

ment of an embassy, be afterwards prosecuted to effect by slow degrees, for that much might be obtained from them by time and management, but nothing suddenly."

MISCELLANIES.

SPANISH RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE, VIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR EASTERN POSSESSIONS. We were wrong in our last number, in saying that Spanish ships are excluded from the port of Canton; such is not the case. The Spanish flag, as well as those of all other European nations except Russia and Portugal, is allowed to enter the *tiger's mouth*, or the Bogue. In fact, not one of all the nations of Europe, enjoys so great privileges in China as the Spanish; having liberty with the Portuguese to trade at Macao, and access also to the ports of Canton and Amoy. But while they have enjoyed these advantages on the one hand, the Chinese on the other, have been treated by them with more rudeness and severity, than any other people. And why are the Spaniards allowed advantages which are denied to other nations? And why suffered to maltreat and oppress as they do, the subjects of the celestial empire? "*It have old custom,*" is the answer usually given by the Chinese to the first question. In reply to the second, it may be remarked, that the paternal kindness of the Chinese, so often applauded by themselves, never extends beyond the boundaries of their own empire; "those who go away from their country, are in the highest degree infilial, and deserve the severest chastisement." This government seems to be wholly indifferent to the welfare of those of its subjects who go abroad to other countries.

That the Chinese authorities are not entirely ignorant of the situation of their countrymen at Manila, we infer from the well-attested fact, that the system which they have long been endeavoring to impose upon foreigners here, has been borrowed from the Spanish government. We are informed on the very best authority, that Pwan-ke-qua, the father of a late well-known senior hong merchant, and grandfather of him who now bears the same name, having had occasion to visit Manila, saw there the harsh treatment inflicted on the Chinese in order to keep them in subjection, and marked it as a 'model and motive' to be acted on, after his return to Canton. He was a man possessed of considerable influence in regard to all measures concerning foreigners; and the restrictions on their privileges, which he caused to be introduced, have been gradually becoming more severe, since the middle of the last century.

But notwithstanding the privileges of the Spaniards in this country, they actually carry on a less amount of trade with the Chi-

nese, than most of the other nations which frequent these shores. In addition to their other advantages, their possessions in the east give them facilities for commercial intercourse with the Chinese, far better than are enjoyed by any of the other nations of Europe. To be thoroughly convinced of this fact, we need only look for a moment at 'the kingdom of the Philippines,' which is the property of the crown of Spain: A small volume entitled "*Remarks on the Philippines, and on their capital Manila,*" published in India in 1828, will supply us with much information relative to our present subject.

"Of the numerous groups of islands which constitute the maritime division of Asia, the Philippines, in situation, riches, fertility and salubrity, are equal or superior to any. Nature has here revealed in all that poets or painters have thought or dreamed of the unbounded luxuriance of Asiatic scenery. The lofty chains of mountains, the rich and extensive slopes which form their bases, the ever varying change of forest and savannah, of rivers and lakes, the yet blazing volcanoes in the midst of forests, coeval perhaps with their first eruption—all stamp her work with the mighty emblems of her creative and destroying powers. Java alone can compete with them in fertility; but in riches, extent, situation and political importance, it is far inferior." Their position is strikingly advantageous. "With India and the Malay archipelago on the west and south, the islands of the Pacific and the rising empires of the New World on the east, the vast market of China at their doors, their insular position and numerous rivers affording a facility of communication and defense on every part of them, an active and industrious population, climates of almost all varieties, a soil so fertile in vegetable and mineral productions as almost to exceed credibility; the Philippine islands alone, in the hands of an industrious and commercial nation, and with a free and enlightened government, would have become a mighty empire: they are a waste!"

By a census taken in 1817-18, their population amounted to 2,236,000 souls. Only a few hundreds of these are Europeans; the remainder are Negroes, Malays, Mestizos, and Creoles. "The negroes are in all probability, the original inhabitants of these islands;" they are small in stature, woolly headed and thick lipped; they subsist entirely on the chase, or on fruits, roots, herbs, or fish; they are often nearly or quite naked, and live in huts. Sometimes however, they form villages in the deep vallies, and sow a little maize or rice.

The Malays, or Indians as they are called by the Spaniards, appear to have emigrated to this country at different times, and from different parts of Borneo and the Celebes. Those of the provinces are all "a proud-spirited race of men; and such material, with proper culture, would form the foundation of all that is great and excellent in human nature; "but for three hundred years they have been ground to the earth with oppression; they have been crushed by tyranny; their spirit has been tortured by abuse and contempt, and brutalized by ignorance." It is not

here meant to accuse the Spanish laws; many of them are excellent, but these are rarely enforced, or if they are, delay vitiates their effect. That this country, the most favored perhaps under heaven by nature, should have remained till the present day almost a forest, is a circumstance which has generally excited surprise in those who are acquainted with it, and has generally been accounted for by attributing it to the *laziness* of the Spaniards and Indians; but this is a superficial view of the subject; the true reason why so little improvement has been made by the inhabitants of the Philippines is, "because there is no security for property." Does an unfortunate Indian scrape together a few dollars to buy a buffalo, in which consists his whole riches? Woe to him if it is known; and if his house is in a lonely situation, he is infallibly robbed. Does he complain, and is the robber caught? In a short time he is let loose again, to take vengeance on his accuser, and renew his depredations. Hundreds of families are yearly ruined in this way.

The imperfect mode of trial, both in civil and criminal cases, lays them open to a thousand frauds. While the civil power is thus "shamefully corrupt or negligent of its duties, the church has not forgotten that she too has claims on the Indian. She has marked out, exclusive of Sundays, above forty days in the year, on which no labor must be performed throughout the islands. Exclusive of these are numerous local feasts in honor of the patron saints of towns and churches." These feasts are invariably, after the procession is over, scenes of gambling, drinking, and debauchery of every description. Thus they unsettle and disturb the course of their labors by calling off their attention from their domestic cares; and by continually offering occasions of dissipation, destroy what little spirit of economy or foresight may exist among so rude and ignorant a people. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, the writer of the "Remarks" before us in summing up the character of the Indian, says, "He is brave, tolerably faithful, extremely sensible to kind treatment, and feelingly alive to injustice and contempt, proud of ancestry, which some of them carry to a remote epoch; fond of dress and show, hunting, riding, and other field exercises; but prone to gambling and dissipation. He is active, industrious, and remarkably ingenious. He possesses an acute ear, and a good taste for music and painting, but little inclination for abstruse studies. He has from nature excellent talents, but these are useless for want of instruction. The little he has received, has rendered him fanatical in religious opinions; and long contempt and hopeless misery have mingled with his character a degree of apathy, which nothing but an entire change of system and long perseverance will efface from it."

Under the name of mestizos are included by the author of the book, not only the "descendants of Spaniards by Indian women and their progeny, but also those of Chinese, who are in general whiter than either parent, and carefully distinguish themselves from the Indians. The mestizos are, as their names denote, a

mixed class, and, with the creoles of the country, like those of all colonies, when uncorrected by an European education, inherit the vices of both progenitors, with but few of the virtues of either. Their character has but few marked traits; the principal ones are their vanity, industry, and trading ingenuity: as to the rest, money is their god; to obtain it they take all shapes, promise and betray, submit to every thing, trample and are trampled on; all is alike to them, if they get money; and this, when obtained, they dissipate in lawsuits, firing cannon, fireworks, illuminations, processions on feast days and rejoicings, in gifts to the churches, or in gambling. This anomaly of action is the business of their lives. Too proud to consider themselves as Indians, and not sufficiently pure in blood to be acknowledged as Spaniards, they affect the manners of the last, with the dress of the first, and despising, are despised by both." Such are the three great classes of men which may be considered as natives of the Philippine islands. The creole Spaniards, or those whose blood is but little mingled with Indian ancestry, pass as Spaniards. Many of them are respectable merchants, and men of large property, while others are sunk in all the vices of the Indians and mestizos.

The government of the islands is composed of a governor, who has the title of captain general; a lieutenant governor; and the supreme court, which is also the council, and is composed of three judges and two attorney generals. The financial affairs are under the direction of an *intendant*, who may be called a financial governor. Commercial affairs are decided by the *consulado* or chamber of commerce, composed of all the principal, and in Manila, some of the inferior merchants. The civic administration is confined to the *ayuntamiento*, which is composed of two alcaldes, twelve regidores or aldermen, and a syndic; these enjoy very extensive privileges, approaching those of houses of assembly. The civil power and police are lodged in the hands of a corregidor and two alcaldes; to the corregidor are subject the Indian captains and officers of towns, who are annually elected by the natives. The provinces, twenty-nine in number, are governed by alcaldes, "the determined enemies and the real oppressors" of the Indians.

The ecclesiastical administration is composed of an archbishop (of Manila), who has three suffragans, two on Luzon and one on Zebu. The revenue of the archbishop is 4000, and that of the bishops, 3000 dollars annually. The regular Spanish clergy of all orders are about 250; the Indian clergy are in number from 800 to 1000.

Until very lately, these rich islands have been a constant burden to the crown of Spain, money having been annually sent from Mexico to supply their expenses. The establishment of the monopoly of tobacco has principally contributed to supply this deficiency: "the sales of this article amount more or less to \$1,000,000 per annum." Another of these monopolies is that of *cocoa wine*, a weak kind of spirit produced from the juice of the toddy tree, *Borassus gomutus*.

and from the nipa, *Cocus nypa*; of this large quantities are used by the natives, the net revenue to government varying from 2 to 300,000. The poll-tax, with some variations and exceptions, is \$1 $\frac{3}{4}$ for every married Indian, from the age of 24 to 60; the mestizos pay \$3, and Chinese \$6 each. The customs produce from 1 to 300,000 dollars per annum. The remaining part of the revenue is derived from minor sources, such as cards, powder, stamps, &c. The government maintains a tolerably efficient military and marine establishment.

The agriculture is but in its infancy. The soil is in general a rich red mould, easily worked and very productive. Frequent rains, and numerous streams and rivers, add to its extraordinary fertility. The country is seldom afflicted with droughts, but is at times devastated by locusts. The buffaloes are used in all field labor; and the horse which is very small, but hardy, is only employed for riding. Rice and cane grow plentifully; "the indigo plant is very fine;" coffee and cotton are cultivated but only to a very limited extent. Timber is excellent and plentiful. Their forests are not infested with those ferocious animals which are the terror of the other Asiatic countries. Serpents, however, attain an enormous size; the largest are those of the *Boa* genus. The supply of minerals is "inexhaustable."

The merchant of Manila, according to Comyn, who wrote in 1809, is "entirely different from the merchant of other parts of the world; he has no extensive correspondence, no books, or intricate accounts; his operations are confined to a shipment of bales to Acapulco, and to receiving the silver in return; and in forty years, only one or two instances have occurred wherein bankrupts have been able to produce a correct set of books to the chamber of commerce." But says our author, "they are now much improved, and though not excessively enterprising, are better acquainted with the true principles of commerce." We need not detain the reader here with any account of the funds employed in their trade, or of that deep rooted jealousy which the Spaniards of the Philippines long cherished towards all that is not their own. Since 1800, however, foreigners have been gradually admitted, and they have supplied the wants of the country by introducing European articles, and carrying off surplus produce, when a sufficient quantity could be procured to employ their capital. The whole number of vessels which entered the port of Manila in 1827 was eighty-three; of these, 34 were "*nacionales*," and 49 "*extrangeros*;" and of these latter, nine were from the ports of China, north of Canton. In 1818, the number of foreign vessels was fifty-two: articles brought in these ships were cambrics, woollens, silks, printed cottons, wines, spirits, birds' nests, tortoise shell, wax, teas, dollars, &c.—An active coasting trade is carried on by the natives among the islands, though they suffer dreadfully from pirates.

"A most serious drawback," among other hindrances to the commercial prosperity of the Philippines, "has been the negligence

or ignorance, or both, which have prevented the establishment of bonded warehouses, or a system of drawback duties on re-exportations. A glance at their position, and the consideration of the monsoons, will convince any one, that this was of all things that for which ample provision should have been made; and it would be no exaggeration to say, that this commerce would in a few years have increased tenfold with China alone, had this plan been adopted. The enormous duties and vexatious spirit of the Chinese government, together with what must often be the case, the fleeing combinations of the hong merchants, would long ago have driven away every vessel from their ports, could *another* have been found near enough to insure a supply of goods, which from the enterprising spirit of the Chinese, could not have failed. *Manila is this port.* * * * It would be foreign to the object of a cursory sketch, like the present, to enter further into the details of the subject. Enough has been said to bear out an assertion, which those who are acquainted with the trade will not think exaggerated, that had this system been fairly and equitably established, one half of the trade to China, would before this, have centered at Manila; and it is only at Manila that the advantages of such a transit could have been unknown or neglected in the nineteenth century."

We have followed our author much further in detail than we at first intended; and we have done this solely in consideration of the interest and importance of the facts which he narrates, and which, generally, are fully corroborated by a manuscript account written in 1830. If in a single instance we have deviated at all from the truth, it has been unintentional; we owe the Spaniards nothing but good-will; and we deeply regret that they have turned to so bad account the privileges which they have enjoyed, and contributed, as they certainly have done, to raise and strengthen the barrier which has separated China from the rest of the nations. The Philippines were discovered by Europeans early in the 16th century, and received their present name in 1543. They were shortly after visited by the Chinese; whom the Spaniards have always, from that to the present time, regarded with jealousy and treated with hostility; sometimes interrupting their commerce or expelling them from their territories, and sometimes slaughtering them in great numbers.

Note. Since the above was in type, a friend has informed us, that he thinks the warehouse system, which our author recommends, has been established.

Free Trade with the Chinese.

A VARIETY of documents have lately been received from Europe relative to the affairs of India and China; the latter of course are the most interesting to this community, as they contain the policy proposed to be pursued in regard to our trade with this place, which is the broad principle of *free commerce*.