

This burial-place is almost filled with graves; and there was a small bench or platform in front of many of the tombs, on which were the remains of josh-sticks, which, I was told, were here burnt annually, in remembrance of the dead. The Chinese appear to be fond of monumental inscriptions, for there were but few graves without one. I was very desirous of hearing some of these translated, but we had no interpreter with us.

On our road to Mr. Balestier's, we passed the burying-place of the Gentoos: it is quite open, and apparently a dense shrubbery; but near the town end is a chunam pedestal, surmounted with a lotus, for a drawing of which I am indebted to Mr. Peale: this sketch will be found at the end of this chapter. On its sides are inscriptions in Cingalese, and one in English, the latter of which states that "This burying-ground belongs to the Hindoo people of Madras and Singapore. 1828." The design was tasteful, but our admiration was somewhat lessened on finding that the material is not stone, to which it has a very strong resemblance.

I spent a large portion of a day at the magnetic observatory, which is under charge of Lieutenant Elliot, of the Indian army. The instruments were all apparently well mounted; but I was somewhat surprised at observing that several chronometers were used for marking time, when it could have been more conveniently and accurately made by a single clock.

Lieutenant Elliot was erecting an apparatus to collect and develop atmospheric electricity, but he had not, as he informed me, been able to succeed. Considering the station was a magnetic one, it was surprising to me that he should be trying such experiments, when the two agents of electricity and magnetism are so nearly allied, and especially that he should have done it in such immediate contact with the instruments. The observatory is situated about two miles from Singapore.

At Singapore there are three American missionaries, Mr. North, Mr. Hepburn, and Mr. Dickinson; the former, who has resided here six years, is the principal. The two first have a school of fifty Chinese boys; but as it was vacation time, we had no opportunity of seeing them at their exercises. Mr. North spoke to several of our gentlemen in high terms of the intelligence of the Chinese children. The Chinese boys are received at an early age, and board in the family of the missionaries, to whose guidance they are wholly given up by their parents. They seldom visit their parents, and never without a special request. These children are taught the rudiments of an English education, but no efforts are made on the adult popu-