

sented the rider. These mimic portions of the quadruped were made of paper, and illuminated. The effect was that of a miniature regiment of cavalry. Others were represented as if on the backs of fish, that seemed to swim along in the crowd. Some of the children were not more than two years of age, and the oldest not more than five or six. They were all fantastically dressed, and some among them in European costume, which had a grotesque effect among the more appropriate dresses of the East. They were led about, preceded by music, such as it was, of gongs and cymbals; and all passed by on a dog-trot. Towards the close of the evening, some of the children had attendants on each side, who carried the poor little fatigued creatures along, many of whom were nearly, if not quite asleep. Whenever this procession halted, the Chinese would load them with cakes and dulces, and showed a kindness and attention truly pleasing. The most extraordinary exhibition of the evening was an immense illuminated sea-serpent, which we all thought fully equalled, in size and movement, the famous New England one, and agreed in other respects tolerably well with its description, for he had at intervals large bumps of the shape of a small cask. These were in fact lanterns, supported by poles, and connected together by white cotton or gauze, which was here and there coloured. The head of the monster was of large dimensions, with a wide-extended mouth, showing its fiery tongue and rows of sharp teeth. The movements of the serpent were well managed, and its gyrations, twistings, and windings over the people's heads, gave it a formidable look. It appeared as if in search of an illuminated globe, representing the old year, as the serpent is supposed to typify the new one. It was, from time to time, permitted almost to seize the globe, which was then hurried away, upon which the ponderous jaws would come together with a crash, and then the serpent would hurry onward again in hot pursuit. I was told that it swallowed the globe at the expiration of the year, but I did not speak to any one who saw the finale. The figure of this serpent was from eighty to one hundred feet in length, and two feet in diameter.

During this closing scene of the festival, all the Chinese houses were open, and the josh-houses and idols illuminated with wax candles, and decked with flowers and tinsel.

Theatrical exhibitions were at the same time going forward in many places; open sheds are erected for this purpose, where the exhibition was entirely gratuitous. The actors, I was told, are paid by a general subscription, which also provides for the other expenses of the spectacle. These sheds are closed on three sides, but open on that which faces the street. The stage is raised about six feet above the street; the whole