

are less offensive in the sight of a foreigner. Their food, which is called "Chow-Chow," consists of boiled rice, sweet potatoes and greens, as also fish, with which they are generally well supplied. Boiled rice is the standing dish, and it is no uncommon sight to see one person consume amongst other things, from half a gallon to a gallon of rice at one meal. The rice is placed in a pail on the deck and surrounded by the greedy participators, each one having a bowl in his hand which he fills with rice, and when he has arranged the chop-sticks in his fingers, their application commences most vigorously. The bowl is held up to the mouth and the rice is shovelled in until nature demands an intermission of a few seconds to recover respiration. The idea which suggests itself on first seeing them, is that each is trying how much more he can consume than his neighbour, within a certain stipulated time.

Some of the occupants of the poorer description of craft, which slightly resemble the punts used in this country, or as a Chinaman would say "all same, leete more diffilient," are less fastidious in their tastes than those in better circumstances, and will eat anything that can be digested. Hourly they may be seen plucking the hair from a dead rat which has been thrown to them from a foreign ship, or there may be heard the last of what was an animal of the same tribe, singing his farewell song on the frying pan, and sending forth his savoury odour on the breeze.

A peculiar style of boat characterizes each province, though differing immaterially in internal economy; but the reader can form a fair idea of all of them from the foregoing description.

At a distance of 70 miles from Hong-Kong, in a northerly direction is the city of Canton. It lies on the north side of the Pearl River, up which the traveller is conveyed on an European steamer which plies between the two places. This river varies in width from a quarter of a mile to several miles, and though to a certain degree destitute of that natural grandeur which characterizes some of the rivers of America, it is not without its attractions.

It leads into a country where the christian is abhorred; which was five centuries ago as far in advance of European nations in the arts and civilization as they are now her superiors; which until compelled by the British bayonet, refused to recognize England or America as among the civilized countries on the globe, or to admit within her kingdom foreign officials on terms of equality; whose empire has been usurped by a Tartar tribe, the chief of which has ever had the power of nominating his successor, who styles himself the "Viceregent of Heaven upon earth," and who by establishing arbitrary laws which