

the Empire,) universally plaited into it heavy skeins of silk, which terminate within two or three inches of the ground. Others dressed only to such an extent as places them without the rigour of the law, and who are styled "coolies," wander about prepared to work if well paid, to steal, which they prefer doing, if an opportunity offers, or to join in any disturbance that may arise. These fellows are watched pretty closely by the police, who treat them with well merited severity when they detect them in the gratification of their unlawful cupidity. When brought before the police magistrate, he enrolls them among the chain gang, who make and repair the public roads, and are thus rendered generally useful. This corps is distributed every morning throughout different parts of the town, each detachment being in charge of a policeman who holds a musket over one shoulder, and an open umbrella on the other.

There are several villages in Hong-Kong, and on the adjacent islands, the inhabitants being principally piratical fishermen, who, no doubt act in collusion with the more desperate outlaws who hoist the flag of their profession.

Excursions are constantly made by the police force and volunteers in Hong-Kong, against the piratical fishermen, and when prisoners are taken they are bound together by their queues and led to the prison. Sometimes they are handed over to the authorities at Canton, under whose direction they are decapitated. The population of the whole island is upwards of 45,000; the foreign residents, exclusive of the military, numbering about 300 persons. The floating part of the population in front of the city is large. This class of people exists throughout China, and is a separate race in itself. They are born, marry, and live out their existence, in their shell-like abodes. Many of them procure employment from foreign ships, each one while in the harbor having one or more native boats attached to her. Those generally patronized are about 18 feet in length, and carry sails made of matting. They are entirely decked over with closely fitting boards, and when a passenger presents himself, three or four in the centre of the boat are taken up to make room for his legs, the surrounding portion being neatly matted over and serving as a seat. The cabin into which the legs only are admitted, is floored and matted, the flooring being about two and a half feet from the deck; and resting on the left side of the boat will be seen a little idol sitting in senseless state, and which the occupants of the boat never fail to worship, both in the morning and evening. Every boat throughout the Empire, no matter how small, is provided with its tutelary deity, before which are displayed joss-