river, near the mouth of which Hang-choo, the capital, is situated; further to the S. the Gow-keang and Nan-keang flow into the sea. Its coasts are studded with islands, which extend as far as the Great Yangtsekang; the most important are the Chusan group, of

about seventeen or eighteen islands; the largest island is Ting-hae, or the Great Chusan. The harbours are Cha-poo, Hang-choo, Ning-po, Ting-hae, Ship-po, Wan-choo, and Tae-choo.

HOO-PIH AND HU-NAN, formerly Hoo-kwang, borders to the N. on the province of Ho-nan; the S. on Kwang-tung (Canton) and Kwang-se; to the E. upon Kiang-nan andKiang-si; and the W. upon Shen-se, Sze-chuen, and Kwei-choo; and extends from lat. 24° 45′ to 33° 20′, and from long. W. of Peking, 0° 20′ to 8°. It is divided by the Yangtzekang into two parts, the northern being called the Hoo-pih, the southern the Hu-nan. The former is the largest. The Yangtzekang in its serpentine course receives the Han-Keang: there are several rivers, which flow near the city of Han Yang, into the same river. The large and numerous lakes in the neighbourhood of the Yang-tzekang have given the name to this province. This province is as well watered as any in China.

SHEN-SE AND KANSUH (west of the Pass) previous to the reign of Keen-lung, were only one province. These provinces extend from lat. 32° to 40′ and from longitude W. of Peking, 5° 25′ to 17°. They border to the N. upon Mongolia, to the S. upon Hoo-pih and Sze-chuen, to the E. upon Shan-se, and to the W. upon Mongolia and Soungaria; the Great Wall runs along its northern frontiers. Several mountain ridges pass through Shen-se. The river Hwang-ho flows along the great wall, crossing it twice before it takes its course into Mongolia. The Wei-ho, one of the large rivers in China, flows into the Yellow River in lat. 34° 40′. The Han-ho, and Kin-tsin-ho rise in Shen-se and run into Hoo-pih.

SZE-CHUEN, anciently called *Sishu*, the westernmost and largest of all the Chinese provinces, extends from lat. 25° 57′ to 33°, and from long. W. of Peking, 6° 50′ to 15° 43′. It borders to the N. upon Shen-se; to the S. upon Yun-nan and Kwei-choo; to the W. upon the territory of the Kokonor Tartars and the country of the Tufans; and the E. upon Hu-nan and Hoo-pih. The Yang-tzekang river travels all through this province. All the other rivers in the province, (which are numerous) fall into that noble stream.

KWANG-TUNG, (*i.e.* Canton, "Eastern-breadth,"—also called *Yue-tung*,) extends from lat. 20° 13′ to 25° 34′, and from long. E. of Peking 0° 53′ to long. W. of Peking. It borders to the N. upon Keang-se and Fo-keen; S. upon the ocean; E. upon Foo-keen; W. upon Hu-nan, Kwang-se, and Ton-quin, from which it is separated by the Gan-nan River, the natural boundary.

The south-western chain of mountains runs along its northern boundaries and the Mei-ling mountain, through which a road is cut. The principal islands along the coast are Hae-nan, to the south, and the Ladrone group, to which Hong-kong belongs. The island of Hae-nan is mountainous, extends about fifty leagues in a N.E. and S.W. direction, and is about thirty-five leagues in breadth;

its N.W. and W. coasts are said to be skirted with shoal banks extending six or seven leagues from the shore. There are several fine harbours on the south coast. The island of "Namoa," (under the government of Canton), is thirteen miles in length, and about three in breadth. The eastern point of the island is in lat. 23° 28′ N., and long. 116° 59′ 30″ E.; it has two mountains, connected by a low isthmus. The province is well watered; the chief river is called Choo-keang, (Pearl River,) on which the capital (Canton) is situated. East of Canton is the Tung-keang; W. the Yang-keang; Chaou-choo-foo is situated on the Han-keang, a considerable river.

KWANG-SE (called formerly Yuesi) extends from 21° 50′ 15″ lat., from long. W. of Peking, 4° 10′ to 12°. It borders towards the N. upon Kwei-choo and Hu-nan; E. upon Kwang-tung (Canton); W. upon Yun-nan; and S. upon Canton and Ton-quin, a province in Cochin China, formerly in the possession of the Chinese; brass pillars mark the boundary. The chief river is the Sang-koi, which annually overflows its banks. Kwang-se has numerous small rivers which flow between its mountains.

YUN-NAN (anciently called *Tien*) extends from lat. 21° 40′ to 28°; from 10° 30′ to 18° 50′ long. W. of Peking. It borders towards the N. upon Sze-chuen; towards the E. on Kwei-choo and Kwang-se; W. upon Tibet, and the territory of savage nations; S. upon Ava, Laos, and Ton-quin. Yun-nan is separated from Sze-chuen on the N. by the Kin-sha-keang. The Mei-nan-korn, Kew-lung-keang, are all rivers of considerable breadth, and disembogue themselves, the former in the gulph of Cambodia, the latter near Bangkok. In the centre of the province are four lakes, the largest, Shang-kwan, is about thirty miles long. The mountains are bold and steep. The westernmost city is called Ta-le, situated in the Se-urh, a lake which gives rise to the Ho-te River. It runs into Ton-quin.

KWEI-CHOO (or "rich district," anciently Land of Kien,) extends from lat. 24° 40′ to 29°, and from long. W. of Peking 7° 17′ to 12° 36′. It borders towards the N. upon Sze-chuen; S. upon the Kwang-se and Yun-nan; towards the E. upon Hu-nan; and towards the W. upon Sze-chuen. It is a wild mountainous country. There are several large rivers which intersect the province. The principal rivers are the Woo-keang, Chang-keho, and the Shin-ho. It may be seen from the foregoing how little we really know of this vast Empire, but a few remarks on some of the cities in the north of China will indicate how erroneously we have restricted our intercourse to Canton, and the more southern provinces.

Not less than five cities of the first order, among which are the celebrated ones of Su-chaw and Hang-Chew, are situated on the banks of that part of the Grand Canal, between the basin at Hang-Chew, and its junction with the Yangtzekang, a distance of only

200 miles; besides Nankin, and Tong-Kiang foo, and Hew-Chewfoo, with many other innumerable cities and towns.

Suchaw was recently visited by one of the commercial deputies attached to the French mission, and ought to have been explored by British enterprize. It is two days distant from the sea, accessible only by inland water communication; is the second city of the province of Kiangsoo, and the residence of a governor. Shanghai is merely its port, and may be compared to Gravesend or Greenock, in comparison to London or Glasgow. Yet our intercourse is restricted to Shanghai. The situation is beautiful; the country all around very pleasant; the climate delightful, and it is represented to be the most populous city of the empire. From Shanghai the route is through cities and villages; not a yard of ground is left uncultivated. The country around is flat, the soil of a rich alluvial character. Cotton, silk, rice, wheat, rye, barley, and vegetables, are the productions. The intercommunication is carried on by means of rivers, canals, and lakes, surrounded by the most flourishing vegetation.

The mulberry, the tallow tree, the black bamboo, green willow, the paper tree, cypress, the pine, and the wide-spreading banian tree, all flourish. Machines, moved by men or buffaloes, keep up constant irrigation: granite sluices are constructed for the same purpose: all the canals are full of boats, lighters, and junks, laden with grain, fruit and other products. Suchaw, like Hangchew, is not only a town of large commerce and silk-manufactures, it is also devoted to pleasure. The Chinese say, "Above is Paradise, below Suchaw; to be happy on earth, one must be born here, live in Canton, and die in Lian-chau." Suchaw has a high reputation in every part of China for its splendid marble buildings, the elegance of its tombs, the number of its granite bridges, and artificial canals, gardens, streets and quays; as also for the politeness of its inhabitants, and especially for the beauty of the female sex.

It is said that the city contains one million of inhabitants, and that there is another million in the vicinity. Indeed there are several towns included in one, comprising what is called Suchaw: the city proper, is inclosed with high walls, which are about ten miles in circumference; the suburbs are four distinct towns, about ten miles in length, and nearly the same in breadth; the population living on the waters is also very great. Lord Macartney passed through this beautiful city, and fully confirms the foregoing statement. His boats were nearly three hours passing the suburbs before they reached the city walls. In one building-yard, not less than sixteen vessels of 200 tons each were observed on the stocks. The intelligent and adventurous Mr. Fortune, agent for the Horticultural Society, whom I had the pleasure to meet in the North of China, and to accompany to Ningpo, attempted to enter the city, without success. The French

government were anxious to learn some information on the mulberry, and silk-manufacture, and a Mr. Isadore Hedde traversed the city and suburbs in a silk dress, and was not discovered. He visited the Mint, and all the public buildings, examined the great and extensive manufacturing locality in the western portion of the city, where there are manufactories of iron, ivory, bone, gold, silver, glass, paper, cotton and silk; and saw them making that beautiful silk called (Keh Sz',) the knowledge of which is confined to Suchaw: M. Hedde says it surpasses any thing known in Europe in its representation of figures and flowers. M. Hedde ascended the Tiger-nose hill Pagoda, from whence he had a good view of the town, the fortifications, the great imperial canal, rivers, streams, and pools which intersect the city; at the foot of the hill he saw beautiful shops of every description.

The enterprizing Frenchman who undertook this interesting exploration (for which an Englishman would be liable to deportation and penalties *by his own government*, under our mistaken policy,) passed along the imperial canal, among elegant boats conducted by young girls, richly dressed, and having their heads decked with gold and flowers: and among several junks laden with the imperial revenues. He saw fields of mulberry trees, and learned the mode of their cultivation, visited several establishments and observed the ingenious apparatus for avoiding double cocoons, the simple process for reeling the fine white silk, named t's ih li, and the well known seven cocoon thread.

The city of Hang-chew is situated between the basin of the Grand Canal and the river Yangtzekang, which flows into the sea about sixty miles eastward of the city. The tide, when full, increases the width of the river about four miles opposite to the city. At low water there is a level strand two miles broad. All goods brought by sea into the river from the southward, as well as whatever comes from the lakes and rivers of Che-kiang and Fo-kien, must be landed at this city in their way to the northward; the city is therefore the general emporium between the northern and southern provinces.

The population of this city is supposed to be equal to that of Peking. It is the residence of the viceroy, and the capital of the province of Che-keang, which produces more silk than all the other districts of the empire; not less than 60,000 workmen of this article are said to be employed within the walls of the city.

The town of Han-ken, situated in the northern division of the province of Hou-quang, i.e. Hoo-pih, ranks next the above-named cities, in the estimation of the Chinese at Canton, as a place of trade. The city of Vu-chang, is the centre of China, and the place from whence it is the easiest to keep open a communication with the rest of the provinces. This city, in conjunction with Hang-yang (only separated by the Yangtzekang) forms the most populous and frequented portion of China. The two cities may

be compared to Paris and Lyons in size, &c. The Yangtzekang is here 150 leagues from the sea, yet it is three miles wide, and deep enough for vessels of any size; the number of vessels navigating the river is incredible.

CHAPOO is situated on the northern side of the great bay of Hangchew, in the province of Che-keang, it is a place of considerable trading importance, and the only port from which the trade between China and Japan is permitted.

During the war, when our troops took possession of this place, the well-known policy of the Chinese government was clearly developed. Like all the considerable cities of China, the Tartar troops had a portion of the city allotted to themselves, which is surrounded by a wall. The style of the houses are of mixed character, some being small and others of a more spacious dimension. One, in particular, was every way suited as a residence for some distinguished personage. Each is detached, and surrounded with a wall of about seven feet high, and almost every yard has a well sunk very deep. The walls of the houses are constructed of brick, which is plastered and whitened. The average number of the houses consisted of only two apartments, with a kitchen at the rear; the furniture consisted of tables, chairs, and a kind of sideboard, together with presses, and wardrobes which were well supplied with female habiliments. Every where was seen the comforts, if not the elegancies, of life.

The Mantchou Emperor, Yung-ching, in 1730, devoted great attention to the defences of Chapoo, and provided it with a garrison of 2,000 men, 1,500 matchlocks, 30,000 arrow-men, and a regular armoury.

CHANG-CHEW, is a large city in the province of Foo-keen, about thirty-six miles from Amoy, which is merely the port of Changchow, from which we are excluded—or, rather, from which we have voluntarily excluded ourselves. The city lies in a valley nearly embosomed in hills, with a river running through it, surrounded by a wall, inside of which it is thickly planted with trees of large dimensions. The population is said to exceed 800,000, independent of the suburbs.

From an eminence near the city a large plain may be seen, about thirty miles long and nearly twenty broad, on which there are not less than eighty villages teeming with an agricultural population. The streets of the city are from ten to twelve feet wide, some of them well paved.

The shops are numerous, and appeared well stocked with a coarse description of goods much resembling those of Canton. The houses are fronted with wood, with brick side-walls, and generally about two stories high. The crowds and bustle in the streets prove the city to be populous. The bridges over the river are two in number; one of them is built on twenty-six piles of stone about thirty feet apart and twenty feet each in height; beams are laid

from pile to pile, and others across, and then paved with granite blocks, some of which extend from pile to pile in length; a few may be seen full forty feet long and two-and-a-half broad: the width of the bridge is about nine feet, and full one half is covered with shops and cooking stalls. The temples are large, and spacious grounds are attached to them; they are said to be one thousand years old, and have every appearance of great antiquity: the idols are large, averaging from ten to sixteen feet high, cut out of granite.

There are two large cities on the Canton River of which we know nothing, and there must be many wealthy and populous towns of which we are entirely ignorant, and likely to continue so unless we adopt a wiser policy.

Peking, the capital of the Chinese Empire, stands on a vast plain in the interior of the province of Chih-li, the most northern province of China Proper. It is situated in lat. 39° 55′ N., and in long. 116° 45′ E. from Greenwich and about 3° 30′ E. of Canton. On the E. and S. the sandy plain extends farther than the eye can reach; on the W. and N. hills begin to rise above the plain only a few miles from the walls of the city; a short distance beyond, the prospect is bounded by mountains which separate Chih-li from Mantchouria. From the Great Wall, which passes along upon this ridge of mountains, Peking is about fifty miles distant; and about 100 miles from the gulph of Chih-li. The Pei-ho river rising in the N. near the Great Wall, flows within twelve miles of the city on the E. and passes down in a S. E. direction by Tientsin into the sea. Some small rivers issuing from the mountains on the N. W. water a part of the plain; one of them, Tunghwuy, descends to the city and supplies its numerous canals and tanks; it then flows eastward, and uniting with one of the larger rivers, forms an extensive water communication, by which the city is supplied with provisions. The style of the architecture and general appearance of the buildings is similar to that of Canton, except that the streets are rather wider, and generally run straight, but they are not paved. The multitude of moveable workshops of tinkers, barbers, cobblers, and blacksmiths; and the tents and booths where eatables are exposed for sale, contract a spacious street to a narrow path.

The northern division of Peking, consists of three inclosures, one within another, each surrounded by its own wall. The first contains the imperial palace and the abodes of the different members of the imperial household; the second was designed for the residence of the officers of the court, but is now occupied by Chinese merchants; the third consists of the space inclosed by the outer walls, and was formerly inhabited by Tartar soldiers; but is now in the possession of Chinese shop-keepers and traders.

The first enclosure ("forbidden city") is the most splendid and important part of Peking. It is situated nearly in the centre of the northern division of the city. It is an oblong parallelogram

about two miles in circumference, and enclosed by a wall nearly thirty feet high. This wall is built of polished red brick, surrounded by a ditch lined with hewn stone, and covered with varnished tiles of a brilliant yellow, which gives it the appearance, when seen under the rays of the sun, of being covered with a roof of gold. The interior of this inclosure is occupied by a suite of court-yards and apartments, which, it is said, for beauty and splendour cannot be surpassed. It is divided into three parts, the eastern, middle and western. The middle division contains the imperial buildings, which are subdivided into several distinct palaces. They are represented by the Jesuits as perfect models of architecture.

The gates and halls are thus described:—

1. *The Meridian Gate!* Before this gate on the E. is a lunar dial, and on the W., a solar, and in the tower above it a large bell and gong. All public officers enter and leave the palace by the eastern avenue; none but the princes of the imperial blood are permitted to pass the western, and none but the emperor the southern avenue. At this gate are distributed the presents to embassies; and all war captives are here received by His Majesty in person.

2. *The Gate of Peace* has five avenues, and is a superb building of white marble. The height of the basement is twenty feet, and the whole edifice one hundred and ten. The ascent to it is by five flights of forty steps each, and it is highly ornamented with tripods and other figures in bronze. Here, on all the holidays and on the anniversary of the emperor's birth-day, he receives the congratulations of his officers, who prostrate themselves to the earth before him, and strike the ground with their foreheads.

3. *The Hall of Perfect Peace.* Here the emperor comes to examine the implements prepared for the annual ceremony of ploughing.

4. *The Hall of Secure Peace;* in this the Emperor gives a banquet to his foreign guests on new year's day.

5. *The Tranquil Palace of Heaven, i.e.* of the Emperor. This is a private retreat, to which no one can approach without special permission. This palace is described by the Russians, who have had many opportunities of seeing it, as "the loftiest, richest, and most magnificent of all the palaces." On each side of the tower is a large copper vessel, in which incense is burnt day and night.

6. *The Palace of Earth's Repose, i.e.* of the Empress, which is said to be very beautiful; adjoining this is the imperial flower garden, which is laid out in walks for Her Majesty, who being a Tartar, has not adopted the Chinese custom of crippling her feet, and therefore is said to enjoy herself in what is called "Earth's Repose." In this garden is a library, said to contain a collection of all the books published in China.

Hwang-ching, another imperial city, constitutes the second en-

closure, and surrounds the "forbidden city." It is about six miles in circumference, and surrounded by a wall twenty feet high. It has four large gates. Tae-meaou, "the great temple," is dedicated to the ancestors of the reigning family. The outer wall, which includes several buildings, is about 3,000 feet in circumference.

Near the eastern gate of the forbidden city is a depository of military stores: and a vast number of workshops for their manufacture. Northward from these is the Russian College, designed to furnish interpreters for the government in its intercourse with Russia.

Kingshan, an artificial mountain, is situated directly N. from the imperial palace. Its base is said to consist of coal, which is kept in reserve in case of siege, and its surface is the earth dug from the ditches that surround the walls. It is about 150 feet in height, and encircled by a wall. It has five summits lying east and west from each other. This mountain is planted and laid out in shady walks.

The western part of this enclosure is ornamented with an artificial lake, more than a mile in length, and about one-eighth of a mile in breadth. The lake is crossed by a bridge of nine arches, 200 paces in length, and ten feet wide, built of white marble. This lake is represented by the Missionaries as "a most enchanting place."

Near the western gardens is a temple consecrated to the discoverer of the silk worm, reputed to have been the wife of the Emperor Hwang-te, who, according to Chinese history, reigned long previous to our era. The empress, and other great ladies of the court, assist in tending the worms, in order to encourage this branch of industry. The moveable type printing office is on the east side of the gardens; these types were formerly cast in copper, like so many seals. In the reign of Kang-he, a collection of books was printed with these types, forming in all 10,000 sheets, which is bound into 500 volumes.

The imperial city contains a great many palaces, temples, and other public edifices, independent of those noticed here. The Roman Catholic Missionaries reckon the number of palaces alone in this division, and in the forbidden city, at two hundred; "each palace large enough to accommodate the most wealthy European nobleman!" In the third and outer inclosure, which constitutes the remainder of the northern division, are situated five of the six supreme tribunals of the empire; the Board of Civil Office; the Board of Revenue; the Board of Rites; the Board of War; the Board of Public Works; and the Board of Punishments.

At the distance of about ten miles west and north-west from the city are several extensive gardens, with thirty distinct places of residences for the emperor and the officers of state, whose presence is occasionally required. Each of those constitute a considerable village, which are occupied by eunuchs, servants, and His

majesty's artificers: but these imperial abodes scarcely deserve the appellation of palaces. All the palaces of the emperor are filled with eunuchs, who are required to look after the gardens, and attend on the harem.

Peking is sustained by its being the seat of government. It has no trade, except that which is produced by the wants of its numerous inhabitants, who are said to amount to between two and three millions, including those that live in the suburbs. The country around Peking is less productive than many other parts of China. The provisions and manufactured goods required by the inhabitants are conveyed by the Grand Canal. Beef and mutton are brought from Mongolia; and coals from the mountains of the north-west. A considerable portion of the taxes levied upon the productions of the whole empire, is paid in kind, and is here stored up; the amount of rice alone in these granaries, at one portion of the year, is enormous; but they are often empty before the new crop is gathered, so that a great many die for want of food. The large establishment of the emperor, and the numerous persons in the employment of the government, who are paid out of the public revenue, absorb a great portion of the grain.

Tien-tsin, situated in the province of Chih-le, on the right bank of the Peiho, about thirty miles up the river, is the emporium of the capital, not two days' journey from Peking, and is one of the richest trading places in the empire. The junks of Siam, Cochin-China, and the south of China Proper, (Keang-nan and Shan-tung), may be seen here for miles together, as close as they can possibly stow, from June to October. Near the city, the Great Canal joins the Peiho, and thus it is the resort of some thousands of grain junks. The chief article for sale here is salt, which may be seen piled in mounds for miles, on the north side of the river; it is chiefly procured in the eastern and southern provinces, several thousand boats are constantly engaged in its transport. Mr. Barrow calculated the quantity he saw in 1816, to be six hundred millions of pounds in weight.

The land in the vicinity yields few productions, and the only articles manufactured are a coarse kind of woollen cloth, tapestry, and glass. Woollens and furs are large articles of import, and all transactions are paid for in silver and in bills of exchange on the southern provinces. The few privileged salt merchants who reside here live in the style of princes. The city, with all its wealth and extensive trade, has a miserable appearance, from the government prohibiting the use of bricks in building their houses. Tien-tsin ought to have been one of our consular ports; and by prudent negotiation we may yet be enabled to establish a trade there, to supply Peking and Tartary with our manufactures, and especially with woollen cloths, which are worn for six months, at least, by those who do not use furs, skins, or wadded garments.

CLIMATE OF CHINA.

The varied latitude and elevation of China must necessarily produce great difference of temperature; but China, being situated on the eastern side of a great continent, is subject to the usual extremes of heat and cold. Peking is said to be most salubrious; the frost usually sets in about the middle of December, and remains for about two months. The heat in June and July is very great; in September the thermometer is 96 in the shade, yet this month is considered the most pleasant in the year. The refreshing showers that fall during the hottest weather mitigate the direful effects of the intense heat: altogether the climate of China may be said to be as varied as its surface. The rivers of the northern provinces, and particularly the Yellow River, are covered with ice, (which becomes an article of commerce) and communication to the interior is stopped by the frost. Europeans who have lived in China for years, feel the cold weather much more penetrating than what is experienced in Europe, which is accounted for by the large quantities of nitre with which the earth is charged. The heat in summer causes, in the south, a dampness on the walls and pillars of most buildings. Canton and Macao are the only portions of China in which Europeans have had a long opportunity of judging of the climate; and it appears that 70° of Fahrenheit is the average temperature of Canton and Macao: October and April give nearly the mean heat of the year. Vegetation ceases from the first week in November to February, during which period scarcely any rain falls. In the month of May the fall of rain has exceeded eighteen inches, being a fourth of the year. On the whole, the climate of China Proper is much the same as that of Asia in general. The number of people met with of an advanced age in the northern provinces, is the best proof that the air is salubrious and bracing; it neither approximates to the rigour of the northern regions, nor to the wasting influence of the southern. The tropical monsoons do not extend much beyond Canton City. The ty-foons only occur during the hottest months, about August or September: they are equally as destructive as the West Indian tornadoes, the extensive sea-coast appears to conduct the wind. Along the extensive channel of Formosa, N. E. winds are prevalent for full eight months out of twelve. The winds in the interior are conducted by the vast chains of mountains.

CHINESE DEPENDENCIES.

The provinces or countries dependent on or contiguous to China are so little known that a connected statement may be useful.

Soungaria and Eastern Turkeston, called Chinese Tartary, is separated from China by the Teenshan, or Celestial Mountains. The district extends from lat. 47° 30′ N. to 33° 30′, and from 22°

23′ W. of Peking to 42° 25′. It is bounded on the N. by the Altai Mountains, which separate it from the Kirghis territory, the Chamor Mountains, and River Irtish; on the N. E. from the Mongolian district, Oulai-Soutai; to the E. it borders on Kansuh, in China Proper; the Kwanben and Kobi separate Turkestan from Tibet; and the Belour Mountains from Buckharia.

The whole of this territory, up to the year 1772, was in the possession of the Kalmucks, or Eleuths; and each district was governed by a chief (turah). The Emperor Keen-lung conquered, and successfully governed the whole province. In 1833, a descendant of the ancient princes, Jehangir Khojeh, took advantage of the unpopularity of the Chinese government, and rose in rebellion, aided by a large body of Khirgiz, and 8,000 troops from the Khan of Kokan. Kashgar was taken from the Chinese, who, it is said, lost a large army. One victory followed another, so that the whole of the territory was in Jehangir's possession for more than seven months.

From the tyranny and oppression practised by the new ruler, he became unpopular; and the Chinese returning with a large force, Ishak Khojeh, a chief of some Kashgar tribes, betrayed his ally to the Chinese, who sent him to Peking, where he was executed. The betrayer was made Prince of Kashgar by the Emperor of China; and on visiting Peking, the following year, never returned. He is said to have been poisoned, the government being afraid of his influence.

Chinese Tartary contains many towns, the chief are: Yarkand, Kashgar, Oksei, Ele, Yengi Hissar, Ooch Turfan, and Koneh Turfan, (called Hami,) Gummi, and Lopp.

Yarkand is the capital of a large territory. The population of Yarkand is said to be 80,000 families: there are resident in Yarkand 200 Chinese merchants; but many others visit it at stated times. A considerable number of Tungani merchants are permanently settled there. The Tungani are Mussulmans, and said to be descended from the soldiers of Alexander the Great, who pushed his conquests as far as Solar. (Tungani signifies "left behind," or "looking back.") It has two forts of large extent; one of them surrounded with a mud wall. There are 300 Tartar, and 600 Chinese soldiers. Horse-flesh sells for the same price as mutton. Yarkand is surrounded by a number of towns and villages, which are very populous. Traffic is very active, as Chinese traders from Shanse, Shense, Keagnan, and Chekeang, proceed thither to meet traders from various countries not governed by China.

The productions of Yarkand are wheat, rice, barley, and a variety of seeds, from which oil is extracted. Fruit and vegetables are very abundant. Raw silk is cultivated in large quantities: but the staple article is the wool of the shawl goat (akhehah); the dumba, sheep with a large tail, is abundant. The celebrated jade-stone is found near Yarkand in large quantities. About 10,000 lbs. weight

of the spotless *yu* is sent annually to the Emperor, from a neighbouring mountain. Private individuals are prohibited trading in this gem. The customs produce 35,000 taels of silver annually; 30 taels of gold, 35,000 sacks of corn, 800 measures of oil, and 1649 taels for military expenses. The Mahomedans furnish 57,569 pieces of linen, 15,000 lbs. of cotton, 1,400 linen sacks, 1,300 hempen ropes, and 3,000 lbs. of copper; all of which is sent to Ele.

Kashgar is a large frontier town on the N.W. extremity of Se-Yu, beyond the snowy mountains, distant about five days' journey from Yarkand, and was the ancient capital of the province, until the late rebellion, since which time it is declining. The city contains about 15,000 inhabitants. There are constantly 8,000 Chinese troops quartered in and around the city. It has also an Usbeck chief, with a nominal authority. The Chinese government keep a close watch on the Khan of Kokan. The country is fertile: the Mahomedans contribute every year 3,600 small carpets; 3,600 taels of silver; 14,000 sacks of grain; and 10,000 pieces of linen; all of which are sent to Ele. Large quantities of gold and silver brocades are manufactured and sent to the emperor. Merchandise pays a custom-duty of one-tenth. There are eight towns dependent on the chief officer of Kashgar.

Yengi Hissar lies half way between Yarkand and Kashgar.

Oksu is N.E. from Yarkand, and distant about twenty days' caravan travelling. It is a large commercial mart, for the productions of China and Russian Tartary. Coined silver is the circulating medium (tankeh). There are 2,000 Chinese troops stationed here. The population of the town is said to be 20,000 families. The country around produces great abundance of provisions; there are large herds of cattle, sheep, camels, and horses; the Mahomedans collect from every quarter for trade, and much comfort prevails among the people.

Eela or *Ele* is situated N. of Oksu, distant twenty-five days' journey, and forty from Yarkand. It is a walled town, and is the penal settlement of China. The climate is destructive to the constitution of the Chinese; a Tartar general has charge of the civil as well as military administration.

Kouche is N.W. of Oksu, and S. of Ele, and three months' journey from the Russian frontier. The inhabitants are chiefly Kalmuks, who follow a pastoral life. Great quantities of cattle are reared. It is called the eastern gate of China.

Ooch Turfan is two days' journey from Yarkand. Konih Turfan, called Hami, two months' journey from Yarkand, is a place of great trade in all kinds of merchandize; it is governed by two great officers and 1,000 soldiers, and is four *le** in circumference.

* The Chinese *le*, or measure of distance, varies in the north and south of China, those of the south being the longest: 200 *le* are said to be equal to a degree of latitude.

Lopp is two months' journey from Yarkand, and is inhabited by Chinese principally.

Gummi lies between Yarkand and Eelchi (in Khoten).

Khoten. This country contains many large towns, Karakash, Eelchi, and Kirrea, with many others. Karakash is the capital, within ten days' journey from Yarkand, and twenty days' from Tibet. It is governed by two Chinese Umbauns, or residents, to whom are subordinate two Usbeck Karims; one in Eelchi, and the other in Kirrea. The taxable subjects are estimated at 700,000. The military force is 2,000. The country is flat, and the soil very productive. The *Yu* (jade) is found in considerable quantities.

Eelchi is twelve days' journey from Yarkand.

Kirrea is about five days' journey from Eelchi. The Chinese government work the gold mines here, and monopolize the produce. The sand of the river is said to contain a large portion of gold. The commercial intercourse is with Yarkand, and is very considerable in silk, gold-dust, grapes, raisins, &c. Caravans come from the Russian frontier *vid* Eela, Oksu, and Kouche, and bring broad cloth, brocades, furs, and steel; and take in return, tea, rhubarb, sal-ammoniac, &c.

About ten days' journey from Oksu are two very high mountains; the valley between them is covered for a considerable depth with sal-ammoniac. During the eruptions, (the natives call it God's fire), the sal-ammoniac falls like a mist, and in winter becomes crystallized.

Near Yarkand is a river called Zurufshan, which is frozen over three months in the winter.

Chinese Tartary is subject to the extremes of cold and heat; but except on the mountains snow is never seen in the capital. Rain does not fall more than three or four times in the year.

About the year 1832 the country was much ravaged by earthquakes and the cholera.

We know very little of this region, which separates China Proper from the Russian territories, and may ere long be the battle-field between the two empires, if Peking be made the "Constantinople," or place of intrigue, for the Muscovite policy.

The government of Soungaria and Turkestan is of three kinds:—1st. In the easternmost districts of Soungaria, Barkoul, and Orountchi, it is much the same as China, and these districts have been incorporated with the province of Kansuh; 2nd. In the western districts around Ele, where the Chinese convicts are sent, it is strictly military, being occupied by Mantchou troops, who are considered as inhabitants of the soil; they are commanded by a general and subordinate officers, whose authority extends to the eastern districts, and to Turkestan; in Turkestan, the government is left in the hands of the native nobles, who are Begs of different degrees of rank, under the control of Chinese residents at the principal cities.

MONGOLIA.—The eastern boundary of Mongolia is the Tchitchihar district of Mantchouria; to the N. it is separated from Siberia by the Altai Mountains; to the S. it has the Chinese Great Wall; to the W. it borders on the government of Ele and Kan-suh province. It is situated to the N.W. of Tibet, whilst Kokonor stretches along the western boundaries of Sz-chuen province. It extends from lat. 34° to 55° N., and from east of Peking, 5° to 20° W.; it is about 1,400 miles in length, and 1,000 in breadth.

The government of Mongolia remains, for the most part, in the hands of the native princes. The male population is enrolled, and formed into bodies called *Ke*, the same as the Mantchou troops, who are called *Pa-ke*. Each ke is under a tchassak, or dzassak, who is hereditary. The tchassaks are all nobles. The ke, or standards, are united into corps, over which a commander-general and a deputy preside. There are six such corps in Inner Mongolia, four in Outer Mongolia, and eight between Kokonor and Ouliasoutai on the Russian frontier. The ke are sub-divided into companies. In a few districts in Mongolia, in place of the tchassak, either generals or residents are put at the head of the government. There are two residents in Outer Mongolia, at Kourun, for regulating the intercourse of the Chinese, Mongols, and Russians.

Notwithstanding their anxiety, the Tartar government are quite ignorant of the amount of the population of the Mongols. Each Mongol prince engages to furnish to China from four to twenty squadrons, each consisting of 150 horsemen. Taking thirteen squadrons as an average for each banner, it appears that the forty-nine banners of the southern Mongols, or Kalkas, formed a total amount of 260,000 men; and eight banners of the Tsakhars, which are estimated at 24,000 men. This return was made after the great struggle between the Soungarians and Chinese; ever since that period (1696) the Mongolians have had uninterrupted peace, and the population must have increased.

It is said there are at least 500,000 tents, each of which contains a soldier; reckoning four to each family, the total population would be 2,000,000.

In the northern part of Mongolia there is an abundance of timber, such as the pine, fir, larch, and poplar; the elm is very common. The Selengar, Orchou, Iro, Khara, and other rivers abound in fish; such as salmon, sturgeon, trout, pike, and various other kinds. The quadrupeds are wild boars, wild horses, bears, wolves, hares, sables, foxes, and squirrels. The birds are cranes, geese, ducks, quails, and swans. The horse is small, but strong. All the camels of Mongolia have two humps; those of Gobi are very large and strong. The sheep, which are all white, constitute the riches of the Mongols, and supply them with milk and meat, their only subsistence. Millet, barley, and wheat, are sown in small quantities.

MANTCHOURIA.—The Mantchous, who now govern China, are

said to be of Tongouse origin; and have scarcely existed more than three centuries as a distinct and independent nation. Their country is mountainous and barren, and thinly populated. It was formerly divided among a number of petty chieftains, who seldom remained long at peace with each other. Hence, the people became more hardy and vigorous than their neighbours, the Chinese; and at a period when the empire was torn by dissensions between the imperial princes, and revolts among the people, a Mantchou chieftain began to attack China, over which, after thirty years' warfare, in the middle of the seventeenth century, the Mantchous obtained the dominion they now hold, under the title of the *Tat-sing* dynasty.

The Mantchou territory is divided in three provinces, viz.: Shingking, or Moukden (the ancient Leaoutung); 2. Kirin; and 3. Kihlung-keang, or Tsitsihar. The first of these borders on China, Mongolia, and the gulf of Pechilee, or of Leaoutung; the second on Corea, and the sea of Japan; and the third, on Siberia and Mongolia.

Mantchouria is situated between 29° and 55° north lat. and from the meridian of Peking to 30° 20′ E. To the north it borders Siberia, from which it is separated by the Daourian Mountains; the River Kerbechi constitutes the natural boundary. The boundary line between Mantchouria and Mongolia is a wooden wall, running from the Great Wall along the N.E. boundaries of Leaoutung; the frontiers take then a N.W. direction, along the Songaria and other rivers, to Kobi, and the territory of the Kalkas. On the E. it borders on the channel of Tartary and the Japan Sea; on the S., the Yellow Sea and Corea. The extent from N. to S. is about 700 miles; from E. to W. 900. The principal rivers are the Amour, or Segalien, Songari, the Noun, or Nonni, and Ousouri. The Segalien rises in Mongolia, and forms the boundary between Mongolia and the Siberian province of Nertchinsk. The Songari rises in the Chang-pih-shan, near the northern frontier of Corea; running N.E. by E. it unites in lat. 47° 50′, long. 16° 10′ with the Segalien. The Nonni rises near the inner Daourian Mountains, and falls into the Songari. The Ousouri rises in the Seih-hih-tih Mountains, and falls into the Amour.

The lakes of Mantchouria are the Hin-ka, situated in Kirin; the Hoo-rien and Pir, and several smaller ones. The Seih-hin-tih Mountains lie along the sea-coast. The Daourian Mountains are branches of the Stanovoy chain. These mountains form the northern boundaries: they are high, and are covered with perpetual snow. Between Leaoutung and Corea are several other high mountains.

The description of Mantchouria as given by the Emperor Keenlung, may be correct, but it has been greatly improved since the present dynasty came on the throne. He commences thus: "In a space of ten thousand *le* (Chinese mile) you find a succession of

hills and valleys, parched lands and well irrigated territories, majestic rivers, impetuous torrents, graceful streams, smiling plains, and forests impenetrable to the rays of the sun. The Iron Mountain and the Ornamented Mountain are seen from a great distance. Wheat returns the labour expended on it one hundred-fold; fruits are produced in great abundance. Gin-seng grows on all the mountains. Leaoutung exports large quantities of wheat, peas, rice, and rhubarb." The population are returned at 943,000, which is considered too little. The Chinese residents far outnumber the Mantchous, who are both proud and indolent.

Moukden, the capital, is built on an eminence, in lat. 41° 56′, and 7° 11′ E. of Peking. Great efforts have been made by the Chinese Sovereigns to make this a large and elegant city.

Kin-choo is a considerable emporium, in lat. 40° 10′, long. 4° 55′ E. of Peking. As a market, it ranks high for drugs, peas, and flour; upwards of 1000 junks obtain cargoes. Kae-choo, in the neighbourhood of the capital, in lat. 40° 30′, long. 6° E. of Peking, is a place of great trade; the produce of the surrounding country is collected here, and exported to Fo-keen, Canton, and Keang-nan. In the season, the mercantile activity is very great: the town is nearly eight miles from the sea, and the merchandize is sent thither by horses and carts. Fung-hwang-ching is the only emporium between Manchouria and Corea. The Coreans are permitted this for the purpose of exchanging their paper and raw produce for Chinese manufactures. The Corean commerce is so much fettered by restrictions and heavy duties, that the trade is almost stationary. The Chinese merchants have engrossed nearly all the commerce of the place.

The government of the provinces of Mantchouria consists of a supreme government at Moukden, and three provincial governments. That of Moukden is the same as in China Proper, while that of the other provinces is wholly military. The province of Moukden includes two departments, that of Fungteen-foo, the metropolitan department, and Hingking, or Kinchou-foo. These are sub-divided into chow and keen districts, as in China. The City of Moukden is not under a che-foo, but one of higher rank, called foo-yuen, who cooperates with one of the Boards in the government of the metropolitan department. His assistant has the direction of the literary branch of the administration. The three eastern provinces, Moukden, Kirin, and Tsitsihar, are under the government of a general, who is always a Mantchou. His subordinate officers are lieutenant-generals, at the head of each principal division of the province. Subordinate to these are garrison officers, of rank varying according to the importance of the districts under them; these delegate their authority to officers, or assistant directors. The frontiers are under a separate class of officers.

The emigration to Mantchouria, from the province of Shantung, is very great, so that, in a few years, there will not be a spot

uncultivated. The summers are short, but very hot. The cold weather commences in October, and the whole country is one sheet of ice until March. The changes of heat to cold are sudden; within a few hours the thermometer falls from 40° to 10°. Fruits, and even tropical productions, are grown to perfection. The Chinese and Mantchoo languages are in use; the latter is the language of the court.

Sagalien Island, or Tahoka, on the coast of Mantchouria, is represented in Chinese maps as an island, with a small islet between it and the main land. Late travellers represent the intervening water to be so shallow, that the natives ford it. On the northern side of the mouth of the river Amour, the Tartar-Chinese have a town, and general mart (Tsetaleho), to which the Chinese resort, and carry on a large trade.

The extent of the rivers which disembogue at the mouth of the Amour, is amazing; and all the principal cities of eastern Tartary are accessible by them. They extend to upwards of 30° of longitude. The river, nearest the sea, runs N.E. and has two forked branches; the one in the E. and W. direction, and the other in the same direction, nearly, as the trunk or stem; in European maps, it is called Songari. The stem and branch Songari, which communicates with Kirin Ula, and Ningkuta, the principal cities in Mantchou Tartary, the Chinese call Hwan-tung-keang, and the Japanese give the same name to the great stem which enters the sea at Okotsk. The branch which lies E. and W. extends beyond the Russian city Nipcha, and is called Hilung-keang (Dragon River). This is the Amour of the Russians, and the Sagalien of the Tartars.

TIBET DEPENDENCY.

Tibet may be considered as comprehending all the tract of country from the eastern boundaries of Cashmere to the frontiers of Kokonor, from long. W. of Peking 18° to 42°, and from lat. 28° to 35°, Ladhak included. Its eastern frontiers are Sefan, Kokonor, and Turkestan; its northern, the government of Ele and Great Bukharia; its southern, Nepaul, Sikkim, and Bootan; its western, Bukharia and Cashmere. Its divisions are two, Anterior and Ulterior Tibet; by the Chinese it is called Se-tsang. Anterior Tibet, called Lassa, is the most eastern part; it borders upon China, its capital is Lassa, and it contains eight cantons. Ulterior Tibet, called Tes-hoo, Loomboo, and the Umdes, contains six cantons, all situated to the west of the capital.

Lassa, in 30° 43′ north latitude, the chief city of Anterior Tibet, is situated in an extensive valley, which is forty *le* from N. to S., and about 450 *le* from E. to W. Under this name is understood all the country Yuiba, which runs eastward to Kamba, the greater part of which is incorporated with China.

The district of Lassa is bounded on the east by the province of Sze-chuen and Yun-nan; in China proper, on the N.E., by Kokonor; on the N. by the Hwang-ho, or Yellow River; on the W. by the Western Sea, or Lake Terkiri; on the S. by Tako. It is stated that the numerous temples and splendid edifices, noble streets, and large market places, prove it to be one of the most flourishing cities of the West.

The next considerable city in Tibet to Lassa is Jiga-gounggar, in the province of Wei, 104 *le* S.W. of Lassa, which contains 20,000 families. Its position is 29° 58′ N. lat.

The government of Tibet, like Turkestan, remains in the hands of native authorities, but with an inferior degree of control on the part of the Chinese residents. The chief native authority lies in the dalai lama for Anterior Tibet, and in the bantchin-erdeni lama for Ulterior Tibet; both these have secular deputies. There is a Chinese resident at the court of each lama, who is consulted in all important affairs. There are also feudal townships, called Toosze, and some Mongols in Tibet, entirely under the authority of the residents.

There are said to be upwards of 60,000 soldiers in Tibet; at Lassa, 3,000 cavalry; 2,000 in Dzang; 5,000 in Ngari; 1,000 in Koba; 3,000 in Tardzi, Landzi, Lanmautso, and among the Mongols living in black tents in Ngari. The troops are recruited by taking one man out of ten or five; the same with horses.

Formosa, ("the beautiful island"), or Tewan, is about 300 miles long. A chain of mountains runs through its centre, from N. to S.; beyond this on both sides there is a continued flat, and towards the sea a barren alluvial sand, nearly four miles in breadth. The south-east point of Formosa is in lat. 21° 53′ 30″ N., and in long. 120° 57′ E. Ke-lung, the most northern point, is 25° 16′ N., and 121° 4′ 3″ E. from Greenwich. The channel which separates Formosa from the Chinese coast, is from 70 to 100 miles in breadth; about 24 miles from the island lie the Pang-hoo, or Pescadore islands. The position of Formosa for trade is excellent, within one day's sail of the port of Amoy, within thirty leagues of the coast of China, about 150 from Japan, and nearly the same distance from the Philippines, Except Ke-lung harbour, there is no other that has yet been explored. Nieuhoff visited the island, and states that Pang-hoo-ting has several good harbours, and two commodious bays, where ships may ride safely in eight or nine fathoms of water. The islands are numerous; the best is Fisher's Island (western).

The aborigines of the island of Formosa are divided into three classes:—first, those who have not only submitted to the Chinese, but have advanced towards civilisation. This class was instructed by the Dutch, when they had possession of the island; many of them still have some slight knowledge of the language, although a period of 170 years has elapsed since the Dutch occupied part of

the island. The second class is composed of aborigines, who submit to the Chinese authority, yet retain their own habits and customs; these are styled "raw natives." The third portion includes all the unsubdued tribes, whose number is unknown. They are ruled by a chief and elders, and are of a slender shape, and olive complexion; live in wretched huts, have no written language, or established religion.

Formosa, together with the Pescadore islands, forms one foo, or department, of the province of Foo-keen, which is subject to the foo-yuen of that province. The departments comprise six heen, or districts; five of which are in Formosa, the other includes the Pescadore isles. Tae-wan, the chief district, is a narrow tract of land, in lat. 23° N., and is considered equal to the first-class cities of China in wealth and appearance. Attached to it are twenty Chinese and three native villages. Its harbours are not good, one of the entrances being closed with sand. To the north of Tae-wan, is Choo-lo-heen, which comprises one town, four Chinese and thirty-two native villages, with a tolerable harbour (Lo-kang); next is Chang-hwa-heen, which has one good town, fifteen villages, and 132 Chinese farms, and 51 native villages.

Tan-shwuy-heen has one town, 133 farms, and 70 native villages. Fung-shou-heen lies in a southern point, and has one town. The native villages are 73, of which eight only are occupied by civilised natives. The Pescadore, or Pang-hoo, constitutes the sixth heen, or district. This cluster of islands, 36 in number, although barren, forms an important naval and military station for the Chinese government, who find it necessary to watch the inhabitants, as they have a reputation for lawlessness, occasioned it is said by the unjust extortions of the Mandarins, on the thousands of emigrants who come from Foo-keen, Canton, and Che-keang provinces. The eastern part of the island of Formosa is still in possession of the native chiefs. The revenue of Formosa exceeds 1,000,000 taels of silver, and the whole population is between two and three millions of inhabitants.

The portion of Formosa under the government of China is most fruitful and healthy. The vast plains of the southern part may justly be called a garden. Every kind of grain and fruit may be produced on the island; but rice, sugar, tobacco, and camphor, are the chief articles of export. The number of junks employed in conveying rice to Fo-keen and Che-keang provinces is upwards of 200. For sugar, more than 70 junks are annually employed between the single port of Tein-tsin. The camphor is sent to Canton, and the quantity is very considerable. Cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, are abundant. The mountains produce gold, silver, cinnabar, copper, and coal, of which latter some excellent specimens have been recently sent to England. Formosa exceeds Manilla and Java in the quantity of its exports; and the circulating capital is in proportion to the commerce.

The whole of the preceding details must necessarily be considered as vague in many points; they are derived from various sources, which will be particularized at the end of the work; and they are given rather as an incitement to further inquiry, and as illustrative of the vastness and importance of the empire of China, than from any implicit reliance on their accuracy. At any rate, this imperfect description may awaken investigation, by showing what immense regions yet remain for exploration, and it is to be hoped for commercial profit.

CHAPTER II.

POPULATION,—CHARACTER,—MANNERS, &c.

Texas is no country in the world where there are more opportunities of knowing the amount of the population than China, as every district has its officer; every street its constable; every ten houses, its tything-man; and every family is required to have a board always hanging up in the house, ready for the inspection of the regular officer, on which the name of every man, woman, or child, in the house, must be inscribed. There is even a law to constrain Chinese householders to give a faithful return. All persons are required to be registered according to their several occupations.

When the master of a family, who holds land that is chargeable with contributions to the revenue, omits to make any entry in the public register, he is liable to be punished with one hundred blows; but if he possess no such property, with eighty blows. When any master of a family has strangers, who constitute, in fact, a distinct family, he shall be punished with one hundred blows, if such strangers possess taxable property; and eighty, if not. In all cases, the register must be immediately corrected.

The reigning dynasty has adopted a system, that a reasonable proportion of money and grain shall be retained by each province for the use of the state, to meet the wants of the people: the government could not know the amount to be reserved, if they did not know the average amount of inhabitants; so that, it seems most likely that it is to help the government, and not to impose on foreigners, that the census is taken. The following table is from Chinese authorities.