

Folio Volume to An Authentic Account of an Embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China



XXXIII. A view near the city of Lin-tsin, on the banks of the grand canal. The principal building in this view is a Ta, or Pagoda, as it has usually but improperly been called. These buildings generally consist of five, seven, or nine stories, and as many projecting roofs; and their height is from four to seven of their diameters. They are never intended for places of religious worship, as the Indian term given to them seems to imply, and as has been generally imagined; but have either been erected as monuments to the memory of some great person or event, or is merely as objects for the termination of a view; and for this latter purpose they very frequently crown the summit of the highest hills. The buildings on each side of the plate, with pillars erected in front, are houses inhabited by public officers of the district; and the figures are groups of peasantry assembling on the banks of the canal, to see the barges of the Embassy pass.



XL. Chinese barges of the Embassy preparing to pass under a bridge. Tho some of the bridges in China are sufficiently high to admit of vessels to pass through their arches without striking their masts, yet as there are others of a lower construction, the masts of all their barges are contrived to lower down occasionally. To prevent carriages from passing over those bridges that are

intended only for the accommodation of foot passengers, they are ascended by steps, as appears upon that on the left side of the print, under which a communication is formed between the grand canal and another branching off from it, without any inconvenience to foot passengers, or those people whose employment is to track the barges.



A MANDARIN or MAGISTRATE of TURON attended by his PIPE-BEARER.

London, Published April 10 1781 by G. Koenig.

XVI. A mandarine, or magistrate of Turon, attended by his pipe-bearer. These, with few variations, are the usual dresses worn by the natives of Cochin-china, and differ little in their general appearance from those of China.



VIEW OF THE PAI-LOO, OR TRIUMPHAL ARCH, IN THE PROVINCE OF YUNNAN, CHINA.

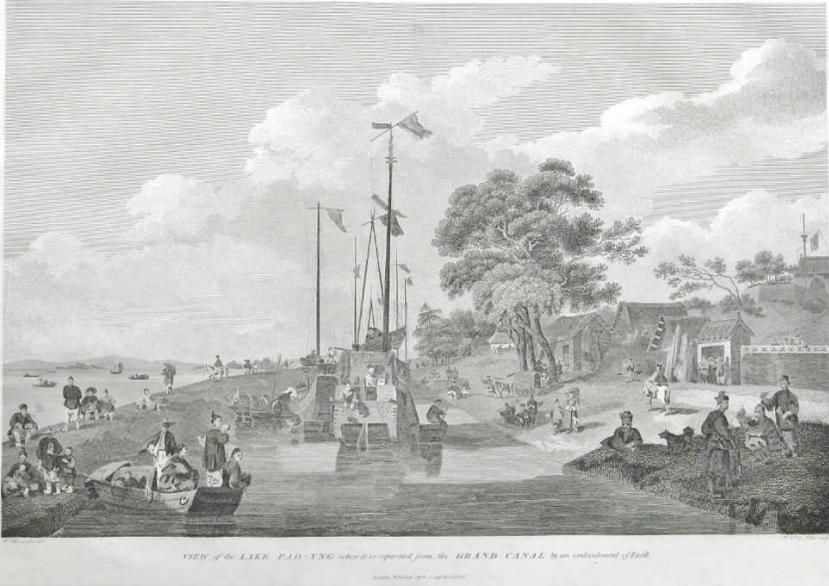
XXXI. View of a Pai-loo, or, as it has usually been called, a triumphal arch. These sort of ornamented buildings are common in every part of China; some of stone, and others of wood.

Most of them have been erected at the public expence, for perpetuating the memory of such persons as have rendered public services to their country, but many have been raised for the mere gratification of personal vanity. On some erections of a similar kind, the characters denote them to be of no further use than to point out, like our guide-posts, the distances of places from the spot on which they stand. The building on the right hand corner of the plate is a tower or fortress, and that on the left, a place for theatrical representations, which are always entirely open in front. In the centre, near the foot of the triumphal arch, the punishment of the bastinado, or bamboo, is inflicting on a person for misbehaviour, by order of a civil magistrate.



XX. View of one of the western gates of the city of Peking.

The nine gates of this city resemble each other very nearly; except that the projecting wall in some is square, in others circular. The two lofty buildings are pretty much the same in all. The ditch, which in fact is a branch of a river, runs along the southern and western walls only of the city, and on these sides divides it from the suburbs, which are very considerable at each gate, and a bridge of communication at those by which the river passes. The small two-wheeled carriage crossing the bridge, and drawn by one horse, is of the same kind as those which stand for hire in the streets of Peking, as do hackney coaches in England, and is the only kind of carriage used in the country.



XXXVI. View across the lake Pao-yng, shewing its separation from the grand canal by a strong embankment of earth. In this lake an extensive fishery is carried on, principally by means of the *Pelicanus Sinensis*, or fishing cormorant of China. These birds are here trained up to the exercise of fishing, and sent from hence to all parts of the empire. At this place the barges of the Embassy halted, while their large single masts were taken down and others erected in their stead, consisting each of two poles meeting together at the top, and extending at the bottom to each side of the vessel, where they turn on swivels, and may thus be lowered down speedily, so as to permit the barges to pass thro the arches of bridges, which are very frequent in the southern part of the grand canal.



XXV. The approach of the Emperor of China to his tent in Tartary, to receive the British Ambassador.

This tent was erected for the purpose, in a part of the grounds belonging to the palace, and called Van-shoo-yuen, or garden of ten thousand trees . Before the tent were arranged in two ranks, a great number of persons, consisting of tributary princes, representatives of sovereigns, ministers of state, governors of provinces, officers of the tribunals, and other mandarines of rank, waiting the approach of the Emperor, who is borne in an open chair supported by sixteen men. The British Ambassador and his suite stood at the front of the rank, on the right hand side, in advancing towards the tent.



*PUNISHMENT of the TCHA.*

*London, Published April 10, 1807 by G. Smeath*

XXVIII. Punishment of the Tcha . This, usually called by Europeans the Cangue, is a common punishment in China for petty offences. It consists of an enormous tablet of wood, with a hole in the middle to receive the neck, and two smaller ones for the hands, of the offender, who is sometimes sentenced to wear it for weeks or months together. He is suffered, provided his strength will enable him, to walk about; but the burden is so great, that he is generally glad to seek for a support of it against a wall or a tree. If a servant, or runner of the civil magistrate, takes it into his head that he has rested too long, he beats him with a whip made of leathern thongs till he rises. Near the gate of the Ambassador s hotel, in Peking, half a dozen of these instruments were placed in readiness, to clap upon the shoulders of any of the Chinese servants who should happen to transgress.



A SCENE, — IN THE CHINESE THEATRE, — FROM THE HISTORY OF THE EMPEROR ANGI.

XXX. A dramatic scene on the Chinese stage. The principal story of the piece, of which this scene represents a part, is taken from the ancient history of the country. It opens with the account of an emperor of China and his empress, who, in the midst of perfect felicity and apparent security, are surprised by a sudden revolt among their subjects. A war ensues; many battles are fought upon the stage; and at length the arch-rebel, a general of cavalry, characterized on the stage by a whip in his hand, overcomes his sovereign, whom he slays with his own hand. The captive empress appears in all the agonies of despair naturally resulting from the loss of her husband, as well as of her state and dignity, and indeed danger of her honour. Whilst she is uttering lamentations, and rending the skies with her complaints, the conqueror enters. Of this scene the plate is a representation. He approaches her with respect, addresses her in a gentle tone, attempts to soothe her sorrows, talks of love and adoration; and, like Richard the Third and Lady Anne in Shakespeare, in less than half an hour prevails on her to dry up her tears, to forget a dead husband, and to console herself with a living one. The persuasions of her own officers and attendants in favour of the general, have more weight with the lady than the supplicating priest, who, prostrate on the ground, intreats her not to marry the murderer of her husband. The piece concludes as usual with the nuptials, and a grand procession.

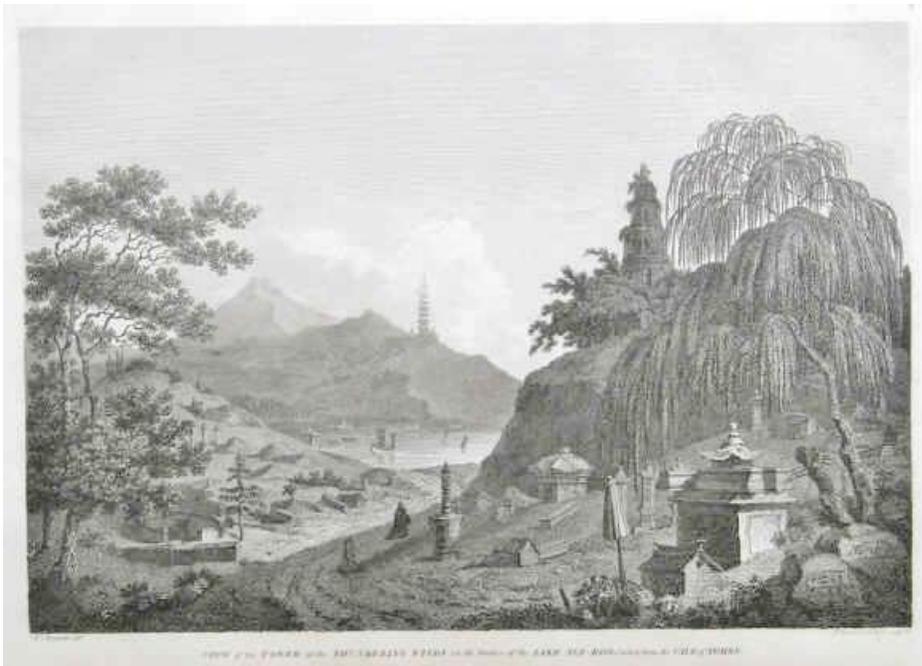
The dresses worn by the ancient Chinese are still preserved in the drama. The band of music has its situation on the back part of the stage; there is no change of scene; and, in general, the front of the theatre is exposed to the open air.



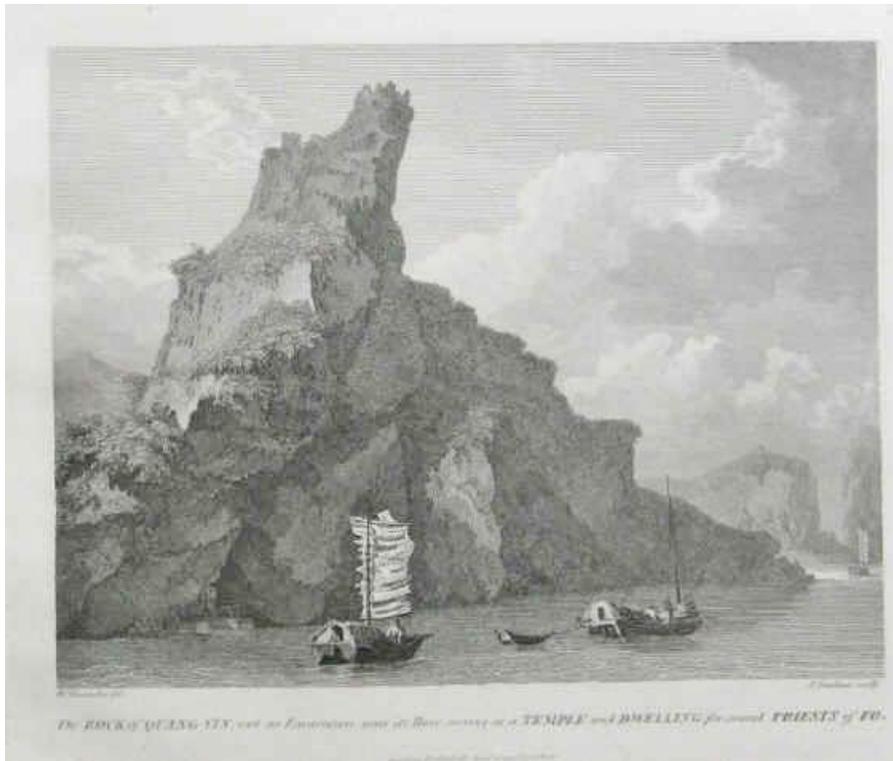
XIV. View of a village on the borders of Turon bay, in Cochin-china, with a group of the natives amusing themselves with a game of shuttlecock, which they strike with the sides and soles of their feet instead of battledores.



XV. View in Turon bay, taken from the point of a small island, on which a few of the natives are assembling for the purpose of making an offering to the deity in a humble temple, consisting only of a few poles that support a thatched roof. The boat approaching the island, with the rowers standing, is one belonging to the governor of the district. The Lion and Hindostan are seen at anchor in the bay.



XLI. View of the Lake See-hoo, and tower of the thundering winds, taken from the Vale of Tombs. This lake, on the borders of which stands the wealthy and extensive city of Hang-choo-foo, with the surrounding scenery, is accounted one of the grandest, as well as most beautiful, spots in all China. The Lui-fung-ta, or tower of the thundering winds, standing on the point of a promontory jetting into the lake, forms a bold object. It is said to have been built in the time of the philosopher Confucius, who lived three centuries before the Christian aera. In the Vale of Tombs the variety of monuments is almost infinite. Abundance of naked coffins lie scattered upon the ground; and the sides of the hills that rise from the vale are thickly set with groups of sarcophagi, in the shape of small houses, arranged in such a manner as to look like so many Lilliputian villages.



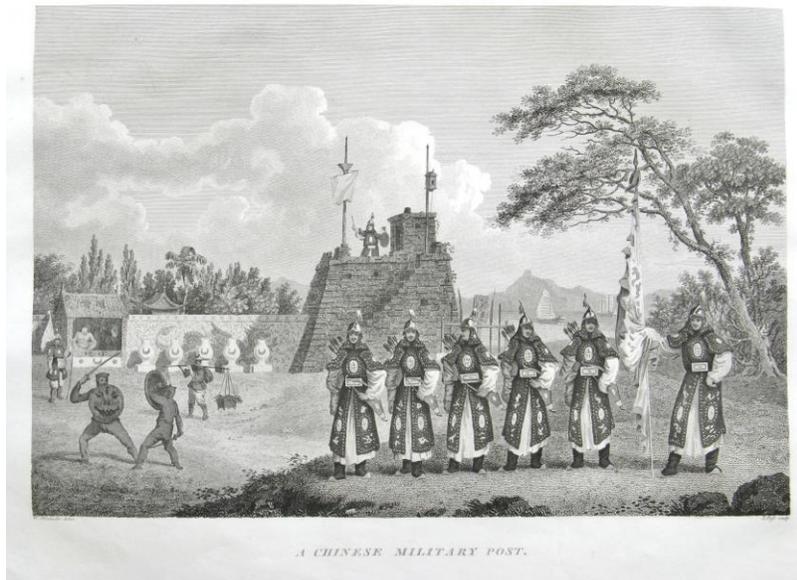
XLIII. The rock of Quang-yin, with an excavation near its base, serving as a temple and dwelling for several priests of Fo. This rock is composed of one solid mass of grey marble, rising out of the margin of the river to a height exceeding six hundred feet. In a large rent near the base is a temple of two stories, ascended by flights of steps hewn out of the sides of the cavern. The faces of the rock on the side next the river are so steep, that this dreary mansion can only be approached by water.



XXII. A view of the front of the hall of audience at the palace of Yuen-men-yuen. This plate will serve to convey a general idea of the superior kind of buildings in China, which are always erected on platforms of stone-work, and their large projecting roofs are supported on columns of wood.



XLII. Economy of time and labour, exemplified in a Chinese water-man. In the river Chen-tang-chiang, near Hang choo-foo, very large boats are frequently managed by one man, who with great dexterity will run thro a whole fleet of vessels, steering his own boat with one hand, managing the sail with the other, and pulling a large oar with his foot; and at the same time smoking his pipe with the greatest ease and indifference.

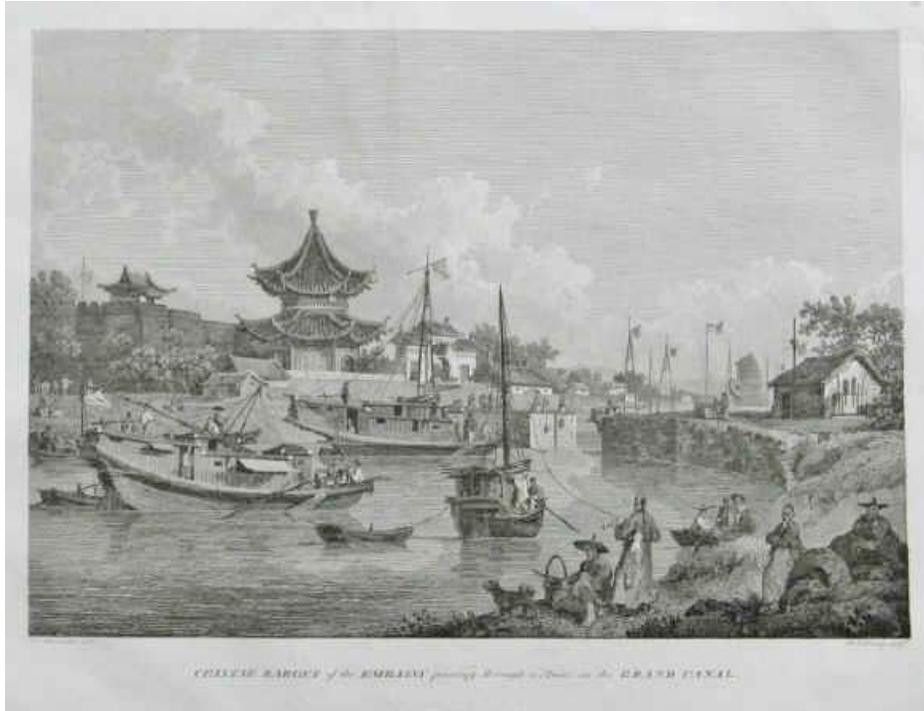


XVII. A Chinese military post. Military posts of a similar kind, but various in their form and plan of construction occur at certain distances, greater or less as may be deemed necessary, for the internal peace of the empire, for the protection of travellers on the public roads, and of vessels on canals and rivers. Each contains in general from six to twelve men, who are drawn out in their best military attire, as represented in the plate, whenever a person of consequence passes by. Their dress is then taken off, and laid up carefully till a future occasion. The soldier on the top of the fort gives the signal, by striking a brazen instrument, called by the Chinese, Loo, of the approach of the person to be saluted, that the men may be prepared. Near to the military post there is frequently a small temple, as at the end of the wall in the present plate, in which is contained, among other deities, the god of war.

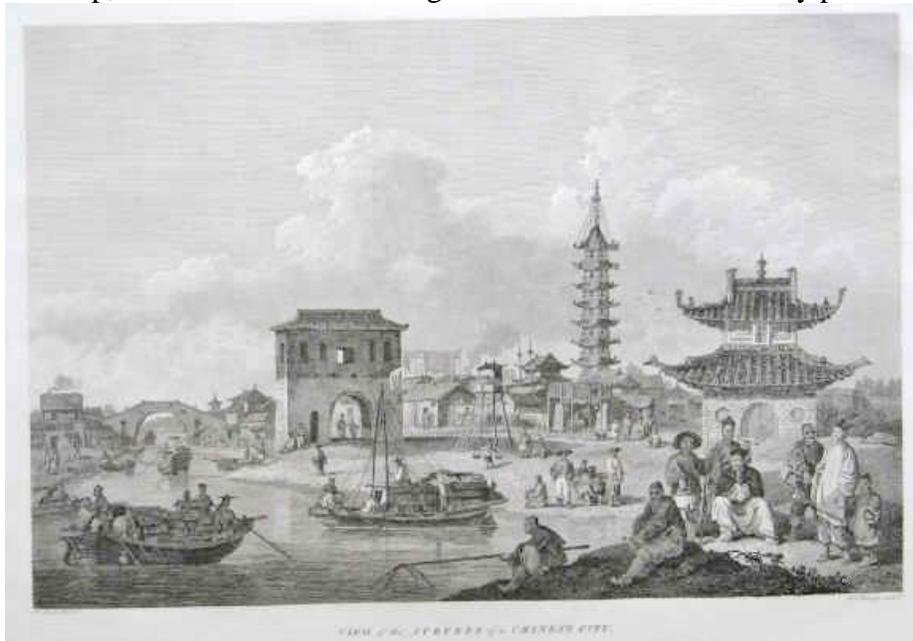


CHINESE MILITARY post, and its Disposition at the BRITISH EMBASSY.

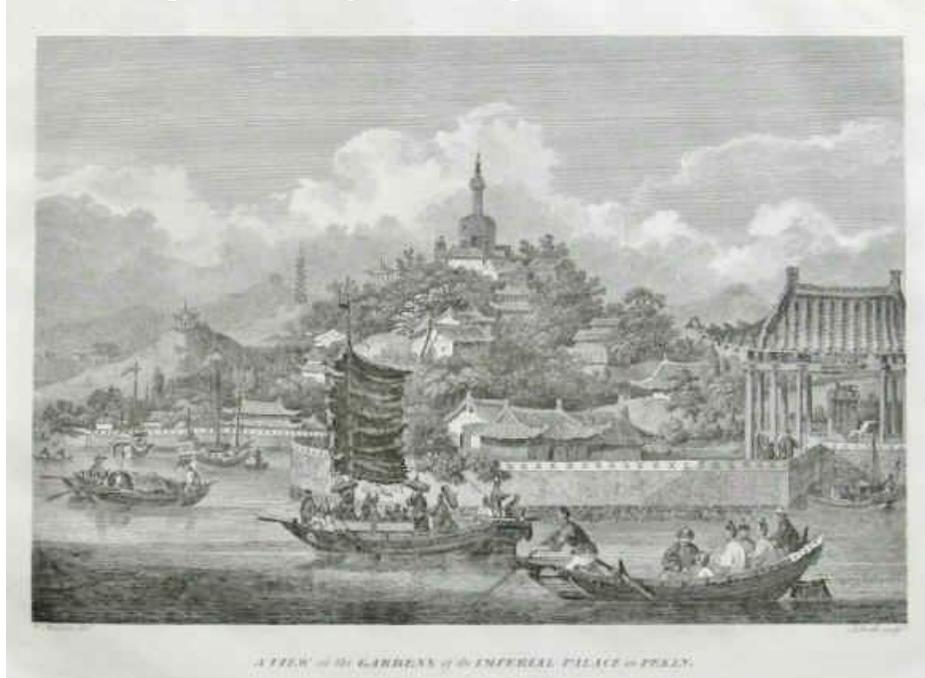
XVIII. Chinese military drawn out in compliment to the Ambassador, and falling on their knees, to receive him, where he is supposed to be about to land. Beside the military posts, mentioned in the last number, a considerable establishment of troops is kept up in every city of the empire. When the walls of any of these were approached by the barges of the Embassy, about three hundred soldiers were drawn up along the bank of the river or canal, in a single rank, the officer's tent was pitched, the military band began to play, and a salute of three small petards, placed perpendicularly in the ground, was fired off when the barge of the Ambassador, or those which carried Chinese men of rank, passed before, the officer's tent.



XXXV. Chinese barges of the Embassy passing through a sluice, or floodgate on the grand canal. When the planks that form these floodgates are first drawn up, and the surface of the water on one side happens to be considerably higher than that on the other, the vessels are carried through by the current with great rapidity. Tho the Chinese are very dexterous in the management of their vessels thus shooting thro sluices, yet to prevent the possibility of accident, the soldiers that are stationed at small military posts, usually erected on the abutments, attend on each side with fenders of leather stuffed with wool, or some other soft substance, to prevent the barge from striking against the stone pier. The double-roofed building on the left pier is a temple of religious worship, of which kind there are great numbers in almost every part of the country.



XXXVIII. View of the suburbs of a Chinese city. The double-roofed building on the right hand side of the print is a temple of religious worship. The small box supported on four poles, and ascended by a ladder, a look-out house, one of which is erected at almost every military post; and the building with the gateway thro it serves as a repository for arms, clothes, and other military stores. The method of fishing with a net stretched out by four pieces of bamboo, and suspended to a long pole, as in the hands of the figure sitting on the bank of the river in the fore -ground, is an universal practice throughout the empire.



XXIX. A view in the gardens of the imperial palace of Pekin. This is an artificial mount thrown up round the palace of Pekin, and is that on which the last of the Chinese Emperors, before the accession of a Tartar family, on hearing that the usurpers had entered his capital, first hanged his daughter, and then stabbed himself. The mountains at a distance are those behind the palace of Yuen-men-yuen.

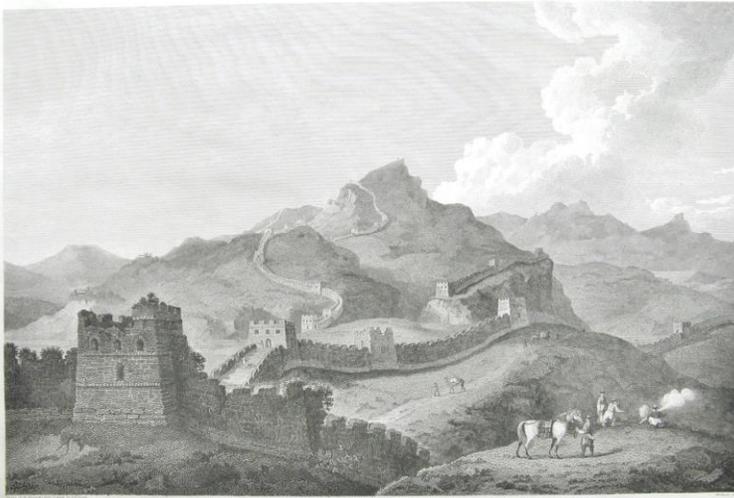


XXXII. A Quan, or Mandarin, bearing a letter from the Emperor of China. These may be considered as exact portraits of both man and horse. The letter bound across his shoulders in a wooden case, covered with silk, was one from the Emperor of China to the King of Great Britain, and was carried before the Ambassador along the paved road from Peking to Tong-tchoo. All passengers on the road, on meeting the officer charged with this imperial letter, were obliged to shew a proper respect to it, by stepping off the paved road, and if on horseback, by dismounting, while it passed.

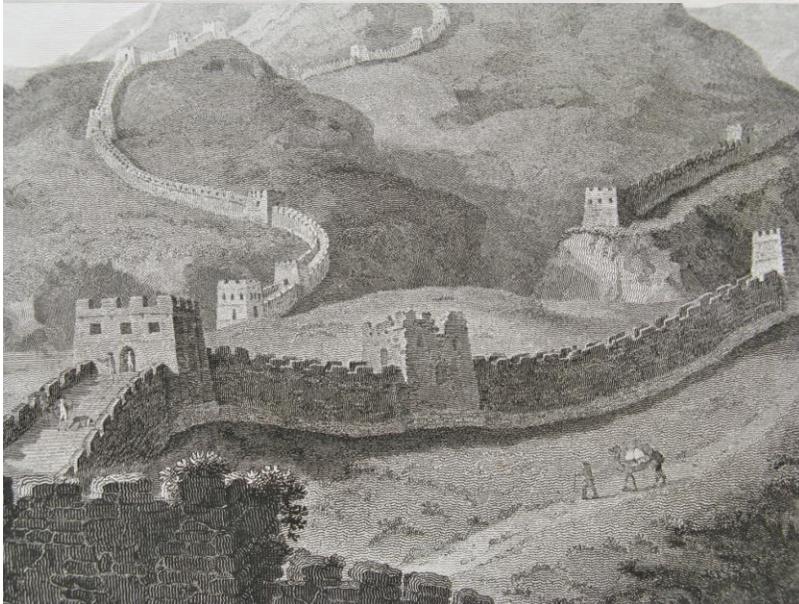


XXXIX. A view of the Chin-san, or golden island, in the Yang-tse-kiang, or great river of China. This island, situated in the middle of the Kiang where the width is near three miles, is the

property of the Emperor. It is interspersed with pleasure-houses and gardens, and contains a large monastery of priests, by which the island is almost entirely inhabited.



*VIEW of the GREAT WALL of CHINA, called PAN LEE TCHING, or WALL of TEN THOUSAND LEE, taken near the Cliff of COU PE KOO.*

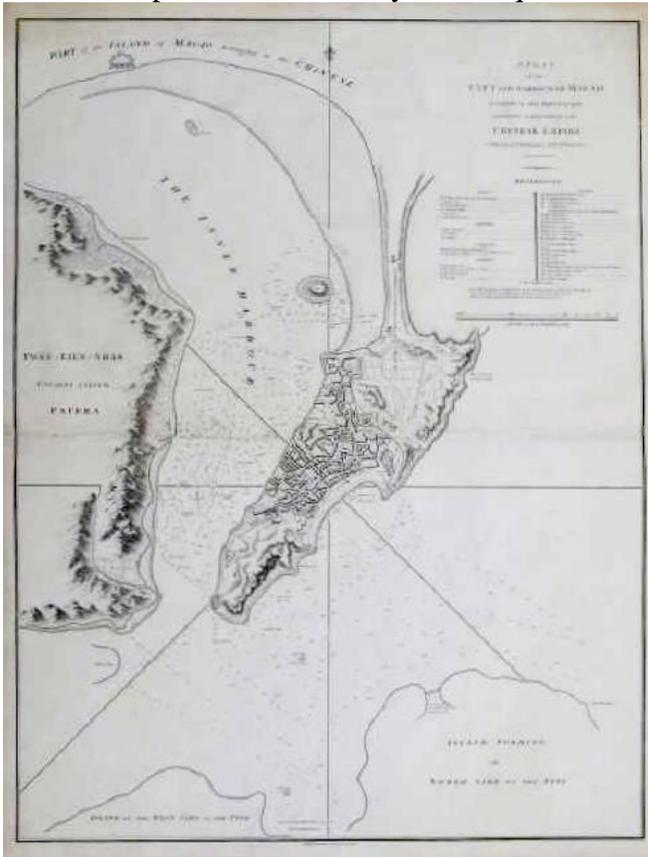




this large fabric are the habitations of the priests, or lamas, about eight hundred of which are attached to this temple.



No. I. A general chart, on Mercator's projection, of the track of the ships from England to the gulf of Pe-che-lee, or Pekin, and of their return to England; containing also the limits of the Chinese empire, as extended by the conquests of the present Emperor Chien-lung.

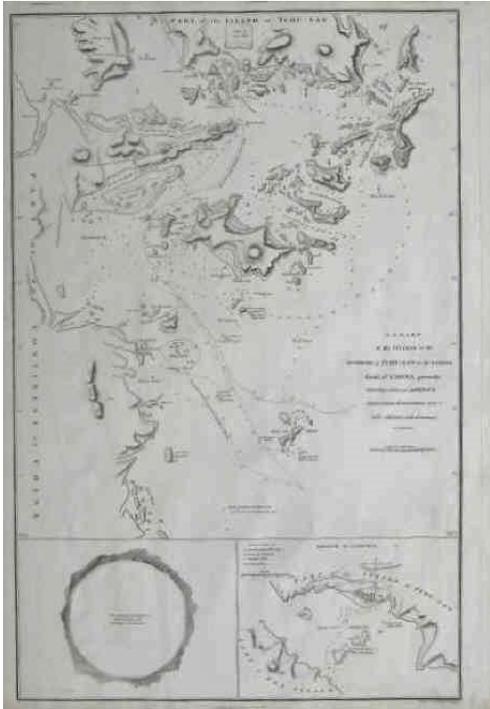


XI. A plan of the city and harbour of Macao, a colony of the Portugueze, situated at the southern extremity of the Chinese empire; containing references to all the forts, colleges, convents, and other public buildings and places of note; and also the depth of water, and nature of the ground, in every part of the inner harbour, as well as in the space between the peninsula and the northern entrance into the Tupa; taken from an accurate survey made by a gentleman long resident on the spot.



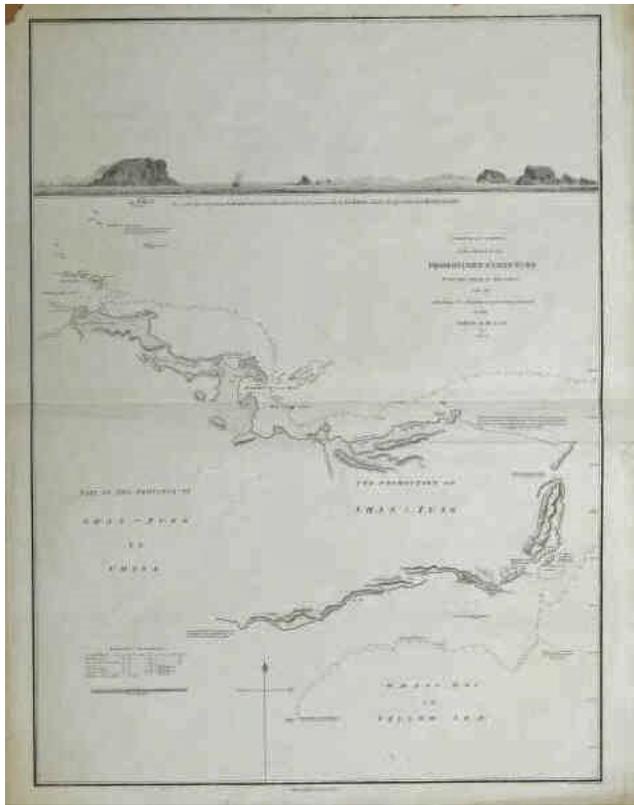
IV. A chart on Mercator's projection, containing the track and soundings of the Lion, Hindostan, and tenders, from Turon bay in Cochin-china to the mouth of the Pei-ho river in the gulf of Pe-che-lee, or Pekin.

As a great part of this track, namely, from the Chu-san islands to the western extremity of the gulf of Pe-che-lee, or Pekin, was never before navigated by European vessels, at least no accounts are extant of such navigation, particular pains were in this instance taken to ascertain the squadron's exact situation at noon of each day, as to latitude by meridional, or, when the weather was unfavourable for these, by double altitudes; and as to longitude, either by the mean of several time-keepers, whose rate of going had been determined near Nicholas point on the island of Java; or by observations of the distance of the moon's limb from the sun or fixed stars, taken by several persons at the same time, whenever the weather and situation of the objects would admit of it. Several sets of these being taken directly opposite, and in sight of, the bold projecting promontory of Shan-tung, and also when the squadron was afterwards at anchor near the mouth of the Pei-ho in the gulf of Pekin, it may be presumed that these situations, as well as indeed the whole track, are laid down with a tolerable degree of exactness.



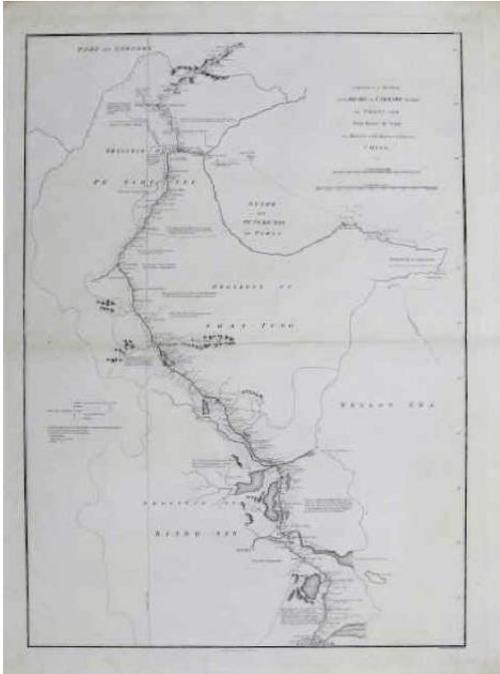
V. A chart of several clusters of islands lying on the eastern coast of China, usually called the Chu-san islands, with the track of the Clarence from the southernmost group, called the Queens, to the harbour of Chu-san. This plate contains also a sketch of the harbour of Chu-san, taken with the compass from the anchorage of the Clarence, and the appearance of the surrounding lands, as seen from the same spot.

Of these islands a chart had formerly been published; but the situation of the Holderness rock, tho taken exactly from the journal of the ship of that name, is very erroneously marked upon it; and it is of material consequence to know its exact position ; nor is any notice taken in that chart of the rock on which the Hindostan struck; nor the proper track laid down, thro the very intricate passages amongst those numerous islands. It was therefore thought that a new chart, with these and other alterations and additions, might not be useless to the future navigator.



VI. A sketch by compass of the coast of the promontory of Shan-tung, with the track of the ships, and the soundings, from the place of first making the land to the strait of Mi-a-tau.

From the great extension of this promontory, or bold point of land into the Yellow sea towards the kingdom of Corea, beyond the rest of the Chinese coast, it was conceived there might be a considerable degree of danger and difficulty in sailing round it into the gulf of Pekin. The squadron, however, standing well in towards the coast, doubled the promontory in sight of the land the greatest part of the way, which furnished an excellent opportunity of marking down the different points, and the depth of water. It was of importance to have determined that there was no harbour fit for large ships in the strait, or among the islands of Mi-a-tau, as had been supposed from the information of Chinese pilots, and to have discovered an excellent bay on the northern coast of the promontory of Shan-tung, where none had been expected. This bay, and the whole coast, is laid down with as great accuracy as circumstances would allow.

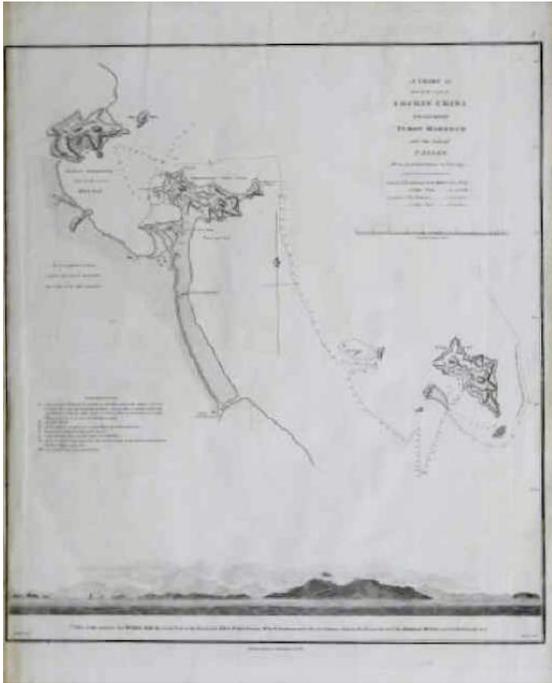


IX. A sketch of a journey from Zhe-hol in Tartary, by land, to Peking, and from thence by water to Hang-choo-foo, in China.



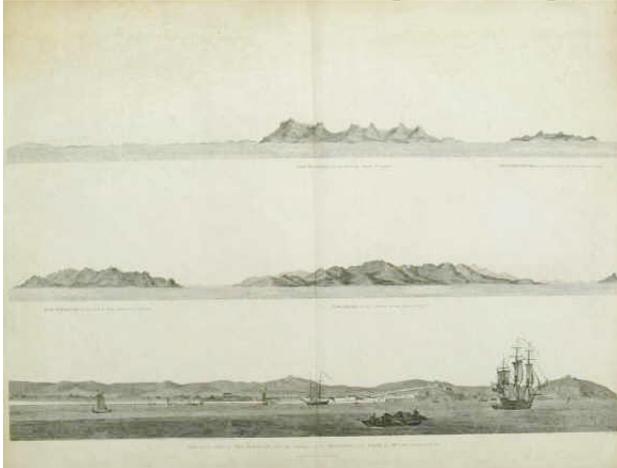
X. A sketch of a journey from Hang-choo-foo to Quang-choo-foo, or Canton, in China. These two plates comprehend all that extent of country lying between the town of Zhe-hol, in Chinese Tartary and the city of Canton, at the southern extremity of the empire, a distance not less than fifteen hundred miles. The rivers and canals that open a direct communication between the capital and the port of Canton; all the cities of the first, second, and third order, with many considerable towns and villages, situated upon the banks of those canals and rivers; the general surfaces, as well as produce, of the different parts of the country that occurred in this route; with

the temperature, as shewn by Fahrenheit's thermometer, at the time they were passed, are marked down on these sketches.

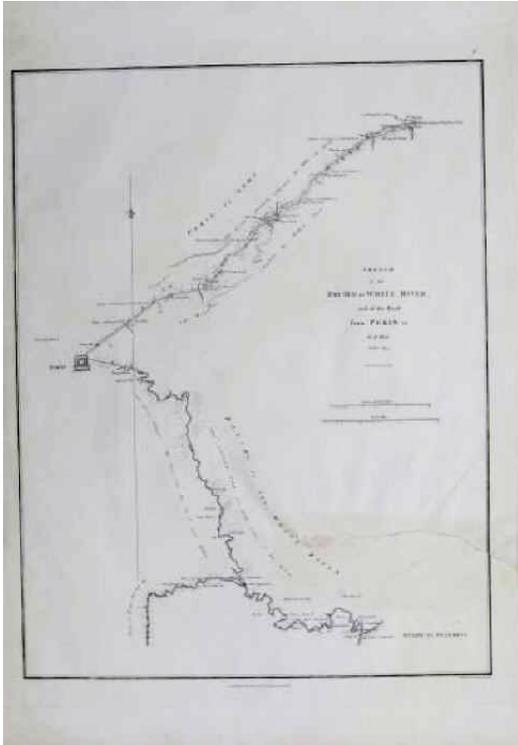


III. A chart of part of the coast of Cochin-china, including Turon harbour, and the island of Callao; to which is added, a view of the entrance into Turon bay, the southern peak of the peninsula Tien-cha, bearing west by north, distant ten miles.

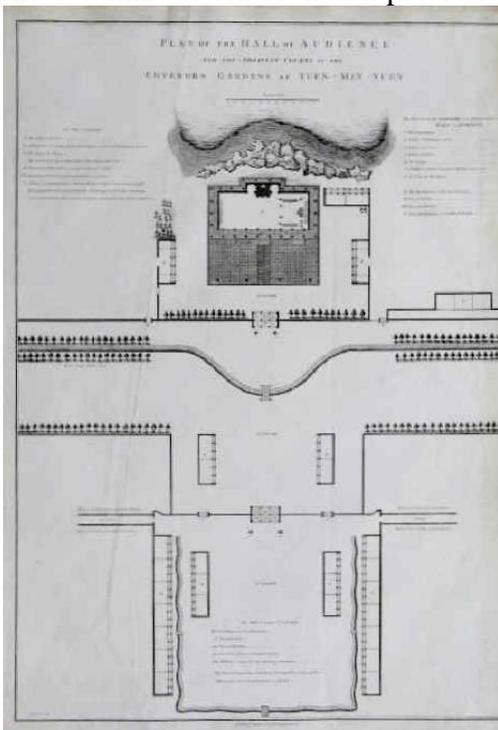
On approaching this peninsula from the southward or westward, the entrance into the harbour appears to lie between it and a curious group of marble rocks, which in fact are connected by a very low and narrow isthmus, not visible from the deck at the above distance of ten miles. The entrance is round the northern point of the peninsula.



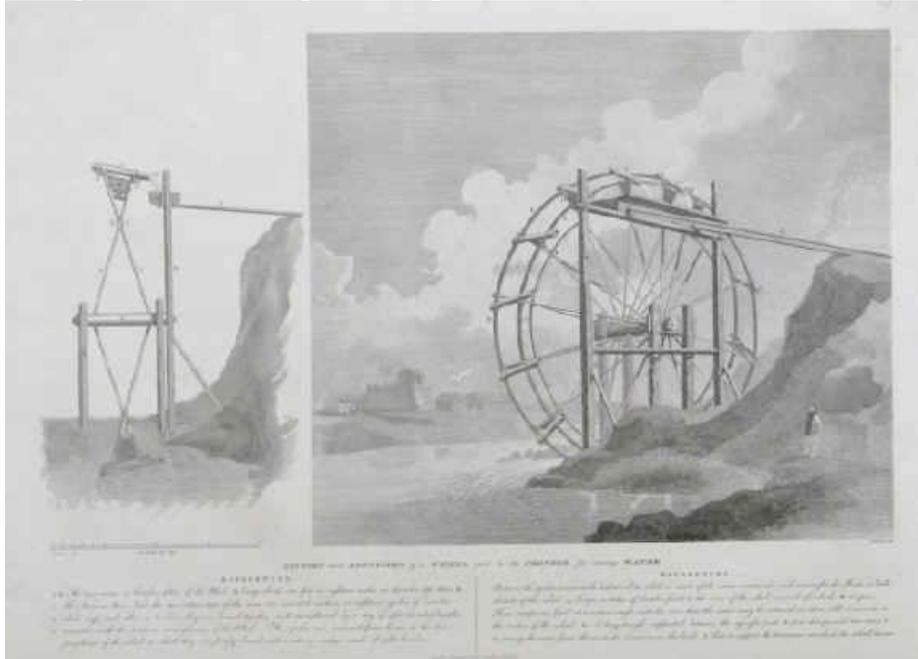
Cape Macartney bearing north-east and Staunton's Island / Cape Gower bearing north-west / View of the city of Ten-Tchoo-Foo from the anchorage of the Hindostan in the Strait of Mi-A-Tau bearing south-west. China. Engraving with one harbour view and two of the Shantung Peninsula printed on one sheet



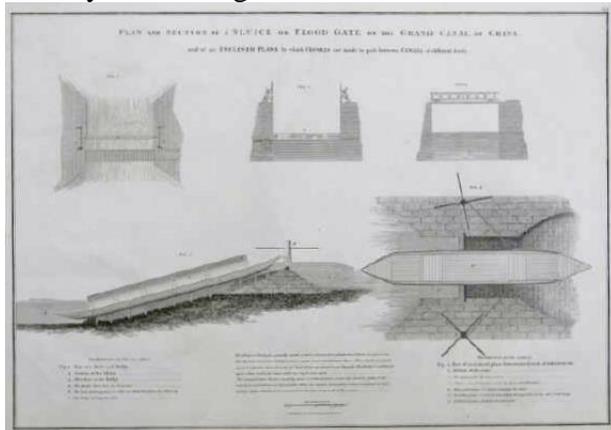
VIII. A sketch of the Pei-ho, or White river, from its entrance into the gulf of Peking to the city of Ten-choo-foo, in which are marked down the cities, towns, principal villages, and military posts situated upon its banks. This plate contains also a sketch of the road from Peking to Zhe-hol, in Chinese Tartary; in which are situated, at certain distances, six different palaces and gardens for the accommodation of the Emperor of China, when travelling between those two places.



XXI. Plan of the hall of audience, and of the three courts leading to it, at the palace of Yuen-men-yuen, in the neighbourhood of Peking, with the arrangement of some of the presents, as they were placed for the Emperor's inspection.



XLIV. The Scoop-wheel of China, for lifting water upon the banks of rivers for agricultural purposes. These wheels, which are very common in the southern provinces, are made entirely of bamboo, are put together without a nail, and are from fifteen to forty feet in diameter. They come nearest to the Persian or bucket-wheel, but are materially different in the principle and construction. A wheel thirty feet in diameter will lift, in the course of twenty-four hours, near seventy thousand gallons of water.



XXXIV. Plan and section of a sluice, or floodgate, on the grand canal of China, and of an inclined plane between two canals of different levels. The canals of China have no locks, like those of Europe; and their flood-gates are totally different. These consist merely of a few planks let down separately one upon another, by grooves cut into the sides of the two stone abutments that project from each bank, leaving a space in the middle just wide enough to admit a passage for the largest of their vessels. As few parts of a Chinese canal are level, but have a current one way or the other, the use of these sluices, assisted by others cut through the sides of the banks, is to regulate the quantity of water in the canal. The glacis, or inclined plane, is had recourse to

only where the surface of the country is too uneven to admit of a continued canal. The vessels are forced up these planes by means of capstans fixed on each pier; and if one machine on each side be found insufficient, holes are ready made on the top of the pier for receiving others. By the assistance of a number of men, who obtain a livelihood by constantly attending at those places, vessels are made to pass from one canal to another with great expedition.

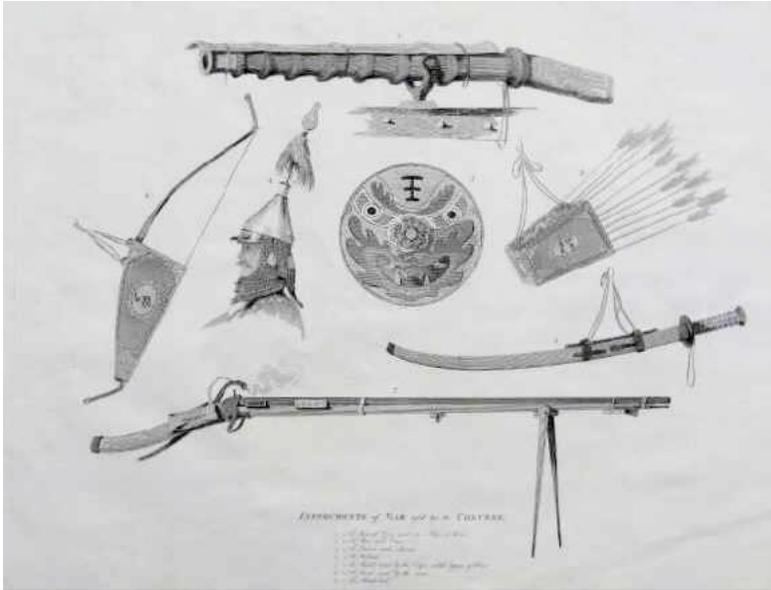
XIII. The fire-backed pheasant of Java, a new species thus described by Doctor Shaw. Black pheasant with a steel-blue gloss; the sides of the body rufous; the lower part of the back fiery-ferruginous; the tail rounded; the two middle feathers pale yellow-brown.



XXXVII. The Pelicanus Sinensis, or fishing cormorant of China, This bird appears to be a different species from any hitherto described by naturalists. Its specific character may be thus distinguished. Brown pelican, or cormorant, with white throat; the body whitish beneath, and spotted with brown; the tail rounded: the irides blue; the bill yellow.

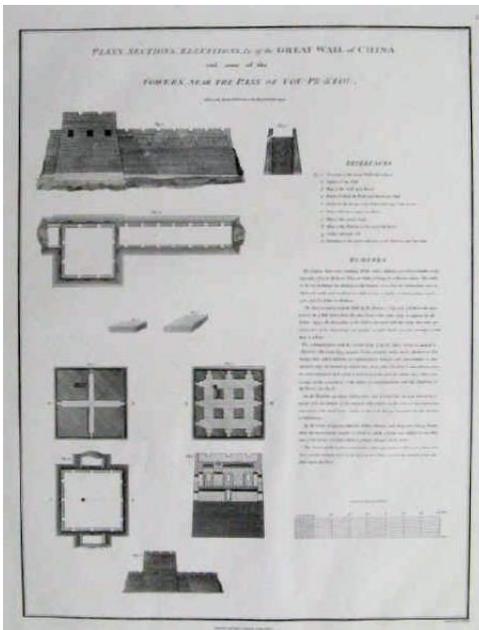


XII. A leaf of the cactus opuntia, or prickly pear, with the cochineal insects that feed upon it. The male and female of those insects in the different stages of their existence and growth; and a fly, found in numbers upon the same plant, and supposed to feed upon the cochineal insect; accurately delineated from nature, at Rio de Janeiro, in South America.

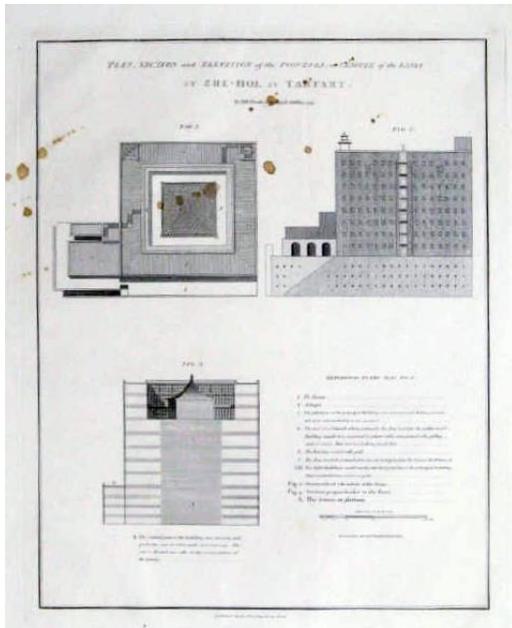


XIX. Instruments of war used by the Chinese.

These may serve as a specimen of a few amongst the many kinds in use among the military of China.



XXIII. Plans, sections, and elevations of the great wall of China, and of some of the towers near the pass of Cou-pe-koo. The wall appears to be generally of an uniform construction and dimensions throughout, but the towers differ in their plan and strength, according to their situation; those erected across a pass, or upon a river, so as to be easily approached by an enemy, are the highest and strongest. Some consist of one, and others of two stories, beside the platform on which the parapet stands and that part which is below the terrace of the wall, this being either of solid masonry or brick-work, or retaining walls only, with the intermediate space filled with earth.



XXVI. Plan, section, and elevation of Poo-ta-la, or great temple in which the lamas worship, near Zhe-hol, in Tartary. The roof of the middle part of this immense building is said to be covered with tiles of solid gold.

Compiled by Yawtsong Lee from materials on the WWW  
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