

that the neighbouring coasts and islands are quite the reverse. Although the island is near the Malay shore, yet the site of the town being on its southern point, is within the influence of the prevailing winds, which it is generally supposed carry off the miasma as fast as it is formed; yet every thing seems favourable about the settlement to produce disease: it lies low, with large tracks of marsh and jungle in its neighbourhood. The heat, however, is very much modified by the sea-breezes, and varies only from  $79^{\circ}$  to  $84^{\circ}$ ; the mean annual temperature has been found to be a little above  $80^{\circ}$ ; in this computation, however, I understand the night hours had been entirely omitted; had the observations included those also, they would undoubtedly have lowered the mean considerably. It was remarked that it rains for an hour or two almost every afternoon, and in consequence of these daily showers, vegetation has a rapid or rather rank growth. To these frequent showers is ascribed by some the healthfulness of the place, preventing malaria by maintaining a constant growth in the vegetable kingdom, and thus tending to absorb the noxious and deleterious gases.

The diseases most common in the East, such as dysentery, diarrhoea, and fevers, are seldom experienced here; but, at the same time, it is necessary to take every precaution, and avoid the heat of the vertical sun. The crews of the squadron were remarkably healthy, and only a few of them experienced any ill effects from the heat. One man on board the Vincennes, was attacked with a brain fever, of which he died a few days after leaving the place. This case was attributed to great imprudence on his part, in defiance of all warnings not to expose himself.

On my arrival at Singapore, various reports were made to me of defects existing in the tender Flying-Fish. It was to be expected, after the arduous service she had performed; yet, having brought her safely thus far, I felt a natural desire to carry her home with us; and in this all the officers seemed to partake. But the idea of risking the lives of her officers and crew, after the disaster that had already befallen her sister craft, was not to be endured; and I saw that it was necessary to have a thorough examination of her before I ventured her in the homeward voyage. I therefore ordered a survey by the most experienced persons in the squadron, who, although they could not point out any conspicuous defects, were satisfied that from long and hard service she had become weakened in her frame, and that she would not only need much time, but a large expense, to place her in a fit condition to make the voyage home. I must say that even after I had received the report I still felt a strong inclination to persist