

desire to obtain, is sanctioned as belonging to superior intelligence. Duplicity and capacity to deceive are of higher value than truth. In this respect, therefore, the Chinese do not differ from the rest of the people of the continent to which they belong—truth with them is the evidence of a weaker race; but admitting all this, the strong common sense of the European races and their descendants, points out, that that deficiency is no reason why dealings should not be had with Asiatics, when the interests of humanity or the extension of commerce will be promoted thereby, and assuming from all the circumstances attending their presence in British Columbia, that the benefit to the Province exceeds the detriment, then the remedy for the two evils referred to, may be found in the course pursued in China, at the time of the occupation of Canton, in 1856, by the British forces, under the embassy of Lord Elgin and in some preliminary observations made by his secretary, Mr. Oliphant, in his narrative of the expedition, in which the secret organizations are more particularly referred to:

“At present, there is a population of 70,000 Chinamen in Singapore, and not a single European who understands the language; the consequence is, that in the absence of any competent interpreter they are generally ignorant of the designs of the Government, and regarding themselves still as Chinese subjects are apt to place themselves in an antagonistic attitude whenever laws are passed affecting their peculiar customs. No effort is made to overcome a certain exclusiveness arising hence, and this is fostered by the secret societies which exercise an important influence upon the minds of all, but more particularly the ignorant portion of the population. Were Chinese themselves put into positions of authority under the Government and allowed to share to some extent in the duties and responsibilities of British citizens, which, intellectually speaking, they are quite competent to undertake, the barrier which now exists between the two races would be partially removed, and the mutual distrust and suspicion engendered by our present system would in all probability quickly disappear. Nor is this mere speculation. We have, fortunately, in their own Empire a perpetual proof before our eyes of that reverence for authority, when judiciously enforced, which is one of their chief characteristics, and which has for so many centuries been the preservation of its union and one of the great sources of its prosperity.”

“Manilla, like Singapore, owes a great part of its prosperity to the Chinese portion of its population, and in our management of this race in our possessions, it might not be unprofitable to investigate the expediency of some of those measures, which other nations inferior to us in the art of colonization, as a rule, have found it necessary to employ. All the Chinese arriving at Manilla are registered and taxed according to their occupations. They are divided into four classes: merchants, shop-keepers, artisans and day-laborers.”

The entire Chinese population has been estimated as high as 30,000, but, according to a Spanish author writing in 1842, the number actually enrolled does not exceed 6,000, and their capitation-tax is about \$100,000 a year, while that of all the native inhabitants, exceeding 3,000,000, does not equal eight times that amount. This taxation is manifestly excessive, and no good object could be obtained by drawing any distinction in our own possessions between Chinese and British subjects, but the election of a captain by themselves, whose office is to collect the tribute and arrange all internal differences, and who is to a certain extent responsible for the good conduct of his countrymen, is an excellent arrangement. At the same time that the captain is elected, his lieutenant and head constable

Elgin's China
1856,
Oliphant.

Elgin's China.
Vol. 1. 20.
Singapore.

Secret Societies.

Conjoint responsibility and authority.

Manilla.

Registration and Taxation.

Selection by themselves of Officer responsible.