

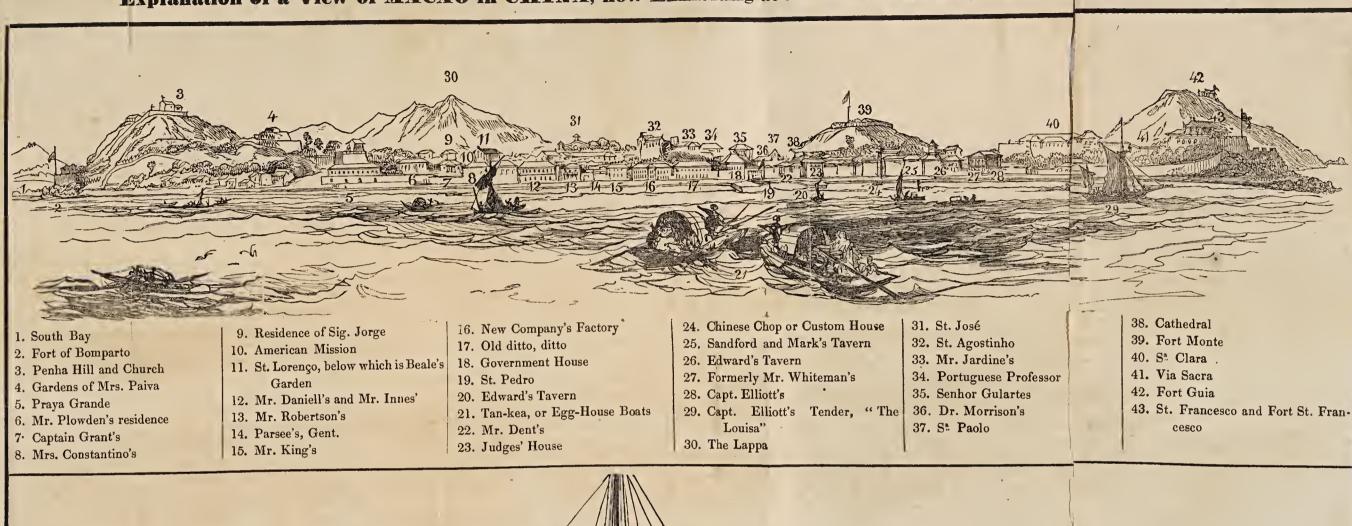
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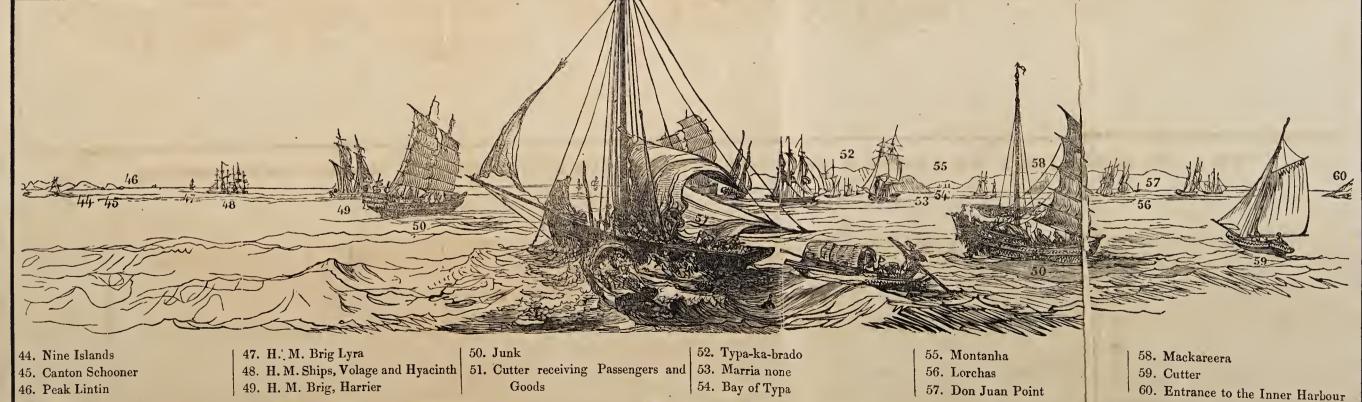
macao



DESCRIPTION

Explanation of a View of MACAO in CHINA, now Exhibiting at the PANORAMA, LEICESTER SQUARE.





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OF

A VIEW OF

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IN

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PANORAMA, LEICESTER SQUARE.

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MACAO.

Magao, the only European settlement in the Empire of China, stands on a narrow peninsula, at the southern extremity of the island of Heang-shan. From its commanding and romantic situation it presents to the eyes of strangers approaching the roadstead, a most picturesque and beautiful scene.

The panorama taken from the Bay of Typa, exhibits the city, on what may be termed the British side, consequently in its most interesting aspect. Immediately in front of the spectator, facing the east, is the fine crescent curve of the Praya grande, a broad and spacious quay, unbroken (with the exception of a small fort defending a landing place) by any wharf or jetty. The houses which present their fronts to the water, and occupy the whole of the vast extent of the semi-circle, are large, substantial buildings, in the European style; of simple architecture, with large gables, and little or no ornament; yet being painted of many colours, have a varied and pleasing appearance. At the back of the line, rising like an amphitheatre on the sloping ground, numerous other houses are seen, intermixed with churches, and sacred edifices—always conspicuous objects in a catholic town—large gardens, and light and airy summer-houses; the highest portion being broken into several hills, crowned by forts or monasteries, has a fine effect; and, far above all, rising from a neighbouring island, towers a mountain of considerable elevation, and picturesque shape, forming a noble back ground.

The extremity of the city towards the right, is flanked by an extensive convent, with a fort of some strength on the cliff above; the opposite extremity of the Praya is defended by a similar fort, and on a high rock behind, stands a considerable and strongly-fortified castle, giving the whole an air of European consequence, and military importance.

Turning from the city, the eye ranges over a vast extent of sea, bounded in some parts by the horizon alone; in others, by numerous Islands of different size and form, some presenting verdant hills and luxuriant foliage; others, large masses of rock, thrown into every variety of light and shade, from the faintest blue to the most sombre brown, according to their distance, or position, or from the rich tints they receive from the glowing rays of the setting sun. The large island of Typa-ka-brado, opposite the city, and the Cow Chow Yaong, or the Nine Islands, at some little distance, stand conspicuous; and together with the high peak of Lintin, marking the course of the river towards Canton form interesting objects.

Ships of all countries are seen winding their way amongst the numerous islands in the outer passage, and the extensive bay is occupied by craft of every description, from the heavy trading junk and native passage-boat, to the small Tân-kea or Egg boats, which ply by hundreds between them and the shore; the whole contributing much, by their variety of size, singularity of shape, and the gay colours they exhibit, to the general effect, interest, and beauty of the scene.

The Portuguese, who were the first Europeans that pushed their navigation to the southern confines of China, are said to have landed several times on the then desert rock of Macao, in the early part of the 16th century; and having been permitted by the Mandarins, whom they either intimidated by open force, or silenced by bribes, to erect huts, under the pretence of drying their goods, or repairing their vessels; they took gradual possession of the spot, and having subsequently rendered the Chinese the signal service of clearing the seas and numerous islands of the Gulf of China of the hordes of pirates by which they were infested; they were, about the year 1557, admitted vassals of the Celestial Empire, and were allowed to erect a town and factory, which they called Porto de Amacao; on the payment of an annual tribute or ground-rent of 500 taels, which is continued to the present day; also certain duties on merchandize, and by conforming in all respects to the laws of Embassies followed between the courts of Lisbon and Peking; ships shortly arrived with numerous settlers; the population increased; forts and churches were built; and substantial houses replaced the temporary huts; and, to use the words of a Mandarin dispatch, "Macao, formerly an insignficant place, is now a kingdom; it has many forts, and a great and insolent population." At first a deputation went annually to Canton to transact business, paying heavy duties, and making costly presents; but the trade increased so rapidly, that in 1588 permission was obtained for two visits in the year; in January for the Indian, and in June for the Japan trade.

In this small spot the Portuguese carried on for a long time a very considerable and most lucrative trade, not only with the Chinese, but also with other countries in eastern Asia, particularly Japan, Tunquin, Cochin China, and Siam. Whilst they were without competition their profits were immense; large sums were transmitted to their mother country, and visible marks of their greatness still exist in the costly buildings of the city; but no sooner did the Dutch and English enter into the China trade than their gains rapidly decreased, the spirit of enterprize declined, and Macao began to decay. Events took place which deprived the Portuguese of all intercourse with Japan in 1640. Revolutions in the affairs of other countries rendered their speculations precarious, often unfortunate; the exactions of the Chinese officers, and the jealousies which has always led them to endeavour to curtail the few privileges granted, have all tended to depress their trade; and no vigorous efforts have ever been made to redeem their losses.

In 1717, the Canton government proposed to the Portuguese to remove the whole of the foreign trade to Macao; but such was their jealousy towards other nations, or so great their fear lest they should engross the whole market, that they unhesitatingly refused the splendid offer, which was again renewed in 1732, and a second time refused.

By an imperial edict, foreigners are always compelled to quit Canton as soon as their ships have taken in their cargoes; the Portuguese, also, from a narrow policy, for a long period, as strenously opposed their remaining at Macao; and it was not until the middle of the last century that they began to see the advantages of a more familiar intercourse, and liberal treatment, and permitted them to remain. A Chinese Chop, in 1750, settled the various rules to be observed; but it was some years after that the Portuguese granted the hospitality of a fixed residence to the super cargos and others, who remained entirely in China. The English, Dutch, French, Danish, and Swedish, got leave about 1762. The French in 1792, and the Americans later; they now inhabit the best houses, and pay a rental of at least 30,000 dollars per annum.

During the period of the French revolution, the Portuguese being neutral, the trade again flourished, particularly with the Indian Archipelago, Burmah, &c. In 1802 a British auxiliary force arrived to defend the island against an apprehended attack of the French, when the Chinese interfered, and would not permit them to land; the same again occurred in 1808, when Admiral Drury, having landed troops and garrisoned three forts, was obliged to withdraw them; for said the Imperial Edict, "Knowing, as you do, that the Portuguese inhabit a territory belonging to the Celestial Empire, how could you suppose the French should ever venture to molest them. If they dared, our warlike tribes should attack, defeat, and chase them from the face of the country."

In 1810 the pirates in the river had again become so numerous, and so daring, that the government again sought the assistance of the Portuguese for their suppression; the merchants of Macao furnished six ships, manned and armed, for which they were to receive 80,000 taels, and a confirmation of all their ancient rights and privileges. The Pirates, however, were suppressed, the Chinese regained their high tone, and Macao was not benefitted by the treaty.

The commerce in opium was, in its early days, very lucrative, and considerably enriched the inhabitants of the city, by whom a great portion of the smuggling was carried on. When the trade was removed to Lintin, a season of depression followed. What effect the annihilation of the trade, and the subsequent unfortunate misunderstanding with the English, will have on Macao remains to be seen; the best informed on the subject can scarcely venture to predict. It is, however, to be hoped that all differences will speedily be amicably arranged, and the commerce in general fixed upon a firmer basis than hitherto.

Macao is built on two ridges of rock, forming a narrow peninsula, extending to the southward from the large island of Heang-Shan; being divided from the main by a wall crossing the narrowest part, which effectually restricts the Portuguese to the limits assigned them, and enables the Chinese, by stopping the supply of provisions, always to bring them to terms, when any disputes occur. The whole settlement is not more than eight miles in circumference, being little more than three miles in length, from the wall to the extreme south-western point, and not exceeding one mile across in its widest part.

The town is divided into three districts or parishes, taking their names from their respective churches. The streets are narrow, steep, and irregular, being frequently interrupted by flights of steps, rendered necessary by the unequal surface of the rocks, which they follow. The few public buildings are handsome, particularly the senate house, and the thirteeen churches, and monasteries. The houses are of stone or brick, without much exterior elegance, but are spacious and convenient in their interior arrangement, parthose of the Praya Grande, occupied by British and other merchants, and those of the Praya of the inner harbour. There are scarcely any shops, but the markets are large, and are plentifully supplied by the Chinese with meat, fruit, and vegetables—the two latter being of the finest description. Carriages, of course, would be almost useless in a city so constructed; the usual conveyance is the sedan chair.

The inner harbour is spacious, and capable of affording anchorage to a large number of ships, of three or four hundred tons; larger ships must be lightened before they can come in. Two centuries ago the Chinese granted permission for twenty-five Portuguese or Spanish vessels to enter the harbour; the same number only can receive that indulgence at present, and are regarded as the identical vessels; all others must lie in Macao roads, or in the Typa. In 1834 the Portuguese had but fifteen vessels, together 4185 tons; the number has been gradually decreasing, and at the present time does not, in all probability, exceed ten.

The city contains a military and two general hospitals, two or three public schools, and a library and museum, founded in 1806, by the Honourable East India Company, which was progressing well previous to the dissolution of the factory at Canton, which deprived it of some of its most eminent contributors. The Chinese have a Pagado within the walls, and three in the small villages adjacent.

The Portuguese population in the seventeenth century, numbered about 19,500 souls; it at present consists of about 4,000, with above a thousand slaves The Chinese, including the three small villages within the boundary, and those living entirely in the small boats upon the water, are estimated at 30,000. The Portuguese authorities are a governor, a prefect, chief justice, and a senate composed of two judges, three aldermen, and a procurador, who

is the organ of communication with the Chinese, who have two Mandarins, a Keun-min-Foo, or chief magistrate, and a Tso-tang or district magistrate. All the arts requisite for the comforts or conveniencies of life are exercised by the Chinese; there is scarcely to be found a single Portuguese by birth or descent, who is an artist, a shopkeeper, or a labourer; they are two proud to pursue any other industry than commerce or navigation. Formerly there were large manufactories for cannon and gunpowder at Macao, but they have long since ceased; at the present time decay is visibly stamped on everything, both civil and religious. In 1821, by a return made to King John VI, the property in houses, ships, goods, cash, &c. of the Portuguese, was estimated at three millions of dollars; it must now be very much below that sum; there is but little trade, and desolation becomes more apparent every year. The gayest periods of the year are the arrivals of the foreign fleets, no ladies being permitted to approach nearer Canton than Macao; also the return of the Canton merchants, when balls, routs, and concerts are given, English amateur plays performed by the officers, and the ceremonies of the Catholic church are conducted with great splendour.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

2.-Fort of Bomparto.

The Fort of Nossa Senhora de Bomparto, or Buen Parto, is small, but of sufficient size to be of efficient service for the protection of the Bay; this in common with the other Forts, is kept in good repair, but the military force is too small to permit them to be properly garrisoned. A strong wall, or line of fortification, may be perceived ascending the hill to the Hermitage of Penha.

3.-Penha Hill and Church.

On the hill called Nillau at the western extremity of the City, the Augustine Friars erected in 1622, the Hermitage of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França, which was much enlarged by some pious devotees two years after.—The Church is a conspicuous object, and as it is dedicated to the protecting Saint of Mariners, Portuguese Ships generally salute it with a few guns on their arrival. Its revenues depend on the liberality of individuals, and gifts promised in the hour of danger by seamen.

4.-Gardens of Mrs. Paiva.

A high rock in the grounds of Mrs. Paiva, which with considerable labour nas been cut into various Terraces, and planted after the Chinese style of gardening.

5.—Praya Grande.

A broad, airy, spacious Quay, much frequented as a promenade on fine evenings, by the fashionables of the city, numbers of whom appear as gaily dressed as if they were going to a ball.

10.-American Mission.

Established by the American board of Foreign Missions in 1830. One of many Missions sent by America to preach the gospel in China. As the Authorities both Portuguese and Chinese, strictly prohibit the printing or distributing Bibles or Tracts, or publickly preaching, little progress is made in the objects of the mission. Mr. Williams, a printer, is at present resident in Macao, and has the charge of the printing establishment, editing a valuable journal, called the Chinese Repository, and teaching a school.

11.-St. Lorengo.

The Parish Church of the largest district in Macao. It is a large and handsome building, standing on the site of one of the earliest Christian Temples erected on the island. It was erected in 1618. Immediately below the church are the house and gardens of Mr. Beale. This gentleman has been for more than forty years resident at Macao, his aviary and gardens form perhaps one of the most interesting sights in the city. The former is a large elegant building, enclosing a considerable space, which is planted with

trees, and contains artificial rock work, water, and every thing that is conducive to the habits and comfort of its inhabitants. Here is found all that is curious or beautiful, in the feathered creation of the east, particularly living specimens of the rare and splendid birds of Paradise. In the gardens are many choice productions of the vegetable kingdom, and a fine collection of flowering, shrubs, and plants.

18.—Government House.

The government house is situated near the centre of the Praya Grande, and opposite the landing place. It enjoys a good prospect, but is in no way remarkable, either for its architectural embellishments externally, or for the elegance of its internal fittings.

19.-St. Pedro.

A small fort mounting a few guns for the defence of the landing, firing salutes, &c. It has a flag staff where the signals are repeated to or from the fortress of Guia.

21.—Tan-kea, or Egg Boats.

The Tân-kea, or egg house boats, are about eight feet long, very broad, flat bottomed, perfectly straight, and wall sided, with large gunwhales about a foot out of the water; they have a round cover of matting called the house, and are frequently lined throughout with clean matting. They are generally managed by two Chinese girls, who wear loose dresses of blue nankeen, large straw hats or handkerchiefs on their heads, and have their hair in two long plaits down their backs. Most of the Tân-kea people live entirely in their boats.

24. - Chinese Chop, or Custom House.

A subaltern Hoppo, appointed by the chief Hoppo at Canton, resides here and collects the authorized customs; he also levies on all foreigners coming and going an arbitrary tax on their persons and baggage; he is assisted by compradors, pilots, and others, and forwards all necessary information to his superiors.

30.-The Lappa.

A range of high and barren hills, on the Island called Tuy-meen-shan, or Priests Island, situated opposite to Macao, and forming the western side of the inner harbour. Under the shelter of this Island, all the Tan-keas or egg boats, are obliged under a severe penalty, to lie at night; that they may not be concerned in smuggling, or any other intercourse unobserved by the mandarins, who would thus lose an opportunity of squeezing their owners. On Priests Island are the districts of Oitem, formerly belonging to the Jesuits, and Ribeira, grande; fertile and productive places, both given up by the Portuguese, for want of the means to cultivate and protect them. The Island presents a great variety of scene, which both in its natural state, and as improved by art, is extremely pleasing, and is much frequented by pic nic parties.

31.—St. Joze.

The college of St. Joseph, a considerable and handsome pile of building, was founded by the Jesuits at a very early period; but was not completed until 1758. The church is small, but well proportioned, and is surmounted by a cupola of considerable size, and a lanthorn, which from its height above the surrounding houses, forms a conspicuous object, at the two exterior angles are towers, one with a clock, the other with chimes. The interior which is plain, is fitted in the usual style of Catholic churches. In the refectory are some well executed portraits of Portuguese of the olden time, including Alvarez the navigator, and Camoens the poet, who resided several years at Macao; and there wrote a great part of the Lusiad. The extensive gardens planted on terraces, are kept in excellent order.

At the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1762 the college was suspended, and not renewed for twenty years. The establishment consists of a superior and six priests, European Portuguese. Twelve young Chinese are well educated as teachers of the Catholic faith, and generally remain in the College ten or twelve years. Other children of the inhabitants are allowed to participate in the course of study; some board, others both board and lodge in the establishment, on payment of a small monthly stipend.

32.—St. Agostinho.

The convent of S. Agustin was erected at an early period by the Spaniards, and dedicated to N. Sa. da Graça, our lady of grace. In 1589, when they withdrew to Manilla, the Portuguese Dominicans took possession. A prior appointed by the provincial at Goa has the care of the convent, and the three or four friars that compose the community, which is very poor. The church dedicated to our lady of the rosary is small and neat, it was repaired in 1814.

36.—Dr. Morrison's.

That excellent man and celebrated missionary, Dr. Morrison, the first herald of the gospel to the Chinese, was sent out by the London Missionary Society in 1807. He at first resided at Canton, where he adopted the dress and manners of the Chinese; but finding this did not further his purpose, he shortly abandoned them. The obstacles thrown in his way by both the Chinese and Catholics, rendered the early years of his mission of but little avail; so that after having been appointed translator to the British factory a situation for which his knowledge of the Chinese language eminently qualified him—he judiciously employed his talents in forming a grammar, translating the Scriptures, and various tracts, into Chinese, and compiling a dictionary, the' printing of which was undertaken by the Honorable Company, and completed at Macao in six volumes 4to, at an expense of £12,000; thus laying the foundation stone on which various other missions were established in different parts of the empire. In 1815 the first Chinese convert was baptised at Macao.

Dr. Morrison closed an examplary and most useful life at Canton in 1834.

37.—St. Paolo.

The Jesuits possessed a house on this spot from the earliest period, where those of their society lodged in their way to Japan. The church and college were erected in 1562. The church having been burnt, a noble building was, according to the inscription, erected in 1602, dedicated Nossa Senhora de Madre de Deos; but more commonly called St. Paul's, which was again destroyed by fire in the night of January 26, 1834. The facade, which is still

50.-Junk.

The large trading junks of the Chinese present a huge unsightly mass, the hulls are very high at both ends, with flat bottoms, and no keel; the sterns are divided in an extraordinary manner to admit a clumsy rudder, which is worked by ropes from the sides; the whole is painted with various gaudy colors. The rigging is very simple, consisting of two or three masts with large square sails, made of matting and split bamboo. Every thing is on a rude scale, heavy, and clumsy, yet in the rivers they are good sailers. They are sometimes worked from the centre of the vessel by sculls, of such enormous size that it takes fifteen or twenty men to each.

52.-Ty-pa Ka-brado.

The Ty-pa Ka-brado or Island of Kai Koong, is of considerable size and elevation, but quite uninhabited. The anchorage in its neighbourhood is good, and the tide passes at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour.

54.—Pay of Ty-pa.

A wide semi-circular bay called the outer harbour, which offers secure anchorage to vessels of a small size. It is subject to the influence of the ebbs and floods from the Gulf of China, and is often visited by dreadful hurricanes called Typhoons. At the entrance, men of war of 60 guns may anchor; and at the outlet opposite the city, vessels of 7 or 800 tons lie safe, sheltered from the north, south, east, and south west winds; the distance between the two is about five miles. The entrance to the gulf is extremely easy, and is at least 60 miles in breadth; scores of small but lofty islands, afford at once distinct land marks, and a choice of channels; on one of these at the western side stands Macao. For nearly forty miles towards Canton the Choo Keang or Pearl River, preserves an average breadth of 15 miles.

56.—Lorchas.

None but Portuguese or Spanish ships are allowed to enter the inner harbour, or to trade directly with Macao, and these are licenced only to the number of twenty-five. This exclusion has given rise to a large outside trade in Macao roads, or the Ty-pa. If a cargo is to be landed, notice is given to the governor, who sends a number of large Portuguese boats called Lorchas, in which the goods are taken to the shore, they are then put into the custom house, a report accompanied by presents made to the Chinese civilian, and the whole is arranged to the satisfaction of all parties.

IN THE LOWER CIRCLE IS NOW OPEN A SPLENDID VIEW OF

BENARES,

ADMISSION ONE SHILLING.

Panoramia.

Polar Regions

