

CHAPTER V.

VOYAGE TO THE PHILIPPINES—ARRIVAL AT MANILLA—APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN—A VARIED POPULATION—THEIR COSTUMES—TOBACCO-MANUFACTORY—THE PRICE OF TOBACCO—A PIÑA SHOP—INDOLENCE OF THE MESTIZOES—INDUSTRY OF THE CHINESE POPULATION—CHINESE EMIGRATION: ITS ADVANTAGES—THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES—MILITARY MASS—A TRIP TO CAVITÈ—A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION—EXCURSION TO THE LAGO DE BAI—LOS BANOS—THE ROMANCE OF LA GIRONIÈRE—THE ISLAND OF SOCOLME—A STORMY VOYAGE—THE TRADE OF MANILLA.

It will easily be believed that the mode of existence described in the last Chapter, was one calculated to give one a very keen relish for anything like a change, more especially when that change involved all the excitement of novelty and sight-seeing incidental to a visit to a new country. It was therefore with no little satisfaction that, on the 10th of November, I availed myself of permission to accompany Captain Sherard Osborn to Manilla in H.M.S. Furious,—a ship with which I was destined afterwards to become better acquainted, and in which he was then kind enough to offer me a passage. Mr Wingrove Cooke, with whose graphic descriptions of the events which at this period transpired in China the public are familiar,

was my fellow-passenger on this occasion. After a pleasant run of three days, we sighted the high land of the island of Luzon, and coasted along its wooded shores, indented with deep bays, at the head of which small country towns were situated, and from which the country craft issued that carry on a brisk coasting trade with Manilla.

The Bay of Manilla is so capacious as to partake more of the character of an inland sea than of a harbour. It was nearly midnight when we made its narrow entrance, and three hours more ere we reached our anchorage. We were up early to take our first look of Manilla ; but the view of the town from the sea presents nothing very imposing. A long row of red-tiled roofs, with here and there the dome of a church, appears over the walls of the fort, situated in the angle formed by the embouchure of the river Pasig, and separated from the sea by a strip of green esplanade. Two substantially-built moles or "murallons" confine the waters of the river for some distance after they have reached the sea ; at the end of one is a lighthouse, and of the other a guardhouse. We pull across the bar, between walls of granite, and wend our way amongst the miscellaneous assemblage of shipping that crowds the river,—Spanish feluccas and Malay proas, English merchantmen hauled up to refit, and gunboats with long sweeps, and pontines, and galeras, and caraçosas, and every description of country craft and uncouth rig, and, by way of contrast, two small screw-steamers,

which ply across the harbour to Cavità, of which the Spaniards are particularly proud, and to one of which they have given the significant name of the "Progresso." Small river-boats, full of vegetables or passengers, cut in and out; groups of women are collected on the steps bathing; and customhouse guards lounge upon the river brink, but they have a proper respect for a British man-of-war's gig, and allow us to reach our landing-place unchallenged, and carry our portmanteaus to the hotel, without manifesting the slightest curiosity to know whether they contain the two articles which are perhaps most commonly to be found in every traveller's luggage, but which are most strictly prohibited from being landed at Manilla, to wit, Bibles and revolvers.

In ascending the river, the fortified town, containing the garrison and residences of the officials, is on the right-hand side; on the other is a densely populated suburb, in which the shops, hotels, and foreigners' houses are situated. This is intersected by sundry canals running at right angles to the river, crowded with boats, and on the banks of one of these stood the hotel to which we were destined. It was patronised by what Americans would call "a mixed crowd," chiefly captains of merchantmen from every quarter of the globe, but whose polyglot conversation did not at all perplex our bustling hostess, as she spoke, during breakfast, English, French, Spanish, Malay, and Hindostanee, all with such perfect fluency that her own nationality remained a mystery.

In obedience to the first and most natural impulse of a visitor to Manilla, we lost no time in making our way to the principal cheroot-manufactory ; and as we drove through the streets there was plenty to engage our attention. Their whole aspect, as well as that of the population with which they are crowded, differs entirely from that of any other town I had ever visited in the East. The houses are two-storied, the upper half forming the dwelling-house and the lower the shop. Round the upper story runs a covered balcony, the sides and fronts composed of shutters divided into minute squares, which are filled with mother-of-pearl shells, the transparency of the nacre serving the purpose of glass. Beneath this balcony blue and white calico screens project, and fall beyond the side pavement in such a manner as to form a covered way for the passengers, sufficient not only to protect them from the sun, but to conceal them from the view of anybody in the centre of the street. These screens are put up in accordance with a municipal regulation, and, when they are new, and the colours are fresh, give a gay appearance to the streets.

A mixed multitude throng these shady side-walks. Chinese and English, pure Spaniards and mestizoes, Malays and Tagala Indians, here jostle one another, and present every possible shade of colour which could result from a combination of all these races in various proportions. The variety of costume is similarly graduated, its composition depending upon the com-

position of the wearer, and differing only in degree as it descends from the European to the Indian. The coloured men are for the most part compelled by law to wear their shirts outside their trousers. These latter are often made of coloured silk, while the shirt is composed of a transparent fabric called *husè*, for which Manilla is celebrated, woven from the fibre of



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the banana (*musa textilis*), upon which gay patterns are generally worked. The women wear jackets of this material, which cover but do not conceal their figure to the waist, round which the *saya* or petticoat is bound. The colouring is always bright, and over it is sometimes worn, out of doors, a sort of wrapper,

reaching from the waist to the knee, called a *sapiz*, and consisting of dark blue silk or cotton cloth. This is, however, more particularly an article of dress appertaining to the Chinese half-breeds, as distinct from the Spanish. The slippers are an impossible-looking *chaussure*, the toes only being covered with cloth, gaily embroidered in gold and silver, but so scanty in quantity that it does not cover the little toe, which, projecting at the side, acts as a sort of movable clasp to keep on the slipper. For the proper performance of this function it must require a special education ; and these slippers are consequently by no means a useful article of dress to present to any one out of Manilla. To all this gay colouring is contrasted the sober costume of the priests, whose numbers and bearing are significant of the extent of that ecclesiastical influence which is dominant in the Philippines.

The tobacco-manufactory is situated in a square, and, as we entered the archway, our ears were saluted with a din worthy of a Manchester cotton-mill. We go up-stairs under the guidance of a cicerone told off to us, and walk through endless rooms full of women. The process of cigar-making, as practised here, is simple, monotonous, and noisy. On each side of a passage or aisle, leading down the centre of the long rooms, are tables raised about a foot from the ground, round each of which are squatted twelve or fourteen women, who keep up an incessant chattering, hammering, and giggling. Each woman is provided with

a mallet, with which she beats out the leaf, preparatory to rolling within it a small handful of the broken tobacco, which she takes from a heap piled along the whole length of the table. Her fingers and mallet seem to move as mechanically as her tongue ; but the combination of noises is deafening, and we are content to ask very few questions on the spot, and to get our information afterwards.

I was surprised at the proportion of Havannah-shaped cigars which were being manufactured. Formerly these were entirely reserved for local consumption. The present Governor has, however, allowed them to come into competition in the markets of the world with the Havannahs ; and, whatever may be their success in that respect, they at all events bid fair to drive the old cheroot shape out of the market. The best tobacco is reserved for them, and more care is taken in their manufacture. They are in consequence very highly priced,—the No. 1, Imperiales, a gigantic cigar, being thirty dollars a thousand ; while the No. 2, Cortado, an ordinary-sized cheroot, is only eight. The Imperiales contain no broken tobacco, but consist simply of one leaf rolled into a cigar. As tobacco is a Government monopoly, the prices are all fixed arbitrarily, and everybody runs the same risk in making purchases. There is only one quality of each size, whether Havannah or Manilla shaped ; but the larger sizes may be said, as a rule, to be composed of the best descrip-

tion of tobacco. A certain amount of tobacco is served out to each table, out of which a given quantity of cigars are to be made. By these means a uniform size in the cigar is secured, and a check upon the consumption of tobacco imposed. Each woman is paid according to the quantity of cigars she makes ; their earnings vary from six to ten dollars a-month. There is a popular fallacy very common in England, that cheroots contain opium. The value of the latter drug is quite a sufficient proof that they would not pay at their present price were that the case. I could scarcely credit, until I saw the returns, the fact that the consumption of tobacco in the Philippines themselves is about five times as great as the entire amount exported to foreign markets. The whole population, of both sexes and all ages, certainly appear to be constantly emitting clouds of tobacco smoke, but their numbers scarcely seem to warrant this proportion of the entire consumption.

One of the most beautiful fabrics of Manilla, and for which it is justly celebrated, is the Piña cloth, woven from the fibre of the pine-apple. It is only used in the dress of the wealthy, being too costly for common use. Our curiosity on the subject of tobacco satisfied, we next proceeded in search of some good specimens of Piña manufacture, to the house of an old lady celebrated for her varied assortment of this fabric. To my surprise, we were ushered through an imposing gateway into the courtyard of a no less imposing mansion. A handsome carriage, decorated with

armorial bearings, was standing here, the property of the lady of the house. Ascending the massive staircase, we were shown into a well-furnished drawing-room, ornamented with pictures, flower-stands of Bohemian glass, mirrors, and other articles of taste or vertu. The presiding goddess of so much finery stood in the centre of it all, smoking a giant cigar, and looking like a retired old sick-nurse, with nothing on but a jacket of more than usually transparent texture, a dirty petticoat, and her bare feet thrust into faded slippers. I could scarcely persuade myself that so untidy an old female was the proprietress of the handsome carriage, and of the expensive-looking establishment to which it belonged. Her daughter, a young lady of some attractions, was sitting, similarly attired, in the next room, embroidering Piña pocket-handkerchiefs.

The Piña is more curious than useful to people who are in the habit of wearing something thicker than gauze ; and accordingly a small outlay was sufficient to satisfy our wants, if not those of the old lady, who hospitably plied us with cigars while she spread before us articles of every variety and value. An elaborately embroidered Piña dress is often priced at £300 and upwards.

Shopping at Manilla is an unsatisfactory pursuit. The principal streets are the Escolta and Rosario ; but all the best shops are kept by Chinamen, who fairly beat the mestizoes out of the field as traders. The superior industry, intelligence, and economical

habits of the pure Chinaman give him an immense advantage over the mestizo. The former despises feast days, and cares little for personal comfort ; he lives in the little shop which contains his stock in trade, and keeps his eyes open. The mestizo spends half his existence in a gala dress, does not condescend to live in his shop, and has no business habits when he is there. In the middle of the day he is generally asleep, and is excessively disgusted at being roused to serve a customer. It is not at all an uncommon thing to see a man coiled up snoring in one corner of his shop, and a mestizo girl stretched luxuriously at full length upon the counter, her beautiful black hair thrown back from her face, falling in wavy massive folds to the ground, and her bosom heaving so softly and regularly with the long-drawn breath of a profound slumber, that, rather than do violence to his æsthetic nature by disturbing sleeping beauty, the purchaser moves gently on to the next shop, and finds a grinning Chinaman, with his eyes so destitute of lids that he looks as if he could not wink, much less sleep, but which sparkle with intelligence and cupidity; who is imbued with the firm determination, if he does not possess in his shop the article which you do want, to force you to buy from him something you do not.

Manilla, like Singapore, owes a great part of its prosperity to the Chinese portion of the population ; and, in our management of this race in our own possessions, it might not be unprofitable to investigate

the expediency of some of those measures which other nations, inferior to us in the art of colonisation as a rule, have found it necessary to employ. All the Chinese arriving at Manilla are registered and taxed according to their occupations. They are divided into four classes—merchants, shopkeepers, artisans, and day-labourers. The entire Chinese population has been estimated as high as 30,000, but, according to a Spanish author, writing in 1842, “the number actually enrolled does not exceed 6000, and their capitation-tax is above 100,000 dollars a-year, while that of all the native inhabitants, exceeding 3,000,000, does not equal eight times that amount.” This taxation is manifestly excessive, and no good object could be obtained by drawing any distinction in our own possessions between the Chinese and the British subject; but the election of a capitan by themselves, whose office it is to collect the tribute, and arrange all internal differences, and who is to a certain extent responsible for the good conduct of his countrymen, is an excellent arrangement. At the same time that the capitan is elected, his lieutenant and head-constable are also chosen by the Chinese. Were we to establish a good system of responsible government among our Chinese populations, and employ a sufficient staff of interpreters, we should be relieved from apprehension on their account, and they, from the dread of the consequences with which we are apt to visit them under the influence of that apprehension.

In all other respects, there is no comparison between the advantages held out to emigrants from the Celestial Empire by our possessions—with the exception of Australia—and those of other countries. Not only are they exempt from a poll-tax, but the rate of wage is higher than either in the Philippines or Java ; while the freedom from commercial restrictions, and the bustling activity of an energetic Anglo-Saxon community, are congenial to that spirit of mercantile enterprise which assimilates the Chinese to ourselves, and impels them instinctively to migrate to those localities best adapted to its development. This is most satisfactorily proved by the actual proportion which the Chinese bear to the whole population of different European settlements, and which Mr Crawford computes as follows : “In Java, the Chinese form the one-hundredth part, and in the Philippines about the four-hundredth part, of the population. In the British possessions collectively, the Chinese constitute about one-third of the inhabitants, and in Singapore two-thirds.”

It would be a wise policy in us to encourage, to a greater extent than we do, Chinese emigration to other settlements besides those to which they have already found their way. Not only should we be able to retain Labuan, as a colony from which we could exercise an important influence over Borneo, teeming with valuable productions, but we could make the little island itself profitable by the introduction of Chinese labour for the development of its mineral

resources. It is not, however, merely in the settlements of the Malay archipelago to which Chinese emigration might be directed and encouraged by Government with great advantage, but to many tropical colonies in other parts of the world, such as British Guiana, where there is an enormous capacity of production, coupled with an utter inadequacy of means. We must be careful of judging of the results of Chinese immigration by the experiences of California, Australia, or any other colony where peculiar conditions, resulting from gold discoveries, exist, and where the climate admits of competition by whites. It is as undesirable that such a competition should be established in those countries adapted for European out-of-door labour, as that others should be deprived of the benefits of any such labour at all, because the climate is fatal to the white man.

As we proposed a short trip into the interior, for which passports were necessary, we went to Government House to obtain them, and at the same time to pay a visit to the Captain-General. Two bridges, one of which is suspension, and the other a respectable structure of ten arches, span the Pasig, and connect the suburb with the fortified town. This suburb, or rather extramural city, contains a population of nearly 200,000 souls ; the walled city contains about 10,000 people, almost entirely pure white, and consists of eight narrow streets running at right angles to one another, aristocratic and dull, and a square or plaza. In this the Governor's residence is situated, and from the

windows at the back a magnificent view of the harbour is obtained. The present Governor is the most popular and enlightened man that has filled the office since Don Pascual Enrile, celebrated for having opened internal communication, and removed those restrictions on colonial shipping with which, with their usual infatuated policy, the Spanish Government retarded the prosperity of one of its most valuable possessions. The advanced views of his predecessor have in many instances been improved upon, and carried out by the present Governor, who was peculiarly fitted for his post by the opportunities which were afforded him, during the years he spent in political exile at Manilla, of making himself acquainted with the wants of the colony, at a time when he little thought he would ever be called on to govern it. It is fair to him to say, that it does not follow that, because a man has been a *deportado* to Manilla, he should have been guilty of any act of treason against the existing Government. It is simply the result of an electioneering "dodge," not unlike some that have been recently practised in Kansas. The Government, when it appeals to the country, begins by exiling a large number of the *probable* hostile voters,—an effectual mode of counteracting the effects of the ballot, which might be suggested for adoption by ourselves should that measure ever be introduced.

The Captain-General had himself visited Calcutta, and was deeply interested in the intelligence which we gave him of the progress and prospects of the

mutiny. In the evening we took a drive on the Calzada or public promenade. Unfortunately it was too late for us to see as much as we wished of the fair or coloured occupants of the numerous carriages, which form two long lines throughout the whole length of the drive, and which are kept upon their proper sides by mounted policemen stationed at intervals along the road, as solemn and pompous, if not so gorgeous, as the sentries at the Horse-Guards.

At Manilla, as in other Roman Catholic countries, the gayest day next to a feast-day is Sunday. It so happened that the Sunday we were there was also a saint's day,—all the church-going taking place in the morning, and the dancing in the evening. The former begins almost with the day; and the ceremony of a military mass which we attended, involved an effort of early rising. The cathedral was undergoing repairs, and the churches we entered were none of them remarkable specimens of ecclesiastical architecture or ornament. The one in which military mass was held was poorly attended. When we first went in, a few pretty female figures, with dark complexions, lustrous eyes, and graceful mantillas falling over their shoulders, dotted about in kneeling attitudes, and old men mumbling in corners and crossing themselves, composed the whole congregation. Then the clang of martial music outside was followed by the entry of two or three regiments, the men uncovered, with their shakoes swinging between their shoulders. Six soldiers with drawn swords occupied the altar plat-

form, and, as the priests entered, these presented arms, and the band opened the proceedings with a very pretty waltz. Indeed, the whole service, from beginning to end, was musical, the officiating priest, a very black man, confining himself to pantomime, and the band varying time according to his gestures. When he elevated the host, they went down on their knees, and played an air very much resembling a polka, crossing themselves with great rapidity in time to the music. Then came tunes which the uninitiated might have supposed were galops and quadrilles. The whole performance was entirely devoid of any sacred character, and only lasted about half an hour. The soldiers were a handsome, well set-up body of men, in a neat white uniform, and red facings turned up with black. The officers have nearly all come out from Spain, as the service is a favourite one, and well paid. The Spanish army in the Philippines is maintained at about 12,000 strong. The last time they were employed on active service was in 1851, when a force of 4000 men were sent to chastise the Sooloo Rajah : this they accomplished satisfactorily, with a loss of about 100 men. A contingent of 3000 men has recently been engaged, in alliance with the French forces in Cochin-China, in an unsuccessful attempt to reduce the king of that country to submission.

: We were rendered independent of any of the steamers which, decked with flags, were carrying crowds of gaily-dressed pleasure-seekers to the festa

at Cavità, as the Kestrel (Lieut. Rason),* which had put into Manilla for repairs, carried us comfortably across the harbour in two hours. At Cavità are situated the Government docks ; and the Spanish Commodore came off to inspect the marvellous little craft which had just weathered the dangers of a passage round the Cape, and the minute dimensions of which struck him with astonishment. His residence was in the dock, through which we walked on our way to the town. It is small, and of no great pretensions to strength. Cavità contains about 15,000 inhabitants ; and, as evening closed in, the main street presented a gay and brilliant aspect. The houses, although two-storied, were small and insignificant ; but countless lights twinkled in every window, and drapery of gorgeous colours hung from the balconies, and, leaning over them, signoritas smoking cigarettes, laughingly contemplated the crowd below, as it surged to and fro in anxious anticipation of the grand *spectacle*.

A general explosion of rockets, and the martial strains of a military band, announced the start of the procession. Then came the usual struggle for places and loss of pocket-handkerchiefs ; and, through a lane in the crowd, passed, first the band, then a gentleman in black with a white tie, who looked like a master of ceremonies, and superintended the distribution of tapers to such of the crowd as were disposed to form part of the procession. These amateur taper-bearers

* This gallant young officer was killed at the recent attack upon the Peiho Forts.

formed two rows, and between them, in double file, toddled, rather than walked, a number of miniature nuns and monks in full religious costume, the oldest of whom might have attained the age of five or six. The shaved crowns and sandalled feet of the tiny monks, as they led by the hand with great dignity and solemnity their still smaller sisters, produced a very grotesque effect, which was heightened, if possible, by the miscellaneous costume of a crowd of children that followed, in the most extravagant fancy dresses. Then came the Virgin, carried by men screened by drapery, on a wooden stage, a perfect mass of tinsel and wax-lights, followed by priests, while two or three regiments, with fixed bayonets, brought up the rear. As soon as this display is over, the revels of the night fairly begin. The taper-bearers, having escorted the Virgin home, plunge wildly into the delights of fandangoes and cachuchas; every house is open to the stranger, if he likes to take part in the amusement of the evening, and in almost every one gambling and dancing are carried on until the morning of the following day, which, not being dedicated to any saint, is dedicated to a rest from the fatigues of the debauchery committed on the one that is.

As we had determined to start the same night for the interior, we were not tempted to prolong our stay at Cavité. Indeed, having in the most orthodox way gone through the whole services of the day, we thought we might dispense with the sermon; and at midnight, instead of dancing fandangoes, we were snugly en-

sconced at the bottom of a canoe upon the river Pasig, lulled to sleep by the measured stroke of our boatmen's paddles, as they forced the little craft rapidly up stream. We were accompanied on our expedition by Mr and Mrs G——, to whose hospitality we were indebted during our stay at Manilla. Daylight found us in the Lago de Bai, under the lee of the island of Talim. Its high volcanic hills were wooded to the summit, and indented with charming little bays, fringed with drooping bamboos. The lake is somewhat in the shape of a horse's hoof,—a peninsula, at the end of which is the island of Talim, forming the frog. From here we stretched across to the southern shore, the high and precipitous mountains of which looked comparatively near, but to the westward the waters of the lake formed the horizon. The Lago de Bai is the largest sheet of fresh water as yet discovered in the Eastern archipelago, being twenty-eight miles in length by twenty-two in breadth.

Our destination, which we reached in time for a late breakfast, is celebrated for some thermal springs, which, bubbling out of the ground, almost at the water's edge, enable the weary traveller to refresh himself with a warm bath, though, as the temperature is sufficiently high to boil an egg in four minutes, he had better not make rash experiments. In consequence of these springs, which at one time enjoyed some celebrity, the village is called Los Baños. It consists only of a few Indian huts, in one of which elevated on piles, and surrounded by a crowd of ad-

miring natives, we restored exhausted nature preparatory to a trip to the island of Socolme. Fortunately I had not seen the narrative of that amusing, but most audacious romancer, La Gironière, or our appetites might have been spoiled by the anticipation of the dangers to be encountered. His evidently was. The Indians had told him that the small lake in this island was infested with alligators, from whom—so great was their voracity—“escape in a canoe by rowing quickly was impossible.” “There was much good sense,” says La Gironière, “in what they said; but we were never deterred by dangers or difficulties,” &c. So he and his friend, Mr Lindsay, venture on the hazardous experiment of going in a canoe on a lake where there are reported to be alligators. “We had not proceeded many yards from the bank, when we all experienced feelings of alarm, attributable, no doubt, to the expectation of danger being immediate, as well as the aspect of the place which presented itself to our view.” Then comes a terrific charge of alligators—“the grand drama announced by the Indians is about to be realised,” &c.,—“when Lindsay, *running all risks*, fires his gun direct at the brute;” and so on, in a strain the accuracy of which may be judged of from the fact, that he estimates the lake of Socolme as having an elevation of 1500 feet above the Lago de Bai, when fifteen feet is really the outside; and says, that it “does not receive the rays of the sun, except when that luminary is at its zenith;” whereas, the banks in many parts being not above

twenty feet high, and in only one place about 200, the lake moreover being at least two miles round, it rejoices to a very equitable extent in the blessed rays of that "luminary." We trust, for the sake of La Gironière's credit as a sportsman, that he displayed as much courage with his rifle as he certainly has with his pen.

We paddled round the margin of the lake enchanted with its loveliness, sheltering ourselves from the noon-day sun under the luxuriant vegetation which clothes its banks and droops into the water. Thousands of flying foxes had chosen for their retreat these leafy shades; their unsightly bodies were concealed by their expansive wings, as, clinging by their feet, they hung in dark festoons from the projecting branches. Disturbed by our approach, they flapped away over the lake, but we soon awoke its silent echoes with the reports of our guns, and two or three of these monstrous bats tumbled heavily into the water. If the alligators existed at all, they evidently had not recovered from the panic which must have been created by La Gironière's visit. Not one ventured to show the tip of his nose above the water.

We were loth to leave this fairy-like scene, and looking back upon it as we dragged our canoes over the narrow strip of land, were reminded rather of a diamond set in emeralds, than of the crater of an extinct volcano. As it was, the attractions of the island of Socolme had induced us to linger too long, for it was late ere we started

on our return voyage ; and a gale of wind had sprung up, in the mean time, of such violence, that, to our dismay, the boatmen at first refused to venture on the traject. An attempt which we insisted on their making was not encouraging; our slight canoe was no sooner exposed to the full force of the wind and waves than she took in a sea which half filled and very nearly upset her, so that we were compelled ignominiously to put back to a little bay, where a government felucca was lying, with the padrone of which we hoped to come to terms. Unfortunately, though susceptible to the influence of dollars, his men were absent; so, as the lady of our party was undaunted by our former experience, we determined to effect some improvements upon our own little craft, and tempt the waves in her once more. First we took off the roof, which shut down on her sides so closely as to give her the ominous appearance of a gigantic coffin, and rendered it extremely probable that she would serve us in that capacity in the event of an upset. Then we added to and strengthened our outriggers, reefed our sail to its smallest dimensions, and once more pushed out into the lake. Throughout the twelve hours of a night that seemed interminable, we battled with the waves ; drenched to the skin, and seated in the water at the bottom of the boat, we chiefly employed ourselves baling, the hats of the boatmen rendering good service. Daylight found us hungry and rheumatic, gliding down the rapid current of the Pasig; but our condition

rapidly improved under the genial influence of the morning sun ; and an hour after our return to civilisation, we were so well satisfied with the adventures of our trip that we forgot its discomforts.

The little that we saw of the interior of Luzon only made us regret the more that our limited time did not admit of a more extended trip. The island affords magnificent scenery to the traveller in search of the picturesque, while its varied productions offer a wide and interesting field for observation. Government, however, is chary of gratifying the curiosity of foreigners in this respect ; and the districts of Cayan and Gupan, celebrated for their extensive growth of tobacco, are not to be visited without some difficulty. Sugar-cane is largely cultivated. The sugar, however, is only manufactured in small quantities at a time by the country people, in a very primitive manner. It is remarkable that, in the absence of steam, it should form one of the largest articles of export. The markets to which it is almost exclusively sent are England and Australia. The United States, on the other hand, seem to monopolise the trade in hemp. The late Russian War had the effect of largely raising the value of this article in Manilla. Unmanufactured hemp is burdened with an export duty from which Manilla rope is free. In the Philippines, as in all other colonies of continental European powers, the development of the magnificent resources of the country is cramped by the perpetuation of a system based on principles of political economy exploded among

ourselves, and which we must hope cannot long resist the pressure of the enlightened views and commercial progress of other countries.

Meantime our gunboats have repaired the damages they have sustained during their long and hazardous voyage from England, and are again ready for sea ; so we regretfully bid farewell to Manilla, and once more shape our course for the Celestial Empire, where events are in progress which will render our arrival there with one of these useful little craft in tow doubly acceptable.