

most rigidly enforced. Yet after this indication of advancement, Europeans will still find the manners of the Japanese repulsive, and, though polite, tarnished still with barbarous shades. Their commerce with the Dutch in former times, who treated all other Europeans with jealous and treacherous enmity in order to aggrandize themselves, could not fail to impress most unfavourable notions on semi-barbarians, witnessing such conduct among strangers. With such impressions British commerce will have to contend. The same may be said of the Chinese, who are more cautious and proud, if possible, than the Japanese. Care and circumspection, and respect for their national laws and customs, may reconcile them to European manners again, and recover their confidence.

A fort erected on the promontory of Alaska, or on Queen Charlotte's Island on the North American coast, would be a protection from injury, or a safe retreat in case of vessels receiving damage at sea, or other injury or danger. The whole of that immense coast, from Cook's River to New Albion and California, is the property of Great Britain by right of discovery; and it claims particular regard, on account of the invaluable resources with which, as a country unexplored, it may be supposed to abound. That great tract of coast lies mostly in temperate latitudes, and for that reason may suit coloniza-