

马礼逊译《大英国人事略说》探究

李 晓杰

[内容提要] 刊布于 1832 年的《大英国人事略说》，是首位来华新教传教士马礼逊（Robert Morrison）翻译的东印度公司广州办事处大班马治平（Charles Marjoribanks）的介绍英国概况的作品。有关该书的基本情况，虽然已有学者论及，但其中有些说法不够准确，仍然存在一些问题。本文主要从版本、内容、中英文本的对勘、流布等方面对这部书重新做了审视，希冀能够完善已有的相关介绍与研究。

[关键词] 《大英国人事略说》 马礼逊 新教传教士

在十九世纪早期来华的新教传教士出版的中文书籍中，介绍英国情况的《大英国人事略说》，虽然篇幅不长，但在当时所起的作用却非同寻常。然而，对于该书仔细论及的著述还不多见¹，且在已有提及的论著中，仍或多或少存在一些欠缺，因此，笔者不揣谫陋，在下面主要针对《大英国人事略说》这部书本身及其涉及到的相关问题，做较为详细的探究，以期对该书有更为深入与全面的了解。

一 《大英国人事略说》版本及内容概述

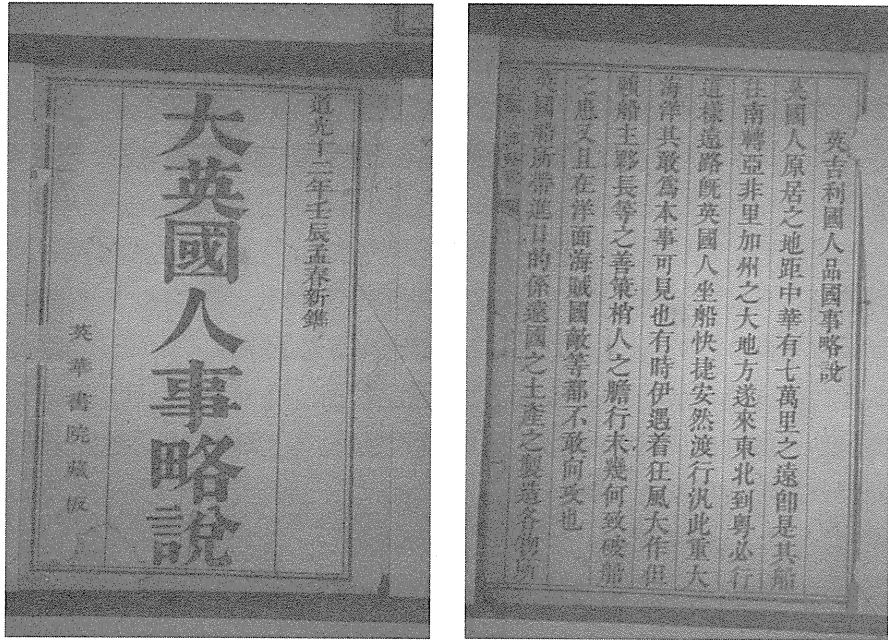
《大英国人事略说》²，木刻线装一册，凡六叶，半叶八行，每行二十字，共计约二千字。封面分成三栏，中间大字书名，右上标：“道光十二年壬辰孟春新鐫”，左下刻“英华书院藏板”。其中标注的“道光十二年”为 1832 年³；“英华书院”则是由英国传教士马礼逊于 1818 年在六甲创办

¹ 据笔者所知最早对《大英国人事略说》进行论述的为郭廷以（参见氏著《近代中国史》（一），商务印书馆，1947，页 618-622），其后 Suzanne Wilson Barnett 亦对此书有所提及（参见氏著：Protestant Expansion and Chinese View of the West, *Modern Asian Studies*, 6, 2 (1972), pp. 129-149）。最新的相关研究则出自苏精（详见氏著《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》，台湾学生书局，2000 年，页 113-130）。

² 承蒙复旦大学历史系副教授司佳博士慨然提供《大英国人事略说》中文本的电子影像版，在此谨致谢忱。

³ 伟烈亚力（Alexander Wylie）认为是在 1833 年，误。见氏著：Memorials of Protestant Missionaries to the Chinese: Giving a List of Their Publications, and Obituary Notices of the Deceased, with Copious Indexes,

的一所教会学校。由此说明这部小书当时是在马六甲印制的⁴。



该书正文首页所标名称为“英吉利国人品国事略说”，与封面所标的“大英国人事略说”，在文字上有所出入⁵，推测正文处所标的名称应是全称，而封面所书则是略称。

《大英国人事略说》未标作者。但据伟烈亚力（Alexander Wylie）所记可知，这本小册子原为英国东印度公司广州办事处大班（President）马治平（Charles Marjoribanks）用英文撰写，后由马礼逊（Robert Morrison）译成中文⁶。英文全部内容共分为十个段落，汉译文字则划分成十一段（因尊敬需顶格提行者除外），每段文字另起一行顶格书写。兹依中文段落的划分，将该书的内容概述如下。

首段文字主要叙述了英国距中国的里程，驾船航行来华所走的航线，以及英人航海技术的高超与果敢。

Shanghai: American Presbyterian Mission Press, 1867. Reprinted by Cheng-wen Publishing Company, Taipei, 1967, p.281.（注：该书中中文译名通常作《基督教在华传教士回忆录》，本文以下所提及伟烈亚力的论述，皆出自该书该页，为行文简洁起见，恕不再一一出注。）此点苏精业已指出。见氏著：《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》，页 51。

⁴ 另外，伟烈亚力还提及该书曾另有铅印本，共四页（“It was first printed from wooden blocks, and afterwards by metal type, in 4 leaves.”），但未之见，不知何据。

⁵ 在该书的版心上端同样标作“大英国人事略说”，在书的末尾处亦书：“大英国人事略说终”。

⁶ 伟烈亚力在补充记述的马礼逊著述中，有如下的记载：“This is a translation of an English tract, written by C. Marjoribanks, Esq.”

次段简介了英国对华贸易的进出口货物，及对中英两国商人与平民的好处。

第三段文字提及英中两国间贸易往来已久，每年有诸多船只参与其中，需要数十万人从事相应的工作。

第四段历数英国已拥有的广大属地（即殖民地），阐明英国来华并不是为了“广开新地”。

第五段讲述中国皇帝虽然怀柔远人，但英商在广州进行贸易时，仍常遭受当地官吏的勒索，而这些问题清廷因路途遥远，皆不能知晓。

第六段指出英人在华遭受欺凌，应是清地方政府管理不善所致。

第七段对英国水手的在华行为进行了申辩。言及英国水手虽“外形似粗”，但“内怀尚存仁温之心”。一旦他们受到凌辱，有可能会有过激行为。

第八段号召清、英两国人“友心和睦交易”，不要“彼此相敌”。并提及英国水手在海上营救清国沉船水手时表现出的“仁慈恩爱之行”。

第九段希望清人眼界放开，不要固步自封，贬低他国，“所有各国内清国该修好者，英国为第一也”。

第十段提醒中国官民，应该善待英国人，“彼此友见和睦，各安本业享福矣”。

第十一段为结尾，与第十段空一行后写道：“华、英两国之友，特愿我人类众生，皆可享真福者，用软且忽手此笔。”

从上述所论内容可以看出，这部小书文字虽然不长，但所涉及的问题却不少，但凡英国国势、来华目的、在华困境、邦交之谊等，皆有所论及。伟列亚力将此书的内容概括为一部试图为中国人提供有关英国政府与商业方面有用信息的指南手册⁷，似乎也还算贴切。

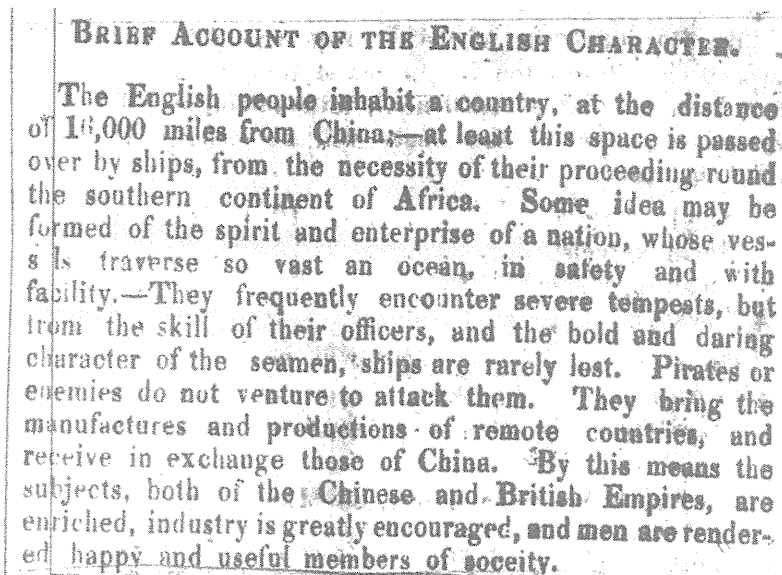
在写作方式上，《大英国人事略说》并未使用过多的修辞手段与叙述技巧，相反，采用的是平铺直叙，开门见山的叙述方式，直接切入主题。显现了当时英国在华商人急切想改变现状，渴望从事正常清英贸易的心理。

二 《大英国人事略说》中英两种文字的对勘

由于《大英国人事略说》是中译本，如能找到英文原文，将二者进行文字上的对勘，将会看出许多仅观中译本而无法看出的问题。极为幸运的是，现存文献恰好提供了这种对勘的可能。

⁷ “intended to give the Chinese some useful information in a small compass, about the government and commerce of Britain.”

笔者目前能看到的《大英国人事略说》的英文原文，见于 1832 年 7 月 18 日出版的《广州记事报》(The Canton Register)⁸，标题作 Brief Account of the English Character⁹，但作者却未标明。



不过，通过前文所提及的伟烈亚力的说明，我们仍可十分容易地判断这篇英文的撰写者为马治平 (Charles Marjoribanks, 1793-1833)。

有关马治平其人，我们知之甚少，仅知其父为世袭男爵，且任英国国会议员。马治平本人于 1811 年由其任东印度公司董事的叔父引进公司，并在第二年抵达广州任书记员 (writer)，1821 年升任高级职员 (supra-cargo)，1831 年升任大班 (president)¹⁰。在任期间，他想以强硬立场对付清政府对外商在华贸易采取的种种限制，结果招致设在伦敦的东印度总公司的不满而遭到撤职的处分。1832 年 1 月，马治平乘船离开广州。

在 1831 年 10 月底马治平尚未离任之前，为对抗清政府不断以诋侮性的告示挑动民众歧视外国

⁸ 据苏精的介绍，《大英国人事略说》的英文原稿内容最原始的出处见于东印度公司档案 (EIC/R/10/9, 30 October 1831)，参见氏著：《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》，页 118。另，邹振环引用苏精的说法，将《大英国统志》的版本内容情况描述为：“该书由马治平用英文写就，交马礼逊译出，曾刊于《广州记事报》(The Canton Register) 1832 年 1 月 18 日” (参见氏著《西方传教士与晚清西史东渐——以 1815 至 1900 年西方历史译著的传播与影响为中心》，上海古籍出版社，2007 年，页 338)，使人易产生马礼逊的中文译稿发表在《广州记事报》上的误解，实际上《广州记事报》所刊登的只是马治平的英文文本。

⁹ 伟烈亚力将该书的英文名称记为 “Summary of English affairs”，显见他本人并未看到过英语原文。又，郭廷以将该书的英文名称记作 “A Brief Account of the English Nation and Character”，也有微误。参见氏著《近代中国史》(一)，页 618。

¹⁰ 见东印度公司档案 EIC/G/1/26, ff. 157, ‘Biographical Data’。转引自苏精：《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》，页 115。

人的措施，他便拟写了一部阐述英人性格与政策的小册子，即上文提及的《大英国人事略说》的英文稿。此稿后交马礼逊译成中文后刊印。

将前文提及的《大英国人事略说》的中文版文字与登载在《广州纪事报》的英文稿对比之后，可以发现两者在表述上不尽相同。为了详细了解两者之间所存在的差异，以下按英文版段落顺序，将中、英文表述中不一致之处一一析出：

| 《大英国人事略说》 | | | BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ENGLISH CHARACTER | |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 叶 | 段落 | 中文译文 | 段落 | 英文原文 |
| 一 A ¹¹ | 一 | 七万 | 1 | 16000 miles |
| 一 A | | 遂来东北到粤 | | 无对应英文 |
| 一 B | 二 | 华夏之茶叶等货 | | receive in exchange those of China |
| 一 B | 三 | 每年 | 2 | within twelve months |
| 一 B | | 到粤进口 | | in the Chinese water |
| 一 B | | 六十八十只之多 | | from sixty to eighty vessels |
| 一 B | | 数十万人 | | Tens of thousands of natives |
| 二 A | 四 | 太平南洋 | 3 | Australia |
| 二 A | | 下落之地方 | | settlements |
| 二 A | | 各地方 | | all the regions pertaining thereto |
| | 五 | 无对应汉文 | 4 | The object and endeavour of the English in China have always been to carry on a pacific and amicable intercourse, but their anxiety to do so has, on several occasions, been frustrated. |
| 三 A | | 何奸情之有哉 | | 无对应英文 |
| 三 B | 六 | 无 | 5 | 无 |
| 四 A | 七 | 皆准上衙自白其理，亦准给律师为助远客之意。 | | 无对应英文 |
| 四 A | 八 | 英国各地方 | 6 | in England, or in any other part of the English dominions |
| 四 A | | 皆准之安住 | | they live under the protection of the laws |
| 四 B | | 无人敢欺之害之，而未蒙官吏伸其冤也。 | | Their wrongs and injuries are all equally redressed. |
| 四 B | | 带回中华，送到父母妻子等。 | 7 | 无对应英文 |

¹¹ 此栏中的 A/B 表示《大英国人事略说》书中叶数的前半叶/后半叶。

| | | | | |
|-----|----|------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 四 B | | 倘非如此, 该人无奈在彼海岛饿死 | | unfortunate men who must otherwise have perished in want and misery |
| 五 A | | 岂不可恶哉 | | 无对应英文 |
| 五 A | 九 | 盛多美物 | 8 | 无对应英文 |
| 五 B | | 无人敢侵害 | | 无对应英文 |
| 五 B | | 所奉救世主耶稣之教 | | their religion |
| 五 B | | 其边界近乎毗连 | | and the confines of its India dominions almost border on those of China |
| 五 B | | 而入大海 | | 无对应英文 |
| 六 A | 十 | 即如英国公班衙, 派人驻粤贸易者 | 9 | the English East India Company in China |
| 六 B | 十一 | 无 | 10 | 无 |

从上面的表中可以看出在中文版与英文文本的差异主要存在于以下几个方面:

一是在中文版中出现, 而在英文文本中却不曾找见对应文字。仔细推敲可以看出, 这些没有对应英文的中文文字, 主要是带一些感情色彩的语句 (如: “何奸情之有”、“岂不可恶哉”、“无人敢侵害”等), 或者是补足语意的文字 (如: “遂来东北到粤”、“带回中华, 送到父母妻子等。”)。

二是在英文文本中出现, 但在中文版中却未被译出的文字。这类情况较少, 在文中只发现一处, 即英文文本的第 4 段开始一句。不知是当时译译时遗漏了, 还是有意作了回避。

三是虽然中英对译文字皆有, 但并不一致。这种情况又分为两种: 一种是英文文本本来记载较为详细明确, 但中文译文却用概括或大约接近的文字表述。如在英文文本的第一段中讲英国距中国是 “16000 miles (英里)”, 出现在中文版中便被译为了 “七万里”。另一种是英文文本本身表述较为简略, 而在中文译文中加进了必要的说明文字。如在第八段讲到英人所信奉的宗教时, 英文文本仅简单写作 “their religion”, 但在中文版中就变切 “所奉救世主耶稣之教”, 丰富了表述。

此外, 还需要提及两点: 一是在《大英国人事略说》中文文本中出现的一些不易理解的表述, 借助英文原文可以较为便利地解决。如在上文提到的在中文文本的最后有如下的一段话:

华、英两国之友, 特愿我人类众生, 皆可享真福者, 用软且忽手此笔。

其中的 “用软且忽手此笔”¹², 如果是单看这一中文表述, 实在不知所云。但是英文原文的存在可以很好地帮我们解决这一问题。这段英文原文是:

A friend to China and England, whose anxious desire is the happiness of his fellow-men, traces with

¹² 苏精记为 “用软且匆手此笔”, 误。见氏著: 《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》, 页 51。

a feeble pen this hasty and imperfect sketch.

对照上面的英文表述，可以知道“用软且忽手此笔”的意思是“用一支乏力的笔描述了这一匆而不及的英国略说”，表达的是一种作者写作时的自谦。

二是我们从《大英国人事略说》中、英文两种文本中还可看出其时一些地名的译法，与当今的不同。如在第三段英文文本中出现了“Australia”一词，现在我们通常译作“澳大利亚”，而在当时的中文译文中则被译为“太平南洋”，这一对译，显然是从地理位置角度而作出的。又如同段的“settlements”，在中文译文中则被译成了“下落之地方”，与我们现在通常译为“居留地”或“租界”也有所不同。从中我们可以看出一些词语在对译过程中的变化与定型，为语言接触研究提供了很好的素材。

三 《大英国人事略说》的流布

《大英国人事略说》这部小册子，篇幅虽短，但在十九世纪初年的中英交涉史上，却扮演了十分重要的角色。

在 1832 年 2 月 26 日，经过英国东印度公司广州办事处大班马治平在卸任前的精心筹划，胡夏米 (H. H. Lindsay) 等人乘坐阿美士德号 (the Lord Amherst) 开始了在中国东部沿海一带的航行。他们从澳门出发，先后到达厦门、福州、宁波、上海、威海卫、朝鲜、琉求等地。后三处并非此行的主要目标，而前四处正是十年后南京条约中英人指定的通商口岸，由此，可见阿美士德号事件的重要性与影响。就是在这次航行中，《大英国人事略说》等一些传教士参与编写的政治、宗教宣传的书刊，曾随船在所到之处，进行散发。

胡夏米著有《阿美士德号货船来华经过》¹³一书。在这部书中，对阿美士德号航行所到之处，都有较为详细的记载。其中特别提到散发《大英国人事略说》之事，当时他们带了 500 册该书¹⁴。当胡夏米与沿途的中国人接触增多后，发现当地居民，即使是一些上层人士，对英国的了解也极其有限，除了将英人冠以“红毛” (Hung-maou, “Red Bristled Nation”) 外，似乎再不知其他任何有关英国的情况¹⁵。这种情形使他意识到向当地居民传递英国的有关信息的重要性。于是他在所著的书中写道：“我决定由我自己承担起散发《大英国人事略说》小册子的责任，这本由马治平先生撰写的小册子，用平实与易于理解的文风，提供了许多有关英国的有用信息。”¹⁶在经过到厦门之前

¹³ H. H. Lindsay: *Report of Proceedings on a Voyage to the Northern Ports of China*, Second Edition, London, 1834.

¹⁴ 参见苏精：《马礼逊与中文印刷出版》，页 120。

¹⁵ H. H. Lindsay: *Report of Proceedings on a Voyage to the Northern Ports of China*, Second Edition, p.32.

¹⁶ “I have determined to take on myself the responsibility of distributing copies of that pamphlet on English Character, written by Mr. Marjoribanks, which gives much useful information in a plain intelligible style.” 参见 H. H. Lindsay: *Report of Proceedings on a Voyage to the Northern Ports of China*, Second Edition, p.32.

的一定数量的散发之后，胡夏米他们注意到，不只一处，由这本小册子而引发了人们对英国的超乎寻常的兴致，收到了良好的效果¹⁷。虽然不能排除胡夏米记述中所含有的夸大成份，但这本小册子在当时确实可能起到了一定的宣传作用。这从下面胡夏米记载的一些事例中也可以看出端倪。

福州都司陈显生在因无法阻拦阿美士德号进入福州港而受到处分，被摘去顶带后，于1832年5月16日清晨，与胡夏米等人在阿美士德号上进行了一次会面。彼此谈话期间，陈显生曾就《大英国人事略说》的内容与胡夏米进行过交流。胡夏米据此判断陈显生显然曾集中精力看过这本小册子。陈显生还向胡夏米透露，在闽浙总督魏元烺的要求下，一个有关胡夏米他们这次在中国东南沿海航行的全面汇报，连同《大英国人事略说》以及四册郭实腊（Karl F. A. Gützlaff）撰写的读物已被送往北京的清廷¹⁸。

同样对《大英国人事略说》关注的还有一个宁波府提督衙门的马老爷（Ma-talaon Yay）。此人不仅自己认真阅读《大英国人事略说》，还向胡夏米询问是否还有更多的该书复本，以便他设法转交道光皇帝¹⁹。

从上述所叙事例中可以看出，《大英国人事略说》书中所反映的内容，对当时的国人还是有着不小的冲击的。而《大英国人事略说》在当时的传播，也出乎寻常的火爆，胡夏米甚至用“如同野火一般扩展开去”来进行形容²⁰。

另外，还应提及的是，《大英国人事略说》不但在胡夏米的中国之行的途中大派用场²¹，而且，在他们途经朝鲜时，也发挥了效用，在胡夏米上朝鲜王的奏章中便有如下的文字：“伏乞发示旨意，致远客恭奏本国之帝君，合并包函。《大英国人事略论》虽因大清国人等纂辑，即悉知本国之事情，此小书与《家训》等五本，包本国的道理，万望千岁爷陛下察夺之。”²²可见这本小册子在胡夏米的眼中确实十分重要。

与英方人士对《大英国人事略说》的看重形成鲜明比照的是中方官员对此书的态度。无论是当时的闽浙总督魏元烺、浙江巡抚富呢扬阿，还是山东巡抚讷尔经额，他们在给道光皇帝的奏折中，都无一例外对《大英国人事略说》进行了攻击，尤其是对其中主旨与中文表述，大加否定，认为“词句款式，殊属悖谬”、“款式间有悖谬，语句亦多不通”、“语意率多谬妄难解”²³，等等。

按，在胡夏米这部书中，《大英国人事略说》常被简称为“English Character”或“Ying-kwo”（即“英国”）。

¹⁷ *ibid*, p.35.

¹⁸ *ibid*, pp.93-94.

¹⁹ *ibid*, p.105.

²⁰ *ibid*, p.103.

²¹ 除了散发《大英国人事略说》，用作宣传之外，在胡夏米上福建水师提督禀中，也可见到直接引用了这本小册子中的部分文句。参见许地山编：《达衷集（鸦片战争前中英交涉史料）》，商务印书馆，1931年，页2-3。

²² 许地山编：《达衷集》，页68-69。

²³ 参见故宫博物院编《史料旬刊》第十一期、第十三期的《道光朝外洋通商案》中所收入的魏元烺、富

其实，这种情况也相当易于理解，由于中英双方人士看问题的立场与角度不同，他们对《大英国人事略说》的评判存在着巨大差异，也就不可避免了。

《大英国人事略说》这本小册子的原刊本，虽然现在在中国国内已不易见，但由于该书在当时已作为附件，列在清朝地方官员上报朝廷的奏折之后，因此，有关此书的中文具体内容，还是颇易寻见的²⁴，唯彼此之间的相互关系，却非人所共知的。

要之，《大英国人事略说》虽然内容简洁，语言平实，但并不影响其效用的发挥，对于该书在近代史上的重要性，郭廷以给予了很高的评价，他在其《中国近代史》中说认为这部书是“中英鸦片战前英人不满于中外通商状况的总叙述，以之来结束过去二百年中英或中西关系，颇具相当意义。”²⁵

呢扬阿及讷尔经额摺。

²⁴ 故宫博物院编《史料旬刊》第十三期《道光朝外洋通商案》中，便收有此书的全文，唯其中误排、漏植之字颇多，于使用颇为不便；中国第一历史档案馆编《鸦片战争档案史料》第一册（上海人民出版社，1987年）亦全文收录此书内容（页118-120），唯所拟标题题为“英人胡夏米所呈英吉利国人品国事略说并大英国人事略说”，将《英吉利国人品国事略说》与《大英国人事略说》视为二书，颇为不伦。

²⁵ 郭廷以：《近代中国史》（一），页618。

附录：

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ENGLISH CHARACTER

The English people inhabit a country, at the distance of 16,000 miles from China; ---at least this space is passed over by ships, from the necessity of their proceeding round the southern continent of Africa. Some idea may be formed of the spirit and enterprise of a nation, whose vessels traverse so vast an ocean, in safety and with facility. ---They frequently encounter severe tempests, but from the skill of their officers, and the bold and daring character of the seamen, ships are rarely lost. Pirates or enemies do not venture to attack them. They bring the manufactures and productions of remote countries, and receive in exchange those of China. By this means the subjects, both of the Chinese and British Empires, are enriched, industry is greatly encouraged, and men are rendered happy and useful members of society.

The English have traded for upwards of two hundred years with China, and from sixty to eighty vessels under the English flag, are frequently, within twelve months, in the Chinese waters. To how many tens of thousands of natives does not such a commerce give useful employment!

The policy of the English government has often in China been most falsely represented, and it has been stated to be ambitious, and desirous of increase of territory. No assertion can be more distant from truth. The dominions of England are already so large, that the policy of the government is rather to diminish than to enlarge them. Besides the mother country, it has several valuable possessions in Europe; it has large territories in North America; and numerous islands in the West Indies. The Cape of Good Hope, in Africa, belongs to it; it has several prosperous settlements in Australia; numerous islands in Asia are subject to its rule; and the ancient territory of Hindostan with all the regions pertaining thereto, is now included in the British Empire. The small settlements of Penang, Martaban, Malacca, and Singapore, are those most contiguous to China. The government of so great an Empire has no thirst for conquest. Its great object and aim is to preserve its subjects in a condition of happiness and tranquility. But while most desirous of doing so, it is very jealous of insult, and ever ready to avenge oppression and injustice.

The object and endeavour of the English in China have always been to carry on a pacific and amicable intercourse, but their anxiety to do so has, on several occasions, been frustrated. The benevolent disposition of the great emperor of China has induced him to state his desire, to treat remote foreigners with indulgence and consideration; but the Imperial benevolence of mind has, on several occasions, in past years, been opposed, by subordinatel officers of his government. Foreigners trading to Canton have been heavily taxed and oppressed; and commerce has been greatly impeded by the exactions to which it has been exposed. Natives have repeatedly been heavily fined and punished, sometimes cruelly tortured and put to death, for alledged treasonable connection with the English, whose only object was to conduct a commercial intercourse in tranquility, and to obey the Imperial laws. In addition to the government

duties, large sum money have been forced from native merchants, and bribes have been received by inferior officers. Both natives and foreigners have been subject to these oppressions. The imperial ear is too remote that even the echo of such things should be heard, for they are often done in darkness and silence; but the great and enlarged mind of the Emperor can never approve of such acts on the part of his servants.

Printed placards have even been affixed to the walls of public buildings, traducing the foreign character, and encouraging low and degraded native to insult strangers who resort to China. Affrays and riots have frequently in consequence taken place; the public peace has been disturbed, and commercials intercourse interrupted. How much are the police officers to blame, who do not put an end to such improper and unjust proceedings! English sailors are often rude in manner, though kind in disposition. They cannot bear insult; ---hence riots take place, wounds are inflicted, and death is sometimes to consequence. On board English ships that resort to China, strict discipline is preserved, and the men are immediately punished, if they commit violent acts, towards natives or others; but discipline is of little avail, if low natives are encouraged by low officers, to insult and attack them. The laws of England make no distinction of persons, and an Englishman is as severely punished for an act of violence towards a Chinese as he is for one towards a fellow-countryman.

The manners and customs of all nations are different. With just allowance made for such difference, why should not Chinese and Englishmen live together on terms of friendly cordiality? The commands of the Sovereign of England to his subjects are, wherever they go in the world, to endeavour to maintain an amicable and pacific intercourse with the people of the country, but never to be forgetful of the their national name or honor. When Chinese subjects arrive in England, or in any other part of the English dominions, they live under the protection of the laws, which are equally administered to them with the natives of the country. Their wrongs and injuries are all equally redressed.

Instead, the, of being encouraged to acts of enmity towards each other, why should not Chinese and English strive together, which should most excel in acts of beneficence and kindness? In many instances, natives of China, who have been found shipwrecked on barren islands, in the midst of the boisterous ocean, have been saved by the crews of English vessels,---unfortunate men who must otherwise have perished in want and misery. British sailors, have long been distinguished for such acts of humanity, and are taught to glory in them, more than even in deeds of war. Yet these are the persons whom the natives of china are sometimes told, by designing men, to insult and despise.

The people of China are highly intelligent, industrious, and prosperous; but they are not the only people in the World that are so. Ignorant men have sometimes foolishly taught, that all that is good is centred in China, but that the rest the earth is worthless.---How vain and childish is the man who reasons thus!---If he had visited other countries, he would have discovered, that Heaven had in bounty and mercy

bestowed manifold blessings on many other regions of the earth. In England, the people live in tranquility; their persons and property are protected by the laws; their religion inculcates peace upon earth and good will towards all men; they have arrived at a wonderful state of improvement in arts and science, and in the cultivation of all those means which serve to civilize mankind. They are feared in times of war, and honored in times of peace. There is no country with which it is more the interest of China to remain on terms of friendly intercourse than England. It carries on a great and lucrative commerce with the Empire, and the confines of its Indian dominions almost border on those of China. One river which rises in Yun-nan flows through a portion of the British territory.

It is much to the honor of Chinese merchants, that they are strict and accurate in their commercial dealings, and in some instances have shown acts of much liberality to foreigners, the pride of a British merchant is to be just and liberal in his dealings. The high name and reputation of the English East India Company in China has long been established; the promise of its servants is as good as money accurately weighed, and its faith pledged in any mercantile transaction has never once been broken. Let the people of China think profoundly upon these things, and not treat lightly persons of this stamp and character. Let the officers of government, in accordance with the decrees of the benevolent Emperor of China, treat foreigners with the respect and consideration to which they are entitled. Then, indeed, will there be peace, union, and harmony, between the native and British Community in China.

A friend to China and England, whose anxious desire is the happiness of his fellow-men, traces with a feeble pen this hasty and imperfect sketch.