

ingly handsome race, dress after the English fashion, and generally speak English or the Portuguese fluently. Some of them, that I had occasion to visit, were extremely courteous, but spoke of the inhabitants of Singapore generally as of a low class.

The Armenian church is one of the finest buildings in the place: service is held in their church every morning at six o'clock.

Just before our arrival, one of the Armenians was detected in an extensive forgery, by the water-mark of the paper. It had not been decided what punishment was to be inflicted upon him, and it was an act of which the government was not prepared to take cognizance. From what I heard, I was inclined to believe that the influence of his friends was so great, that by their intercession the punishment that is so ready at all times to be inflicted on the poor, would not be inflicted; yet even-handed justice to all is here made a great boast of.

Parsees are not numerous at Singapore, but they rank among the most wealthy of its inhabitants. They are dressed partly after the Eastern and partly after the European fashion. They excited our attention as being worshippers of fire, which they venerate as emblematical of the Deity. They are of various shades of colour, and generally more robust and portly than the other races. Many of them speak the English language.

Some persons, who were said to be Arabs from the east coast of Africa, were also pointed out to me, who were quite different from all the other races. They had what would be termed woolly hair, with large whiskers, and one of them was remarkable for his large blubber lips. Their complexion did not strike any of us as being much darker than that of the Hindoos or Malays. Their face was long, and the nose by no means prominent: one of these had a strange appearance about his head, and it was some time before it was discovered that it was owing to his beard and whiskers, which were long, being in gray and black stripes. Although it was undoubtedly done by some artificial process, yet it seemed quite natural.

Individuals of the Caffre tribe, from the east coast of Africa, were also met with; and it is said that there are many of them in Hindoostan, whither they have been carried by the English from Mozambique; but they are rarely met with so far east as Singapore. They resembled those seen by us at Rio, though we had no opportunity of identifying them by their tattooing.

The Chinese burial-place is about a mile from the town, situated on the side of a hill, at the apex of which is the josh-house, which, as usual, is filled with hideous idols. This building has a light and pretty effect, principally arising from its situation.