

Lecture on Hong Kong

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Hongkong

~~A Summary of the~~ Lectures

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'Hongkong' in Chinese means 'Fragrant Waters'; a name bestowed upon it presumably on account of the excellent ^{of the water} quality, and

The abundance of ~~the~~ mountain streams. The granite of which it is composed forms part of the great granite stratum which extends throughout the provinces of Kwantung and ~~Fokien~~ of which Hongkong is geographically a part. The granite is grey in colour, *and* ~~it~~ presents the peculiar feature of ^{undergoing gradual} decay, causing it to crumble down and form a gravel of a reddish colour, which gives to the landscape especially during the wet season a bright red colourate the parts bare of vegetation. The vegetation

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Hongkong

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~~A Summary of the Lecture delivered by Mr James Cantlie~~

The Crown Colony of Hongkong, consists of the Island of Hongkong itself, of several small adjacent islands, and of *the*

peninsula of Kowloon about three square miles on the mainland of China immediately opposite the main island. All except *the least* named were ceded to Britain in the year 1841; but it was not until the year 1860 that Kowloon became part of the colony.

The island which gives its name to the colony is in length ~~11~~ ¹¹ miles from East to west, and varies ^{is} ~~is~~ in breadth from 2 to 5 miles. It occupies an area in all of 29 square miles.

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natural to the soil is however of the poorest description, consisting of a coarse grass, with dwarfish shrubs of but little pretention. Only during the early spring can there be said to be any attempt at profusion of verdure; it is during ~~the~~ ^{the spring} ~~period~~ that the Azalea which seems indigeneous to the island, flowers. At that season the hill slopes are covered with a fairly profuse ~~of~~ blush of pink azaleas, affording for the space of some six weeks a pleasing, but all too short, evidence of tropical verdure. But although nature has done ~~but~~ little to beautify the island, the ^{colonial government island} ~~British~~, since the ~~colony~~ ^{island} has been acquired, has devoted laudable pains to make up for the ~~defects in~~ ^{defects in} natural afforestation ~~defects~~, by planting trees in profusion, so that now there is an arboreal clothing of no mean extent. ~~In the more immediate neighbourhood of the city of Victoria.~~ The height attained by the imported trees is ^{not} ~~not~~, nor does it promise to be, other than, disappointing; at the same time although not robust, ^{the plantations} ~~it~~ served to beautify the island to a very marked extent.

political & commercial

The acquisition of Hengkong was an act of ^{necessity}, if the British ^{meant} ~~were~~ to retain a hold upon the trade of China. The Chinese were, when they first began to trade with Western nations, even more exclusive than they now are; and it was only at the point of the bayonet, ^{so to speak,} that they were compelled to allow

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trade to be opened with them. Ever since the year 1613 had the British been attempting to acquire the right to traffic with the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire, and from that date onwards to the cession of Hongkong there were ⁿ constant bickerings, and occasionally open warfare between the two peoples. But the British were not the first of the European nations to reach the far distant land of Cathay. The Portuguese had not only found their way thither, but had acquired a foothold in China in 1557, and established themselves in Macau. Macau is a small peninsula jutting out from the mainland of China at the mouth of the Canton river, and situated ^{some} 30 miles by sea from Hongkong. When the British began to trade with China they were any thing but encouraged by the Portuguese who looked upon them as formidable and powerful interlopers in what they considered to be their exclusive prerogative. It is the Old East India company that we have to thank for opening up the country. It was the merchants of this famous Company who first sent their ships to Chinese waters to barter goods with the natives, and after a few voyages thither the results were ^{found to be} so encouraging, that they resolved in the year 1627 to open up trade with Canton by way of Macau. As strenuous opposition was offered by the Portuguese to this arrangement, the Commander of the British ship the "London" determined to force the way to Canton himself. This he boldly did by sailing up the Canton river bombarding the Bogue forts on the way

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and astonished the Cantonese by demanding an interview with
the Viceroy. Thus was intercourse with Canton ~~opened up~~, but
it took many weary struggles and the waste of much powder and
diplomatic wrangles to teach the Chinese that the British
were not to be thwarted in their desire. It is impossible in the
short time at my disposal to recount a tithe of the fights, the
international ruptures, the dissensions and the intrigues
by which the trade was interrupted during a period of well nigh
200 years. It must be remembered that our relations with China
began in the reign of James Ist; and Oliver Cromwell, in the year
1654, concluded a treaty with King John IV of Portugal, whereby
the two countries had free access to all ports of the East
Indies. About the time ~~of the~~ British began to trade ~~with~~
with China the ruling dynasty of the Empire was changed from the
Ming to the present Taising or Manchu. These ~~barbarian~~ inter
lopers, small crafters from the ultima thule of humanity,
shewed a rooted contempt for all persons engaged in trade. This
~~is the case with all mountainous firbes. Our own Scottish High~~
~~landers when first they were induced to leave their native~~
~~fastedness looked upon those who engaged in trade as the lowest~~
~~of the low and could not be brought to take to the ways.~~

They ~~the incoming Manchus~~ ^{considered} would have no dealings with the "foreign
barbarians" as the Portuguese and the British were styled, and
so utterly did they despise them, that they did not think it
worth while to sweep them from their path. ~~The conditions~~

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The Manchus permitted Foreign traders to reside outside the ~~the~~ city gates of Canton, but gave them to understand that they ~~could~~ could not claim equality with even the lowest of the Chinese coolies. They were not allowed to enter the city nor to travel inland, and were ~~not~~ ^{permitted} ~~to~~ ^{only} engage servants from the out-
east section of the boat population. So long as Foreigners were content to trade on these humiliating conditions, the Chinese accepted their presence; but it was not possible, even in the ~~the~~ hopes of making money, for British subjects to stand the insults heaped upon them by a Pagan people, and when ~~national~~ national pride began to show itself, the Chinese could not, and would not, tolerate it, and so troubles ensued. At long intervals British men-of-war visited the Canton river, gave the Mandarins and the Viceroy a taste of their quality; but all to no good. The moment the ships departed the Cantonese authorities doled out more insults, more restrictions, and fresh 'Squeezes'. The Chinese insisted upon the superiority of their laws, and on several ~~occasions~~ occasions British seamen after being ^{handed} over to the Chinese were strangled. It was not in fact until 1822, that the Commander of H.M.S. 'Topaze' took a stand against this form of legislation, and informed the Celestial authorities that the subjects of His Britannic Majesty could not be tried by ^{native courts} ~~them~~. Lord Napier ^{was} sent by the British Government in the year 1834 with instructions, of anything but a definite character,

which traffic was conducted was somewhat on the following lines

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to negotiate with the Chinese, but he was outwitted, and after long and harrassing interviews and correspondence was conveyed out of Chinese waters and forced to seek refuge in Macau.

The cause of many if not all these differences of opinion between China and Great Britain was to be found in the fact that there were two British factions at work. The East India Company's servants, cared not for the prestige of their country, so long as they could ^{gather} ~~engage~~ in the profits derived from the traffic in tea and silk; and ^{they} were willing, or at least instructed their ship-Captains and their agents, to give way at every point to Chinese requirements however humiliating. ~~That their business was to trade and not to fight for national recognition.~~

The Chinaman would not understand the difference between Merchants conducting irresponsible trade, and the representatives of the British Government. They persisted in treating Naval Commanders and their vessels as merely merchant-men, and, as the Emperor of China was the potentate of the entire Universe, it was impossible for them to stand any attempt of these low class traders to assume that their 'Head-man', in other words their Sovereign, could be in any way recognised. Lord Napier was told that the Viceroy could hold no communication with 'outside barbarians'. Napier's mission, however, if it did nothing else showed the necessity for some place of safety for British subjects in the neighbourhood of the Chinese coast; nay more

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it actually caused Napier to recommended that the Island of Hongkong was a place suitable for British wants. The father his story of the relations of Britain and China are within the knowledge of most, and within the memory of many. How the British merchants in the late 'thirties' were driven from Canton; how they with their families and belongings sought refuge in Macau; how the Portuguese, ^{in consequence} ~~authorities~~ of threats from China, refused to shelter them; and how they had to take to their ships to preserve their lives from the fury of the Chinese authorities. They cast anchor in the roadstead of Hongkong which was then but a bare inhospitable rock; on the opposite shore ^{on} what is now ^{Kowloon} ~~Macau~~, the Chinese placed batteries, and threaten to bombard the ships. Starvation stared the British community in the face and Chinese boats which attempted to victual them were fired upon by the shore batteries, ~~and they were forced to desist.~~

The British Government at last seemed to think that something must be done to redeem the insults to which their countrymen were being subjected, and accordingly in 1840 sent out an expedition to enforce its authority. Thus was the war of 1840 ~~which~~ brought about. It is frequently styled the opium war but that is a mere misnomer. The war was the result of 200 years of insult, injury and wrong heaped upon British subjects by a Pagan people. It was not, ^{in fact} until starvation ^{of annihilation} stared the British in the face that the ~~the~~ Government came to their aid.

Community

Amoy

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On the 25th January 1841 the British flag was hoisted upon the Island of Hong-kong and a proclamation to the effect that protection was offered to the ~~subject~~ citizens and ships of Foreign Powers that may resort to Her ~~Majestys~~ possession.

Further that Merchants and traders were welcome to trade free of any charges on imports and exports.

When seized, the island was inhabited by only a few fishermen; there were no roads; the bare granite rocks were wholly ~~un~~productive; and the possession, except as a naval base and place of shelter for shipping, repelled rather than attracted. The liberal lines, however upon which the colony was founded and ~~maintained~~ soon began to produce good effects, and in a few months ~~more~~ thousands of Chinese ~~came~~ took up their residence in what had been baptized the "City of Victoria." The initial outburst of prosperity however ~~waned~~ ^{waned} ~~halted~~ after a few months, chiefly owing to the reluctance of the British merchants to leave Canton. By the year 1848 however some 24,000 ^a population testified to the possibilities of the place, and by the year 1850 as many as 72,000 persons sought the protection afforded by the British flag. Such in a short account of the foundation and commencement of the trading part of Hongkong and I will now state the present condition of this important possession.

Trade

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The shipping industry of Hong-kong is at once extraordinary and enormous. Extra-ordinary, in as much as what was 50 years ago a bare granite rock, should now be a ~~very~~ ^{busy} harbour frequented by ships of all nationalities; enormous for at the present moment its ~~tonnage~~ register is about 15,000,000 tons.

To understand aright what that number means I will try to illustrate by comparison. The port of Glasgow has a total tonnage of 6,000,000 tons annually. Now that is equal to the entire tonnage of France. Double the number and we have the entire tonnage of the U.S. America—namely 12,000,000. The ~~report~~ of London shows a registered tonnage of almost 13,000,000; but the latest return from the Harbour office of Hong-kong gives a total of well nigh two millions more. Now whilst fully appreciating the enormity of trade which belongs to Hong-kong we must not forget that the port is more or less of a junction; a port of call ^{usually} ~~only~~. It is not like London a place at which all the ships entirely load and unload; the numerous steamers, which enter and leave the anchorage, stay, it may be, a few hours or a few days, unloading part of their cargo, and ^{perhaps} receiving a small addition thereto. The port is a disturbing centre, and serves as a terminus ⁱⁿ ~~as~~ but few ~~cases~~ ^{instances}.

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But even with this understanding the importance of the possession as a shipping port is in no way diminished.

Hongkong affords protection to the commerce of all nationalities and from it as a centre, and towards it as a rallying point most of the great commercial undertakings are focussed and spread.

As a protected base, it renders commerce and property safe and possible in the ~~various~~^{numerous} 'concession' ports dotted all along the coast of China. Without it, the Chinese would fall back on their old plan of harrying British traders and threatening

them with expulsion when it suited their purpose. The presence

however, of a strong fleet, with Hongkong as a coaling ~~base~~^{base}, and an ample garrison serves to maintain the prestige of the British flag throughout the Far East generally.

The harbour is a natural one—a sheltered roadstead in fact—and its selection reflects the greatest credit upon the wise and sagacious men who first chose it as a suitable base.

In the narrowest part, the harbour is just upon a mile wide, but it opens out laterally into wide bays with ample accommodation.

The occupied part is some 3 miles in length but should necessity demand there is at least double that length available.

Towards the eastward the Men-o'-war anchor; to the northwest the sailing ships congregate; some [forty to fifty or more ocean going steamers occupy the main bulk of the harbour; hundreds

Slip
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of Chinese sea-going junks lie drawn up side-by-side off the shore; and sampans - small Chinese row-boats - ply hither and thither in numbers. A busy scene truly and picturesque withal when viewed from the higher ground, and more especially from the 'Peak'. The Mail steamers of the P. & O. Co: and those of the German and French services call here. The Canadian and American trans-Pacific boats have their terminus at Hongkong. Boats in the Australian trade call here; the Scottish Oriental line of steamers trading to Bangkok have their headquarters at Hongkong. The Glen line, the Blue funnel (Butterfield & Swire) line, the Star Line Besides these we find a line of boats to Calcutta, to the Philippines, and a large number of coasting steamers belonging more especially to the China trade ^{Castilian or} ~~look to~~ Hongkong as their base. From these bald statements it will be gathered that although Hongkong is in reality Britain's farthest outpost, it is one of the most important in the long list of Crown Colonies to be found dotting the ocean, ~~in both Hemispheres.~~

DOCKS and WHARVES:-The WHARF accommodation seems meagre when the enormity of the shipping trade is considered. Only at Kowloon is there a wharf of any pretension, and here some six ships only can be drawn up, ~~alongside~~ ⁿ. This is accounted for by the character of trans-shipment which is in vogue. The native boats and junks receive their cargoes direct from the ocean steamers as they lie in mid-steam; thus saving ^I double handling and housing dues. Goods however, in quantity find their way ^{to}

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ashore and are stored in huge solidly built sheds termed 'Go-downs'. Some one has styled Hongkong a huge protected 'Go-down' - that is an emporium or store-house for goods, under Imperial

~~protection.~~

DOCKS. When the ships visiting the Island were sailing ships merely, there was no great difficulty in docking ships, but with the accession of Mail-steamers^{me} and Iron-clad line-of-battle ships considerable engineering and pecuniary difficulties had to be surmounted, to meet the changed conditions.

In the old pre-Hongkong days the British were allowed to careen their ships at the port of Whampoa, - a small bay on the Canton river a few miles below the city of 'Rams', as Canton is frequently styled. In time a patent slip was erected there, but with the acquisition of territorial rights in Hongkong the Whampoa slip fell into ~~disuse~~^{disuse}. The name however is still retained in the designation of the present docking company of -- "The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd." On the island of Hongkong itself, the first dock was founded on the south side and the place was baptised 'Aberdeen', by Lamont the founder of the dock who hailed from that well known city in Scotland. After the peninsula of Kowloon was acquired in 1860, two more docks & were inaugurated; but now the docking and ship building industry is mainly combined in the above named "Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd.". The ~~Company~~^{Docks} can accommodate the largest mail steamers and the most formidable men-o'-war. At the present moment the Admiralty contemplate erecting a Naval Dock ~~yard~~

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suites to meet the requirements of the British fleet in Chinese waters. As there is no other dock in the Far East capable of docking the largest ships, the Company have pretty well a monopoly of ~~the~~ ^{the} business; and whilst turning out first class work, they can afford to charge prices, which send the shares of the company up to 229 per cent premium.

BANKS. With so large a shipping traffic it might be expected that banking would be conducted on a large scale. Various banks have established branches at this busy centre, and some have their head offices here. The old Oriental Bank was of course in ~~years~~ gone by the chief focus for all transactions in business; but with its departure arose an institution locally owned, which far and away eclipsed the Oriental Bank itself.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ~~is~~ ^{surps} the chief monetary transactions in the Far East. It is the fourth largest bank in the world and the largest of the silver banks. The Capital is \$10,000,000; the reserve fund amounts to \$8,000,000; and the shares at the present moment stand at 182 per cent premium. The bank building is palatial in its magnificence and an ornament to the city of Victoria. The presiding genius, for he is no ordinary Manager - is Mr T. Jackson, to whom not only the Bank, but the European community in the Far East generally, owes a debt of gratitude. ~~As it is said "The Bank is Hongkong", for to the banking attainments of T.J." as Mr Jackson is known by, the community of Hongkong more especially~~

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~~especially is deeply indebted.~~ The Bank is conducted on the most liberal scale. No matter what be the nationality equal facilities are afforded, and the board of directors are chosen from all sections of the community. There are always 3-5 German merchants on the board out of a total of 9¹/₂ (a concession to free trade principles), which is the astonishment of all non-British peoples. Besides the great Bank, there are others; the well known "Chartered Bank of India" has a large and flourishing establishment here; the Mercantile Bank of India; the Bank of China and Japan, Ltd; the National Bank of China, Ltd, do business on a large scale, and facilitate exchange transactions in all parts of the world. When one visits these banks one is astonished to find the number of Chinese employed, not merely as clerks but as trusted accountants and cashiers. All the Chinese in the Bank and in fact in all big Mercantile houses, are engaged and controlled by a headman termed a 'Compradore'. The Compradore has a most responsible position, he has a large quantity of cash passing through his hands and upon his honesty much depends. Of course amongst Chinamen as amongst all nationalities scoundrels are to be found, but the honesty in trade of the Chinaman is (or perhaps was) for all the irritation they have been submitted to lately has told its tale and will tell no doubt still more pronouncedly) proverbial. The Compradore is often guaranteed to the Bank or firm for a large sum by his

These of his

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countrymen who have a stake in the colony, sometimes for as much as half a million dollars; so that his honesty is 'guarded' as it were. But the Chinaman as a trader has no superior. In the old days when there were no Banks, no guaranteed Compradores, no writing even to ensure legality in dealing, the Englishman and the Chinaman learnt to trust and respect each other. The Chinaman ~~sticks~~ ^{stuck} to his bargain; did he promise to deliver 12 months hence so much tea or silk, the goods were forthcoming even if the market was against him. In this way the Chinaman became a factor in trade, as distinct from mere trafficking. He has a code of commercial integrity which he himself describes as ~~his~~ "Face". A Chinaman to 'lose face', means as much as loss of 'caste' to the Hindoo; and but few care to incur the odium of the disgrace entailed. This is how the Chinese have secured a position in the world of trade, and it is a trait of character betokening a praiseworthy integrity.

MERCHANTS:→

Blair

Many merchant firms of world wide celebrity have business houses or 'Hongs' as they are termed in Hongkong. They are all connecting with shipping firms, and under the aegis of the British flag all nationalities find scope afforded them. Germans occupy a prominent position in the trade of the island, and the German 'hongs' are multiplying fast. They have driven the French as traders out of China, and they have been chiefly responsible for lowering the flag of the U.S. of America through ^{out} the Chinese littoral.

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Parsees, Hindoos and of course Chinese firms are plentiful and many of them prosperous. The French have practically no hold in this region of China, the trade does not follow their flag even in their own provinces of Indo-China, for at Saigon, the capital of the French possessions, British and German flags proclaim the nationality of the steamers in that harbour. For all the competition however the prevailing flag in Chinese waters is the British; the Germans come next but they even are a ^{poor} ~~second~~ second, and no other nationality has more than a fractional ~~interest~~ interest in the carrying trade of China.

The merchant of today differs however some what from his proto-type in China. The telegraph is so hany now-a-days that the firms in the Far East are largely dependent upon "instructions from home" as to how they are to conduct their business. Responsibility is largely taken off the shoulders of the China merchant. He has no longer to ^{take} ~~part~~ part on his own responsibility but to obey instruction; a line of proceedure which is neither to the advantage of trade nor does it help to make real merchants. The heads of firms in China representing British Business houses are more of the nature of ^{Commission} ~~Local~~ Agents. This is a great drawback to the push and energy necessary in fostering trade; initiation is swamped, with the result that foreign competition is allowed a free hand. Given the old regime, with a responsible man on the spot, the British merchant

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can more than hold his own in the Far East, but with the head of the firm at home trying to direct trade under the conditions as he once knew it in China, the fight is hopeless. Luckily for Hongkong one or two of the younger firms are managed by capable ^{men} who have their headquarters in China and who can direct matters to suit the moment. It is the same with Military and especially Naval matters. In pre-telegraph and cable days the commander on the China station dealt with difficulties as they arose and settled matters according to the best of his ability. This course developed all that was best in the ^{Captains} ~~men~~, made them self reliant and resourceful. The ^{dispute} ~~subject~~ was not infrequently settled first and the Government at home informed afterwards. Not so at the present time. Nothing is done except orders from home are received, and the British Admiral merely "carries out instruction". The British Empire was not made by Governments; the men on the spot acted as they thought occasion required. ~~Had there been no telegraphic control the present difficulties would in all probability never arise Rhodesia would never had been acquired had the opinion of parliament been first asked; and the Chinese would never have been allowed to have given us the slaps it the face it has, if the insults had been left to the Naval authorities on the spot. The British Manufacturer is again so conservative, so ~~obdurate~~ obdurate, ~~so pig-headed perhaps best expresses it that he~~~~

he will not cut his cloth according to his customer, but will endeavour to dictate to the natives what they ought to buy. In other words he will not alter his looms to suit his consumers, but will send out for sale goods, in such a form and of such a quality, that it is impossible to get a market for ~~them~~. Take an example; - in Korea all merchandise is carried on mens backs, on peculiarly arranged 'saddles'; of course a man is capable of bearing a burden of only a certain weight and form; and before British made goods can be transported to the interior, it is ~~not~~ necessary to unpack the goods, cut them up, and adapt them to the means of carriage. The British merchant declines to acquiesce in the matter, and plainly tells the Koreans that, if they do not take them as they find them, they can go without. Not so the German, not so the Japanese, with an acuteness which is highly commendable they prepare their goods in a 'packable' form and ^{naturally} ~~rightly~~ obtain the custom. Practically they have got a hold on the commerce of this and many other countries by the obstinacy of the British merchant and especially the manufacturer. As in Korea so in many countries, even in the British colonies themselves, Germans and Japanese are ousting the British, and one cannot help thinking that the incursion is well deserved. The Germans believe that the day of the commercial traveller are not numbered, the British seem to think they are. Consequently the German finds, ~~that~~ as he travels with his sample book beneath his arm, that people will

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deal with him, rather than with their own countrymen, who have appeared to have given up commercial travelling and relied on the telegraph as a means of communication between manufacturer and merchant. The bitterness of the lesson has not yet come home to people in the British Isles, but it will and must come, and the starving millions of Lancashire will rue the day they entrusted ~~their productions to a number of men who dethroned from their place as responsible and enterprising tradesmen, have become reduced to mere forwarders of goods turned out from British mills possessing neither the quality shape nor colour wanted~~ *they neglected the evident lessons set them to learn.* *The good sent passes neither the shape* by people who know their own minds, and whose customs and habits are not to be altered because a Lancashire proprietor has put up a mill which will produce ~~nothing else than~~ articles they do not want.

M. Sedgwick

(2) MANUFACTORIES; - With the exception of Sugar refining there is no great industry in Hongkong. There are two large sugar works in the colony; one, belonging to Messrs Butterfield and Swire, the well known Liverpool merchants and Shipping Agents, is of enormous proportions. The colony does not however benefit ^{to} ~~much~~ *much* by this concern financially, as it is owned by this firm and the proceeds only fill the pockets of the *how dwelling* proprietors. The other, however, is owned locally, and managed by the well known firm of Messrs Jardine Matheson and Co. A small Rope Factory, and a ~~the~~

brick and cement factory constitute the bulk of European owned undertakings. There have been others which have failed. A glass works of considerable pretensions succumbed; a paper works of the most modern type, with machinery of the latest developments, and owned and worked by Chinese under skilled workmen from Britain, ran only for a year or two before it collapsed financially; a steam laundry, to better the work of the native laundries, also spelt ruin to a number of subscribers. With all its go and wealth therefore it is seen that Hongkong produces little or nothing and that attempts to introduce European manufactories and methods do not ^{seem to} meet with the approval of the Chinese.

GOVERNMENT:-The Crown colonies of the Empire are governed and managed on much the same lines, so it is not necessary to dwell upon the system of the government in connection with this particular colony. An Executive Council presided over by the Governor as President constitutes the machinery of the Government. ^{The} Legislative Council ~~deals with acts requiring legisla-~~ ~~tion; and it~~ consists of:-the Governor as Chairman; the Chief Justice; the Colonial Secretary; the Attorney-General; three other officials; and four unofficial members. Of the last mentioned one is elected by the Justices of the Peace, and another by the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two are nominated by the Governor. It will be seen that the official element outnumbers

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the unofficial, and the sop to the public that they are represented on the Legislative council is a pure fiasco. When one elects to reside in a Crown colony one must be content to resign all rights of citizenship and be content to be ruled by a system of bureaucracy, which may be admirable ; but it is one against which the British elector is inclined to revolt. The spectacle of all the officials voting one way, and all the Unofficials the other, ^{with} ~~when~~ the Official majority is assured by their number on the council, is one calculated to provoke derision, and to a people with less forbearance than the British not unlikely to cause disturbance. What is demanded in honour to the self respect ^{of the Community} ~~of centuries of government by the commonwealth~~ is that whilst Imperial matters are dealt with by the nominees of the Crown, municipal matters should be left to the control and direction of those who subscribe the money for municipal work. The residents in Crown colonies are recruited with but few exceptions from the middle classes, and are surely as well qualified to manage the municipal affairs of their place of adoption as are the representatives of the working classes at home.

SANITATION:-So as to perpetuate the burlesque ^{pretending to} of ~~governance~~ by popular methods, we find in Hongkong, a Sanitary board.

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The concession to the board of a majority of unofficials was rendered completely futile by withholding all executive power from the board. It is merely a deliberative body with power to recommend to the Council. So intolerable and repugnant has the position of the unofficial members become, that that the present moment the majority have tendered their resignation. This step is one which every right minded person, who retains a scrap of the sense of dignity due to his privileges as a British subject, was compelled to ^{take} ~~do~~. The ^{elector} ~~youth~~ trained in Britain to believe that he ^{is} ~~is~~ entitled to a 'say' in the affairs of the ^{Crown colonies} ~~community~~ in which he takes up his residence, will be woefully disappointed. He must politically ^{throw} ~~through~~ himself back to anti-Magna Charta days; he must be content to lay aside all the freedom his forefathers fought for; and submit to a regime of autocratic rule paralleled only with political life in Russia. Nay more than this, he must expect to find himself made a burlesque of, in as much as he is given a vote which has no influence and a voice in public matters which has all the machinery of government against it and fit to render abortive ~~unless it falls in with official opinion~~. A wise autocracy is perhaps the ^Iideal form of government, but it is one British subjects have been trained to look at askance, and it is a little difficult to recur to a system which for well-^{enough}

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a thousand years has found no favour in Great Britain.

Police:—The Police force consists of well nigh 800 men, about 300 of whom are water police, whose duty it is to patrol the harbour. The force on shore is made up of about 100 Europeans, 100 Indians (Sikhs so called), and 300 Chinese. At the present moment there is considerable scandal in connection with the acceptance of bribes by the European police, and men of great local experience are being got rid of ^{because they took 'tips';} by officious persons who. Surely a well understood purloin of the police in all countries, with a show of prudery are trying to prevent the policeman taking a 'tip'. The 'Sikh' policemen are voluntary recruits from different parts of India, but the majority do not belong to this warlike tribe, but to caste of a lower order. They are endowed with ^a keen sense of usury, and this may be said to be their only drawback as efficient police. The Chinese members, if not quite reliable as regards their moral tone as police, are invaluable aids in the detection of crime. A leading member of the detective is Inspector Quincey, Chinese Gordon's old 'boy'. Unfortunately he has also fallen under the ban of the purists, ~~and~~ ^{and} he has been dismissed the force. Surely his connection with his great master, and the dangers and perils he endured in his behalf, might have saved him from this indignity. One can only be too thankful that Gordon did not live to see this farther ~~neglect~~ 'neglect' heaped upon those he already ^a endured at the hands of ~~the Government~~ of his 'grateful' country.

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The Police Barracks with the adjacent gaol ,occupy a central position in the town .In the same compound the police magistrates hold their courts. There is a divided opinion as to the expediency of loading the expenditure of the colony with Chinese prisoners of all sorts. The gaol does not present to the Chinamen the bogie' it is to most Europeans. The coolie condemned to incessant labour ,and on a starvation diet, finds within the precincts of the gaol, rest and food ,and does not resent his incarceration as a rule. Recently the gaol has been largely increased, partly in view of the increasing population, but also in consonance with the modern tendency to reduce to a minimum ,the hardships attendant upon prison life.

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CRIMINAL:—Hongkong is so placed that it is liable to be flooded t
 with an influx of Chinese law-breakers. Lying as it does ^I but a ~~an~~
 mile off the mainland of China, it affords a refuge for crim-
 inals of all sorts who seek a hiding on a foreign shore. This
 fact renders ^{hollee} a large force necessary and leads to constant i
 international complications with the Chinese government. Any
 offender escaping from Chinese 'justice', when he is demanded
 for purposes of punishment, has the privilege of being first
 tried by the British courts, and in not a few instances benefits
 thereby. Political offenders are for the most part protected
 from the arbitrary dealings of the Chinese, but in a recent
 case, that of Dr Sun Yat Sen, whose sensational capture and
 release from the ^{by} Chinese Legation in London, would seem that the
 privileges, which we all pride ourselves belongs to those who
 seek the protect on of our flag, are traduced. Sun Yat Sen has
 been exiled from Hongkong, and if he attempts to show himself
 in the icolony, he is liable to be taken and handed over to the
 tender mercies of the Chinese. So contrary to our ideas of
 fairplay, not to put it more strongly, is this high handed
 piece of ~~colic~~ Crown colony diplomacy that the question is at
 no distant date to receive tattention in the house of Commons.

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Law:— The supreme court of Hongkong is presided over by a
 chief Justice, and a Puisne Judge. Trial by jury is in force, and the
 business of the courts is very large entailing a large staff of
 workers.

POPULATION:-The present population of the colony is about ^{24 a}

230,000 .The city of Victoria contains some 130,000 of the total.

Scattered ^{around} ~~through~~ the island and in Kowloon, villages, and hamlets, in some cases with a population of over 5000, are to be met with. The traffic of passengers to and from the colony is enormous, as many as 10,000 persons per week, coming and going.

The British population is put down as between two and three ~~th~~ thousand, the Portuguese community ^{at} some 40000, and with the ex~~ce~~ption of a few Europeans of other nationalities, and a few scores of our fellow ~~bu~~ subjects from India, the main body consists of Chinese. ~~The Europeans occupy houses in the higher ground~~

~~and on the outskirts of the city and at the 'Peak'. All the PUBLIC BUILDINGS and PLACES OF BUSINESS:-~~ For the most part all business houses are in the neighbourhood of the 'Praya', the ~~name~~

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name given to the sea-front or quay. The Praya itself is evidence of the ~~amount of~~ enterprise and ability which characterise

British energy. ~~What~~ ^{What} was once a deserted shore has been converted into a ^{busy} quay, with piers and landing stages, extending to

a length of well nigh 3 miles. Nor has ^a ~~the~~ frontage merely been erected; a large part of the land has been reclaimed from the sea

at ^{great} ~~the~~ huge cost and labour. Nor ^{has} ~~is~~ this work ceased, for at the

^{present} moment farther extensions in the ~~plan~~ ^{plan} of reclamation are being conducted, giving a frontage and building area of ^{largely} ~~largely~~ increased proportions. The City hall is one of which any city might

be proud. Here are excellent ~~the~~ ballrooms, a commodious public library, a public museum, the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce

and a well appointed theatre. Adjacent to ~~the~~ the city Hall is

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the noble building occupied by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The main thoroughfare, extending from one end of the city to the other, is the Queen's Road, some three miles in length, along which the chief traffic is met with. The clock tower is held to mark the centre of the city, although it is by no means an imposing erection. Adjacent to the tower we have the Hongkong Hotel a large and well appointed hotel, ^{notably owned by a local company.} ~~owned by a company,~~ The post-office is opposite, but with accommodation altogether insufficient for the wants of the colony; near by is, or was, the Hongkong club, an institution which plays an important part in the social life of the colony. The ^{old} ~~present~~ club however has proved wholly inadequate and a larger building is just about to be opened on the newly reclaimed piece of land facing the harbour. Besides these we have the ^{Liver's} ~~Victoria~~ College, a striking edifice with numerous school rooms a fine ^{assembly} ~~banquet~~ hall, and play ground. ^{The Victoria English College} ~~The Victoria English College~~ The Civil Hospital with accommodation for some 150 patients stands on an open piece of ground just above 'China-town'. Along the Queen's road are to be found the offices of the principal merchants; the Europeans mostly to the East of the Clock tower; the Chinese places of business chiefly to the Westward. The German club ^{old} ~~close~~ by the Hongkong club testifies to the numbers of Merchants of that nationality who find it advantageous to seek their livelihood under the

D. Reid

The Victoria English College

British Flag. Government House is a handsome ^{building} ~~house~~,
~~the~~ situation imposing, ^{the} ~~front~~, ^{as they do on}
to the Public garden, very beautiful. Head Quarter house
the residence of the General Commanding the Garrison is
equally pretty.

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British Flag. *M. L. M.*

X The appearance of the city of Victoria from ~~the harbour from~~
the sea, is at once imposing and beautiful. The land rises so
abruptly from the sea-shore that the houses stand in ~~rows~~
tiers one above another until a height of between 400 and
500 feet is attained. The three principal roads run parallel
to each other and are named, respectively, the Queen's, the
Bonham, and the Robinson, roads ~~respectively~~ as one proceeds
inland. The houses, ~~are~~ in the upper reaches of the town, ~~of~~
more especially, ^{are} of considerable ^{proportions} ~~proportions~~ and look imposing.
Westward the residences become more scattered, stand in their
own grounds and have a goodly show of foliage around them. The
houses have for the most part, ^a granite foundation and they are
raised from the ground some six feet before the first floor
is reached; thus differing from the bungalow system in vogue
in India. Wide verandahs give an appearance of extent to the
houses, which induced one Governor ~~and~~ Sir Wm des Voeux to exclaim
when he first saw them "Why the people here live in ^a places."

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The ~~MEDICAL Staff~~, ~~and~~ the Hospitals and Nursing staff are in every way a credit to the colony. The immensity of the shipping community necessitates ample Hospital accommodation; this is ~~well~~ ^{for} provided by the CIVIL Hospital; the wards are large and adequately provided, and everything that science can provide or money procure is at hand. There are six medical officers in the pay of the Government, and a nursing staff recruited from the best training schools in Britain. In connection with the medical establishment is a large ~~General~~ Hospital, a lock hospital, an epidemic hospital, a lunatic asylum, and a floating hospital in the harbour in use for isolation or for the accommodation of patients during epidemics. Recently a Vaccine institute has been added to the armamentarium; a much needed addition, when one knows the difficulty of obtaining effective lymph in this isolated station, and the virulence of the epidemics of small-pox which visit the Chinese.

The colony also boasts of a government Veterinary surgeon, under whose care the live stock of the island is watched and ~~diseases~~ ^{these} ~~of the animals~~ combated.

A well appointed OBSERVATORY with an efficient staff are ~~accommodated~~ ^{housed} in a commodious building in Kowloon. In addition to scientific investigation and recording, the staff of the observatory issue storm warnings of great value to shipping in these typhoon swept seas.

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But with all its prestige and power Hongkong requires more room to expand. The island moreover is open to attack from the mainland of China, and any power co-operating with China (or compelling ^{successfully} China) could bombard Hongkong and Kowloon from the hills on the mainland overlooking the harbour. It is essential to the defence of the colony that the tract of high land on the mainland of China opposite Hongkong should be occupied by Britain. This is a subject about ~~which~~ I believe there ~~are~~ ^{are} two opinions, ~~but~~ ^{but nothing} has been done, nor will it likely be done; ~~and~~ ^{and} the appearance of an enemy on the heights behind Kowloon, ~~was~~ ^{may one day inform} those responsible for our defence that they have lost the ^{important} island, which in the mean time ~~merges~~ ^{merges} into ~~the~~ ^{the} Eastern shores of the Pacific.

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No 10

17th Nov

Cambridge

Ken

by P.

Handwritten signature or name, possibly "H. G. ..."