

life, she would make him happy. He accordingly listened to the suggestion, and having carried her to her family, which was of high distinction, he was remunerated in a manner that made him forget his unpromising lot, and to bless his good fortune.

Persons who are distressed by want, are permitted to expose or destroy their children. Thus, when penury is felt, when the mother falls sick or dies, it is common to condemn the helpless innocent to perish; and frequently the hour of birth is the last of their lives. In all this, notwithstanding their boasted politeness, the Chinese are as savage as the untutored Hottentots*.

The Chinese are Pagans of several sects; the principal of which is composed of the worshippers of Fo, who believe in transmigration; and the bonzes or priests of this persuasion, grossly impose on the credulous multitude. Two of these bonzes, one day seeing a pair of very fine ducks in a farm yard, and wishing to make a feast on them, fell down on their faces, and exclaimed that the souls of their fathers inhabited the bodies of these fowls; and that they never could be happy unless they had the keeping of them. The good woman of the house, to relieve their pious fears, made them a present of the ducks, which they received with every mark of veneration; but that very evening made a feast on them, without regard to their fathers' souls.

They also extort money from the people, by acts of public penance. One day, says Le Compte,

* There is something so shocking, so unnatural, in the crime of infanticide, that it might be supposed the last which even barbarians would commit.