

are rigidly enforced, and by practising deceit, stratagem, and tyranny, governs a people naturally docile, and maintains his supremacy.

About midway between the mouth of the river and Canton, are the "Bogue Forts" which were captured by the British during the war of 1842, and which command such a range that they appear to guard the threshold of the Empire. Here the channel begins to narrow, and the hills rise to a great height on either side. Mounted batteries line the beach, and forts in design not unlike the Greek letter omega, are built in more elevated positions. They were in a state of decay when I saw them, and the few guns which looked from the embrasures were red with rust: but by recent accounts we learn that they have since been repaired, only to be destroyed by the British. At the summit of the hills are square formed watch towers of granite, from which a signal could be given to the ports below when an enemy approaches. An island situated further up the stream and at an angle of 45° with the Forts on shore, is also strongly fortified.

If nature did as much for the security of some enlightened countries as she has done for China, the science and ingenuity of the people would contribute such acquisitions to the natural strength, as would render the place impregnable.

A circumstance is related which happened at the "Bogue Forts," during the war of 1842, truly characteristic of the Chinese: but before mentioning it it is necessary to remark that in every part of China which has been visited by foreigners, the attention of the traveller is early arrested in consequence of the incessant noise which the natives keep up by the clang of gongs, the beating of drums, the shrill notes of the flute, the explosion of packages of fire crackers, and the confusion of tongues; this medley not tending in any degree to impress upon the mind of the unaccustomed hearer, the conviction that the Chinese have a predilection in favor of quiet.

Owing to the severity of the penal code, such a sight as an assault made by one Chinaman on the person of another, is seldom or never seen, but disputes continually take place followed by angry countenances, rapid contortions of the body, and tirades "full of sound and fury," but "signifying nothing."

The commander of the Forts understanding that the British fleet was about to make an attack upon the garrison, sent off an officer in a boat with a letter to the British commander. The interpreter whose dialect will be noticed hereafter, translated it as follows: "These two piecie nation must makey fightie, spose that yankilish