NOTES
of the
ISLAND OF FORMOSA

TAIWAN, or Chinese Formosa, is considered a *Foo* or district of the province of Fokien, and is governed by a *Taoutai* extraordinary, who, though responsible to the provincial Viceroy, possesses the privilege of memorializing the throne direct. "The district of Taiwan," says the Chinese Government chart, of which a copy was supplied to me by the Formosan authorities, "is by mountains in rear, and in front by the sea. The ancestral hills of Formosa derive their origin from the *Woo-hoo-mun* (five tiger gate) the entrance to Foochow, whence they glided across the sea. In the ocean towards the east are two places called *Tungkwan* (damp limit) and *Pih-mow* (white acre) which mark the spots where the dragons of the Formosan hills emerged. These sacred reptiles had pierced unseen the depths of ocean, and announcing their ascent to the surface by throwing up the bluff at Kelung-head, by a number of violent contortions heaved up the regular series of hills, valleys, and plains that extend north and south in varied undulations for the space of 1000 leagues (300 odd miles, applied figuratively). The mountain-peaks are too multitudinous to enumerate, and the geography of the island too comprehensive to take into present consideration; we will therefore confine ourselves to a few general remarks. In rear of the hills eastward flows the ocean, facing them to the westward is the sea, and between lies the prefecture of Taiwan." The map then proceeds to define the different departments of the district, and to state what hills in Formosa are visible from what hills on the China coast, and which ports on the island are nearest and most accessible to which ports on the main. It then winds up with the following valuable sailing directions. "In fine weather the prominent points on either coast are visible, bearing voyage from China to the south parts of Formosa is, according to circumstances, smooth or attended with dangers, distant or near. By observing the North Star navigators can determine their course; but when at night no stars appear to lead them, they must have recourse to the south-pointing needle, and ascertaining the directions of north and south incline their course south-easterly."

The Chinese claim to have been the first discoverers of Formosa—in A.D. 1430, and the discovery was then due to the accident of a shipwreck. But in any case no great honour can be claimed, for the bold outline of the Formosan mountain-chain can plainly be seen on a clear day from the Chinese main. In 1620 it is said in the Chinese Annals that the Japanese attempted to form a colony there; but previous to this date considerable numbers of Chinese must have crossed the channel and settled among the aborigines of the island, for when the Dutch arrived in 1634 and com-

menced to establish themselves, they found communities of Chinese there in sufficient number to cause them annoyance, who doubtless connived with the Chinese pirates under their dread chief Koksinga in 1661 eventually to oust the Dutch out of their strongly-built, but weakly-manned fortress which they had constructed to protect their new and thriving colonies. Thus the usurper on this assumption to the Formosan throne found to hand large numbers of his fellow-countrymen willing to be subjects to him, rather than to foreigners, and which it was easier to ply into a defensive kingdom than similar bodies of wild Aborigines would have been. Koksinga appears to have been as eminently fitted for a diplomatist as he had been for a rover of the seas, for he was not only able in a very short space of time to repel all future attacks of the Dutch, but managed by his statesmanship speedily to make his new kingdom a terror to the long-established monarchy of Fokien. He reigned only a year and nine months. In 1632 the Tartars seized upon the Provinces of the rebellious King of Fokien, who in a private quarrel had previously been weakened by a defeat sustained from the 2nd King of Formosa (Koksinga's son), and appointed a Viceroy to rule in his stead. This Viceroy, by fair promises of rank contrived to persuade the boy-king of Formosa (Koksinga's grandson) to journey to Peking, where he was induced to resign his claims to the sovereignty of the island in favor of the Chinese monarchy in Formosa experienced but a short-lived season of 22 years, and was then absorbed into what was becoming and has since become the great empire of the mongolian race.

Coxinga and his associates, A.D. 1661, took both these islands from the Netherlands East India Company.

His father, Chunchilung, called by foreigners Iquon, born in a small village on the seashore in the territory Fokien near the city Anhui, was very poor, and as some say a tailor by trade. He first served the Portuguese in Macao and afterwards the Hollanders in Formosa; where soon after he became a great merchant in the Japan trade and at last a pirate. Having from this small beginning gotten a great fleet of ships, and obtained by his political designs and grand understandings to so great a treasure, that the Chinese Emperor was not able to stand in competition with him. For he only of all the Chinese engrossed the commodities of India in his own hands, driving therewith a vast trade with the Portuguese at Macao; with the Spaniards on the Philippine Islands; and with the Hollanders at Formosa and Batavia; and likewise with the Japanese. He only transported the Chinese commodities by his own people, bringing back the Indian and European in return for them; so that he began to grow so exceeding rich that he could fit out a fleet of 3,000 sail.

Yet this Chunchilung or Iquon, not contenting himself therewith, began to plot how to be Emperor of China. With this object in view he attempted to extirpate the reigning Taming family, A.D. 1644, when the Tartars overran the whole Empire except three provinces, Fokien, Quannung, and Puungsi, and the more closely to hide his designs, he pretended to take up arms against the Tartars or enemies to the Chinese. At the same time he held correspondence with the Tartars, to whom he gave what intelligence he thought good for his own advantage. He was declared general by the Chinese Emperor Lungyen of all his forces; and his brothers and friends being officers under him, he suffered the Tartars to come into the Empire, and they in turn made him King of Pingnan in South China, and loaded him with fine presents and provisions. But when the Tartars were about to return Iquon went, as was his duty, to escort them some part of the way, having left his fleet in the haven before the city of Foochow. The Tartars insisted upong carrying him to Peking to the Emperor, where he was made prisoner and loaded with chains. His son, Coxinga and brothers informed of his imprisonment took themselves again to the fleet, and made all the seas near China by their piracies almost useless. The doings of the son were retaliated on the father when the news reached Peking. In A.D. 1657, where the Netherlanders were then in Embassy, 15 additional chains were laid upon the captive Iquon for the bad report of his son Coxinga.

By these bold pirates the Tartars on the coast of China were kept in continual alarms. They had their strongholds in the Islands of Amoy and Quemoy. The Chinese on the main had submitted to the Tartars and in token shaved their heads. So to stop all provisions going to the enemy, the Tartars commanded all the villages and towns that stood along the seashore to be burnt to the ground, and the country laid waste, and no people suffered on pain of death to live within three leagues of the sea. By this means and likewise by the great losses which Coxinga sustained from the Tartars, assisted by the Netherlands, who set upon them both at sea and land, he found himself so straightened that in 1660, he sailed with all his forces to Tayowan and Formosa, both which Islands, and also the castle Zelandia he took in March, A.D. 1661, after a siege of ten months: very cruelly were several of the Netherlanders dealt with; others against agreement kept in prison. Therefore in revenge of Coxinga's cruelties and also to regain the conquered places, a fleet was sent out the next year. The twelve "floating castles" as they were vauntingly styles consisting of eight frigates and four sloops with 139 guns and 1284 men in all, failed to make any impression on Coxinga in his new Formosan stronghold, though with the aid of Tartar junks they succeeded in wresting from his people the Island of Amoy and Quemoy. (From Ogilby's *Atlas Chinensis*, 1671)

The district of *Taiwan*, or Chinese possessions in Formosa are divided into four *Hiens* or departments under civil magistrates, and five *Tings* or sea-board divisions, under marine magistrates. The Hiens from south to north consecutivly are the *Fung-shan* Hien, the *Taiwan* Hien, the *Kia-e* Hien, and the *Changhwa* Hien; and the *Tings*, the *Taifang* Ting, the *Loo-keang* Ting, the *Tanshuy* Ting, the *Komalan* Ting, and the *Panghoo* Ting. The first of these comprises the seaboard of the *Taiwan* and *Fung-shan* Hiens; the second, and seaboard of the *Kia-e* and *Changhwa* Hiens; the third, the whole of the northermost portion on the west side; the fourth, the whole of the possessions on the east side; and the fifth, the group of islands known as the Pescadores. On these different *Hiens* and *Tings* I will here extract a few notes from a Chinese work, published under the auspices of the Government many years since, entitled the "Statistics of Taiwan," a book which I seriously perused with a view to gather important information about this interesting island. The observations of the learned writers are, for the most part more amusing than instructive. It commences with a general puff on the advantages of the colonies, in order, doubtless, to entice a larger flow of emigrants, thus — "The district of Taiwan is a land of luxuriant vegetation, broad and level, and very fertile. The western and northern portions offer large tracts of champagne country, highly capable of cultivation. Hundreds of families of our people are already engaged there in husbandry, associated with the natives of the land. The Colonists are from different parts of the empire, no village claiming one surname (as in China), and no two men of the same heart. The aborigines are addicted to spiritous liquors and are blood-thirsty. They wear no caps, shoes, or clothes; and hav no marriage or burial rites. Merchants and travellers resort to the colonies in numbers, and merchandize flows its endless round. Rice grows in excessive quantities, and is plentifully exported to China. The farmers have therefore no need of granaries to store away their grain."

"*Taiwan Hien*. The land of this district is of no extent, and poor through long cultivation. It yields only one crop in the year. The colonists are fond of ornaments and fine clothes. The five grains (i.e. all grains) abound, and there is no lack of the necessities of life. The men engage themselves in husbandry, but the women, instead of spinning, waste their time in embroidery. These people are compassionate and hospitable, regarding as their relations all who suffer from sickness or want.

"*Fungshan* (Phœnix hill) *Hien* comprises large tracts of level and waste lands, abounding in bamboos, fruit-bearing, and other trees. There is here well-watered ground, suitable for the plantation of early rice. This the Colonists have begun to turn to good account. Merchants have water-carriage for their goods, and broad roads enable them to use transport carts drawn by oxen. Beyond the jurisdiction of this department in a southerly directly, natives from the Canton province (Teök-chew men) have settled and mix indiscriminately with the aborigines. These settlers are a riotous set, fond of litigation and fighting, and reckless of life.

"*Kia-e* Hien was formerly known as the *Choo-lo* Hien from its native name. The soil in this department is very rich, and grain when sown is left to nature to bring it to maturity, not needing the labour or attention of man. The colonists here also are fond of abusing and fighting one another. They are jealous and outvie each other in dress and ornaments; and in marriage ceremonies they take into consideration dowries which last is a bad custom. Their good qualities, hower, counterbalance the evil, for families live under the same roof to the number often of several generations. Disputes between neighbours are frequently settled by a friendly word. They share willingly with their friends anything they possess on the promise of repayment at a future day. Benighted travellers can gain admission and hospitality at the first door they apply, and few will refuse them shelter.

"*Changhwa* (manifest change) *Hien*. This department has been but recently established, and people, eager to enter a new field, flocked thither in multitudes. They soon formed roads and thoroughfares, and villages worthy of admiration; to the marts of which there are few commodities that do not find their way, but they rate at rather high prices. The habits of the colonists are similar to those of the citizens of the capital.

"*Tan-shuy* (Precipitating water) *Ting* comprises two subdivisions, *Tan-shuy* and

Choo-tsan (Bamboo dyke). The villages here daily increase in size, and the smoke of cottage fires thickens. There are numerous settlers on the *Tamsuy* river; their habits are honest and economical, and few fights or lawsuits occur. Grain and other produce of the soil are cheap; but cloth, silks, furniture, and all imported goods are several times dearer than at the Capital.

"*Pang-hoo-Ting* (Pescadores) comprises a cluster of islands in the midst of the ocean; the soil of which is not adapted for rice or corn. It produces *sesamum*, *sorghum*, and vetches. The inhabitants build their houses of mud and straw, and depend on fishing for subsistence. They boil the sea into salt, and distil spirits out of sorghum; they catch fish, crustacea, and mollusca for food, and dry them for exportation. Cloth, silk, yellow peas, and millet are imported thither from Taiwan."

The department of *Komalan Ting* was not established at the date of the publication of the statistics, and therefore no mention is made of it in that work.

The Viceroy of *Fokien* and *Chekiang* has to consider Formosa as a Foo or district of the first of his provinces, and is bound by law to visit the island once every three years. These formal visits are lucrative to the high functionary, and anything but agreeable to the subordinates he goes to visit. For if they do not come before him with handsome presents in their hands, they run the risk of being shelved for the first trivial offense. To meet the emergency the mandarins in their turn put extra taxes on the people, and thus at the expense of all classes, the exalted kinsman of the Emperor walks the paths of duty, and returns, unlike most other travellers, with a well-filled purse. Owing, however, to the present troubles in China more than a decade has passed since the last Viceregal visit to Taiwan. The *Tai-wan Tao* (or chief authority of Taiwan) resides at the Foo or capital city. He is the chief magistrate and has to make a circuit of the departments once annually. The next civil authority is the *Tai-wan* Foo or Prefect; then the Taiwan Hien or Departmental judge; and lastly the Taifang Ting, or Marine Magistrate. These are the chief civil functionaries resident in the capital. The chief military and naval authority is the Chintai, who is at once commodore of the fleet and the commander-in-chief of the land forces. He also resides at the capital. The civil Mandarins of Formosa are paid their salaries from the land-rents and grain taxes. These salaries are of nominal value. The Taotay for instance only receives 1600 taels, not £600 per annum; but his emoluments are large, those drawn from the taxes on camphor especially. The yearly income he is said to make out of this, the most important trade of the island, is an almost fabulous amount. The Foo or Prefect, besides Court-fees, lines his pockets from the immense salt monopoly of the island which he rules uncontrolled. He has salt-offices, or Yen-kwans, at every place of any importance, and the toll is enforced with great rigour. These offices have regular and constant couriers running between them and the capital, who are usually employed by the mandarins to carry official despatches. Foreign-manufactured salt is not permitted to be imported, and vessels are frequently made to discharge what cargoes they carry of it overboard before gaining admission into the ports.

The *Hiens* or Departmental magistrates hold the Petty Assizes and adjudicate in all cases of secondary importance. In their court by legal fees, and a process of intimidation, they generally manage to make pecuniary matters go smooth.

The *Tings* warm their nests with the exaction of exorbitant port dues all of which are set against the current expenses of their office. They are empowered to lay hands on so many private vessels a year for the purpose of conveying rice to the imperial garner. These junks are paid a nominal freight, and often detained idle for months. This the junkmen are too glad to escape by payment of a moderate squeeze. This system has led to a seizure and embargo on all vessels that refuse to pay the toll or escape-money. Use makes custom, and the Chinese now regard this exaction of the mandarins simply a *Kow-fei*, or Port expenses.

But the military offices of Formosa may be looked upon as so many gambling lotteries. The mandarinate of the *Chin-tai* is said to be the most lucrative on the island. The man Tsang who held this post while we were at Taiwanfoo had purchased the office with the present of 8000 taels (£2000) to the Tartar General or

Generalissimo of the Forces at Fokien, and the previous incumbent, *Lin*, was ordered away to the higher, but less lucrative appointment of Admiral at Amoy. But *Lin* was not so easily to be deprived of the much coveted berth, and by a counter-bribe to the Tartar General got that worthy to see the necessity of ordering *Tsang* to accompany a draft of braves or militia-men to Foochow. *Lin* was on this returned to his original post. *Tsang* had only acted chintai for eight months, and yet left the post with a clear profit of 4000 taels (£1000). The question naturally arises, how did he acquire so much money without the privilege of trading. The answer simply is that all the numerous subordinate appointments in his gift enabled him to establish himself, as it were, the hend of a large Hong or Firm, with this advantage over ordinary mercantile dealings that his gains are certain, and anticipative of the speculation. A colonelcy or captaincy is vacant, and he puts it up to the highest bidder. The military competitors for office present their tenders, and the one exhibiting the largest figure is at once chosen. In this way for 400 taels the present Colonel at Tamsuy purchased his appointment. The term of office is stipulated for the agreement, and at its expiry, unless another present is made, the post is again put up to the highest offer. The Colonel holds the presentation to the subordinate posts under his control, and from their disposal enriches himself. The same system prevails to the lowest rank, who in their turn prey upon the people, and mulet them on idly trumped-up pleas.

The military have another equally successful way of winning back their first outlay. At all the ports they have established their *Woo-Kow*, or Military Post dues; as the Civilians have their *Wan-Kow* or Civil port dues. The military dues amount to about one third less than the Civil dues. The sum required of native junks varies generally according to their cargoes, the average being 30 taels to the one and 20 to the other. On foreign vessels at any port in Formosa, not open to trade, the exactions are usually made at 50 taels per mast, whether the vessel comes in with full cargo or in ballast. At Tamsuy, since the opening of the port, these exactions have, or course, been knocked on the hand in favour of European vessels, and the regular tariff rates of dues and duties established. Great fear has always been entertained of the rebelling of the Formosans, and to provide against this, soldiers required for service in Formosa, used not to be enlisted on the island, but brought over from the main. In former years they were relieved yearly; subsequently, once in three years; but now it is too often a life service, the bones only of the exiled soldier being returned for burial to his native land — at least when his relations come forward with the means to pay for their carriage. The yearly sum formerly given by the Government for the maintenance of the army in Taiwan amounted to 200,000 taels. It is now reduced to a tenth of that sum. In the second month of every year a Mandarin is sent to Foochow with a requisition for the money, and has to spend great part of the year at the principal capital before he receives it. On these trips he generally speculates on his own account in fans, boots, and other goods. The Trade-commissioner assured me that the worth of the island was entirely eaten up by the rottenness of its administration, and that Taiwan instead of being a valuable appanage to the crown, was a thorn in the side, and a drain on the purse of the provincial Government. The Pescadores alone contain a garrison of 2,000 marines under a Hea-tai【原文照登】or military commandant. For the maintenance of this detachment a special mandarin is sent by way of Taiwan-foo to Foo-chow for commissariat funds. Unfortunately in every such matter the love of greed overweighs the sense of duty, and too many of the officers in command leave their posts defenceless, and put into their own pockets the money intended for the support of their men. As a special instance of similar conduct which came under my own observation, I would relate that while at Tamsuy we were living at a village which was officially recognised to have a garrison of 700 men. One evening, to the alarm and surprise of us all, it was announced that a disaffected village, a few miles distant from us, intended to make a raid on us, to plunder the people and to murder the mandarins. The authorities fell into a paroxism of fear, and had the gongs beaten to call the troops to arms. They beat the whole afternoon, and after much trouble succeeded in mustering 100 men. Nor indeed was the force known to comprise more; and yet it was down in the books as 700, and for that number the officer received supplies.

Suffering as they do from the unauthorised taxation of the mandarins, the people were called upon to bear the yoke of *Lekin*, which had already been successfully set on foot in China. This was to be a tax of 2 1/2 per cent on every marketable commodity, and the money collected was to be added to the provincial war fund required for the suppression of the rebellion in China. However much they might yield to a local taxation, the colonists would not endure a tax for a war that did not immediately concern them. The citizens closed their shops and commenced a general riot, until the mandarins gave their word that they would stop the measure. It was soon after this disturbance that I arrived with my party to establish a consulate at Taiwan-foo, and to throw open that port to British trade.

In December, 1860, I received my appointment as Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Taiwan-foo, and received orders to go as soon as the admiral would provide me with transport, and set up a consulate there. As I had visited that port twice before and was well acquainted with its want of harbour accomodations, I felt the hopelessness of the project of ever converting it into a centre of British trade. I at once laid the advantages and disadvantages of the various ports in Formosa, most of which I had visited, before the Minister, and suggested that as the chief authorities were resident at the capital it would be advisable to repair thither first, and after a sojourn of a few months I might be guided by circumstances in selecting the port most desirable and promising for British commerce. At the commencement of July, the "Cockchafer," Lieutenant Holder, stationed at Amoy, was instructed to convey me across the channel. We experienced bad weather, and the greater part of our luggage, which had to be piled on deck, for want of stowage accomodation, got damaged. We left Amoy on the 2nd. On the 4th, we were at anchor in the central harbour of the Pescadores off the chief town of Makung. The Pescadores are a cluster of islands varying in size from several miles in circumference to quite small rocks. They are nearly all flat-topped, formed of clay and sand, with patches of grey limestone and trap rocks, occurring at different altitudes; the patches just above sea-level being rugged and sea-washed, and those at a greater height being often disposed in perpendicular columns like basalt. The fields are hedged round with rough stones to afford a breakwind to the cultivation, which is stunted in growth. No tree of any size ornaments the islands. *Makung*, the largest village, is situated on the left island of those that form the harbour, with a small curtained fort containing the ruin of the old Dutch fortress, the only visible memorial of the former possessors on its proper left, and a few junks of war lying off it. The chief naval and civil authorities live in this town. The former is a Hae-tai【原文照登】or post captain, the other a Ting or marine magistrate. The population of these islands is entirely Chinese, emigrants chiefly from South Fokien and North Canton. They are mostly fishermen or small farmers, and are said to number 180,000. The produce of the islands consists of ground-nuts, rice, millet, &c., but not in sufficient quantities for home consumption.

Knowing the dangers of the Taiwan-foo roadstead, we thought it better to run into the little harbour of Ape's Hill, further south, and procure a pilot from the receiving ships that lay there. On the 6th we entered Takow or Ape's Hill harbour. The mountain called Ape's Hill (from the numerous large monkeys, *Macacus clyclopis*, mihi, that one time frequented it) with its peak of 1710 feet rises in huge mass, its front sloping down into the sea and its back into the large plain. It stands alone conspicuous on the sea-board, but further inland running northwards, whaleback, and two or three other smaller hills appear to form with it a disconnected chain, but these are separated by a wide tract of level land from the great central chain. From Ape's Hill southwards, runs a mole which has disrupted into two blocks north and south, (the latter called Saracen's head). This disruption, about 80 yards wide, forms the entrance into the harbour, which is bound by the land on the one hand, and by a long low spit of sand on the other. There is a large mound of Fuller's earth at the foot of the hill, but the formation is chiefly clay and limestone, abounding in great outcropping masses of black volcanic rock, in many places scorched to a clinker, and mixed with fossiliferous limestone. Sea shells, and sea-worn pebbles lie embedded even near the peak, and a long stratum of oyster shells form an exposed stratum under the soil

on one bank many yards above the sea-level. There appears every indication that the mountain is of comparatively modern upheaval, and its botany may perhaps afford another good reason for thinking so. I collected for several days of every plant in bloom and found nothing new, nothing, in fact, that did not also flourish in the plains and low hills of the Chinese main. The only sign now given of volcanic action is the presence of a small sulphur stream on the inner side of the harbour which is covered at high tide. The breakwater that the solitary Ape's Hill would form, would doubtless, soon lend to the deposit of a long line of sandy coast, north and south, shutting in in shallow pools, the water discharged by the small rivers from the interior. And this is just what has occurred. Looking from the top of the mountain, the coast lines run in almost right lines, that on the south having entirely shut in the two or three small rivers that now empty themselves into the basin of the harbour, and thence through the cleft in the mole into the sea; and that on the north, where the rivers form pools which debouch gradually into the sea from shallow outlets. The southern sand spit extends down to the *Mong-soa* hill which forms another breakwater, at the mouth of what would be an important river, from its length and breadth, were it not so shallow and barred. The neighbourhood of Takow is well peopled, and well cultivated. The country abounding in bamboo, and banyan groves, in the midst of which cluster the houses of the colonists. These people are mostly Amoy and Chinchew Chinese, and seem good-natured, contented, and happy. Beyond this great southern river to the foot of the mountain chain, the colonists are mostly from the Canton district, near Swatow, and show but little submission to the mandarin rule, though the authorities have their emissaries as far south as Fangleaou or Pongle, just before the mountain chain slopes into the sea. I visited Fangleaou in Her Majesty's ship "Inflexible," in 1857. It is a village situated about 20 miles below Takow. We tried to land there in the ship's boats but found the surf too great, and were obliged to allow ourselves to be carried on shore in native bamboo rafts with the water washing up to our knees. The village under mandarin control was then at war with the one we were going to visit — Laileao, where Bancheang, the outlaw chief lived. We were not molested while led over some lovely country; the rice fields, however, were lying waste on account of the disturbances. We passed through one very neat village, Chuyleao, built in the midst of lofty bamboos, where we found fine broad lanes marked with cart-ruts. The scenery was a good deal like that in some parts of Ceylon. After walking a few miles we arrived at Laileao, situated at the foot of the first range of hills and surrounded by a hedge, backed by tall graceful bamboo trees, with a ditch partly encircling it on the side of the hill. There were two entrances, one of which was closed. Bancheang's two-storied house occupied the east side, and all about within the inclosure were arranged the houses of his dependents. In the individual himself there was very little appearance of the hero, but rather that of an unhealthy-looking Chinaman. He had married the daughter of the chief of a savage tribe, with whom he traded, and by whose assistance he could successfully defy the mandarins. The Chinese offers have had a wholesome dread of him ever since the last expedition sent against him, when they were thoroughly worsted. Bancheang is said to have discharged a gun at them himself and to have killed 18 men at one shot.

We next visited Langkeao bay, in the territory of the *Aborigines*. Here the southernmost Chinese village occurs, where some *teekichew* settlers have married native women, and get their living by fishing and cattle-grazing. The men wore queues and both sexes dressed like Chinese, but the women arranged their hair in the fashion of their tribes. The majority of the population looked more malay than Chinese.

Eat of Fangleaou lies an island called *Lambay* or *Lammay*, which is peopled entirely by fishermen and small farmers from north Quangtung province, there not being a vestige left of its original possessors.

We left Ape's Hill on the 8th, and steaming up the coast under the pilotage of Captain Mien of the "Cronckbane," anchored in the afternoon in the roads outside the small river leading to Taiwan-foo. I sent a letter on shore to the Taotai announcing my arrival, while the officers of the gun-boat engaged themselves in surveying the two chief entrances into the river. The gun-boat only drew 7 1/2 feet

water, but the mouth of the river was found so shallow, and so endangered by a long heavy rolling surf, that it was pronounced dangerous to attempt an entrance. We had consequently to lay outside, and as, towards the close of the day, the south-west monsoon commenced to blow with violence, our situation in the small vessel was far from pleasant. All night she kept rolling guns under and the sea washed over her deck, soaking our luggage and making the condition of ourselves and our three ponies anything but a happy one. Next day the wind and sea continued their violence. A messenger returned from the shore on a raft, all wet through, bearing the cards of the chief Mandarins rolled up and deposited in an earthern jar. They apologised for not being able to come on board on account of the boisterous state of the weather, but said that they would be happy to welcome us on shore at the Anping village (Dutch fort) if we could manage to land. We waited impatiently for calmer weather, but finding no prospect of a change, steamed back to Ape's Hill harbour. This visit confirmed me in my previous views as to the impossibility during the south-west monsoon, or the summer half of the year, for vessels to trade with the Capital from the direct coast, exposed as they would be in the roadstead to the violence of the winds prevailing in that season. But I had one hope of a near harbour left in the mouth of another branch of the river, at a place called *Koksikon*, some miles further north, which was said to have as much as 10 feet water on the bar at high tide. Consequently, on a subsequent occasion this entrance was also tried by the gun-boat. The gunboat managed to get in, but found the anchorage cramped, and exposed, with low mud-banks on either hand, a swift tide, and had sandy holding ground. In coming out the gun-boat bumped and damaged herself, and the Lieutenant was forced to come to the conclusion that, except in very calm weather during the summer, the only safe approach to the capital was by the small harbour of Takow or Ape's Hill. It is, however, somewhat different in the north-east monsoon during the winter season. The roadway is then protected by the land, and the wind blowing off the land, the long heavy rollers do not occur. During this half of the year foreign vessels, chartered by Chinamen, frequently anchor off the city, which is situate some five miles or so inland, and by means of lighters, ship sugar and other goods for the Chinese Coast. But during the rest of the year, what little foreign trade goes on with the capital, is carried on through Ape's Hill overland.

We had failed to enter Taiwanfoo by the legitimate route, viz: by the sea; so now, as it was absolutely necessary that I should make some stay in the capital to inaugurate British trade under the new and legal *regime*, I determined to march thither overland. We accordingly made our arrangements for the morning of the 11th. Just at this time an unexpected companion turned up in Dr. Maron, one of the Prussian Scientific Expedition, who had come across to Formosa with a desire to traverse the whole of the island on foot. He wished to accompany me to the Capital, whence he was anxious to push through the country to *Tamsuy*. I admitted him into our party and promised to give him all the assistance in my power. At dawn we started in catamarans, and keeping to the left of the harbour, soon found ourselves advancing up a small river between rows of mangrove-like bushes. The day was fast breaking, and dispelling the mist that still hung over the water, Ape's hill stood out in rear sombre and dark, its summit obscured by a cloud. In the distance the range of high mountains with their rose-illumined tops showed in distinct outline against the pink-grey sky, and the birds of various species sounded in loud notes the early matin. It was altogether as delightful as morning as usually ushers in a scorching day in the tropics. Our party consisted of the Lieutenant and three men of the gunboat, Dr. Maron, my assistant in the Consulate, Mr. Braune, the constable and servants. At sunrise we landed at a small village where sedan chairs awaited us. Our servants with luggage, animals, &c., who had started over night awaited us here, so after the usual Chinese haggling for rates of fare, we started on our overland route. The paths were narrow, but the chairs hurried us along, at first easterly and then northerly to a walled town just off the inland spur of Ape's hill. This dilapidated, and nearly deserted town, known as *Koo-sea*, or Old Town girt in by high strong walls, is said to be one of the oldest fortresses built by the Chinese on the island. It now consists chiefly of one street leading from south to north gate, where a market is held, and through which the highway from the city to the

southern territories runs. The rest of the space within the walls is occupied by a few squalid houses, one or two temples in ruins, dirt-heaps, weeds, and trees. After a brief halt we pushed on. In crossing from the river to this town we had followed narrow foot-paths by the side of paddy fields; we were now on a broad road, the highway to the capital. Fields of sesame, sugar-cane, ground-nuts, and pink lotus flowers, mapped out the country into square patches on either side of us, relieved frequently by clumps of feathery bamboos, banyans, bananas, and other graceful trees. At times these trees overhung the road in long avenues, doing duty likewise to shelter the cottages of peasants, which were further screened off from the road by hedges and hurdles. Some shanties built on the road projected into a rude canopy over it, and offered a refreshing shadow from the burning noonday sun, while the proprietors within tempted the traveller with slices of pineapple and other juicy fruits, with twisted canes of betel-leaf and with the cheap and ever welcome cheer of pipes and tea. These way-side houses are all licensed, and many of them bar off the road with hurdle gates, which at night are closed, and attended by watchmen; who are responsible for the kind of people they let pass at night. In this way a certain amount of protection is provided to the highway against foot-pads; and roving vagabonds. After passing, I think three small rivers, two of which our coolies waded, and the other crossed by ferry-rafts, we arrived at the half-way village of *Arkongtien*. On the road from Ape's hill to Taiwanfoo six or seven fresh-water streams are passed. They are very tortuous and shallow, depending chiefly on the rains, and consequent drainage of the country for their supply. They support several small villages of Chinese on their banks, and winding through sandy beds eventually debouch into the sea, and are therefore, I suppose, properly named by the Chinese rivers; but at their mouths they are so choked up and raised above the sea-level, that the tidal influx is not appreciated many miles inland. The village of Arkongtien, with its long winding streets, presents a flourishing rustic market well supplied with fish. We reached this a little after noon, and were so exhausted with the journey and insufferable heat, that we were compelled to make a long halt. The people were very civil, but their excessive curiosity was annoying in the extreme. I took the opportunity to visit a celebrated oil-manufactory and watched the rude process of crushing oil out of *sesame* seed, between two great revolving blocks of stone. The dry *residuum* was being made into flat round cakes about a foot in diameter, to be used for the manuring of fields. The oil of sesame is used both for cooking and burning. A few hours before sundown we reached a large halting village, about 10 miles short of Taiwanfoo. Here we procured quarters at a very second-rate official hotel or *Kungkwan*, with very dirty beds. But travellers in eastern countries, more especially in China, have to submit to a great many inconveniences, and to not a few indignities. The curious natives again thronged us, and we looked forward with pleasurable anticipation to a secluded domicile in the capital under the protection of the Mandarins. Next morning at seven we were again on the road. The land was in this part of the journey more undulating and uncultivated, abounding in waste commons, marshes, and stagnant pools, around which the vegetation, chiefly ferns and *Pandanus*, grew very luxuriantly. The wild *Pandanus* is also a common plant in south China. In Formosa it is everywhere used as hedges to fields and gardens, and attains often the height of 20ft. The fruit is dried and ground to powder for medicine. We had over-night sent on a messenger to announce our arrival to the Mandarins, and about two miles short of the city we were met by a Lieutenant bearing the return cards of the Mandarins inviting us to an interview. On entering the city we stopped at the grand house at the gate to prepare our official toilette, then made in our chairs for the Taoutai's residence. The people in the city were in a great state of excitement and thronged the streets to see us pass; and not always flattering were the remarks made on our cortege. The grand stand appeared to be in the large open space in front of the High Mandarin's residence, where the thousands assembled displayed a perfect sea of heads swaying in all directions with eyes eager to get a view of the entry of the Foreigners. In the Mandarin's large hall all the chief authorities of the island were present, and the reception they gave us was courteous and hearty. It would be out of place in a paper of this description to attempt to describe the ceremonies of a Mandarin entertainment, had such a thing never been done before. We announced our in-

tension of residing in the capital, and making Taiwanfoo the chief fort of British trade with the island. The Taotai smiled, and said he would be delighted if such could be effected, bu the knew by positive experience of late years the impossibility of making the shallow river leading to the city a harbour for large ships, but that as our orders were to establish ourselves at that capital, the best plan would be to make some stay there until we should have opportunities of judging for ourselves, and of determining what port would be the most advantageous for British commerce. He introduced us to Taotai Gow, a Mandarin of the blue button or fourth rank, who had been deputed to Formosa by the Viceroy of Foochow as Commissioner for International Trade, and with whom we should have to deliberate on commercial matters. He gave us our choice of two temples which he had set aside for our temporary residence, until we should have arranged our plans for the future. Finding the Temple inside the city wall too small, we visited the one near the landing place, which we thought with sundry repairs, and cleaning would suit us for the time. But unfortunately this building was suitable in a low part of the town, right in the midst of the fishing community, thousands of whom insisted upon entering the house and staring at us for hours without the slightest shew of inclination to let us alone. Exhausted by the long journey and formal visit, and oppressed by the heat of the day, we vainly endeavoured by every means of remonstrance to induce the people to leave. They would not stir. We then sent to the Mandarins for a few police to dispel the crowd, but the people did not a bit mind the limbs of the law. We sent again and again to the Mandarins, and the only answer we could get was that we were in a riotous neighbourhood, and that the Mandarins were afraid to exert their power. The real truth of the matter was that a few days previous to our visit the whole city had been in an uproar, owing to the attempt on the part of the authorities to levy the *Tekin* or war-tax on all consumable commodities in aid of the funds for the suppression of rebellion in China. The people had on that occasion attacked some of the officials and torn their chairs to pieces. For this reason the authorities were afraid to handle the mob roughly, for fear of creating a similar outbreak. The Mandarins sent us large trays of refreshments, but it was impossible to eat, or do anything else, watched as our every action was by the hideous crowd. No *Aye aye* or other anomalous production of nature could be so closely scrutinised in a menagerie by a party of enquiring naturalists, than we were by the ignorant mob at *Taiwan*. We submitted to the torture for the space of three hours, but there is a pitch even on the score of sufferance which one cannot exceed. We took refuge in the house of a neighbouring merchant who had politely offered us the use of his hall, and thither thank heaven the tag-rag could not follow. A large merchant inside the city, who had large dealings with foreigners, hearing of our plight, offered us comfortable quarters in his house, which we were glad to accept. The day after Lieutenant Holder made arrangements to return with his men overland to Ape's hill, to embark on board his gunboat for China, and Dr. Maron, sick of being stared at, relinquished all ideas of exploring the island, and determined to return also. The Doctor with his short-clipped beard and dark spectacles, had been a special object of inquisitiveness to the Chinese. Not acquainted with the manners of the celestial people he mistook the curious demonstrations of the mob as signs of hostility, and every whisper from my servants filled him with alarm. He took me on one side, and said, "I will return tomorrow. It is evident you have no power here. The British Government in sending you in this way are foolish sacrificing your life. You had better come away with us. If you remain you are a dead man." It was in vain I tried to convince him that there was no actual cause of alarm. He had made up his mind. On the following day he returned with the naval people, leaving Mr. Braune and myself alone in Taiwanfoo. I instigated the authorities to procure me a house, and at the same time was unceasing in my own endeavours to find a suitable residence. I at last succeeded in procuring one of the best and most commodious buildings within the city wall, in which we were after some delay established. But during our whole stay at Taiwanfoo we were never free from the curiosity of the people. Our rides and walks were as duly chronicled as are those of the Prince and Princess of Wales in England, and large bodies of people used to gather on the probability of our passing through such and such a road. Our dining-room could be viewed from a small mound not far from the garden wall, and at our meal-time dozens of men and women used to scramble to mount the eminence for a view of the foreigners feeding.

The city of Taiwanfoo is girt by a high battlemented wall some 6 miles in extent, quadrangular; in fact a small and poor imitation of the wall of Peking. Within are the houses of the chief citizens, all the mandarins, and several temples dedicated to the three religious of the empire — comprising Confucians, Buddhist, and Taouist. The open park-like spaces, with fine trees, green lanes, hedges, and ditches, give a refreshing and rural aspect to many parts of the large straggling town. There is a sullenness and a stillness about the place which was peculiarly ominous, showing that what life the city once possessed was fast dying out, since the shoaling of the small rivers that lead under the wall has compelled vessels to seek harbours elsewhere on the long line of coast. To seawards of the city-wall lies a large and extensive suburb, containing the chief markets of the town, dirty and offensive in the extreme, but here the business of the town is done. Further to seaward, along the continually rising mud and sand-banks lies the village of *Anping*, clustered round the repaired ruins of the once great Formosan stronghold of the Dutch, "TE CASTEL ZELANDIA, GE BOWED ANNO 1630," as the inscription over the main entry or gateway leading into the fort on its northern side still tells. Du Halde, quoting front the Chinese official records, sets down a eunuch of the court of the Emperor Suen-te as the original discoverer of Formosa, A.D. 1430; that in 1564 a Tartar admiral discovered the Pescadores, and seized upon them in the name of the Emperor; and that it was not till subsequent to 1620 that the Dutch procured permission from the Japanese then in possession to acquire as much land on the island Taiwan as they could cover with a cowhide. The translations from Dutch authors in the Atlas Chinensis, and the few other works that I have had the privilege to consult are singularly silent as to how and when the Dutch acquired their possessions in Formosa; but from the position of the fort, and the name it still bears, it is evident that it is to that fort, at present in ruins at Anping, that they refer. Two suggestive facts we gather from the Dutch records,* first, that the *castel* was built on the island of Taiwan, so called by the Chinese, which proves that the Chinese colonists had already emigrated thither before the arrival of the Dutch; and secondly, that Taiwan, on which the fort was built, was a small island lying apart from the large island of Formosa, which latter they then called *Peccande*. The fort still stands to bear witness of its identity, but that which was a separate island two centuries back has now become a portion of the main island, united to it by mud and sand-banks; a small town called Anping has grown round the ruins of the fort; and what was once a bay between the lesser and the larger island has narrowed into a shallow river, discharging itself over a dangerous and surf-beaten bar into the sea more than a mile to seaward of the fort. We have yet another existing testimony of the change time has wrought in the configuration of this land. The Dutch records tell of a second fort, called *Providentia*, that the Hollanders built at a subsequent date near the mouth of the Formosa river, on the side opposite to the fort on the island of Taiwan.+ This fort, called the "Red-haired House," now stands inside the wall of the city of Taiwanfoo, over five miles from the coast, and about a mile from the bank of the present river, between which and the city wall the busiest and most extensive suburb of the capital has sprung up. But we need not refer back two centuries to note evidences of the rising of the coast-line. Long lapse of time has of course wrought more decided changes, but the period of only ten years is also proved to have caused a serious change. On comparing the survey of this portion of the coast made by the officers of H.M.S. "Saracen" with those of late years, we observe that spots were twelve and fourteen feet soundings were marked, now only show one and two feet. The truth of this statement can be verified by any one

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* "The island Tayowan," says Ogilby, quoting from the Dutch, in his Atlas Chinensis, "lies south from Formosa, the uttermost north point being distant almost a league, but the southernmost point within a bow shot of the land, over which at low water they wade to and again. But between the north and Formosa it is at least 13 feet deep at low water. It spreads S.E. and N.W., and hath two leagues and a half in length, and a quarter of a league in breadth, being naturally a spot of barren sand rather than a fertile isle, producing only pineapples and other wild trees; yet here resided above 10,000 Chinese, who lived by merchandise, besides natives. On the north side, upon a sand-hill, stands the fort Zelandia, built by the Hollanders anno 1632."

+ "On the other side, in the main of Formosa, stands the fort and village *Sakkam*, well planted with cannon. Anno 1664, when the Hollanders returned to recover some prisoners from Coxinga, they found the village near the fort enlarged with houses to the number of 600." (Atlas Chinensis, vol. ii., p.40). This village of Sakkam is now the city of Taiwanfoo, the capital of the island, containing about 120,000 inhabitants, all Chinese.

glancing over the latest Admiralty chart, and it will be found to hold good for the only portion of the west coast that has of late years been properly surveyed — the coast that lies between Taiwanfoo and Ape's Hill. Indeed from the incongruities of the two survey lines, it is scarcely possible to suppose that the two surveys separated by the lapse of so few years can be both equally correct. To the north of Taiwanfoo the old survey line still stands, and I am told on good a uthority that the coast-line is placed in some places as much as ten【原文照登】 miles too Far East. The dangers and difficulties of the Formosa coast with the aid of the best surveys cannot be too exaggerated. It is true comparatively few ships visit the coast with a view to trade, but vessels bound up and down the China coast have too often to lie over to Formosa. With the increasing traffic wrecks yearly multiply, and yet the Government takes no steps to survey the island. With the exception of a few special spots, we may say that the greater part of the Formosa coast is unknown. I have been assured by adventurous masters of vessels that there are good and safe harbours at the south cape of Formosa, and probably some on the lower portion of the east coast. The advantage that such would afford as places of refuge in stress of weather to vessels availing themselves during the N.E. monsoon of the gulf stream beyond Formosa cannot be too strongly advocated, and yet, with all the fine ships at their command lying idle in Hong Kong harbour, the admirals have turned a deaf ear. During our stay at Taiwanfoo owing to heavy rains the river increased in volume, and much to the delight of the authorities and citizens forced a deeper channel through the bar. A continued succession of these volumes of water might perhaps for a time have opened the port for the reception of vessels of moderate burden, but unfortunately a few weeks after a change again took place, and robbed us of all our hopes by once more shallowing the bar. Lieut. Holder, of the gunboat "Cockchafer," examined again and again the three entrances by way of river to the city, but in vain. His confirmed verdict was that no European vessel of the smallest burden could enter and lie with safety in the so-called port of Taiwan. I was therefore reluctantly obliged to give up all hopes of ever establishing a port of trade at the capital of Formosa. But while at Taiwanfoo we would say a few words on the subject of the Dutch forts. I have examined the two at Taiwanfoo, one at Makung in the Pescadores, and the most perfect one of all, that at Tamsuy. All with the exception of the Castel Zelandia have no inscription to tell of the past. They are all of a quadrangular form, constructed with strong masonry of brick and mortar plastered over. They are divided into two floors and have a flat roof which forms a terrace on the top approached by a sky-door from within. Each floor is partitioned into separate cell-like rooms with arched roofs, and the outward wall is pierced for the protrusion of cannon. The fort inside the city of Taiwanfoo has a Chinese temple built into it, the hallowed presence of which is supposed to drive away the evil spirits of the "red-haired" builders of the fort, who would otherwise infest the locality and work harm. To the left of the temple, a circular hole about four feet in diameter runs into the ground, and is said to have once communicated with a similar hole in the port at Anping. Both the holes are now choked up, but what could originally have been the use to which they were applied it is now difficult to conjecture. These two forts【原文照登】, together with some grass-covered graves, pointed out as containing remains of departed Hollanders and aborigines, are all the silent records of the past that I could discover at Taiwanfoo. The living records of the past I found unfortunately more silent than the dead ones. These consisted of a race of men habited like Chinese with manners entirely similar, but darker and larger boned, who were scattered about in villages in the neighbourhood of Taiwanfoo. The head men of these people taking the appellation of red-haired, applied by Chinese alike to all Europeans, but in its originally restricted sense applied to Hollanders, called upon me and claimed heirship, saying that they were of Dutch origin. They brought a scroll written over with roman letters all jumbled together, which none of them could read. This I have since tried to decipher with the aid of good linguists, but all that was intelligible were a few roman numerals, and a few wrongly-spelt Dutch words. We came to the conclusion therefore that the manuscript was a bad copy of the paper of some native scholar who had learnt writing from a missionary during the Dutch occupation. The language of their fathers which they asserted to be Dutch they had long since ceased to use, but one old man was introduced who could speak it. I was soon convinced that it was not Dutch, but rather

some dialect of Malay, which I supposed their foreign forefathers, probably native soldiers brought by the Hollanders from the Indian Archipelago, might have spoken. But on referring the small vocabulary I made of words to Mr. Crawford, that gentleman is of opinion that this language was rather that of an aboriginal people allied to the Malay. These people had certainly had in former times some connection with the Hollanders, but what they failed to prove.

It is singular that in a country noted for its produce of camphor like Formosa it was almost impossible to purchase an ounce of the drug in the shops. So jealously guarded is this article by the Taotai, who claims the entire monopoly of its sale, that the druggists have to petition him in a body to be permitted to purchase a pecul for distribution among themselves to retail. Powder and shot are also contraband goods at Taiwanfoo. The military mandarins have alone the privilege to retail them. Iron is also forbidden to the merchants as an article of commerce, and the whole trade of iron and iron manufactures is put into the hands of a mandarin, who farms the license from the superior authorities.

One thing that strikes a visitor from South China to the plains of Chinese Formosa is the broad roads, and carts drawn by buffaloes and cattle. These vehicles are very generally used for heavy land transport, the cart wheels being composed of thick planks of wood battened together, fashioned to the shape of a wheel. The loud jarring noise they make in passing is most disagreeble【原文照登】 when heard near, but at a distance it is not unpleasant. These carts enter the open parts of the city but the busier streets of the town are narrow and paved as in south China, and not accessible to them.

The Taotai or Chief Authority was in great grief, his head unshaven and his person dressed in dingy white for some weeks after our arrival. He was mourning for his intended son-in-law, the son of the Prefect of Canton, who was betrothed to his only daughter. This young man got so knocked about in his passage across that he died shortly after his arrival. His body was shipped in a foreign vessel to be transported back to his father.

The Chinese in Formosa account it a great insult to be hit with a fan or pipe-stem. In their interviews with Europeans they are very anxious to make appear that they understand foreign courtesy. If a Mandarin sees you take off your hat, he at once attempts to do the same. As a ludicrous instance of this, a friend of mine in passing a well-to-do Chinese put his finger to his nose at him in schoolboy fashion. The Chinaman rose to his feet and in the gravest possible manner returned the compliment.

The Mandarins at Taiwanfoo pay special attention to the rites of Buddha on the appointed feast days, and by the observance of such rites, and by grand displays on the occasion, attempt to win the hearts of the people.

The women dress their hair with artificial pith flowers instead of natural flowers as at Amoy, but as in that place the oldest and greyest headed dames twist their few hairs into a back knot and surmount the whole with a rose or a camellia.

Cicadas are seldom heard during the day, but the night is enlivened by several species of noisy locusts.

There is a large examination hall at Taiwanfoo with seats sufficient for one thousand competitors for the degree of Sew-tsai or Bachelor of Arts. The examinations are held triennially. For the higher degrees the candidates have to go to China. Military degrees are also conferred in the city; but at the time of our sojourn there the soldiery were going mad to be drafted for service against the rebels in China, and the crack of the matchlock too frequently disturbed the brooding silence of the city.* I might say

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* "The approach of the rebels to Foochow had induced the Provincial Government to call for a levy of three thousand braves from Formosa. These men were enlisted at the various towns on the island, and sent thence under military commanders to the nearest port for shipment to China. They were the scum of the Colonies, poorly clothes and poorly fed, but the matchlock each man carried, manufactured of Formosan white metal, was superior to the rusty looking weapons with which Chinese soldiers are usually armed. These braves receive 7 dollars (£1 11s. Gd.) per month 17 dollars (£3 16s. Gd.) of which is paid beforehand to the family of each before starting, and deducted at 1 dollar (4s. Gd.) a month out of his pay. When disbanded after their services are over they are left to find their own way back, and it is said seldom more than one third return; the rest being either absorbed by the casualties of war, or enticed to settle elsewhere.—R.S.

something of the large sward, marked by its two poles and its temple-like house outside the N.E. gate of the city, where so many shipwrecked Europeans during the first China war were so cruelly decapitated, if there were anything peculiarly different in it from what all such places are throughout China. *Taiwanfoo* is at the best nothing more than a Chinese town, which you see repeated with few essential changes in aspect throughout China. I stayed on to the middle of October, waiting to see if any merchants or others would come to make a beginning, but all stood aloof. The chief import trade, Opium, was in the hands of the two receiving vessels, at Ape's Hill, and so was, to a great extent, the export of rice and sugar. In fact, small as the little Ape's Hill harbour is, it must necessarily be for six months at least in the year the port of Taiwanfoo. Besides Ape's Hill there were two other ports accessible to European vessels, those of *Tamsuy* and *Kelung*. There were a few others to which foreign shipping could at certain seasons repair. I carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of all the available ports, and after due deliberation resolved to settle, subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Government, that the Tamsuy river should be the port of British trade. Accordingly in the second week in November I left S.W. Formosa bag and luggage and via Amoy and Foochow and then by gunboat reached the Tamsuy river in December.

Before commencing my remarks on Tamsuy I will extract a few notes on the Chinese geography of Formosa, afforded me by a Chinese friend.

"The two most prominent hills of the south cape are named *Nansha* and *Make-tow*, which are frequently capped with clouds. The ancients say that two spirits in the guise of men, the one clothed in vermilion, the other in white, used to play at chess on these hills, but of this there is now no evidence, except the existence of a large flat-topped stone shaped like a chess-board. These hills have to be sighted by navigators on the voyage to the Philippines. A harbour runs between them called *Kwei-leangtsai*, which affords good shelter to vessels from the N.E. monsoon. Southwards two hours sail lie the Hung-tow seu (Red-headed Isles or Bashees), which are inhabited by savages, and not accounted Chinese territory. These islands produce copper, of which article all the domestic utensils of the natives are made." I learn from Captain Meincke, of the Prussian bring "Typhoon," that the Spaniards from the Philippines trade with the Bashees.

"Fifteen miles west of *Fongshan* city there are springs, whence boiling water constantly spouts out." These springs were visited by Padre Sainz, a Roman Catholic priest at Ape's Hill, who informed me that they were found about three leagues east of Ape's Hill. That there were there three classes of springs, one giving out brackish water, another hot water, and the third water mixed with a large quantity of earth of a leaden colour, possessing an odour of clay. The hot water was too warm to keep the hand in, but not boiling. The brackish water was not more saline than a glass of fresh water would be with a spoonful of salt dissolved in it. These waters were being spouted up in strong jets about a foot from the earth. I may here remark that hot mineral springs occur on the main, about six miles west of Amoy.

"Twenty miles south of *Kia-e* city, there exists a fire-hill (or volcano), whence water and fire burst out together. The fire emits no smoke, except when wood, or other combustibles are thrown upon it."*

"Among the hills on the interior border of Changhwa district, in the 25th year of Taokwang, the Prefect of Lookeang opened a road through the mountains into a fine, large, open, uncultivated plain, called *Poo-le-shay*, encircled by forest-covered mountains. Beyond this plain soars the *Yuh-shan* or *Jade Mountain* (Mount Morrison), which no one has ever been able to scale. Koksinga several times attempted to reach its heights, but his troops became distressed and unable to follow, and he was therefore

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* In November, 1861, when lying off the city of Taiwanfoo, we had a clear view of the central mountain chain, one peak of which was emitting smoke in large volumes. This is doubtless the volcano to which the Chinese writer refers, and which is also marked upon the Chinese Government map. I saw or heard of no other active volcano in Formosa, neither did I experience any earthquake which Chinamen affirm frequently occur in the *Kia-e* district, the ground having in one recent instance opened and engulfed seven men. The Atlas Chinensis on this subject observes (p. 19):—"Besides typhoons terrible earthquakes occur. Anno 1654 happened a mighty earthquake on the 14th December, which continued with short intermissions for seven weeks together."

obliged to desist. This mountain is only visible on very clear days; it is usually enveloped in clouds. On one of his attempts to penetrate this mountain Koksinga fell in with an old grey-headed woman, who begged him to retreat, and presented him with two large pieces of jade as return for the labour he had undergone in proceeding so far. These he accepted, when she bound him to have the finest piece cut into a seal for the *Kwan-yin* goddess (the Chinese *Ceres*), to be deposited on the shrine of one of her celebrated temples. The other piece he was at liberty to fashion into a girdle-buckle for himself. On his return he neglected the promise he had made, and ordered his own name to be cut on the larger piece. The name was engraved as desired, and the seal brought to him; but on taking it into his hand, and looking at the device, the characters transformed themselves under his eyes into the title of the goddess. Enraged, he had the words erased, and his own name once more carved, but the impression again proved subtle. Upon this he grew alarmed, and devoutly presented the seal as an offering to the Cereal shrine. It so happened that the old woman that presented him with the jade was no other than the goddess herself in disguise."

"East of Mount Morrison lies a large lake called *Chess-board Lake*, which produces sea-fish. People say this lake communicates with the sea. This would appear to be the case, from the fact of salt-water fish being found in it. Some little distance from this hill rise two streams, the one clear, the other muddy; the waters of both are turbulent, and run into the sea."

"Up the Tanshuy【原文照登】 river, on the eastern slope of the *Ta-tun* (Great Pile) Hill occur sulphur-producing hollows, whence day and night smoke rises incessantly to the sky. Sulphuric is from these procured in abundance. To seawards of this hill stands the old *Red-haired Fort*. Taiwan was in former times under the control of the *Red-haired barbarians*, but fell to the present dynasty in the autumn of the 21st year of Kanghe." (Observe, this date agrees with Chinese official records above quoted.) "Taiwan measures east and west 100 le, north and south 1700 le. On the east are the hills of the Aborigines, on the west the Pescadore【原文照登】 Islands. The north is bounded by the hills of Kelung, the south by the hills *Nan-sha* and *Make-tow*. From *Loo-wah mun* (entrance to Taiwanfoo) is eleven days voyage. From *Loo-tsai-keang* to Chinchew eight days. From Tamsuy to *Woohoomun* (entrance to Foochow) five days. The Komalan district was formerly savage territory, and a harbour for Chinese desperadoes. In the 15th year of Kiaking the country was annexed. The soil is rich and extensive, with high hills, deep lakes, and valleys, and affords as it were another sky to Taiwan. Bad characters have been driven elsewhere, fortune attends the place, and the people enjoy the benefits of peace. Annexation of additional valuable territory progresses steadily." I have quoted these remarks rather in extenso, as from the truthful account they give of places we have actually visited, I think more than ordinary reliance may be placed on the observations on the spots as yet unexplored by white men. The Jade Mountain, the inland salt lake, and the volcano, offer tempting baits to the exploration of adventurous Europeans.

The wonders of the world are usually set down as seven; Formosa has its eight wonders, but they are wonders only to the untraveled native of a Fokien city. As they may prove of interest to some I will here mention them. "1st. The sun rising from the eastern ocean. 2nd. The appearance of prismatic colours in the vapours overhanging the western isles. 3rd. The return at nightfall of the passage boats. 4th. The lights used by fishing-boats viewed at night from the *Sha-kwan* sands. 5th. At *Loo-wah mun*, the spring floods from the mountains. 6th. The snow on the mountains near Kelung. 7th. The boundless ocean viewed from *Chingtai*. 8th. The roar of the angry billows on the *Feiting* shore." One cannot help feeling pity for the Chinese cockney that first noted these as wonders.

The Tamsuy river, which was destined to become the British port of trade discharges itself into the sea on the N.W. coast of Formosa over a bar, giving 16ft. of water at high tide. From its proximity to Foochow, it has long been the highway between the Formosan and the principal capital. The *Ta-tun* mountains on its north bank, and the *Lo-han* mountains on the south bank, both near its mouth, afford excellent landmarks to the entry of the river, and the narrow gorge, six miles further inland where the river contracts, well defines the limits of the harbour; in which a good many ships of

moderate burden can procure safe anchorage. A sand bank laid bare at low tides runs east and west through the harbour and unfortunately narrows its limits. Above the gorge the river enters a large plain, well-cultivated in summer with rice, in winter with corn and vegetables. It here speedily divides into two, the main branch winding away past the town of *Mangkia* or *Banca* into the wild mountains of the interior; while the confluent branch takes a turn and after a series of insignificant rapids ends its assent about two miles from Kelung. This latter branch I ascended in 1857 to its source, in company with a party from H.M.S. Inflexible, on our return to the ship anchored in Kelung harbour. We had passed overland to the sulphur mines, whence we crossed the hills and descended to the banks of the Tamsuy river. I have sketched out our route on the map, and I published an account of our trip in the Journal of the North China Branch of the Asiatic Society for 1858. The great danger to shipping in the Tamsuy harbour is experienced in the early summer, when after excessive rains and the melting of the snow on the mountains, the freshets convert the entire river into a large rapid which drives everything before it. Ships then find it difficult to hold ground with their anchors, and the only means by which they can be prevented from drifting to sea is by mooring firmly to the land.

On our arrival at Tamsuy in gunboat we pushed up the river in boats to the town of Banca to have an interview with the *Taotai* Commissioner for Foreign Trade, who had come up overland to meet us. The visit was returned, the necessary preliminary arrangements made, and Tamsuy was declared the port of British Trade in the Island of Formosa. We thought at first of procuring a house in the town of Banca, but owing to its distance from the shipping, and its unhealthy position in the midst of a low marshy plain, we abandoned that idea in favour of the village of *Hoowei*, the largest on the banks of the harbour, which is flanked on either side by hills, from which town on the right bank the *Ta-tun* group attaining to a height of 2,800 feet, and on the left the *Kwan-yin* group to the height of 1720 feet. The *Ta-tun* group comprises five important peaks, more or less conical, ranging between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. The farmsteads with their home-like stacks of corn were scattered about the low undulating country at its feet nestling cozily in clumps of trees and bamboos. At about the height of 1,500 feet the tree fern (*Alsophila*) makes its appearance in the ravines, looking like small palms in the distance, and giving quite a tropical aspect to the small amount of vegetation that lingers uncleared in the rocky unserviceable portions of the great hill. For all the available ground to the height of 2,000 feet is hoed and planted with ground nuts and sweet potatoes. I ascended the peak in February and found parties of Chinese at work on the hill-side, having constructed temporary straw sheds for night retreat during the season. On the sides facing the prevailing North East winter winds no cultivation was attempted. This hill-range is greatly infested with wild pigs, and to keep these animals from descending into the cultivated parts ridges of large loose stones four feet high had been erected with drains on either side. Through these *Te-loahs* or pig-barriers passages are left for men to pass through, which are barred with rude hurdle gates. After passing these barriers the traces of pigs were very frequent, and in places large patches of grass had been uprooted by them. Deep and steep ravines occur on the hill-side as you ascent; the stones are large, of limestone rock, and scattered confusedly down the rugged declivity. Some where whiter than others and speckled with black carbonaceous matter. Towards the top the soil is very black. What appears the first peak consists of a circle of undulating ground round a large circular hollow, which was evidently not many years since a volcanic crater. The circle is well formed, about ninety yards in diameter, and is now wet and marshy with two small pools of water. The surround elevation is covered by the colonists of their pristine vegetation. The few rocks that stand round the apparent crater dip towards its centre. A few blocks also lie about the hollow. But the rocks on the outward face of the surrounding hill incline outwards and downwards. Where the pools now stand in the centre of this hollow, the Chinese say some ten years back a sulphur stream oozed forth, and occasional tremor of the ground was felt in the plains below. To put a stop to this, a celebrated geomancer, learned in

the art of *wind and water*, was consulted, and he advised the burial of some human bones in the side of the slope facing the south, and joss-paper to be burnt. Since that time all appearance of volcanic action has vanished. A strong smell of sulphur pervaded the air, but this was probably caught up by the wind, which was blowing fresh from the direction of the sulphur mines some few miles distant in the same range of hills. The wind blew in fearful gusts nearly carrying us off our feet, and driving before it clouds of dense mist, in a second enveloped us, and intercepted from our sight the natural map that lay at bird's eye view beneath us; and the sun gleaming through the mist formed fitful rainbow hues much below our level. The same praiseworthy system of agriculture that prevails in China of turning to account every possible portion of land was here also to be seen. The paddy was not yet planted and the glebe cut up into a check pattern glistened with its superincumbent water. On the terraces on the hill sides the fields are irrigated by means of tanks or reservoirs fed by the mountain streams. These tanks serve a second purpose in sustaining fish for the market. But the cultivated country was too much a repetition of a plain in China to be of much interest. The view to eastward was entirely of a different character. Beyond the gorge lay the large cultivated plain about *Banca*, bound on the N.W. and N. by a chain of hills continued from the one on which I stood; and bound on the S.W. by the *Lo-han* range and the plateau-topped hills to seaward. These plateau hills of various heights are common at this end of Formosa, and when untilled afford a short grassy verdure, smooth and carpetlike, not unlike English downs. To the northward extended an open plain varied with frequent undulations. The river inside the gorge gives off simultaneously two branches, one southwards across the plain which is soon lost in the paddy fields. According to Chinese maps there was here formerly a large marshy pool, which has since been filled up and converted into rice-fields. The other branch tends northwards, diving again into two, one towards *Kelung* and the other into the N.E. Hills. The main river runs on to Banca, and there giving off a shallow affluent to the south, takes a serpentine course into the eastern mountains. As the clouds passed away and revealed a view of the interior chain we had a delightful refreshing panorama. Heaped tier upon tier of various heights these forest-clad mountains of the aborigines stretched N. and S.E.; the most distant series glittering with its patches of snow, which contrasted well with the charming shades of purple and blue in which they were invested by the distance.

I also ascended the *Kwan-yin* mountain of the *Lohan* group on the south bank of the river, which is lower and affords a less interesting view. There is a small Chinese village in a basin on the first lower range, but the ground is not cultivated so high up as on the *Ta-tun* hills. The lower conical peaks, which form the *Lo-han* or attendants to the great *Kwan-yin*, or Cereal Goddess, have prettily wooded glens and ravines on their sides. Among many other interesting plants the *Rice-paper* plant, (*Aralia*【原文照登】 *papyrifera*) and the camphor tree (*Lanrus camphora*) were specially abundant. The latter was, however, of modern growth, all the older trees having entirely disappeared from Chinese territory to supply that lucrative article of commerce—camphor.

I must make my sketches of Tamsuy scenery more brief, and will therefore cut them short with a few remarks on my visit to the interior in search of the Aborigines. About two hours walk eastward of Banca lies a large village through which runs one of the most laborious works of art on which the Tamsuy people have entered. The water supplied by the springs in this large marshy plain was found to be brackish and unwholesome. It was therefore thought advisable to bring down a mountain stream to supply the population of the plains. Such a stream was found about 8 miles to the interior from Banca, leaping down the side of a mountain into the river in what was then some 40 years ago savage territory. The savage hamlet in the neighbourhood was assaulted and the aborigines driven away. A tunnel was cut into the foot of the mountain sixteen yards long, eight feet broad, and about fourteen feet deep, and the course of the stream diverted by degrees into this. In the progress of the work the labourers were frequently attacked by the savages, and about sixty of their number killed before its completion. The water, which is very sweet and fresh, is led in a prepared channel, maintaining a depth of from three to four feet, into the village

Kieng-bay above-mentioned, which, being built on the two high banks of an affluent of the main river required an aqueduct to conduct the water across. A wooden aqueduct was accordingly built across. It runs from bank to bank about thirty feet above the river, supported on a series of strong wooden crutches. It is three sided, formed of thick wooden planks battened together with wood nailed quadrilaterally round it. The battens are 108 in number, about a foot broad, and about a yard apart from each other. The inside of the long box is lined with Chinese plaster and rendered water-tight. It is about five feet deep and eight feet broad, and is supported by 47 crutches. From *Kieng-bay* this water-supply is led on to Banca and thence on to *Twa-loo-tea* and *Twa-long-pong*, some five miles further. As I have already given a lengthy account of my interview with the savages to the Ethnological Society, it will be needless to introduce the same into this paper. I would only remark that the line of demarcation is at once observable by the fine wood-covered ranges that mark the hunting grounds of the original possessions of the island. The Chinese territory is almost entirely denuded of trees, and cultivated on these interior hills mostly with the tea-plant introduced from China. The absence of the primitive wood has naturally wrought a vast difference between the flora and fauna of the two territories. Coarse grass has covered the cleared hills, and the place of the woodland birds, the deer and the goat, has been supplied by larks and birds of the plain, and by pigs and hares. At the point I reached, the river divided the two lands, across which the savages were in the habit of coming in boats ferried by Chinese, to barter. Across the river the lower wooded range was considered common land, and not suffered to be crossed except by permission from the chief of the clan. Up to this point of the river I had walked, in returning I took the stream. My return was unfortunately expedited【原文照登】 by the troubled state of the country. That pest of China called rebellion had cast its infectious seeds across the channel, and large bodies belonging to the various secret societies into which all Chinese communities are cup up, avowed themselves disaffected and commenced warring on the Mandarins and plundering. We will not enter here on the origin of this local rebellion; suffice it to say, that it was caused by some unadvised cruel measures enforced by the Mandarins, two of whom the Taotai and the Prefect of Tamsuy soon fell victims to its rage. Left unprotected as we were at Tamsuy, and scarce fairly planted, we fortunately felt the curse only indirectly. Clanfights between colonists from different parts of China frequently occur, and are regarded as trifles, though often attended with much loss of life; but it is many years since a rebellion subversive of Mandarin power has taken place in Formosa. Many talked of the necessity of having Formosa an independent state, but that was fairly not the object of its promoters. Their intention was merely to denounce before the Government their determination to resist the cruelty of the Mandarins. This, in fact is the only safety-valve which the Chinese possess of strongly expressing popular opinion. Possessed of no public papers to tell their individual tales of oppression, they meet together and arm to resist this or that Mandarin who presses too heavily on them. In many cases the superior authorities yield to the pressure and remove the offending official, but where the Mandarin is endowed with much power, he retaliates by declaring the armed expression of feeling as an act of open rebellion, and in all such cases he is empowered to enforce submission to the paternal rule.

The scenery passed in gliding down the numerous rapids of the river was highly interesting, the curious forms of rocks, the abrupt bends of the stream, the picturesque villages, orchards and plantations on its banks, all beautiful to behold, but exceeding monotonous to hear described. I will however note the manner of shooting the rapids, and the boats employed. These boats are about 20 feet long by 4 feet broad, pointed at both ends like a canoe, and draw very little water. In smooth water, they are rowed in the usual way, with a common rudder. But in descending the rapids, a paddle-like oar is thrust into a rest at the stem and another similarly placed in the stern. These cut the water, and by skilful management guide the boat down the rapid, the slightest reversion of either oar deviating the course of the boat. At each of the larger rapids the river was dammed across with stones and rushes, a narrow passage being left for the rush of the main

stream. If the rapids were long, they were made by means of further barriers to take a winding course, in order to facilitate the ascent. In hauling the boats up the rapids a rullock-pin was thrust into the gunwale of the boat close to the head, to which a rope was fastened which was towed by a man, while another pushed the boat astern. The labour in returning is so great the the boat fare to Banca is unusually excessive. At the last rapid just above Banca the water was much disturbed, leaping into the air and bubbling. This spot is called *Haw-kang* (or tiger's hole) and the commotion is probably caused by some mineral warm jet, probably of sulphur, as it is no great distance from the sulphur mines.

The old Dutch fort, of which I can find no European account, still stands in tolerable condition on a hill on the right bank of the Tamsuy river, and affords one guide to the entrance into the harbour. The site on which it stands has in later times been enclosed in with a curtain, and converted into a Chinese fort. A part of this we have leased as a site for the future consular residence. The fort itself is damp and deserted, and said to be haunted. It bears no inscription or record of the past. I have drawn up a minute account of the fort, but it is too long to insert here. Another place of special interest at Tamsuy is what is called the Foreigners' Cavern. This consists of a deep subterranean cavern on the side of a hill on the south bank. It is about four feet wide at its mouth, and is said never to have been penetrated to its end. I entered it some little distance, but its descent was too abrupt for me to follow with safety. It is said in past times to have been the retreat of aborigines, and afterwards of the Hollanders. A similar cavern also occurs at Kelung, and the two are said to unite. The Kelung Cavern is on the south shore, at Mero Bay. It runs into the soft sandstone rock; its entrance is about ten feet deep, by almost six broad, and seems as if excavated. People have penetrated with lights some 400 or 500 yards, and a musket then fired reverberated a long way further. Water dropped from the roof, and made little pools on the floor. The roof was arched and covered with mildew, but there were no stalactites. The ruins of an old Spanish fort occur on an island at Mero Bay, Kelung. For remarks on Kelung I must refer my readers to the excellent account of the researches of Commodore Perry's expedition, a part of which was detached for exploration of N. Formosa. Of my visit to Kelung, the *Komalan* District, and the east coast of Formosa, I have already published an account in the Journal of the Shanghai Society. Capt. Meicke, of the Prussian brig "Typhoon," visited Sawo Harbour in March, 1861. He first anchored at Lamhongo (see chart), but finding too little water there, removed to off the central village near the fresh-water stream. He supposes that in the southerly monsoon (the season when the harbour was surveyed by H.M.S. "Inflexible") there is more water there than in the northerly. He spoke of some reefs in the harbour not marked down in the chart. He had frequent communication with a village of Kalee natives on the shore, who used to come on board to work for him. One day when a lot of these people were on board, another European vessel hove in sight. He hoisted the Prussian flag as a signal to her. The natives no sooner saw the split crow floating in the air, than with a cry of *Koo-koo* they all jumped into their boats and pulled off. On inquiring the cause of their alarm he was told that the Prussian transport "Elbe," while in that harbour, had landed a party of marines, who marched up the wooded hill on the left where the savages lurk. That the marines had not proceeded far when they were saluted with shots from the surrounding thicket. They could see no man, but the shots, consisting of conical bits of stone, pitted all round, and one pierced the collar of a marine. The marines descended in rage, and mistaking the poor harmless *Kalees* for some of the savage tribe, wreaked their vengeance on them. They therefore associated the split crow with warlike demonstration, and looking upon its hoisting as a signal for war, considered it high time to make themselves scarce.

I will not further swell this paper with any more of my numerous notes and anecdotes, but proceed to give a slight sketch in some other branches of science bearing intimately on the *physical* geography of Formosa.