

resisted immediately after our arrival, & on being told the Porters were not in, I went into the dark room, where I found them & them around a ^{good} fire. The head-butler on seeing I was determined on a conversation with him, invited me into the parlour room, where I proceeded to him the existence of sin from his own heart, which by all his abstinence from flesh he could not stand against lust, & showed him the rest of a Saviour. I could but say he heard abstractively, though he often, but in vain tried to escape under various pretences of not having tea & tobacco for me. - A remarkable circumstance, well noticed & circumscribed by my travels is, that we have most favourable weather on the Landings, though the preceding & following days are usually rainy & windy & disagreeable. The last part of my long conference is. - It will be gratifying news to our friends to learn that one of my servants, who left Cochin in the first. While instructing yesterday my servant on the topic of sin, charity & fellowship, I again recommended to him what I have said since he had left us, & expressed at the same time concern about his state of mind now, absent from us. "He prays," they said, "he was sick, but prays to Jesus, & is now healed." No Plagues had much more precious our heavenly Redeemer may be to those of simple Cochinese faith, than in the midst of refined European Church.

18. Had again a governments message, to say, what their first letter had stated, namely that their people were well trained in China's medical & geographical knowledge, & that the people seem to shun to learn itself. It ruins again. - I remember a tale told in my native town of a clever, but eccentric Jew, who on occasion of some indigestion thought to cure himself by washing his back with some popular eye-water. To-day I witnessed something similar here. Four of my ladies who had overloaded their stomachs with a yubang (the evening meal) larger than usual, called in their abundant vedai-agany to fish them pretty sensibly in the back, which they ascertained was the best method of lowering the load of the stomach into the bowels. Provat.

19. For the first time to-day I felt serious grief on one of the servants leaving. It was our cook, who had a very bad cook, still was not far from the Kingdom of heaven, & kept the rest of the servants in a mind well disposed towards religion, being himself daily present at prayers & leading them by his own example. The attachment of the natives to their homes & families, seems, if possible, to surpass even that of the Chinese. After being a month or two with you they must return home. I am told the same is the case in Cochinese families. My Chinese interpreter, who desires of fully explaining the sense of a character expressing loneliness or grief of absence adds - "all the family like me, have no father mother here, had got only you, Mrs." Such hints give me occasion of looking deep into that ~~into~~ all-suspending stratagem of Chinese policy, by which the colossal empire is held together, each individual being from the very cradle superstitiously attached to his living & dead relatives. - I dismissed my cook with a sensible token of my satisfaction, & cannot but hope the returning home of similar servants of mine will help to spread the knowledge of the Gospel among the people.

20. We had a very disagreeable accident last night. I was bitten by a rat so severely in the ear, that I jumped out of bed frightened beyond measure. The night lamp had already been put out by the same guests, & before being able to make light, I could do nothing toward stopping the bleeding of the wound. Mrs. B. told me she also had experienced some pinching first on one finger, & after having changed the position of the hand, she was again pinched in another finger, so as to awake, & actually she discovered now the rounded marks of a tooth on that spot. We have however some hopes of seeing this plague diminished. I began to put about some hair steeped with arsenic; in consequence of which we found to-day two of our Japanese visitors stretched, one in a dying state, on the ground. This accident gave occasion to a fresh turn out of all food, & a careful stopping up of the many holes in the wooden ceiling of the side chapels.

The almanac was finally finished; but not without a great deal of labour, both mental & mechanical. I arranged it for the Jews, Chinese & Chinese. As soon as I have a moment to spare I shall arrange one for the natives, marking the Lentenness & chief Chinese festivals.

22. We were about to come to some brick & mortar population in Loos chow. The little oven we had obtained from ^{Rind} mess. Parker had already for some months past received injuries, which in Loos chow were ^{considerable} irreparable. Nothing is to be got, the Smith would not touch any thing but iron for any price. We had put on solder almost ~~at~~ ^{every} time we intended to use it, & it melted like wax. We had it necessarily stopped up with mortar & at last with potatoes which was the last expedient which soldier we could have. To avoid all trouble in baking bread became so essential for our children I projected a little structure, in which however an arch or two was indispensable. I need not say that I willingly undertook to be the architect, but whence were the materials to come? The Loos chow stone is so brittle that it could not resist the fire, no brick like ours, flat on all sides is to be seen, to have made one hand saw would have taken three months & caused considerable expense, nor would the bricklayers have been easily persuaded to produce a brick differing in form from what they had been accustomed to do. Unless were the connotations had a many the masters as to who should be the proper workman of this extraordinary novelty. The masters are not mechanics themselves, they only have a certain number of journey men under their inspection, & take care they should not run away. The stone mason however maintained his men could only lay stone upon stone, but put no mortar between, nor do any thing in brick, which both belonged to another branch of Loos chow architecture; the bricklayer would again have nothing to do with stones. Finally it was decided that two journey men of each clay should be put under my immediate surveillance, as I absolutely refused to pay the owners on account of their utter uselessness. So then the theory of the maker was settled, doubts being expressed on all sides as to the success of the arches, who could only be constructed of large stones, first hewn & measured, as is the bridges, but were never calculated to bear the effect of fire. - Stones were brought of several dimensions, which though not exacted were put to my account according to cubic measure, not even the smallest examples of stone excepted.

23. Had a day of incomparable grief. One of our servants, though the humblest, the yardman, turn home, which of course I granted, & more so having been told that one of our old servants, who belonged to our first prizing set of domestics would replace him. But who can conceive my deep felt pain when afterwards, the hour for prayer having arrived, all the remaining servants declared they would rather leave than come to this exercise. The morning state of my mind was, if possible, still increased by the lying pretence they found instead of speaking plain truth. Already since Cook's leaving I observed some unwillingness in one or two of them to come to prayer. The fresh work invariably had some business out every morning. The servant who had accompanied me on my journey to Yambourough, & in whom I could place some trust, had left before the cook, & the one who replaced him liked much rather after breakfast to digest sleeping than to join us in family devotion. I found also one of the toddlers twice in secret conversation with the servants, the intention of which was not hard to conceive, it having happened just before or after prayer & being suddenly interrupted on my approach. The work in fact have thing been

the intended ends of the Gospel instead of being encouraged or at least left unmolested. My only consolation is that the seed of the Christian hope was sown down without the enemy having poked his toes between, & furthermore we have the promise that they who sow in tears shall reap in joy. - I allowed the servants to leave rather than to give Satan a triumph in my own house. - We raised to my hands the epistole of the stone mason to put a little mud between stone & stone, which however finally was done, contrary to general practice only to lay stone upon stone, after having provisionally a little filled them together. Late towards evening two of our old servants came one of whom had been among those that prayed.

24. Today was almost every again spent as usual on the various markets of Napa, Tsumai & Tsumy. I returned somewhat later than usual from Tsumy & found to my surprise the Tsumaimarket by this time so busy, as not to obtain even the slightest degree of attention. The people went on buying & selling as though I had not been at all in the market. On the one side I congratulated myself, for something appears to have been done, when the prejudices of the natives against foreigners are beginning to give way. But on the other side I was vexed to lose my Sunday exhortation to the Tsumai people, though I have now for some time past preached another early address to a small market congregation before entering the Tsumai salt-ground, so that this spot did not remain altogether uncultivated even to-day. On the Napa market I was richly recompensated for the loss in Tsumai. I found a very good & lasting hearing, & was once in the course of my speech moved to tears, which ^{affected} the audience very much, so that all was over. I hope these will not be the last tears given me to shed for the people my earnest & sincere striving to do them good. This day was also peculiarly remarkable for the excellent hearing & congregation I had obtained on the Tsumai side, & for masses of children listening, seeing I address them separately. After the last service of the day I turned again into the way towards the temple, & was met by several successive detachments of Bodhis, who appear to have had some meeting. I stopped several of them & spoke to them in the name of the Lord. The last was a very aged one clad in silk & hung with various precious ribbons. After having told me he understood all my doctrine, he still listened, but not without impatience, & finally called me a mad man for having dared to say the rats in my house did eat their gods. I said, he may come himself & see it with his own eyes. They finally excused themselves from hearing any further by the claims of the stomach upon them, & became so loud as to stop any other business. - The youngsters among these Bodhis walked, holding a book before their breast, just as the Roman Catholic missionaries do with their breviaries. I opened the book of one & found it printed on towards the beginning & written towards the end, all in Chinese & the contracted native characters. They were dated in yellow, brown grey & green colors. I was told the brown colored denoted a high rank in the hierarchy of the gods. One of them was carried in a Raga, because of age. Most of them look decrepit & of a sickly yellow complexion.

25. Though yesterday both servants had come in for the usual Sunday instruction, still, this morning, to my great grief, both declared they could not attend to similar exercises. The ostensible reason was, that such things belonged to students & not to persons, who had from their earliest age been accustomed to the spade & plough. The people here are not ashamed at all to repeat now & then: we are stupid, very stupid, & therefore cannot learn any thing beyond the cultivation of potatoes & rice. All my reasonings & disputings with them proved vain, & I thought it well done to give in, or I should be obliged to do alone all the domestic work, which would take me off from my studies & public labours. We

must now like a wise seaman strike sail, even to the last stay-sail till the gale be over.
Succeeded to-day in raising the small arch required for the oven. It would have been comparatively
by an easy task had we had flat bricks & some frame to support the composing parts of the
arch till the key stone is set. In absence of all this I was obliged to let the columns of tiles be
supported, whilst building them somewhat convergently, till, when deemed sufficiently high, the hard
being removed, they sank upon each others bosom in the most modern architectural embrace.
No less originally was the back part of the vault raised, a ~~small arch~~ ^{quadrate} staying itself
on the preceding brick-work. I need not say that this first exemplar of European masonry
was duly gazed upon & admired by my toddlers.

27 the last two days were spent in building & almanac making; the weather being very unpropitiously
any such home occupation is quite welcome. I had rather hard work in composing hours & mi-
nutes when the 24th of the Chinese terms begin, i.e. when the sun apparently enters &
is in the midst of the twelve Zodiacal constellations. Not being told that the Chinese
here find the Peking calendar, unusuable because of his astronomical whims, thought
it be quite useful, & thought it may do some good to them, ^{my present} the same abilities.

31. It was rather a rainy day, still we came off dry-shod till after the Army service, then a
rather heavy shower overtook us. My early service would have met with a failure, had I
not insisted upon getting a hearing, suspecting that the indifference manifested by the peo-
ple, was a repetition of the last Tainai market failure. I went about, on the
market spot from stall to stall, till at last I got some audience. Visited to-
day the Tainai market before going to stay, found only few people, whom I addressed in two groups;
they were poorly attentive. The Army audience was, as always, distinguished by the quantity
& good behaviour of the audience. The Terra market being nearest the northern provinces,
it appears to be frequented by new comers, who listen from curiosity. Let it be so, without
standing & is preached to them. - The shower that drove us into a Shchin-hay, or governor's
mud on our way from Shing to Napa was perhaps providentially intended to bring
the gospel to the ear of a grey-headed peasant, a cord-maker & two youths with him, to whom
withstanding the impatience of my toddlers, I preached Christ under the lonely straw roof.
The Napa market was desolate on account of the rain, but I found an excellent congre-
gation on the Riverside the bridge, when I usually plant myself before the bridge so that
all who will pass must first pass through the audience, which few do, but ^{rather} stop & hear. I have also
observed that on this spot the inhabitants of the neighbouring houses, more respectably dressed, than
any I see elsewhere, come out to listen. I returned to my scanty meal about 4 o'clock
with wounded feet, the boots, which on account of the weather I was obliged to
put on, having taken vengeance for the long neglect they had experienced in the many sun-
my toddlers preceding. I hastened, soon shod with Lushoom gaiters, wooden slippers, to
my afternoon market, where I was greatly encouraged by a large audience & some
applauding faces.

I have heard this week a curious tale about the names of the twelve hours, judging
the Lushoom as well as the Chinese days consists. The adage must of course be com-
mon to China also. The day begins with midnight, which by the mandarins is called mi
(abbreviated from midzimi) denoting rat, which animal had been begotten by heaven &
earth, the parents of all things, at that time, & thus all the remaining eleven no-
menclatures are taken from the various animals begotten, or created, at such
or such a time of the day. The 2^d hour is called ooshi, ox; the 3^d tura, the
bear; the 4th oo (abbreviated from oosadji) hare; then comes tatri, dragon

ly by the Chinese & partly by the home government. Each tuzi has a piece of ground given him which is worked by the village-gangs, public servants, who also are their domestics, & what the ground thus produces is bestowed for the surplus of agricultural commodities it brings in proportion to the family's consumption, or brought for the surplus changed into cash. If the females can produce more silk materials than the family need this also adds to the pecuniary wealth & comfort of the family.

4. Had some scruple about the accuracy of the Almanac, though I had reckoned over & over each item. In strictness I was obliged to make the year consist of 354 Days, though I might easily have made the last moon consist of 30 Days & thus have obtained one day more. But I had no other reason for so doing than that the last Chinese term began 5 minutes after midnight & thus would already enter the 8th year of the present Emperor. Whether this was ground enough to lengthen the year or not I could not decide. I had also some doubts about the correctness of the arrangement of my moons, in respect to their being of 30 or 29 Days' length. The notion of their being better than moon & new moon exactly 29 Day 12 hours, 44^{1/2} is now demonstrated to be false, & from all the astronomical elements I possess I could not arrive at any certain calculation of the interval between one phase of the moon in one moon & the same phase again in the next. - I ~~therefore~~ ^{therefore} therefore the matter before God in prayer, & grace was given me to resolve not to send off the calendar to the authorities, from fear it may contain some inaccuracies, which might give them a handle afterwards to injure the reports of missionaries.

5. I thanked to - Day my God for the victory obtained yesterday over myself, & then was truly good reason for it. One of the tuzis brought to Day a Calendar for the next year, the 27th of Fan Kung, which though he maintained had been made in the country, it was clear from several considerations to have been a Chinese one, made in advance, as usual these astronomical observations are. The very 2d. row of characters in it says, it was made in Peking, but my informant was not to be beaten with such plain proofs that he was a liar. This is true, said he, because of the scholars of the country being all educated in China, in gratitude for a commemoration of which they inscribe their work, in the same way as the Peking calendar. This calendar showed actually 355 Days, & differed considerably ^{from mine} in the arrangement of the moons as to their being long or short, i.e. of 30 or 29 Days. In most of the astronomical notices both calendars agreed, but the slightest discrepancy was enough to make me abound with gratitude to almighty God for having enabled me to overcome the strong papism I had conceived of imitating the old catholic missionaries in China who obtained influence at court by their astronomical abilities. This my labour is not thrown away in vain. I worked not very easily the calendar over making one year the leader, only joining to the Days I wished them particularly to notice as the Sunday & other festivals, the corresponding Chinese Day. This with at once instruct & please them & offend no prejudice nor grieve the spirit of the literati.

In the course of our usual lesson to family worship we read the evening "and every one that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or kindred" on which I told Mrs. P. though it may often fall hard upon us to be lonely here, yet we may encourage ourselves by the liberal application of words like these to our state. we have forsaken houses, relatives & kindred, our country, & followed a providential call. I thought the text would well suit a missionary's sermon. The expression "kindred" however, I apprehend does from the original mean only "fields" & all countries.

6. One of our toddlers, whom we usually term "the old gentleman", was to-day again so pliable as to help me out in translating some religious point. Accustomed to the sly ways of all who surround us, I expected, as also really was the case, that he would some favour of me, to which he ^{thought it necessary to} ~~follow~~ ^{follow} the way by unusual yielding. He wanted medicine, drink, & conso, I would have gladly served him with, without any proface on his part. I ascribed it also to this his policy that he again told me of the portrait, which we are to receive from the King, & on my moving some doubts as to the very existence of a man, who is invisible, he proved his being really in life, by ~~deduct~~ death of a child of his, which had taken place not long after Mr. Townsend's, (the first French missionary's, arrival here, & which had also been reported to him, as to all officials of the country. Mr. T. had also put on the white grey Day, denoting mourning in the country. The officials, & all others, lay off on similar occasions their silver & gold or hair ornaments.

7. ~~Had~~ ^{Had} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Lord~~ ^{Lord} ~~himself~~ ^{himself} ~~though~~ ^{though} we suffered severely from rain & cold, while on our way from preceding station to station, yet I could do the work of the Lord when arrived at the selected spot, the rain, rather than Kingly, subsiding, a circumstance very attentively noticed by our chief Todai. He said, my Sunday business must be a very dry one, as it stops the rain. This Lordship, I say, not to say, I could not even go to sleep, wind & rain forbidding, & gust of wind broke my umbrella, while on the salt plain before Fumei, & very deep in mud. The markets like wise were comparatively deserted, ^{in addition} ~~in addition~~ which I was also somewhat house. I still attempted in the forenoon on two or in the afternoon on one place to address the people, but was soon stopped by the falling rain. Well, the Lord will make it good some other time.

10. Had these days again opportunities of translating, which were readily embraced to the translation of part of the 1st chapter of Luke. All similar attempts, I hope, will be of great service when Japan is opened, besides their immediate local advantages. Bring out the Chinese calendar, shewed by a frame, before the door, which I hope may gain some attention.

11. Toward morning Mrs. D. said she smelled some smoke in the room, which however, being no solitary case, I ascribed as usual to the fire in the kitchen, wondering however that our lazy servants, whom I must daily wake, should to-day spontaneously & early too have risen from their ~~stagnant~~ ^{stagnant} bed. The crackling of the wood having become somewhat more audible than ordinary I went out to see what was the matter. It can describe my amazement & anxiety when arrived in the kitchen & found nearly one side in ablaze, the flames winding their way round the rafters, & part of the flooring already consumed, altogether with the making. No man was to be found or answered to my calls. I had presence of mind enough to lose no time in vain exclamations, but ceased a large earthen tub & ran to the kamis (large water vessels) & poured one after another into the flames, & some also upwards, though it completely drenched me. Now the Todai arrived, all pale as death (the servants had waked them) but none of either were able to articulate a word or to move a limb from fright. They ran fondly to the bells & gave fire alarm, which I however immediately forbade, seeing we could well master the fire, provided we worked. It was a fortunate circumstance that the rains had well provided our kamis with water, & one more fortunate that I had had made a ladder long ago, providing against any emergency of his sort. This was soon brought into the kitchen & seeing that I voted by and by the fright-stiffened limbs of my spectators were loosened & they began to assist me. Thus, through grace, we were enabled to sub the fire entirely under

Although I had ordered the doors to be kept locked, in order not to be over-run by useless looters on a few-
haps thieves, still some arrived among whom were the firemen, carpenters armed with a kind of
large wooden spoon, or say, a small, flat tub fastened to a stick, this instrument natu-
rally was intended to bring the water to bear upon elevated localities of the building, but
they were all glad to be relieved & spared all trouble, on my telling them "chia neng"
here is no harm. A while after the smouldering fire showed itself again, but before I could
hind it some had climbed upon the roof & broken it through, intending to pour water down.
I rebuked them at the folly of their measure in thus creating a free current of wind. They
soon understood the hint & went down, but in Losch they should have overlooked so essential
a rule in mastering similar misfortunes. Hereafter, they said, it had always been held by
Loschoon firemen, that the roof is the first thing to be opened, in order to pour water down
on. How then should we reach up to the roof. "My ladders" said I, pointing at mine.
They were never used on similar occasions. When all was over the Fookies threatened
the servant with criminal prosecution on account of his negligence, for the fire can
have risen from nothing else but their pipes. As however I was the principal of not
only liberator from the danger threatening the temple & goods, I peremptorily forbade
this measure. Now the Fookies began to breathe. The one said "I am born to-
day, I was dead from fright, & would have suffered death (here he made very significant
carving round about his neck) if any damage had been done to the temple, your goods
by or good, (addressing me) so strictly it is our duty to watch your goods." Another
said "I did not feel cold," meaning he was so frightened as not feel cold of the
wind, which takes very much with a Loschoon." They all ascribed the temple's
& his own good luck to my intrepidity, which, they said, surpassed that of
a Chinaman, his modelman. I smiled & looked at my interpreter,
who was ~~standing~~ ^{moving up & down} ~~along~~ the passage ~~although~~ attempting in vain to get breath
to ~~ask~~ ^{inquire} whether he really be unharmed. I regaled the party with some brandy
to warm them up to flowing speech, for I am very anxious to learn easily to un-
derstand the natives when they talk rapidly among themselves. — During the day
the Kapa government sent to inquire after our health, & whether the danger had not
frustrated us too much. I thanked him, telling him we have a god who watches
over us always, & are accustomed to face events of a serious nature.

Begin to dig to prepare the small back room, formerly a dark cell, but
now become my favorite & study. The rain beating on the paper like wood
sheets that compose the room, the accompanying wind & small windows made me
easily some device by which warmth & light should be increased, & as we had a
mass of present more paper than any thing else (all blank paper) I thought
of having this little room papered, & curing the paste with some poison, it may
also serve as a repellent ~~for~~ the rats.

12. To-day, though the weather was very unfavorable the presents arrived from the King, the Puching-
tafu & Kapa governments. The number was not what I expected to have, but we obtained
king robe, or at least considerable as to quantity. neither of these was the case. The pre-
sents were much poorer than the former ones we had obtained. However as we did not expect any
thing in this way from the authorities, we were glad to take the presents as a proof of some
regard they desire to manifest towards us, & truly after what admiral Cochrane has done
here to depreciate our mission, it is to be wondered at that the authorities take notice of us

at all. Of course I take well care never to be in debt with the authorities, but rather before hand in similar crises, so that they ^{have never} consider themselves too far in our debt, which actually they acknowledge & even add they were unable to repay, pleading poverty to be utmost. In these countries a missionary must at any sacrifice try to obtain from government at least a show of regard, & if possible an acknowledgement of superiority, be it in whatever thing, as long as it is lawful & right. It is then only the missionary may consider himself safe, humanly speaking, from open opposition. The messenger was charged to request me not to bring the authorities any further under obligation, the country being poor, they find it hard to repay my presents. Though I understood well his excuse, in the hypothetical philosophy of Japanese countries meant quite the contrary, I did as though sympathizing government on account of its poverty, & then told the messenger: As Englishmen in former times have received considerable favours from this country I have always to consider myself their debtor; besides, they knew well, I am not come to be ministered unto, but to minister to the Coshoonans. Whatever is in my power to benefit both their souls & bodies. The messenger was then well rewarded & dismissed in style, i.e. accompanied ceremoniously to the outer threshold.

This evening we were again alarmed by our boy vomiting excessively, a suspicion springing up in my mind he may have got hold of the remains of paper, used in covering my room, & which were laid on by means of a poisoned paste. I gave him ipecacuanha. Comaeopati calls, after which he was quite freed from the accident.

13. The Coshoonans workmen, I have seen yesterday & to-day, can work fast enough when they like. All the kitchen repairs, which in consequence of the fire, added to the dilapidated state of the side house were rather considerable, have been brought to a close to-day, though I threw into the bargain many other little jobs, among which was also the overlying of part of my study with the already shrouded to wood-paper, to exclude the rats as well as the unsightliness of the bare roof. This job required rather earnest & repeated exertion of his hands before it was done.

14. Lentily. The weather did again not permit of my visiting them, & I was obliged to content myself by addressing the people only on the local markets. They were all thronged to excess, this being the day preceding the Chinese New year. On two occasions I could scarcely keep my position from the many people & horses passing, all carrying articles of consumption for the great feast. And what is this day? The anniversary of a man having assumed the sins of despotism over China. How greatly does such a reflexion cause the missionary's heart to compassion over the people of his charge. Stone & wood, beasts and men are worshipped & revered & feared, & the God of heaven & earth is not known among them. I spoke warmly on several localities, heard abusive by his words, but what can all human things avail in establishing the King Dom of the only as long as the power of God is not abroad among the people? In countries like here when a public execution brings disgrace upon the whole family, & is therefore considered much more shameful or perhaps in any other country, to establish the point of a saviour crucified like a malefactor, cannot be the work of man. You may bring it home to reason but never to the heart, trained to be disgusted on hearing of a similar scene. It was this time I endeavored to-day to bring seriously before the people, because it was just this & which my todays lately expressed contempt & unbelief.

15. We could easily perceive this morning that some great day is celebrated in Coosoo, our food
is having been found from the very daybreak & drunk "at the kind hour of the day," or even earlier.
I was sorry to observe that my ^{two} China men kept their company in this debauchery, though pro-
tending that he did not like it & kept our new year, only that he could not refuse the invitation.
Very early in the day he was obliged to retire & pass the feast in bed. He usually is quite averse
to liquors, so that the slightest excess will lay him up. Our Coosooan friend on per-
fectly at home in these bacchanalian gymnastics, & drink on such occasions not from
the humble cups, but other earthenware tumblers, in shape & size very near our own wine
glasses. I knew not better to stay the nuisance than by seating myself in their room
& calling stiches the babies, which ^{caused} ~~passed~~ them a very salutary diversion. I also prevented
him contracting any indigestion by calling often the dogs, whom they fed liberally from
his overfull plates. Thus I endeavored to mitigate them I could not abrogate an evil.

Though assured by the body of trades that there were no illuminations & processions in the
night like those in China on similar occasions I still went out in the evening to
see what was going on in the streets, but all was quiet, & the weather dreary.

17. Went about. Almost every house is adorned with some red slips of paper having some
Chinese inscription. Among the rest one said: 幸福如東海, Fu Hsu Tung Hai, Happiness like
the East Sea, or Pacific, this being known as the largest ocean. Some have in addition an orange
or piece of coal hung on a strawcord across the door, which in some places is found alone,
if namely the master of the house is unable to write. My Trades were not able to tell me
what was the signification of these strange amulets, & were content to base his costume
on the usage of China, the once for all to be followed lawgiver in every thing.

In our evening service we endeavored to practice during the Lent some such abstinence
as may subdue the flesh & cause us better to obey all just motions to righteousness & to
bein' it ⁱⁿ this day, Adventuery. It is ever to be lamented that the Protestant Churches have
only retained the public services of these days, without enforcing some healthful abstinence
in the families. None can deny that fasting has abundant scriptural ground.

19. The extraordinary fleecing to which we are subject on having need of some Chinese
or Japanese articles, as sugar, white wood paper (we pay a catty of coarse brown paper
about 14 pence English money, ^{for} somewhat white, ^{though} ~~white~~ blocking paper, 3 cash, & for red one 14 cash
per sheet) brought me upon the idea of trying to obviate the nuisance at least with risk
if possible to produce from the native sugar, which we pay about 8 pence per catty, a coarse
moscovado, like the China sugar sold to us. But I have little hope of success. The time
of the country, though bought from stones & shells gathered on the shore, doth still not possess
the qualities of quicklime. Its scum rises on adding it to a slow boiling solution
of the native sugar. I was no more successful on adding bull's blood & even
some potash. It would appear the sugar did not contain any acid or fat but a
great quantity of coloring stuff & lignum. I shall try to pass it through charcoal
to see whether this would effect some advantageous change in the colour at least. It
would prove a great advantage to the country if something could be done in the way
of refining. It is to be regretted that I did not begin the trial with the juice of
sulf, at present the sugar harvest is ^{scarcely} ~~scarcely~~ & the squeaking of the press will heard any
more. Still the case cannot be worse than that of moscovado refined in England, unless
we suppose that the juice being boiled, as here is the case, in iron caldrons instead of in cop-
per pans as in the Indies, it contracts a more intense black colour from the iron itself.
20. We had to-day the 2^d trial of a batch in our madaloon, & the success was complete. Our
Trades quite enjoy our boavers. I will be they will appear in his richest & best