

as incumbent on those who rule over this rising colony, to see that the general administration may have a tendency to promote civilization. I regret to say that I could perceive but little indication of any other principle than that of gain.

During my stay at Singapore, the subject of steam navigation was much talked of, and many projects appeared to be forming by which the settlement might reap the advantages of that communication, when established between India and China.

Some idea of the facilities that this method of transportation has already furnished will appear from the fact that I received letters on my arrival there, via England, only seventy-two days after their date in the United States. This places the East in such close proximity to Europe, that instead of looking for yearly or monthly accounts, as was formerly the case, they are now on the watch for daily news.

This has already, as may be supposed, altered the current of trade, instead of specie, drafts being sent out by the ships with orders for shipment of goods from China. The transactions pass through banks, or are performed by purchase of government and individual bills. Many believe that in a very few years the whole commerce of these seas will be carried on by steam, which would afford peculiar facilities for communicating with the ports of the Chinese Empire, by the control it gives the commercial world in counteracting the monsoons, which have hitherto regulated the routes of commerce. All that is needed is capital to set it in motion.

As vessels of war, the steamers have been particularly useful in the British operations against China. The shallow and unknown coast of that country, and its almost impenetrable rivers, could have been rendered accessible by no other means.

Singapore, as a port of supplies, offers many inducements, although there are the same objections to it that apply more or less to all the ports of the East. One of these is caused by the ravages of the white ants. A portion of our flour^e was rendered entirely unserviceable, for these insects had literally perforated the barrels in all directions; and in rolling them over, the staves appeared like fine sieves, through which the flour passed in every direction. This, however, was only the case with that which had been stored in a dry upper loft. The larger portion of this article, which had fortunately been left on the ground-floor or basement of the storehouses, had escaped this injury. The latter place was both cooler and damper than the former, and these were the only apparent reasons why the barrels had escaped uninjured.

The climate of Singapore, notwithstanding its geographical and local position, is considered as very salubrious: it is admitted by all