

it had made arrangements to go to Japan by an earlier steamer than ours, and left under the idea that he had lost £100 in bank-notes. After he had left for Japan, his room-companion found the pocket-book in the *Empress of India*, everything right; it had never been taken to Canton, and it was given in charge to the purser. The evening it was found we were having a grand concert, and while that was going on, a passenger I was very friendly with heard of it, and felt so acutely for the poor Chinese languishing in jail, that he begged our captain and the purser to send ashore to release him. "Oh," said they, "it's only a John Chinaman; the morning will do; it won't hurt him, and they are used to it." But friend Hodge could not rest; he called a boat, went ashore to the police-office at midnight, and got the poor fellow released. He told me he could not have it upon his conscience to allow him to be in prison after he knew of his innocence. Good old Hodge! The present heavy rains remind me how much we depend upon it for our drinking wants. When in Hong Kong, they had not had rain for a long time, and the authorities were very anxious about the supply. There was only three weeks' supply left, and the water was cut off after a very short time, and the inhabitants urged not to waste any; and when a wet day came, it was welcomed with every sign of delight.

Travellers have often noticed that they lose flesh at sea. One day we rigged up the butcher's steel yard, and I cannot say "scaled," but tried our weights. All who tried had lost weight, myself 13 lbs., and others from 9 lbs. to 15 lbs. I scaled at Liverpool the day I started, and did the same when I returned there, and I had lost 18 lbs. No one seems to know why. With such a lazy life, so far as exercise goes, for eleven weeks, one would think there would be a gain, but such is not the case.

Going through the Straits of Malacca, forest fires were of frequent occurrence. Dense volumes of smoke hung over the land, and lurid flames shot up at intervals. We learned that it had been a very dry season, with intense heat, so that everything was ripe for a blaze. We passed well within sight of the town of Malacca, and it looked like a place of considerable importance.

I have given in a previous letter some account of Nagasaki; but I omitted to state that it has a number of streams running through it; and these are crossed by bridges of the same kind as depicted on the willow-pattern Chinese plates: up three or