

wearing their ancient Chinese dress, with their hair rowl'd up in such a manner that there is no great difference to be discerned, by a stranger at least, between the mens appearance and the womens. Ever since the Tartarian revolution in China, the Tartar dress has been imposed upon the whole kingdom, which was not effected it seems, without great bloodshed, for many of the Chinese were so superstitiously fond of their old modes (as they are reported to be great lovers of every thing that is ancient) that many of them preferr'd the loss of life to the loss of their hair, it being the Tartar custom to shave their heads all over except the crown, from whence hangs a long lock, which is carefully preserved and braided. The Dutch, have laid hold of this humour in those Chinese who live under their protection, and exact from all the men a poll-tax of a dollar a month (if I am not mistaken) for the liberty of wearing their hair, which if they paid but a dollar a year for, would amount to a considerable revenue, and which I should think, would be an unreasonable taxation upon the Chinese, especially when it is reported that the Chinese are so far from being a burden to this great colony, that they are the chief supporters of it.

Whilst