

was more interesting to us than the vessel: this consisted chiefly of teas and china-ware; the latter, to our surprise, we found neatly and carefully stowed in bulk in the hold. The lighter articles of Chinese manufacture are arranged about the vessel, and even hang over the poop and sides. The wooden anchors, cables, grass ropes, odd and curious paintings, the grotesque mode of external ornament, with the large eye on either bow in the colours of the rainbow, did not fail to attract our attention. We were also amused with the junk-like form of the tiny boat, but these, as well as the Chinamen themselves, are so well represented in Chinese pictures, that no one can be at a loss to conceive their peculiar form. Words fail to express the content and pride with which the Chinaman sits and enjoys his aquatic excursions; and though ridiculous in appearance, and ill fitted in every way to contend with the elements, yet there is something about the junks that commands a certain degree of respect.

The trade of Singapore, although it has but lately grown up, has nevertheless reached the large aggregate of \$24,500,000. About one-sixth of this amount goes to Great Britain, and \$600,000 to continental Europe. There are no duties on imports or exports, and every vessel is left free to come and go as they please; all that is asked is of what the cargo consists, its value, and the size of the vessel. These particulars are published weekly in the only paper. Every thing is sold for cash, or on a very short credit, and all accounts are kept in dollars and cents. Perhaps in no other port is business conducted in so prompt a manner as at Singapore, and this has probably grown out of the transient character of the visitors of all nations, who come and go as they please, which makes it necessary to receive payment for the goods as soon as they are delivered.

From what has been already said, it will appear that very little of the importance of Singapore is owing to its own productions; yet there are many things shipped here that are the product of the Straits, or of the territory under the Straits Government, as it is called. Among these are pepper, cloves, sugar, nutmegs, coffee, and gambier, to which may be added the betel-nut. These products are procured from Pinang and Prince of Wales Island, and reach a large amount. Tortoise-shell may also be included in this trade, for almost all that is taken in the Eastern seas is now brought to Singapore for sale; and it may indeed be said to be the chief mart of that article. Any attempt to give a catalogue of the trade of Singapore would fall short of the truth, for it may be considered as an entrepôt where all articles arrive and are distributed. The expenses of doing business are established and published in the gazettes, so that any one may inform him-