

It is lamentable to observe that the institutions of any nation should have the effect of deadening every feeling of sympathy, and of exciting, instead of discouraging, "man's inhumanity to man;" but such is the case in this country; and when any one is severely wounded by accident, or falls into a river, or other situation of danger, he is certain of receiving no assistance from the by-standers, who will most probably take to their heels, in order to *save themselves* from being the last person seen near him.

About midnight, some time in November, 1816, when the *Alceste* was lying at second bar, the shrieks of some people in the water were heard near the ship. The Hon. Mr. Stopford, who had the watch, and another gentleman, collecting a few individuals who happened to be on deck, jumped into a boat alongside; pushed off to their assistance; and, directed by their cries, picked up, one after the other, three Chinese, who were plunging about in the river, which is here several miles wide.

It was a fine night, and a number of

small junks were moving up under easy sail, several of whom passed within a few fathoms of these people who were hawling for help ; and although they could, without the slightest difficulty, have saved the whole, they continued their course, the crews standing upon deck, and viewing their struggles with the most callous indifference.

On carrying the three men on board the frigate, it appeared they had been crossing the river at this place, in a little *Sanpan*, or boat ; in which were, besides themselves, the wife and child of one of them ; and that this boat had been run down by one of the headmost junks, which passed on without taking the least notice, and regardless of their fate, although they had occasioned the mischief ; the others coolly following their example ; when they were fortunately heard from the ship, and preserved by the boat. The poor woman and child, being unable to swim, sunk and were drowned.

Before day-light these people got a passage on shore by a boat which happened to

be passing near the ship, and in the course of the forenoon one of them returned on board with a *cumshaw*, or present, of three wild ducks, which he presented on his knees to the gentleman who had saved him, stating that, by the junk running over their sanpan, he had lost his wife and a bull child, (his only mode of expressing a boy,) and must himself with the other men have perished also but for the assistance we afforded them. Pleased with this appearance of heart and gratitude, where so little was expected, some money and provisions were given him for his ducks, and he was allowed to bring on board fish and other articles for sale, which, from becoming rather a favourite, soon enabled him to repair the loss of his boat.

The Chinese, viewing them in every point, are assuredly a very singular race, and afford a melancholy example of the perverseness of human nature; exhibiting a people who have had for some thousand years a dawn of civilization, which, from the operation of the most narrow-minded principles, has never brightened into day.

But for the presumptuous folly of supposing themselves at the summit of perfection, and the absurd tyranny of fettering the human understanding, by forbidding all innovation and improvement, China might and ought to have been at the present hour the greatest nation of the world. Instead of impotent and gasconading pretensions to universal supremacy, she might have enjoyed, from her early and local advantages, the real glory of being the seat of arts, literature, wealth, and power.

What have the governors or the governed gained by this *pretended* non-intercourse, and stupid contempt of the rest of mankind? The frequent change of dynasty and constant rebellions tend to shew that the former have been by no means secure; whilst the debased and humiliated state of the people sufficiently evinces that their sordid and illiberal plan confers no benefit on the general mass.

The Chinese, however, are not without their admirers. Some attribute their suspicious meanness, knavery, silly pride, and other ill qualities, to their depraved mode

of government, which narrows their ideas, by compelling their attention, and attaching importance, entirely to the observance of useless forms and ceremonies; and by admitting of no deviation from one contracted path, even in the simplest transactions of life; and that, were it not for these shackles of the mind, they would be a gay, civil, industrious, and honest people. Perhaps there may be a good deal of truth in this argument, and it is, therefore, extremely unfortunate that some change does not take place in a system which produces effects so injurious to the reputation of mankind. Another, and very distinct class of encomiasts, (of the true antediluvian school,) affect to hold them in high estimation, solely on account of their unvarying habits, and tenacious adherence to their ancient customs; and as they are now, in all respects, precisely what they were two or three thousand years ago, they venerate them as living monuments of former times, and as *valuable specimens of the antique*. In their present state, however, from whatever

cause it is produced, few moderns will take their leave of them with sentiments of regard or estimation; and even the most inveterate antiquarian, had he more concerns with them than those merely speculative, might be divested, perhaps, of some of his prejudices.

Of the embassy, we had heard nothing distinctly for nearly five months, except that it had not been received; and it was not clearly understood, until its arrival at Canton, that the refusal to submit to a humiliating ceremonial, considered as stamping it with a character purely tributary, was the cause of this failure; and that a reception on the unconditional terms of the Chinese would have been deemed more prejudicial to the objects of the mission than even a rejection by a firm resistance. But these weighty matters are foreign to the subject of a mere simple sea-voyager, and will be so well described by those officially connected with them, as to render any farther observation unnecessary. Although the viceroy of Canton was in daily com-

munication with the legate, or commissioner, appointed to accompany the embassy through the country, yet he maintained a sullen silence as to the probable period of its arrival, making no communication that we might prepare for that event; and it was not until the 31st of December that a letter of old date, having been detained for some time, was put into Captain Maxwell's hand, from Lord Amherst, stating when the embassy was likely to enter Canton, which took place on the following day. A procession of boats, consisting of the barges of the two men of war, those of the factory, the American consul, and all the Indiamen, who were very numerous, with their respective flags, the captains and officers in full dress, and the boats' crews in uniform clothing, proceeded some miles up the river, where they fell in with the Chinese barges, having the embassy on board. This meeting was highly gratifying to both parties, after a separation of nearly five months, during which each had, in its respective route,

observed many novel scenes, and encountered extraordinary occurrences.

Lord Amherst removing into his own (or the Alceste's) barge, a double line of boats was formed on each side, and in this order proceeded down the river, and was landed at the entrance of the great temple, on the Honan side, from whence he was conducted to his residence by a very numerous assemblage, who had collected to receive him. The apartments in this place had been fitted up with much taste, and great appearance of comfort, under the inspection of Mr. Urmston, of the factory, and was by far the most commodious and respectable quarters they had met with in China. A temporary building, or wooden frame covered with yellow screens, and containing a chair of state, having also yellow ornaments and the usual insignia of the Emperor, was erected in the principal square, for the occasion of the viceroy's interview with the Ambassador, in order to deliver the Emperor's letter to the Prince Regent. This ceremony took place some days after the



arrival of his lordship. The viceroy had been ordered by his court to make a speech to the Ambassador, on presenting this letter (which speech had been in rehearsal for some months, and the substance of it publicly known through the medium of Portuguese translations); and it appeared that the tenour of this embryo harangue was rather of an insulting nature, containing such expressions as “Your good fortune has been small;” “You sighed after happiness, and were unable to lift your eyes up to heaven,” *i. e.* to view the celestial Emperor, and others of a similar kind. The preamble of this edict also stated, that there appearing to be no want of respect in the King or Prince, who had sent over so many seas to pay him homage, but that the fault lay in the Ambassadors not understanding the rules of true politeness; he therefore had accepted some trifling articles of the presents of the said King, and in return had bestowed precious gifts, agreeably to the maxim of Confucius, “Take little, and give much;” and that, “on the receipt of these gifts, the

Embassadors became exceeding glad, and expressed great contrition \* for their conduct;" and went on to say "that the viceroy, on their arrival, was to give them an entertainment in compliance with good manners, after which he was to rid himself of them as soon as possible; and should they again *supplicate* him to accept their presents, he was enjoined to say to them, "The edict has passed, and cannot be revoked! the Emperor can be troubled no more!" and so forth. As it appeared this intended address had been made by them matter of public notoriety, it was understood, that, in order to prevent any *palaver* of this sort, a

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\* A tolerably strong example of this sort of *face-making* occurred during the discussion about the performance of the ceremony, in which the precedent of Lord Macartney's not having done it was brought forward, when the Emperor declared, through his ministers, that he himself had seen his lordship perform it; and they coolly called on Sir G. Staunton, who had been page in that embassy, to vouch for the truth of the fact.—That he did submit to the *Ko-tow* is no doubt the *face* they have put upon it in all the records of the empire.

hint was given to the viceroy the day previous to the interview, cautioning him against the use of any improper language, as it might call forth replies which would be unpleasant. At the time appointed this meeting of ceremony took place, and was accompanied by the appearance of guards, music, and other attendants, there being much state observed on each side.

The Emperor's letter, contained in a bamboo case, covered with yellow silk, was now taken from this throne, and presented to the Ambassador, who transferred it to his secretary; and the persons on either side, who were (by previous regulation) allowed chairs, having taken their seats, and the usual unvarying number of complimentary questions having been gone through, such as "What age are ye?" and some others of the same high importance, the viceroy began to state, through the medium of Mr. Morrison, who interpreted, "By the favour of the Emperor you have traded to this country for more than a hundred years, very much to your advantage." "Tell him,"

said Lord Amherst, "the advantage is mutual." This being done, the viceroy replied, "No, the advantage is very much on your side." "Repeat to him," said his lordship, "that the advantage is *strictly* mutual." From the dignified and independent manner in which this was spoken, (a manner which, of course, from his peculiar situation, and the different style of those he had to deal with, he could have no conception of,) and perceiving, also, a determination to repulse every thing bordering on impertinence, he seemed to be quite awed and disconcerted; the thread of his discourse was broken, and he got no farther on with this mighty specimen of altiloquence, than to say something about "the subject being a disagreeable one;" when the Ambassador, considering the public business ended by the presentation of the Emperor's letter, rose up, and, wishing him a very good morning, retired in the same state as on coming to this hall of audience.

On the 20th, every thing being ready, his Excellency left Canton on the forenoon of

the 20th January, 1817, and was attended to Wampoa in the same style as on entering it, except that, in passing the various ships in that branch of the river, each saluted with nineteen guns, the Chinese war-junks also saluting. It appeared that the viceroy, just as the Ambassador had embarked in his barge to proceed down the river, approached near in his boat, and made a tender of a complimentary card, which was not accepted, it being deemed an improper time and mode of presenting it. On the 21st the *Alceste* weighed and stood down the river; and on the morning of the 22d, as we passed our friends at the forts, each battery fired a distinct salute, in honour of the Ambassador, as did the different war-junks; and their whole military force, exclusive of that in the batteries, was drawn out in line in Anson's Bay, and fired a *feu-de-joie* with their matchlocks.

The ship answered all these in rotation, with three guns to each. On the same evening we anchored off the city of Macao, and the next morning his Excellency

landed ; but here the ghost of the late queen made its way through the centre of the earth, (for we were now antipodes to the Brazils), and prevented any public attentions being paid to the Ambassador, because the accounts of her death had just arrived. The fact is, these poor people dare not, were they ever so willing, do any thing which they think may be displeasing to the Chinese, under whom they live in a state of miserable thralldom ; the latter having it in their power, and frequently resorting to the measure, of stopping their allowance of provisions whenever they display the least symptom of being unruly ; and in the present case it seemed to be the wish of the Chinese to have the whole management of the honours to the Ambassador ; a mandarin receiving him on going on shore, although within their walls, precisely as he would have done, had the Chinese flag, instead of that of the Portuguese, been flying there.

Macao is stated to be a possession of little or no value to the crown of Portugal, and,

under the circumstances of its present tenure, certainly not one that is either honourable or independent. The cave of Camoens is the only object here which attracts the notice of a traveller, from its being the spot in which he composed his celebrated poem of the *Lusiad*. Camoens, certainly the greatest, and perhaps the only, Portuguese poet whose fame ever extended beyond the boundaries of his own country, deserved a better fate; and it is painful to think he died a beggar in the streets of Lisbon.

On the 9th January, the Ambassador having re-embarked, we took our leave of China, steering for Manilla, the capital of the Philippines, or Spanish India, where we arrived on Monday the 3d of February, but found it was only Sunday at this place, owing to the different routes by which the Spaniards and the Portuguese advanced to the Asiatic seas; the one by Cape Horn, the other by the Cape of Good Hope; a circumstance which may produce an awkward effect on people

newly arrived at Manilla;—for instance, a stranger invited to a party on Wednesday, without at all reflecting on the way he came thither, might dress himself for the occasion, and make his appearance on Tuesday. The town of Manilla, from its peninsular situation, having on one side the sea, and on the other a deep and rapid river, with strongly-fortified ditches across the isthmus, ought to be, with a proper garrison, very defensible, for there are no commanding heights in its immediate vicinity; but their soldiers consist almost entirely of mulattoes and blacks, and seem to be in a very lethargic state of discipline.

The *Metees*, or Mulatto women, who are a mixture between the Spaniards and the natives, are remarkable for their symmetry of form and stately mien, and this sort of beauty is so universal as hardly to admit of an exception. The religion of the Indians under the immediate control of the Spaniards is Christianity; but at Mindanao and the other islands (of which there are more than a thousand), where they are



governed by their own sultans, it is said to be a mixture of Mahomedanism with their original Pagan rites. The banks of the river, as well as the lake from which it issues, called the Laguna de Bria, (its nearest part about eighteen miles from the city,) are represented as extremely beautiful, and abounding in tropical scenery.

This lake extends more than thirty miles into the interior. Near its head are some remarkable hot springs, called "Los Baños," or baths; but they seemed rather too hot for that purpose. Luconia\* is about four hundred miles in length, and two hundred in

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\* Canada is said to have derived its name from the Spaniards, when they landed in that quarter, repeating the words "aca nada," or "nothing here," (meaning there was no gold to be found,) which the Indians caught the sound of. Some similar occurrence appears to have occasioned the name of Luçon. When Magellan's party first went on shore they found one of the native women beating rice, as is usual at the present time, in a mortar hollowed from the trunk of a tree, and, finding herself surrounded by strange men, she held up to them the large wooden pestle, calling out Looson, which is the native term for it; and this becoming a by-word among the Spaniards, they named the island Luçon, which has been modernized into Luconia.

breadth; and, were it made the most of, is fully capable of affording all the productions of either Western India or of the neighbouring Archipelago.

It is so healthy, that the medical people have scarcely any practice, and complain that there are no “*enfermedades reynantes,*” or reigning diseases, such as the yellow fever, as it exists at the Havannah, Vera Cruz, Carthagena, and other settlements more (by their reckoning) to the eastward. This misfortune most probably proceeds from the very limited intercourse which Manilla has, compared to any of the others, with Europeans, or *new-comers*, the Spaniards who inhabit it being almost without exception creoles\*, and therefore assimilated, from their birth, to the climate. This restricted intercourse may be observed in there not being a single inn for the accommodation of strangers in the whole city of Manilla or its suburbs. Chinese emigrants are here in thousands, and are very industrious and money-making,

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\* This term does not mean a person having the least mixture of black blood, but merely a white born in the country.

being the chief artificers and traffickers in small matters, resembling the lower class of Jews. From their being found scattered about in all the Indian islands, they might indeed be considered as the Jews of the east, were they only half as honest.

The Spaniards appear not to be fully in possession of Luconia at the present day. They may be said, indeed, only to be masters of the ground they occupy in a military point of view, for, by their own accounts, it is not only dangerous to travel without an escort in the country, but it is not safe for a Spaniard to walk out singly after dark about the suburbs of Manilla. A day or two after our arrival, three of the natives, who had been concerned in the murder of a marchioness, were strangled before the porch of one of their churches. These people seemed to have been actuated not by a spirit of plunder, but of revenge, for some real or supposed injuries, as the deed was committed in the public square, by dragging her from the carriage on her return home in the evening; and in this way frequent assassinations occur. A gen-

tleman of the *Alceste* being in a party one evening, where observations on the murderous character of the natives were the subject of conversation, took occasion to observe that if such was the case it would be necessary to keep a look-out in going homewards; but he was assured that, as an English officer, he had nothing to fear. “No, Señor, temen “ustedes, pero matan a nosotros,” “They “are afraid of you, but they kill us.” It cannot be fear alone that induces the natives to spare the English officers, who certainly freely exposed themselves at times and in situations the most favourable for assassination, without suffering the slightest injury; and it is probable that a French, German, or any other transitory stranger might do the same; for it evidently is to their own immediate rulers that this feeling of hostility exists; and it is no doubt the result of their impolitic mode of governing. Such a state of things would render the Philippines a very easy conquest to any invading force in time of war; but the court of Spain, at present, seems to have most to

fear from those sentiments of independence which have extended from Buenos Ayres to Manilla, and appear to be a point of union in which almost all classes are agreed, not excepting even the hierarchy.

The celebrated and unfortunate Pérouse, when at this place in his voyage of discovery, made the following remarks :—“ Ma-  
“ nilla is built on the shore of a bay of the  
“ same name, which is more than twenty-  
“ five leagues in circumference. It lies at  
“ the mouth of a river, navigable as far  
“ as the lake from which it rises, and is, per-  
“ haps, the most delightfully situated city  
“ in the world. Provisions of all kinds are  
“ in the greatest abundance there, and ex-  
“ tremely cheap ; but clothing, European  
“ hardware, and furniture, bear an exces-  
“ sively high price. The want of compe-  
“ tition, together with the prohibitions and  
“ restraints of every kind laid on commerce,  
“ render all the productions of India and of  
“ China at least as dear there as in Europe ;  
“ and this colony, although the various  
“ imports bring near 800,000 piastres an-

“ nually into the treasury, costs Spain  
“ 1,500,000 besides, which are sent there  
“ every year from Mexico.

“ The immense possessions of the Spa-  
“ niards in America have not admitted of  
“ the government essentially directing its  
“ attention to the Philippines, which resem-  
“ ble the estates of those great lords whose  
“ lands lie uncultivated, though capable of  
“ making the fortunes of many families.  
“ I should not hesitate to assert, that a very  
“ great nation possessed of no other colony  
“ than the Philippine Islands, and who  
“ should establish the best government of  
“ which they are capable, might behold all  
“ the European settlements in Africa and  
“ America without envy.

“ Three millions of inhabitants people  
“ these various islands, of whom that of  
“ Luconia contains nearly one-third. These  
“ people appear in no respect inferior to  
“ those of Europe. They cultivate the  
“ earth like men of understanding ; are car-  
“ penters, joiners, smiths, goldsmiths,  
“ weavers, masons, &c. I have walked  
“ through their villages, and found them  
“ kind, hospitable, and communicative ;

“ and, though the Spaniards speak of and  
“ treat them with contempt, I perceived  
“ that the vices they attributed to the  
“ Indians ought rather to be imputed  
“ to the government they have themselves  
“ established.” Speaking of no encouragement being given to labour, he states, that “ as soon as the inhabitants have the  
“ quantity of rice, of sugar, and of vegetables, necessary for their subsistence,  
“ the superflux is of no value whatever.  
“ In such circumstances, sugar has been  
“ sold for less than a halfpenny the pound,  
“ and the rice remained upon the ground  
“ without being reaped.

“ It would be difficult for the most un-  
“ enlightened society to form a system  
“ of government more absurd than that  
“ which has regulated these colonies for  
“ the last two centuries.

“ The port of Manilla, which ought to  
“ be free and open to all nations, has been  
“ till very lately shut against Europeans,  
“ and open only to a few Moors, Americans,  
“ and the Portuguese of Goa. The  
“ governor is invested with the most des-  
“ potic authority; and the Audiencia, which

“ ought to moderate his power, is totally  
“ impotent before the representative of the  
“ Spanish government. In point of fact,  
“ though not by law, it lies in his breast  
“ to admit or confiscate the merchandise  
“ of foreigners whom the hope of advan-  
“ tage may have brought to Manilla, and  
“ who would not expose themselves to this  
“ risk but on the probability of a very  
“ great profit, ultimately ruinous to the  
“ consumers.” It is undoubtedly as unac-  
countable, as it appears to be unen-  
lightened, that a nation should take de-  
liberate measures to make a colony a  
burden to it, which is not only fully  
able to maintain itself, if permitted, but  
to enrich the mother country. It seems  
almost equal to that of restoring the inqui-  
sition.

The Spanish authorities here were marked  
in their attentions to the Ambassador during  
his stay ; and, on the 9th of February,  
having re-embarked, we got under weigh,  
bound homeward, and parted company  
with our consort, the *Lyra*, who proceeded  
from hence with despatches for India.



A course was now shaped to avoid the numerous rocks and shoals not well defined, which lie in that part of the Chinese Sea more immediately to the westward of the Philippines, and to the north-westward of Borneo; and having by the 14th passed the whole, and got into the usual track for the passage of either the Straits of Banca or Gaspar, it was resolved to proceed through the latter, as being more direct and less subject to calms than the former, and considering them equally safe from the latest surveys and directions being on board, some of them by those who had personally examined them. At day-light in the morning of the 18th we made Gaspar Island exactly at the time expected, and, passing it, stood on for the Straits. As is customary in approaching any coast or passage whatever, but more especially one that all are not familiarly acquainted with, the utmost precaution was taken by keeping the leads going in both chains, men looking out at the mast-heads, yard-arms, and bowsprit end, the captain, master, and officer of the watch, on whom the charge of the ship at

such a time more particularly devolves, having been vigilantly on deck during the whole of the previous night and this morning. Steering under all these guarded circumstances, the soundings exactly corresponding with the charts, and following the express line prescribed by all concurring directions to clear every danger (and the last danger of this sort between us and England), the ship about half-past seven in the morning struck with a horrid crash on a reef of sunken rocks, and remained immovable!

It was very soon indeed but too evident that any attempt to move her would be attended with the most fatal consequences; for, on each side of the rocks on which she hung, the water deepened from ten to seventeen fathoms immediately around her; and, from the injury received, she must have gone down in a few minutes, had she forced her way over this narrow reef. The best bower anchor was therefore let go, to keep her fast; and the pumps were soon abandoned, being clearly of no avail.

The boats were now hoisted out, and

Lieutenant Hoppner, with the barge and cutter, ordered to proceed with the Ambassador and suite, and all those not essentially required, to the nearest part of the island, which seemed about three miles and a half distant. Meanwhile every exertion was used by the captain and officers, who remained by the ship, to secure what provisions and stores could be obtained; a task of considerable labour and difficulty, for all was under water, which now rose above the orlop-deck.

When she struck the tide must have been rising, for towards the afternoon it fell outside, and consequently inside the ship several feet, thereby enabling us to save ourselves from absolute starvation by laying hold of some articles of provender which floated up, assisted by divers, and which the boats were employed in conveying to the shore. A raft was also constructed, on which were placed the heavier stores, with some baggage, and towed towards the island. By the return of those boats which carried his Excellency on shore we learnt the very great difficulty of

effecting a landing, the mangrove-trees growing out to a considerable distance in the water; and it was not until after ranging alongshore for nearly three miles from the place they first attempted that a small opening appeared, through which, by scrambling from rock to rock, they at last obtained a footing on *terra firma*. Here, by cutting away a quantity of the smaller jungle at the foot of a hill (for the island was completely overgrown with wood), a space was cleared away, where, under the shade of the loftier trees, they bivouacued for that day and night.

On board the ship the work went on with activity, endeavouring to save whatever might be most useful on such an occasion; but, as the tide rose, the swell of the sea lifting her from the rocks, she dashed on them again with such violence, as to render it necessary about midnight to cut away the topmast. At day-light on Wednesday the 19th, Mr. M'Leod landed with two men who had been severely wounded by the fall of the masts, and with a report from the captain to Lord Amherst.

The spot in which our party were situated was *sufficiently romantic*, but seemed at the same time the abode of ruin and of havoc. Few of its inhabitants (and among the rest the Ambassador) had more than a shirt or pair of trowsers on. The wreck of books, or, as it was not unaptly termed, “a literary manure,” was spread about in all directions; whilst parliamentary robes, court-dresses, and mandarin habits, intermixed with check shirts and tarry jackets, were hung around in wild confusion on every tree.

On his lordship being informed that no fresh water had as yet been obtained from the ship, and that it was barely probable some might be got by scuttling the lower deck, he desired every body might be called around him, and ordered that a gill of that which had been sent on shore the day before (what happened to be on deck in the dripstones and water-jugs), with half that quantity of rum, should be equally served out to every man without distinction, and, taking his own share with perfect good humour, afforded to others an example of calm fortitude, and a cheerful

readiness to share in every privation, which never fails on such occasions to have a powerful and beneficial effect, more especially when that example is found, where it ought to be, in the first rank.

Parties were now returning who had been searching for water in vain, every attempt to dig for it having proved fruitless, or, being too near the sea, salt water alone had oozed into the pits. At one spot they found the skeleton of a man, and the horrid idea of his having died from thirst rushed on every mind. Those who went into the wood, on these excursions, were obliged to notch the trees, and leave marks as they advanced, in order to find their way back. In the forenoon Captain Maxwell came on shore, to confer with Lord Amherst on the best mode to be adopted in the perilous situation they were then placed. The boats were utterly incapable of conveying half our number any where; and, as some must necessarily go to the nearest friendly port for assistance, Captain Maxwell judged it best that his excellency and suite should proceed with a

proper guard for Batavia, or whatever part of Java they could fetch, from whence vessels could be despatched to bring off those who remained behind.

This being what is termed the north-west monsoon, there was every likelihood of the boats reaching Java (the current being also in their favour) in three days; and by this arrangement, which very happily was settled without loss of time, two grand purposes were answered the nearest to the captain's heart, and his first duty, viz., the immediate conveyance of the Ambassador and suite to a place of safety; and, by their safety, ensuring more effectually than by any other means that of the officers and men who remained with himself upon this desert isle. It was thought probable that row-boats might be despatched from Batavia after the arrival of his excellency, so as to reach the island (even against wind and current) in twelve or fifteen days; and as Mr. Ellis volunteered to return with the first boat or vessel that shoved off to our assistance, an additional assurance was thus given, that, combined with the influence of

the Ambassador with the Dutch government, no delay would occur in forwarding relief. After a short, and very slender *fête champêtre* in this wilderness (in which salt was viewed with the same horror as arsenic), his lordship about five in the evening, accompanied by the gentlemen of his suite, by Lieutenant Hoppner, in command of the boats, Mr. Mayne to navigate, Lieutenant Cooke, R. M. (with a party as officers of the guard, in the event of falling in with any of the Malay pirates who infest these seas), Mr. Blair, midshipman, and Mr. Somerset (who had come to see the world a little), waded out to the edge of the reef, and embarked in the barge and cutter. They were in all forty-seven persons, and had with them a small stock of provisions, consisting of a side of mutton, a ham, a tongue, about twenty pounds of coarse biscuit, and some few more of fine, seven gallons of water, the same of beer, as many of spruce, and about thirty bottles of wine. This was all that could be spared; and being deemed equal to sustain nature for four or five days, in which period they must either make the



land, or be so disposed of as to require no provisions, it was considered sufficient. After pulling outwards a little way to clear all the rocks, they made sail to the southward, attended by the best wishes of every man of the island, and were soon out of sight. The number left behind was 200 men and boys, and one woman.

The first measure of Captain Maxwell, after fixing a party to dig a well in a spot which was judged, from a combination of circumstances, the most likely to find water, was to remove our bivouac to the top of the hill, where we could breathe a cooler and purer air; a place in all respects not only better adapted to the preservation of our health, but to our defence in case of attack. A path was cut upwards, and a party employed in clearing away and setting fire to the underwood on the summit. This last operation tended much to free us from myriads of ants, and of snakes, scorpions, centipedes, and other reptiles, which in such a place and climate generally abound. Others were employed in removing upwards our small stock of provisions, which

were deposited (under a strict guard), in a sort of natural magazine, formed by the tumbling together of some huge masses of rock on the highest part of this eminence. On board the wreck a party were stationed, endeavouring to gain any accession they could to our stock of provisions and arms, and to save any public stores that could be found. There was a communication for this purpose between the shore and the ship whenever the tide permitted. For the last two days every one had experienced much misery from thirst: a small cask of water (the only one which could be obtained from the ship) was scarcely equal to a pint each in the course of that period; and perhaps no question was ever so anxiously repeated, as "What hope from the well?" About eleven at night the diggers had got, by rather a tortuous direction (on account of large stones), as far down as twenty feet, when they came to a clayey or marly soil, that above being a red earth, which seemed rather moist, and had nothing saline in the taste. At a little past midnight a bottle of muddy water was

brought to the captain as a specimen, and, the moment it was understood to be fresh, the rush to the well was such as to impede the workmen; and it was necessary to plant sentries to enable them to complete their task, and permit the water to settle a little. Fortunately about this time a heavy shower of rain fell, and, by spreading sheets, table-cloths, &c., and wringing them, some relief was afforded. There are few situations in which men exposed without shelter to a torrent of rain would, as in the present instance, hail that circumstance as a blessing: bathing in the sea was also resorted to by many in order *to drink by absorption*, and they fancied it afforded relief.

Thursday, 20th. This morning the captain, ordering all hands together, stated to them in few words, that every man, by the regulations of the navy, was as liable to answer for his conduct on the present as on any other occasion; that, as long as he lived, the same discipline should be exerted, and, if necessary, with greater rigour than aboard, a discipline for the general welfare, which he trusted every sensible man of

the party must see the necessity of maintaining; assuring them, at the same time, he would have much pleasure in recommending those who distinguished themselves by the regularity and propriety of their conduct; that the provisions we had been able to save should be served out, although necessarily with a very sparing hand, yet with the most rigid equality to all ranks, until we obtained that relief which he trusted would soon follow the arrival of Lord Amherst at Java. During this day the well afforded a pint of water for each man; it had a sweetish milk-and-water taste, something like the juice of the cocoa-nut, but nobody found fault with it\*; on the contrary, it diffused that sort of happiness which only they can feel who have felt the horrible sensation of thirst under a vertical sun, subject at the same time to a harassing and fatiguing duty. This day was employed in getting up every thing from the foot of the hill; boats passing to

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\* It was *happily said*, when mixed with a little rum, to resemble milk punch; and we endeavoured to persuade ourselves that it was so.

the ship, but unfortunately almost every thing of real value to us in our present case was under water. We were in hopes, however, that, as no bad weather was likely to happen, we might be enabled by scuttling it at low water, or by burning her upperworks, many useful articles might be acquired.

On Friday (21st) the party stationed at the ship found themselves, soon after day-light, surrounded by a number of Malay proas, apparently well armed, and full of men. Without a single sword or musquet for defence, they had just time to throw themselves into the boat alongside, and push for the shore, chased by the pirates, who, finding two of our other boats push out to their assistance, returned to the ship, and took possession of her. Soon afterwards it was reported, from the lookout rock, that the savages, armed with spears, were landing at a point about two miles off. Under all the depressing circumstances attending shipwreck; of hunger, thirst, and fatigue; and menaced by a ruthless foe; it was glorious to see the Bri-

tish spirit staunch and unsubdued. When the order was given for every man to arm himself in the best way he could, it was obeyed with the utmost promptitude and alacrity. Rude pike-staves, were formed by cutting down young trees; small swords, dirks, knives, chisels, and even large spike-nails sharpened, were firmly affixed to the ends of these poles; and those who could find nothing better hardened the end of the wood in the fire, and, bringing it to a sharp point, formed a tolerable weapon. There were, perhaps, a dozen cutlasses; the marines had about thirty muskets and bayonets, but could muster no more than seventy-five ball-cartridges among the whole party. We had fortunately preserved some loose powder drawn from the guns on the upper deck after the ship had struck, (for the magazine was under water in five minutes,) and the marines by hammering their buttons round, and by pieces of broken bottles rolled up in cartridges, did their best to supply themselves with a sort of langrage which would have some effect at close quarters, and strict orders were given

not to throw away a single shot until sure of their aim. Mr. Cheffy, the carpenter, and his crew, under the direction of the captain, were busied in forming a sort of abattis by felling trees, and enclosing in a circular shape the ground we occupied; and, by interweaving loose branches with the stakes driven in among these, a breast-work was constructed, which afforded us some cover, and must naturally impede the progress of any enemy unsupplied with artillery. That part of the island we had landed on was a narrow ridge, not above musket-shot across, bounded on one side by the sea, and on the other by a creek, extending upwards of a mile inland, and nearly communicating with the sea at its head. Our hill was the outer point of this tongue, and its shape might be very well represented by an inverted punch-bowl: the circle on which the bowl stands would then shew the fortification; and the space within it our citadel.

It appeared by the report of scouts, a short time after the first account, that the Malays had not actually landed, but had

taken possession of some rocks near this point, on which they deposited a quantity of plunder brought from the ship; and during the day they continued making these predatory trips.

In the evening all hands were mustered under arms, and a motley group they presented; it was gratifying, however, to observe, that, rude as were their implements of defence, there seemed to be no want of spirit to use them if occasion offered\*. The officers and men were now marshalled regularly into the different divisions and companies, their various posts assigned, and other arrangements made. An officer and party were ordered to take charge of the boats for the night, and they were

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\* Even the little boys had managed to make fast a table-fork, or something of that kind, on the end of a stick, for their defence. One of the men who had been so severely bruised by the falling of the masts, and was slung in his hammock between two trees, had been observed carefully *fishing*, or *fixing*, with two sticks and a rope-yarn, the blade of an old razor.—On being asked what he meant to do with it, he replied, “You know I cannot stand; but, if any of these fellows come within reach of my hammock, I’ll mark them.”



hauled closer into the landing-place. An alarm which occurred during the night shewed the benefit of these regulations, for, on a sentry challenging a noise among the bushes, every one was at his post in an instant, and without the least confusion.

On Saturday morning (22d,) some of the Malay boats approached the place where ours were moored; and, with the view of ascertaining whether they had any inclination to communicate on friendly terms, the gig, with an officer and four hands, pulled gently towards them, waving the bough of a tree, (a general symbol of peace every where,) shewing the usual demonstration of friendship, and of a desire to speak to them; but all was vain, for they were merely reconnoitring our position, and immediately pulled back to their rock.

The second lieutenant (Mr. Hay) was now ordered with the barge, cutter, and gig, armed in the best way we could, to proceed to the ship, and regain possession of her, by fair means, or by force; the pirates not appearing, at this time, to have more than

eighty men. Those on the rocks, seeing our boats approach, threw all their plunder into their vessels, and made off.

Two of their largest proas were now at work on the ship ; but, on observing their comrades abandon the rock, and the advance of the boats, they also made sail away, having previously set fire to the ship, which they did so effectually, that in a few minutes the flames burst from every port, and she was soon enveloped in a cloud of smoke. The boats were unable to board her, and therefore returned.

Here was a period to every hope of accommodation with these people, if, indeed, any reasonable hope could ever have been entertained on that head. The Malays, more especially those wandering and piratical tribes, who roam about the coasts of Borneo, Billiton, and the wilder parts of Sumatra, are a race of savages perhaps the most merciless and inhuman to be found in any part of the world. The Battas are literally cannibals. In setting fire to the ship, they gave a decided proof of their disposition to us ; but, although

certainly with no good intention, they did merely what we intended to do; for, by burning her upper works and decks, every thing bouyant could float up from below, and be more easily laid hold of.

The ship continued burning during the whole of the night; and the flames, which could be seen through the openings of the trees, shed a melancholy glare around, and excited the most mournful ideas. This night also all hands were suddenly under arms again, from a marine firing his musket at what he very properly considered a suspicious character near his post, who appeared advancing upon him, and refused to answer after being repeatedly hailed. It turned out afterwards that the branch of a tree, half-cut through the day before, had given way, under one of a race of large baboons, who we found about this time disputed the possession of the island with us. At the well, where there generally was kept a good fire at night, on account of the mosquitoes, the sentries had more than once been alarmed by these gentlemen shewing their black faces from behind the

trees. They became extremely troublesome to some ducks we had saved from the wreck, (carrying them up the trees with them, and letting them fall down again when alarmed,) who, on several occasions, left their little yard, and came up among the people, when the monkeys got among them, instinctively preferring the society of man for protection.

On Sunday morning, (23d,) the boats were sent to the still-smoking wreck, and some flour, a few cases of wine, and a cask of beer, had floated up. This last Godsend was announced just at the conclusion of divine service, which was this morning held in the mess-tent, and a pint was ordered to be immediately served out to each man, which called forth three cheers\*. This seems to be the only style in which a British seaman can give vent to the warmer

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\* Some *decorously righteous* man observing to the chaplain that he had never seen such a scene in England as the congregation cheering at the church-door; the latter replied, with proper liberality, (and tolerable good humour,) "perhaps you never saw a thirsty English audience dismissed with the promise of a pint of beer apiece."

feelings of his heart. It is his mode of thanksgiving for benefits received ; and it equally serves him to honour his friend, to defy his enemy, or to proclaim victory. This day we continued improving our fence, and clearing away a glacis immediately around it, that we might see and have fair play with these barbarians, should they approach. They had retired behind a little islet, (called Pulo Chalacca, or *Misfortune's Isle*,) about two miles from us, and seemed waiting there for reinforcements ; for some of their party had made sail towards Billiton.

Monday morning, (24th,) the boats, as yesterday, went to the wreck, and returned with some casks of flour only partially damaged, a few cases of wine; and about forty boarding-pikes, with eighteen muskets, were also laid hold of. With the loose powder secured out of the great guns in the first instance, Mr. Holman, the gunner, had been actively employed, forming musket cartridges ; and by melting down some pewter basins and jugs, with a small quantity of lead, lately obtained from the wreck,

balls were cast in clay moulds, increasing not a little our confidence and security. A quart of water each had been our daily allowance from the well hitherto, and on this day a second was completed near the foot of the hill, in another direction, which not only supplied clearer water, but in greater plenty ; and we could now, without restriction, indulge in the luxury of a *long drink*, not caring even to excite thirst, in order to enjoy that luxury in higher perfection.

On Tuesday, (25th,) the boats made their usual trip ; some more cases of wine and a few boarding-pikes were obtained, both excellent articles in their way, in the hands of men who are inclined to entertain either "their friends or their foes." On shore employed completing the paths to the wells, and felling trees which intercepted our view of the sea.

Wednesday, (26th,) at day-light, two of the pirate proas, with each a canoe astern, were discovered close in with the cove where our boats were moored. Lieutenant Hay, (a straight-forward sort of fellow,)

who had the guard that night at the boats, and of course slept in them, immediately dashed at them with the barge, cutter, and gig. On perceiving this, they cut adrift their canoes, and made all sail ; they rather distanced the cutter and gig, but the barge gained upon them. On closing, the Malays evinced every sign of defiance, placing themselves in the most threatening attitudes, and firing their swivels at the barge. This was returned by Mr. Hay with the only musket in the boat, and, as they closed nearer, the Malays commenced throwing their javelins and darts, several falling into the barge, but without wounding any of the men. Soon after they were grappled by our fellows, when three of them having been shot, and a fourth knocked down with the butt end of the musket, five more jumped overboard and drowned themselves, (evidently disdaining quarter,) and two were taken prisoners, one of whom was severely wounded.

They had taken some measure to sink their proa, for she went down almost immediately. Nothing could exceed the despe-

rate ferocity of these people. One who had been shot through the body, but who was not quite dead, on being removed into the barge, with a view of saving him, (as his own vessel was sinking,) furiously grasped a cutlass which came within his reach, and it was not without a struggle wrenched from his hand : he died in a few minutes. The consort of this proa, firing a parting shot, bore up round the north end of the island, and escaped. Their canoes were also brought on shore, containing several articles of plunder from the ship. They appeared to be the two identical proas which set fire to her. The prisoners (the one rather elderly, the other young) when brought on shore, seemed to have no hope of being permitted to live, and sullenly awaited their fate ; but, on the wounds of the younger being dressed, the hands of the other untied, and food offered to them, with other marks of kindness, they became more cheerful, and appeared especially gratified, seeing one of their dead companions, who had been brought on shore, was decently buried.