

We cannot close these notices without alluding to the dreadful mortality that has prevailed on the island. In the summers of 1842 and 1843, we visited some of the hospitals, or private rooms of the sick, almost daily; and have had considerable opportunity to witness the progress and effects of disease, and to ascertain its causes. The climate is evidently unhealthy; but is becoming less and less so, and may, for aught we see, be made as salubrious as that of any other place on the coast of China. The principal causes of sickness, we think, have been, first, exposure to the heat of the sun; secondly, excess in eating and drinking,—especially the latter; and thirdly, bad houses. Were exposure to the sun properly avoided, strict temperance maintained, and elevated and dry and well ventilated residences enjoyed, we should expect the sickness to decrease full nine-tenth.

ART. VI. *Journal kept by Mr. Gully and capt. Denham, during a captivity in China in the year 1842. Edited by a barrister. London, 1844.*

ON or about the 13th of August, 1842, one hundred and ninety-seven men, late of the British vessels the *Ann* and *Nerbudda*, were placed on their knees near to each other, their feet in irons and their hands manacled behind their backs. This was on a wide plain just outside the gates of the capital of Formosa, and in the presence many thousands of Chinese. Those unfortunate men knew not for what purpose it was that they were brought from their prisons and thus made a public spectacle. In this state of suspense the executioners appeared, and with their heavy swords coolly proceeded in their mortal work. Their heads were all severed from their bodies; the former, placed in small baskets, were carried away to be exposed upon the sea-shore; while their bodies—one hundred and ninety-seven, were all thrown together into one common grave!

Capt. Denham's and Mr. Roop's journals have already been noticed in our pages. See vol. XII. pp. 113, 235. Also some public documents, issued by sir Henry Pottinger, will be found in vol. XI. pp. 682, 683.

Among that multitude murdered by the officers of the Chinese

government, on the plains of Formosa, there was a gallant young man who had been on board the *Nemesis*, and honorably distinguished himself at the taking of Ningpo. This was Mr. Robert Gully. He had been engaged in commercial pursuits, previously to joining the *Nemesis*, and was now, March 8th, 1842, embarking at Chusan, on board the *Ann*, to revisit his friends in Macao, "intending to return again in time to see Peking taken." We have carefully read his journal and letters, from that date till a few days before his death—of which he probably had no intimation previously to being brought with the others to the field of blood. It is not our intention to dwell on the melancholy particulars of their imprisonment and death; we shall content ourselves with gleaning from the journal of Mr. Gully a few interesting particulars regarding the country and the people which he saw. And these we shall lay before our readers either in his or our own words, being careful always to exhibit the facts as they are stated in the journal. All the particulars of the wreck, &c., are already in the hands of our readers.

*March 14th.* Shortly after breakfast we heard a noise outside, and saw spears and flags. Our guards told us we were going away. One of them called Mr. Roope aside, and took him up a ladder where he sung out to me for assistance. Captain Denham and myself went up to him and found the soldier trying to persuade Mr. Roope to go up stairs, and made motions for us not to go out to the mandarins. We went up to a small clean room, where the man wanted us to remain, but thinking it was only for the purpose of plunder that he wished to keep us, we determined to go with the rest. Perhaps the fellow had heard of our offer to the junkman and really meant well, but it was difficult to judge. We were then all taken before three mandarins, tickets put round our necks, and we marched under a strong escort of soldiers to a small walled town inland about three miles. The walls were of round stone and chunam. We passed from one end of the town to the other, where we were seated under the walls close to a mandarin's office for about half an hour, I suppose for the people to have a good look at us. We were then taken into the mandarin's premises and divided into two parties, the soldiers having previously told us we were going to be beheaded, which I should have believed if they had not overdone the thing by beginning to sharpen their swords on the stones. We were put into two cells about eight feet by seven each, in each of which were stowed twenty-five of us and three jailers or guards, the weather extremely cold, nothing to lay our heads on, and nothing but a sprinkling of straw to keep us from the damp bricks. The land on each side of the road was cultivated and rice growing, the fields were very small, and only divided by a low round embankment about one foot high. The villages appeared to be pretty, from their being surrounded by bamboo. Here, for the first time, I saw a wheeled

cart, but we had before noticed the marks of wheels on our first march. It was a very clumsy affair, drawn by a bullock. It was passing across the ploughed ground for no reason that I could see except that there was no other road. The wheels were composed of two solid pieces of wood joined together in the centre, with a hole which merely slipped on to the axle-tree and was confined by a finch-pin. The cart was of bamboo. The wheels made very curious gyrations in their passage through the mud. In the villages we were stared at by every body, women and all. The women were unaccountably plain even for Chinese women, both here and through all parts of the island I have seen, but they have a very pretty fashion of wearing natural flowers in their hair. On our road we passed several parties employed carrying the brig's guns in the same direction that we were traveling. Altogether, I think under other circumstances I should have enjoyed this trip much, but my feet were so painful with the sores of our former march that I could not. As it was, it was a great relief after the crowded granary, and I think did me good.

15th. Nothing of any moment occurred except that we were joined by the gunner and sea-cunnies, missing up to this time. They had been much better treated than ourselves, and had clothes given to them, though rather of a fantastic nature. The treatment may, perhaps, be partly attributed to their thinking the gunner to be some great man, from his having a mermaid marked on his arm, in the way common among sea-faring people. They partly labored under this mistake up to this present meeting. Both this day and the 16th we were crowded by visitors, who were a great nuisance. The government people who came, all told the same lie,—that we were going to be sent away in a junk. One fellow took the trouble to draw me out one side to explain it more clearly. If we ever placed reliance in their words we were undeceived on the evening of the 17th, for we were then all taken before mandarins, ticketed, a fresh name given to each, and ornamented with handcuffs, we were placed in chairs and conveyed out of the town. We passed outside, and for some miles over a country tolerably cultivated. We were told in the villages we passed through that we were going to have our heads taken off. During the passage my bearers capsized my chair three times, which was occasioned by the slippery state of the footpath. I enjoyed this much more than the bearers, who got a good blowing up from the soldiers by whom we were attended every time it happened. At last they persuaded the man who had charge of the key of my handcuffs to allow me to walk, which I agreed to do as long as the road continued soft. (The man with the key attended me all the way to Táiwan fù.) I was glad enough to take advantage of the permission to walk. I particularly observed that the soldiers in many instances carried a very superior kind of matchlock to any I had seen in China before, and they were kept in much better order. The barrels were cut outside, six square, and as well as the bore were quite smooth and bright. Some again were wretched-looking beings with rusty spears, shields and old caps, without any stiffening in the borders. These I conjectured were the militia, the others regulars. A short time after I observed wheat growing, but the crops were only small

and poof in comparison to those common in England. This was the case throughout the whole journey to this town, and I dare say the Chinese understand as little about growing wheat or barley as our farmers know about rice. We soon came to a very barren description of country, interesting to geologists only. Immense plains stretching inland as far as we could see, composed of round stones, the same as we call "boulders" in Yorkshire, with hills or mountains formed of the same, no vegetation being visible except now and then a green spot on the very tops of the hills, the first of which was some miles from the sea. Up to the time of our wreck I had always imagined the shore of Formosa to be very bold, from having seen these hills often while at sea. The land, between them and the sea, is so very low and without trees that it must be very deceiving to any one at sea, and I doubt very much if the channel, as laid down in the chart, is not too wide. During this, our first trip in sedans, we were shown many little roadside public houses, where we were taught how to spend our mace by the man who had charge of each. These houses, together with every building we passed, were formed of the before-mentioned boulders and mud, with, in many instances, a large wide-spreading tree or trees with seats close to them. The country had a most wild and heavy aspect, more so than any I ever saw, and I began to think Formosa a sad misnomer. The scattered houses were few and far between, and the people appeared a more wretched ill-clothed race than I ever saw in China before. This day's march, altogether in a southerly direction, was about twenty-five miles; we crossed several streams running to the westward, all of which were evidently smaller than at some other seasons of the year. We also passed several small towns not walled, or if so, the walls were only of mud, but all had gates, one a brick one, the other bamboo. We suffered all sorts of abuse and indignities in passing through these, as well as all the others throughout the whole journey; *but the women did not join in this*, although they showed the usual curiosity of the sex. We arrived at our halting-place, a large town with high walls made of brick, about dusk; for some miles previous to getting there, the country was a continued paddy swamp interspersed with small hamlets, surrounded with bamboo, which grows here larger than I ever saw in other places. I have noticed it full sixty feet high. I found, on minute inspection, that the axle-trees of the wheeled carts turned with the wheels. The bazar of this town appeared well furnished with fish. We observed the mast heads of several junks a short distance to the westward, and these were the only signs of the sea that met our eye until we got close to Táiwan fú.

Mr. Gully throughout his journey on Formosa saw a great many graves "precisely like our own," and but very few with the usual Chinese-shaped tombstones. He complains much, and evidently with good cause, of cruel treatment. He says:

"Our jailer I believe to be the most wicked brute that ever was created. We were in a den so small that not one of us could stretch our legs at

night, being coiled up like dogs. During the time I had the piles, I did not sleep for nights together. Ten of us, viz., the five sea-cunnies, two Manilla men, the gunner, Mr. Partridge, and myself, with a bucket in a wretched hovel only eleven feet six inches by seven feet six, and for two months and more we were confined in it, and never allowed out but once a day to wash, and at first this was not allowed, and when it was, for upwards of a month, only one or two could wash every morning, unless they washed in the water used by the others, the villain of a jailer being too lazy to furnish more than a few pints every morning."

All sorts of provisions, especially vegetables and fruits, seem to have been plentiful, but the supply for the prisoners was often small enough. The mangoes were good, and were sold among the people at the rate of 1500 and 2000 for a dollar. He found this fruit wholesome, and ate it, rind and all, to cure the dysentery. He also took opium for the same purpose, and thus notices its effects: "in a quarter of an hour it began to make me feel quite happy, in an hour quite sick, and laid me on my back the whole day." He often also complains of the nightmare, bad sleep, &c. He thus describes his residence:

"*July 25th.* Up as usual. Fine morning, but slept badly. Nightmare all night. I have just thought that in case this should survive us it may be interesting to know the furniture of our abode. The cell is all but as large as the opposite one from which we were removed, but we have three advantages over our opposite neighbors, viz., 1. There are only three of us. 2. The window has only single bars. 3. We have air-holes in the roof. To sleep on we have five hard-wood planks about eight feet long by fourteen inches wide and two thick. The floor is of broken bricks. A bamboo is slung nearly the length of the place, on which in the daytime we hang our mats, two in number, for sleeping on. Besides these I now see two towels hanging from it, one made from part of an old pair of cotton drawers, and the other of grass cloth given me by Zu Quang Leon. Ditto belonging to Mr. Partridge, and a bundle of papers, sketches, &c., tied up by a string. On the east wall are the remains of a picture of Chin Hoe damaged by the rain. The window faces the west. On one side of it is hanging my pipe, given me by the captain's party. On the other is a small looking-glass given me by one of the jailers, a number of pencils and four monghoons. Our pillows of pieces of bamboo, with a quanny-mat for keeping the afternoon's sun out of the place, and a checquer-board are on the planks. On the north wall are hanging our washing-tub, which cost us 50 cash, a broom for sweeping the planks, a basket containing some hooks, &c., belonging to the former occupants; a basket containing our chop-sticks and spoons of bamboo, the gunner's towel and a stick for carrying a lantern. In this wall is a small recess containing a clay lamp and stand, a few bamboo sticks, and two iron wires for cleaning pipes, three papers of tobacco and some waste-paper. In

the corner two sticks have been driven into the wall on which rest the log-books and some papers. Below that is a small shelf, on which are placed several cups, and broken saucers, and paints, two chow-chow cups (I broken the third a week ago), given us by Jack, a small earthenware kettle for boiling tea-water and brewing samshu when we can get it, given us by Aticoa. Below the shelf is suspended a hollow piece of bamboo holding our firepan, and below that a small fireplace, likewise a present from Aticoa, a cooking pot bought by ourselves, another containing charcoal (the pot given by Jack), several old straw shoes and pieces of bamboo for smoking out the musquitoes. On the south side are pendant, 1st, the Bank, a string of cash about 80 or 90, a fan, a small basket containing a few opium pills and our stock of tea, my hat which cost 30 cash; I have covered it with oiled paper. I am sitting on a bamboo stool which belongs to the former occupiers of the place, my foot resting on another given Mr. Partridge by the towka (I suppose the head jailer). Opposite is the door, behind it the bucket; on my left is the window, on the sill of which are two combs, one of which bought for thirteen cash a few days after my arrival at this town, being money I had saved from the mace per day allowed us during the journey. My fan is sticking in the window, and I am writing with this book resting on a board painted red with black characters on it, and two green eyes above looking at them. I think this is all. No, I have forgotten to mention that on the south wall hang my long ell trousers given me by Kit-chil, lascar, my grass cloth ones, given me by the lotier, and a pair of woolen socks given me by Francis; and from the same string hangs Mr. Roope's log. If you can call any thing in this list a luxury, you must recollect that we have only had it lately; for two months we had nothing, and were annoyed by myriads of fleas, bugs, lice, ants, musquitoes, and centipedes, without a possibility of getting rid of them, except by death or a miracle. I have on my back now the only shirt (and a woolen one too) I have had for nearly five months, and half a pair of cotton drawers are on my legs. I omitted to mention, that on the north wall is my calendar. Every morning I scratch with the head of a rusty nail, the day of the month. We have also a third wooden stool lent to us by Aticoa. Employed we are, but the days are awfully tedious, and I am sadly at a loss for something to pass away the time, and feel the want of books."

We have space for no more extracts; these however are enough, and they show fairly and fully the manner in which the prisoners passed their days and nights, and show us also somewhat of their sufferings. But the authors of their sufferings, and their cruel murderers—where are they? Have they been brought to justice?