

to hundreds of coolies and others, who are seen rushing about with bales and packages, loading or unloading vessels in the river. Among the interesting sights of Manilla are the cigar factories. We were informed that in the one visited four thousand women and half that number of men were employed, while in the neighbourhood as many as nine thousand women and seven thousand men find employment in producing cigars. As we entered the building, our ears were almost deafened by the chattering produced and noise made by some hundreds of women seated on the floors, each provided with a small wood mallet, with which she hammered the tobacco leaves on blocks to polish them for the outside of the cigars. In other rooms they were employed in rolling them up into their proper shape, finishing off, and otherwise preparing them for the market.

The city is situated in a rich and fertile district, in the midst of magnificent scenery, splendid alike in form and colour, but, like every town on these islands, has one great enemy to dread—earthquake, which has from time to time made frightful ravages in this city, evidences of which are seen at the present time in the ruin of churches, cathedrals and public buildings.

On the 11th November our visit came to an end. On the 16th, Victoria Peak (Hong Kong) was seen, and a few hours later we were threading our way through a very maze of boats and shipping until reaching the anchorage off the Naval Yard. Few places are more interesting to the traveller from Europe than this city, furnishing as it does such a change of scenery, manners, and customs, so widely different from anything he has probably seen before.

The harbour is crowded with men-of-war and trading vessels of many nations, while hundreds of junks, sampans, and fishing-boats, full of life and movement, contribute in making the scene one of great attraction. Not more than half a century has elapsed since England took possession of this island, at which time it was little less than a bare uninviting rock, affording a haunt and home for pirates and desperadoes, who were the terrors of these seas. What a change has been brought about in this brief period! Now it is a great centre of trade and commerce, and vessels come from Bombay, Calcutta, and Singapore, laden with the choicest products from these lands for transshipment to England, America, or our colonial possessions, receiving in return tribute from those distant countries, in exchange for teas, silk, opium, etc. It is