

The *Chinese*, both Men and Women, are very ingenious; as may appear by the many curious things that are brought from thence, especially the *Porcelaine* or *China* Earthen Ware. The *Spaniards* of *Manila*, that we took on the Coast of *Luconia*, told me, that this Commodity is made of Conch-shells; the inside of which looks like Mother of Pearl. But the *Portuguese* lately mentioned, who had lived in *China*, and spoke that and the neighbouring Languages very well, said, that it was made of a fine sort of Clay that was dug in the Province of *Canton*. I have often made enquiry about it, but could never be well satisfied in it: but while I was on the Coast of *Canton* I forgot to inquire about it. They make very fine Lacquer Ware also, and good Silks; and they are curious at Painting and Carving.

*China* affords Drugs in great abundance; especially *China Root*; but this is not peculiar to that Country alone; for there is much of this Root growing in *Jamaica*, particularly at 16 mile walk; and in the Bay of *Honduras* it is very plentiful. There is a great store of Sugar made in this Country; and Tea in abundance is brought from thence; being much used there, and in *Tunquin* and *Cochinchina* as common drinking; Women sitting in the Streets, and selling Dishes of Tea hot and ready made: they call it *Chau*, and even the poorest People sip it. But the Tea at *Tonqueen* or *Cochinchina* seems not so good, or of so pleasant a bitter, or of so fine a colour, or such virtue as this in *China*; for I have drank of it in these Countries: unless the fault be in their way of making it, for I made none there my self: and by the high red colour it looks as if they made a Decoction of it, or kept it stale. Yet at *Japan* I was told there is a great deal of pure Tea, very good.

The *Chinese* are very great Gamesters, and they will never be tired with it, playing night and day,