

impetus which is given to their boat from swamping her, and when she has assumed a tolerable degree of steadiness, the pilot pulls himself up along side and clammers over the sides of the vessel. He presents his credentials for inspection, which generally conclude with an averment that "the bearer is as honest as any Chinaman," and the terms for pilotage being agreed upon, which can invariably be reduced to one half the demand made, a few pieces of junk or salt beef, are thrown over into the pilot's boat, in accordance with the custom of the country, and it is then cast off. The Harbour of Hong-Kong, called Victoria harbour, at all times presents a very happy appearance; it is about five miles in length, and from one to three in width, hemmed in by islands and mountainous lands so as to resemble a small lake. Steamers of war, sloops and frigates, lie at anchor for the protection of the commerce of the countries they represent, and are among the first vessels which the observer distinguishes from the hundreds, including the native craft, each contributing to the variegated scene which the collection of flags presents. One could easily imagine that they were all lying in readiness to bombard the city, on a signal being given, for every sea-going vessel exhibits from her sides an array of mounted guns, many of which are superstitiously decorated by the Chinamen with pieces of red cloth.

The Island of Hong-Kong was ceded to Great Britain at the conclusion of the war with China by a treaty made in 1842, and though heretofore an expensive appendage to the British Crown, it is hoped that ere long it may become a valuable acquisition to her possessions east of the Cape of Good Hope.

Being a free port, vessels going to China on speculation, with or without a cargo, make Hong-Kong their place of destination, as they escape all harbor dues and other expenses which would be imposed on them were they to go to any other port. Sometimes they remain several weeks before they find a market for their commodities, or procure freight for the homeward passage, and this delay entails on them a certain expense by which the colony is benefitted.

The Island is about twenty-five miles in circumference, very mountainous, and yielding very little produce. The city of Victoria is upwards of three miles in length and some of the buildings are large and handsome. The principal public ones are the English Church, Government House and Government Buildings, the Barracks, and Club-houses, which are of granite and expensively furnished. From the commanding position which they occupy, they give the place a solid and wealthy appearance. Many private residences,