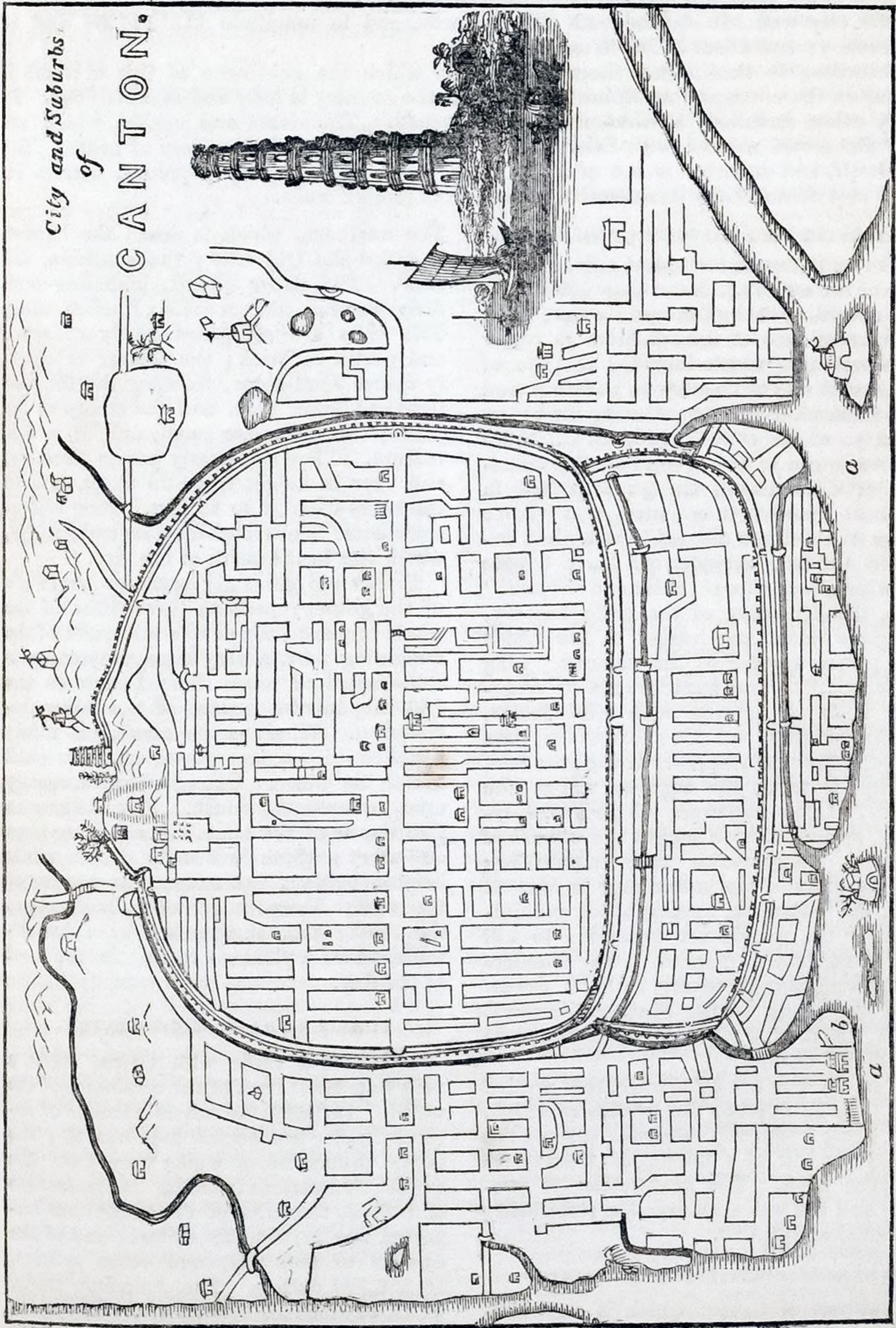


# Missionary Sketches,

FOR THE USE OF THE WEEKLY AND MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS  
TO THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.



b Site of the Foreign Factories.

CANTON.

a a The Choo-Keang or Pearl River.



## CANTON.

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This city, (usually designated by Chinese “Kwang-tung Sang-ching;” the capital of the province of Kwang-tung,) is built on the north bank of the Choo-keang, or Pearl River, about sixty miles from “the great sea.” The foreign factories, where the business of the merchants of Europe is transacted, (as represented in the outline of the city in the preceding page,) are situated at a short distance from the south-west corner of the city walls, in latitude  $23^{\circ} 7' 10''$  North, and in longitude  $113^{\circ} 14' 30''$  East of Greenwich; and about  $3^{\circ} 30''$  West of Peking.

According to the Chinese Repository, from which the substance of this account is taken, on the north and north-east of the city, the country is hilly and mountainous. In every other direction, a wide prospect is opened. The rivers and canals, which are very numerous, abound with fish, and are covered with a great variety of boats. The city itself, and suburbs, is not of great extent; and, though very populous, derives its chief importance from its extensive domestic and foreign trade.

### ANTIQUITY AND HISTORY OF THE CITY.

Canton is one of the oldest cities in this part of the empire. More than 4000 years ago, according to the Chinese classics, Yaou commanded one of his ministers to repair to Nan-keau, which included the site of the present city of Canton, to govern it and the surrounding country. During the Shang dynasty, which ended 1123, B. C., these regions began to pay tribute to the emperors of China; and, though improved in the next dynasty, it is stated, that “some of the tribes of the district, which then included Canton, brought for their tribute *crabs* and *frogs*, others *snakes* and *crickets*.”

In the beginning of the tenth century, the government was vested in the hands of a person created by the emperor “king of Canton.” The punishments of criminals, such as fighting with wild beasts, *roasting*, *boiling*, and other barbarities, were so cruel, that the emperor, in the year 964, declared it to be his duty to rescue the people. Other emperors of the same dynasty, appear to have sought the welfare of Canton. Dispensaries were established; but the state of the people may be learned from the following, among other prohibitions; “the people are forbidden to kill men to sacrifice to demons.” The founders of the succeeding dynasty, in 1279, devastated the whole of the southern country. “The blood of the people slain flowed in sounding torrents.”

This city was one of the last that yielded to the Tartar family; the armies of which, after being frequently repulsed, entered the city by the aid of a traitorous Prefect, in the year 1650. The destruction of property and life was amazing; the slain being estimated at 700,000.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CANTON.

That part of Canton which is surrounded by a wall is built nearly in the form of a square, and is divided by another wall, running from east to west, into two parts.

The northern, which is much the largest, is called the Old City; the southern, the New. The entire circuit, including both divisions, does not exceed six English miles. The walls are composed partly of stone and partly of brick; the former is chiefly coarse sand-stone, forming the foundation and lower part, and the arches of the gates; the latter are small, and of a soft texture. They rise nearly perpendicularly, and vary in height from 25 to 40, and in thickness from 20 to 25 feet. Fine wholesome water is provided from several springs, which rise in the north of the city.

Bricks are generally used for the walls of the houses; perhaps three-fifths of the whole city are built of this material; of the remaining part, a very large proportion is constructed of mud. The Tartars in the Old City inhabit houses of the latter description. Windows are small, and rarely supplied with glass; paper, mica, or shell taking its place. Chinese houses usually open towards the south. Few of those in Canton, or of the temples, have more than one story; which is usually of the whole height, without concealing the beams of the roof. Terraces are often built above the roofs; and, surrounded by a breast-work, afford a pleasant retreat in the cool of the day.

### FOREIGN TRADE WITH CANTON.

The British trade with China, forms a very important item of the commerce of the world. In 1832, the whole number of arrivals, under the British flag, was 87; the larger proportion of which were from the British Possessions in India. In the seasons of 1832-3, the value of the goods thus imported was 22,304,753 dollars; and of the exports of tea, silk, and other articles, 18,332,760 dollars. The American trade, which commenced shortly after the revolutionary war, is to rather more than one-third of this amount.

The foreign factories are neat and com-



modious buildings. The limited plot of ground on which they stand is owned, as well as most of the factories, by the Hong Merchants. Each factory is divided into three, four, or more houses. They are built either of brick or granite, and present a substantial front; and with the foreign flags, Dutch, British, Swedish, American, French, and Danish, which wave over them, form a striking contrast with the national banner and architecture of the celestial empire.

#### AMOUNT OF POPULATION.

No inconsiderable part of the population of Canton, live in boats. There are officers who regulate and control this part of the inhabitants. Every boat is registered, and it appears that the whole number on the river adjacent to the city, is 84,000. A very large majority are not more than 12 or 15 feet long, six broad, and so low, that a person can scarcely stand up in them. Whole families live in these boats; and in coops lashed on the outside, they often rear large broods of ducks and chickens, to supply the markets.

Respecting the population, there has been considerable diversity of opinion. 1,236,000 has been given as the probable number of inhabitants in Canton. This number may be far from the truth; but no one passing through its streets, will think of its being much less than 1,000,000.

#### RECENT CALAMITOUS VISITATIONS.

The inundations of 1833, by their frequent recurrence, and unparalleled height, have produced the most distressing consequences. Boats plied for several days through almost every street in the city and suburbs of Canton. The force of the current was so violent, that many native houses were thrown down, and the city gates could not be closed for several nights. In the country above Canton, which has suffered the most, embankments of stone and earth were broken down, and large portions of rice fields carried away. Most of the neighbouring country was rendered altogether unproductive for the remainder of the year; and the mulberry trees every where received extensive injury. On the 5th and 6th of September, the tide was at the highest; being 7 feet high, at the eastern gates of the city. All business with the shipping was entirely stopped. The water did not return to its ordinary level till the 16th of the same month. Industrious families became public beggars; and many an individual was left in one day, fatherless, childless, houseless, and destitute.

Referring to this fearful visitation, Dr. Morrison observes, in a letter, dated 14th October, 1833: "Awful calamities have this year befallen Canton Province from

water; inundations of rivers, and windy storms, with incessant rain. Many thousands have been drowned, or crushed to death by falling houses, or have starved and perished in consequence of being without shelter and without food. Afa's house, among the rest, was washed away. Indeed, throughout the whole of China, in the north by drought and scarcity, and in the south by rain and inundation, in some places by sword and spear, and in the Imperial Harrem, by the death of the Empress, there has been a dread and a gloom diffused over the land. I sincerely pray that the afflictions of China may bring her to repentance."

#### FIRST PROTESTANT MISSION TO CHINA.

The attention of the Directors of the London Missionary Society, was, at an early period of its history, directed to China. The late Dr. Morrison, whose loss the Christian Church has so recently been called to deplore, and whose bereaved widow and fatherless children, with the exception of his elder son, are now in this country, was honoured to be the first apostle of pure and undefiled religion, among this people. The Jesuits, with all their zeal, aided by the support of the highest ecclesiastical authorities of Europe, and the friendship of the Emperor of China himself, did not accomplish what Dr. Morrison and his devoted fellow Missionary Dr. Milne, effected, in giving to the nations of China the entire volume of Divine Revelation. Dr. Morrison left England in January, 1807; and sailing by way of America, reached Canton in September following. On his arrival at Canton, he devoted himself to the study of the language with intense application. Regarded with suspicion by the natives, he confined himself to his room, and for some time did not venture from his house. In February, 1809, he received an appointment in the Honourable Company's Factory; which he held, so long as the Company's Factory continued, with advantage to his country, and credit to himself, yet without neglecting the great objects of his mission. He endeavoured, at an early period, to communicate religious instruction in the Chinese language; and continued these efforts on the sabbath, except under unavoidable interruptions, as long as his life was spared; though he could not preach to multitudes, he was permitted to address a few individuals in an inner apartment.

After he had been three years in China, Dr. Morrison attempted the printing of part of the Scriptures,—the Acts of the Apostles; and produced several smaller works, of a catechetical and devotional kind. These were all subservient to his great work, the translation of the Scriptures.



In 1813 the Rev. Dr. Milne joined Dr. Morrison in the Mission; and, in the following year, the New Testament was finished, revised, and, by the liberal aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society, an edition of 2000 copies printed, beside several thousands of tracts and catechisms.

BAPTISM OF THE FIRST CONVERT.

In 1812, Tsae-a-ko, a Chinese, was privately baptised by Dr. Morrison. He maintained until his death, which occurred four years afterwards, a holy and consistent life.

A life of Christ, by Dr. Milne, was printed at Canton in 1815. In 1816, Dr. Morrison visited Peking, in the suit of Lord Amherst, whom he accompanied as interpreter. During his absence his Chinese and English dialogues were printed by a gentleman connected with the British factory. In 1817, Dr. Milne visited China; and the season spent with his beloved companions was employed in consultation respecting their future labours, and in arranging the translation of the Old Testament, a part of which was executed by Dr. Milne. Dr. Morrison published his view of China for philological purposes, designed to assist in the study of the language: and in the succeeding year, completed a translation of the morning and evening prayers of the Church of England, together with the Psalter. In 1819, he published *Miscellaneous Essays on religious subjects*.

COMPLETION OF THE BIBLE AND CHINESE DICTIONARY.

On the 23rd of November, 1819, the translation of the whole of the Scriptures was completed. During the season of his residence at Macao, in 1820, he delivered a regular course of theological instruction to a few natives. In the early part of 1822, Dr. Morrison brought to a close his English and Chinese dictionary, the most valuable aid to the study of the language which has ever been given to European scholars.

Between the years 1824 and 1826, Dr. Morrison visited his native country, and on the first Sabbath after his return to China, in September of the latter year, he resumed his accustomed labours. He has since prepared and published several valuable Chinese works. Leang-afa has continued to labour in Canton and the adjacent country. Besides being the instrument of spiritual good to his countrymen by conversation, he has continued the preparation of suitable books against idolatry; which, Dr. Morrison states, are executed in a way which no European could equal. By the arrival of two

American Missionaries early in this year, Dr. Morrison was partly relieved from his English labours on the Sabbath.

RETROSPECT OF THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE MISSION IN CHINA.

Under date of September 4th, in the year 1832, Dr. Morrison thus writes:—“Twenty-five years have this day elapsed since the first Protestant Missionary arrived in China—alone, amid strangers. He has continued to the present time, and can rejoice in what God has wrought. The difficulties of the language have been overcome. Dictionaries, grammars, and vocabularies have been printed; and it is not likely that Chinese will ever again be abandoned. The Holy Scriptures, prayer books, and tracts have been published; and the Society's Chinese presses at Malacca and Java have sent forth millions of pages. At the college at the former place, scores of Chinese youths have received a Christian education. There are native Christians who preach the gospel, and go from house to house. Amid many deaths and disasters, the work has gathered strength from year to year. Missionary voyages have been performed, and the Chinese sought out at various places, to the very walls of Peking. Some tracts have reached and have been read by the Emperor himself.”

During 1833, Dr. Morrison, though much indisposed, continued his service in Chinese twice, and in English once, on the Lord's day; and in his latest accounts he mentions the continuance of the patient and persevering labours of his native assistants, another of whom was then engaged in printing.

Such is the outline of the labours of that devoted servant of Christ, who has long been as the morning star in the moral horizon of China; and such are some of the results of his influence and efforts, which, by the divine blessing, he was favoured to witness before his departure, which took place on the 1st of August, 1834.

The Directors would intreat the prayers of the Christian church for the son of their departed friend, and for the preservation, steadfastness, and continued success of the small but devoted band of native Christians, each of whom, to the number of about ten, is more or less employed in the dispensation of the gospel; and also, that suitable agents may be raised up by the Great Head of the church, to carry forward wisely and efficiently that work which their departed brother was honoured to commence.

*Each person who subscribes to the Missionary Society One Penny per week, or more, is entitled to one of the Quarterly Sketches. Application to be made to the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Missionary Society, or Association of the district or neighbourhood, who are requested to transmit their orders, with the name of the conveyance by which they are to be forwarded, to Rev. John Arundel, Home-Secretary, Mission-house, Austin Friars, London.*