

nor esplanades, but one gloomy plain of dark and decaying roofs fills up the space between the river and the mountains. A few forts not meriting a description, a couple of pagodas not particularly elegant, an occasional group of trees, and official poles standing before the residences of a mandarin, and which an author has likened to "dismantled gallows," can be seen from an eminence, but their variety gives but little relief to the sombreness of the picture.

The foreign merchants, (by which I mean the British, French and American,) were confined to a few acres of ground on the river side, which were tastefully laid out and filled with different species of trees and plants.

About one hundred yards from the water were the Hongs, or Factories in which they reside and transact their business. These buildings were three stories high, and presented a long frontage filling up latitudinally the prescribed limits. They extended some distance in depth, it being customary in China to build houses of this description in rear of each other, all being accessible by means of an arched passage which runs underneath them. Between each building, in the rear, was an area of a few feet square. These houses appeared as if built beneath a common roof; it was impossible to avoid the unwilling gaze of a neighbour into the opposite bed room, kitchen or dining room, unless by closing the blinds which would have impeded the free circulation of the air, and have made the matter worse.

The hospitality which strangers receive from foreigners throughout China is proverbial, as all travellers in the country can testify : while in addition to this their acts of generosity to strangers in distress lead one to believe that the old-fashioned virtues of charity and benevolence are not yet extinct, but exist in patriarchial simplicity wherever they are most needed.

In the foreign gardens was a neat Episcopalian Church, a Club House, and a collection of boats equal to those in any other part of the world. The city proper is surrounded by a high wall, within which no foreigner is admitted. The gates are thrown open during the day, and through the archway, a glimpse can be had of the prohibited city. After once passing through a Chinese street there are no inducements to go a second time. There are two in the neighbourhood of the factories occupied by the foreigners, from which strangers usually make their purchases. These are about ten feet in width, and are always crowded with men and women, some having boxes of tea suspended from either end of a bamboo staff which rests on the shoulders; others packages of paper similarly carried.