

juts into the harbour, with an area of four square miles, are also included in the colony. The island consists of a broken ridge of high hills, and contains very little ground fit for cultivation, its value depending chiefly upon its splendid harbour. This harbour has an area of about ten square miles, is sheltered on all sides by lofty hills, and is connected with the sea by two excellent channels, which are now protected by strong fortifications.

Hong-Kong has been in our possession about fifty years, having been ceded to the British Government after the Chinese war of 1841. At that time the island was little more than a barren rock, inhabited only by a few fishermen or pirates who frequented the surrounding waters. Now it has a population of nearly 230,000, and is the third port in the British Empire in respect of the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared every year. In 1890 this amounted to more than 13,000,000 tons.

Hong-Kong is the head-quarters of our China Squadron, and the centre of our great trade with China. In the harbour may usually be seen thousands of Chinese junks, which carry on commerce with the mainland. The larger proportion of the population consists of Chinese, who have become British subjects. It is from this port also that the emigration of Chinese coolies chiefly takes place, and an important part of the duty of the Government of the colony is to see that this emigration is carried on without injustice to the coolies.

Hong-Kong is a free port, and has thus become the emporium of trade between China and other nations, as well as ourselves. British steamship lines from England,

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