

well preserved. Reaching it on a market-day, we find it thronged with the population of the district, and busy as a hive of bees. The market-house, supported on columns of crumbling stone, has a time-worn aspect, appearing much older than it is, having been built about 200 years ago. The house of the "Man of Ross" stands opposite to it, but has been split up into two houses, both of which are now occupied by tradesmen. On one of them is a medallion portrait in stone of Kyrle himself, in a flowing wig and long neckcloth, though, unfortunately, it is but a sorry performance. In the church, which is a rather handsome edifice, two small elm trees have grown up spontaneously in the pew where the Man of Ross was accustomed to worship, and, having been suffered to grow, now wave their branches over the spot where he sat for so many years. They are elegant objects, and appear to flourish well; they form one of the most singular memorials to be met with in a parish church, and it is no marvel that they are lovingly tended and venerated. John Kyrle died in 1724, in his eighty-fifth year; but it was not until fifty-four years afterwards that the beautiful monument which now stands in the wall of the chancel, close to the communion rails, was erected to his memory. It is of white and dove-coloured marbles, and bears the simple inscription: "This monument was erected in memory of John Kyrle, commonly called the Man of Ross."

In the rear of the church is the "Prospect," an area which Kyrle laid out as a public walk, and planted with trees for the recreation of the inhabitants. The walk extends for nearly a mile through most agreeable scenery, the trees having long since reached a luxuriant maturity, and adding wondrous charms to the landscape; it terminates at rather an abrupt descent towards the river, and at this point Kyrle placed a neat summer-house. Unfortunately, the men of Ross who succeeded "the Man," proved insensible to the value of the benefits he had designed them, and failed to perpetuate the advantages he bequeathed them. The groves of beautiful trees which Kyrle planted, still, for the most part, remain, and lend magnificence to the scenery; but the "Prospect" ceased to be what it was designed to be, the common property of the people. The seats which were erected for the weary traveller have disappeared; some of the ground has been declared not public; and the summer-house, though it still stands at the termination of the route, is nothing but a tumble-down ruin of old bricks and timber. It strikes us as strange that the veneration which still subsists for the memory of "the Man," among the people of Ross, was not sufficiently active to preserve to their poor the benefactions he had established. It is but just to add that of late, evidences of an improved feeling in this respect have not been wanting in the town.

After a pleasant dinner at the Royal Hotel, whose ornamental gardens abut on the "Prospect," if they are not indeed a part and parcel of the same, we resume our drive, and taking the road to Mitchel-dean, and thence past Flaxley Abbey, return to the banks of the Severn in time to see the fishers of

our little town dragging the river for salmon—a species of industry which strikes us as an excellent school for patience, inasmuch as the ceremony has to be repeated again, and again, and again before a single captive is found in the toils.

The white church tower on the hill-top glimmers in the last level rays of the setting sun as we draw near the quiet town, and the gloom of twilight settles on the broad surface of the saffron-coloured waters as we finish our ramble between Severn and Wye.

#### THE BAMBOO AND ITS MULTITUDINOUS USES.

It has very justly been observed by a recent intelligent traveller, that "amidst the many gifts of Providence to a tropical region, the bamboo is perhaps the most benignant, appropriate, and accessible." Dense in its growth, and sometimes reaching to a considerable height, I know not of any tree or bush that can rival the bamboo, whether viewed in the golden sunlight, or under the influence of the soft night breeze and resplendent moon, whose beams throw a silvery mantle over its gently waving feathery branches. But this beauty is not its only excellence; there are many other things in the vegetable kingdom which are exceeding fair to look upon, but which, apart from the gratification afforded to the eye or other senses, cease, as far as human knowledge extends, to afford any further benefit to mankind. In its wild and uncultivated state, on arid plains where the sun strikes fiercely upon the head of the weary wayfarer, the bamboo affords not only a welcome shade, but the undulatory movements of its countless branches constitute a delightfully cool atmosphere—a priceless boon, to be appreciated only by those who have journeyed in the tropics and availed themselves of its shelter. Another step, and we find it, under the art of man, forming impenetrable hedges and fences, its pristine luxuriance cropped into formal and, in many cases, dwarf barriers, such as, though on a far more gigantic scale, our own box hedges in England; yet, even under this disadvantage, the bamboo presents still a striking and remarkable feature, even amidst the picturesque trees, plants, and flowers of that loveliest of lovely islands, Pulo Penang.

Seated under the shade of a most umbrageous bamboo copse, reposing from heat and fatigue, we see a miserable group, the half-starved inhabitants of some inland village, where the barren soil yields but an ungrateful recompense to the sweat and toil of the ploughman, and where, consequently, the impoverished natives are compelled to adopt other handicrafts to raise them the miserable pittance which is to satisfy their daily cravings. In a relaxing climate like India, where the natural indolence of the natives is still more augmented by the stifling lack of any breeze during the greater part of the day, basket-making is a very favourite and not unremunerative occupation. The better to carry on this trade, especially as their own miserable mud huts are heated to a point nearly sufficient to bake them, the poorer pariahs, armed with a few

sharp knives, attended by their wives, carrying *chatties*\* wherein to cook the mid-day meal of curry and rice, resort to where we have just discovered them; and there, with the raw material close at hand, they set to work with heart and will, but leisurely withal. Chopping off the tenderer and best suited boughs of the bamboo that is shielding them from the scorching heat, and slitting the same into convenient laths or narrow stripes, they with no small skill fashion them into baskets and stools, some of the former much esteemed for the wear and tear they will undergo when used for loading or discharging grain. Besides these, an endless variety of fans and toys (such, for instance, as babies' rattles, etc.) are constructed by these people; and the whole cargo, though numerous and diversified, being light in weight, is easily conveyed to the nearest market town, and disposed of without much difficulty. This, then, is one of the manifold uses to which the bamboo is rendered subservient.

But whilst the above operatives have been busily engaged about their handicraft, others of a far different and more lucrative calling have approached our bamboo copse in another direction, and these also are busily employed in lopping off the tenderer shoots. One of their party, meanwhile, extemporizes a fire with the dried bark, the withered leaves and twigs of the same plant, and places thereon a huge earthenware caldron, into which, when the water is boiling, the young shoots of the bamboo, after being sliced into proper sizes, are plunged, and where they are permitted to boil until reduced to a proper tenderness, when they are transferred to divers jars, and in the course of time, with the addition of vinegar and other ingredients, or syrup of sugar, become most savoury pickles and sweet preserves, which command a ready and extensive sale amongst all the Europeans in India. The bamboo is also frequently used in lieu of other vegetables, or rather for want of them, by the Europeans, in stews and ragouts, and by the natives in curries and chutneys. We have thus seen how this valuable plant not only affords the means of obtaining support, but actually furnishes food itself from its own offshoots, and that of a delicate and agreeable flavour.

Mottoo Sawmy, the head man of the village near Chindrapattal, has suffered considerable inconvenience from the recent hurricane which has devastated the whole of Madras, prostrating lofty banian trees and equally lofty cocoa-nuts that had resisted the fury of previous tornadoes through many a long year. The pliant bamboo has been bowing to the fury of the howling gale, and by its humility escaped that desolation which has been committed amongst the statelier and apparently stronger tenants of the forest. We might glean a lesson from this, with a moral of undoubted force, but time urges, and so we hurry back to Mottoo Sawmy. Hatchet in hand, he hurries forth at the first cessation of the gale to the nearest bamboo copse, and with unwearied labour lops off from the healthiest and most vigorous trees the portions required for

Indian hut-building purposes; from these he selects the props which have to support the walls, intertwined as they will be by the more delicate branches and leaves which are to constitute a base-work, upon which layers of clay, cow dung, and lime, will form the walls of his hut. From the bamboo he procures all requisites for constructing his hive-like roof; the heavier branches forming the beams, the lighter ones the cross rafters, while the dried leaves and the twigs, formerly intermingled, furnish a thatched roof equally impervious to wind and rain, and only exposed to danger when the periodical hurricanes, to which the tropics are so subject, rage with devastating force and annihilate almost everything that opposes their course.

Besides the foregoing uses, the bamboo affords a weapon offensive and defensive to the ryot or peasant. Its pliant nature and exceeding strength, when properly prepared, renders it the only available substance from which are constructed "pellet bows"—those curious but useful implements of the chase so much used throughout the Madras Presidency, but so little known in any other part of the world. A good stout piece of slit bamboo, after having been duly saturated, is allowed gradually to dry in the shade; it is then shaped conveniently, so as to admit of a double row of cat-gut strings being attached to either end. These are distended towards the extremity by the insertion of two small pieces of bamboo, about a couple of inches apart, and when these are securely lashed with twine, the centre of the two cords is connected by means of a stout piece of cloth, doubled and firmly stitched over them. From this is propelled the sun-dried clay pellet, with such force, and often with such precision, as to prove fatal to many a feathered denizen of the air, however large and however rapid their flight. Precisely opposite to the part from which the pellet is propelled, and lashed firmly round the bamboo of the bow itself, are several thick layers of cloth, which afford a readier hold to the shooter, and protect his left hand from being severely chafed by the sharp edges of the slit bamboo. With all these precautions, however, it requires no small amount of practice—tact in giving a sudden swerve to the strings of the bow, and keenness of eye, to prevent the most painful consequences to such as are not adepts with the weapon. The force with which it projects the pellet is considerable, and almost every novice who has used the pellet bow in field sports can testify how far more frequently he has struck his own left thumb than his aim has proved detrimental to the intended and unharmed victim.

Constructing the pellets for the pellet bow is an operation which gives work to many a pariah child at Madras, who, for the consideration of so many pice a thousand, may any day be encountered in the neighbourhood of clayey swamps, ankle-deep in the mire, assiduously occupied in rolling up the pellets betwixt the palms of his hands, and afterwards sun-baking them in some hot slope or mound. Indirectly, the bamboo in this case gives occupation to hundreds who would otherwise not earn anything. The execution done by the pellet bow, in the hands of an "expert," would hardly be credited.

\* Earthenware vessels.



THE BAMBOO AND ITS USES.

For defensive purposes, moreover, the bamboo has rendered good service to the Burmese in the erection of their stockades, which, it will be remembered, caused so much detriment and annoyance to the British invading forces in the war of 1824. By the natives of the whole of the Malayan and Siamese peninsula, as well as by the wild hordes inhabiting the jungles on the coast of Malabar, the bamboo, in conjunction with steel or iron, has also often furnished formidable weapons of offensive warfare; the javelin, the poisoned arrow, (besides the bow from which the arrow was shot,) and even scimitars, so sharply set that they might almost rival the best set razors, having been fabricated from this extraordinary tree. Nor has the bamboo, in its younger and more pliant stages, proved less formidable to the beasts of the jungle, including the tiger. To bend a stout young plant, so that its stoutest and tallest branches were embedded many feet in the earth; to attach to the lower-most portion a decoy—a kid or a bird—with a noose pendant from its branches, is no unusual practice amongst the natives of the Wynard jungle. The unwary chetah, attracted by the cries of its victims, rushes into the snare; the noose tightens round its throat, and in its violent efforts to disengage itself, the buried portion of the bamboo disinters itself from the earth, and, swinging aloft with a mighty reaction, carries with it into the air the savage malefactor, who is there left to swing until its guttural cries attract the village watchers, and a speedy end is put to one more marauder on their poultry yards, themselves, and their families. Here, then, we have the bamboo used as an agent of retribution.

If we turn to China, and some other countries in the East, we find the bamboo transformed into an implement of justice, and, too often, an implement of torture. But this is to pervert from its proper uses this most valuable of all tropical productions.

What a boon to a Crusoe would the discovery of a bamboo plant have proved! With the simple assistance of a good-sized pocket knife, from it he might have fashioned a thousand utilities with but small labour on his part. From it, savages and shipwrecked mariners, by the mere process of friction, have been enabled to procure fire, and that heat so necessary to their weather-beaten and chilled frames; from it are constructed drinking vessels, and the means of conveying, from deep wells or pools, water for the parched lips of the weary wayfarer; in it the half-savage Malay of Sumatra cooks his daintiest meals of rice, eschewing ever afterwards the use of the same vessel again; to it many a poor peasant of the East, whose arid lands would never recompense years of labour, is indebted for that necessary supply of moisture without which vegetation cannot exist, because from it natural aqueducts, miles in extent, may be constructed in a few days, simply by the process of slitting the stouter bamboos in halves and laying them one within another, so that the waters of a spring may be carried over a large extent of land. Upon bamboo rafts the Siamese love to build their floating houses at Bangkok, and so, as the fancy

seizes them, move from one spot to another, without inconvenience or expense in shifting their possessions, from one side of the river to the other. From the bamboo the same Siamese people extract dulcet notes, with an organ constructed of nine or more young bamboos, thoroughly drilled and bound together by an ebony mouth-piece, by blowing through which, chords equal to many church organs may be produced. Authorities assert that paper, and even clothing, can be and are produced from the fine inner fibre that lines the bamboo. Of this we can say nothing; but it is self-evident, from well-known usage and practical experience, that the bamboo gives employment to man, and enables him to earn his food; it affords him shelter and a home, a shade, a means of procuring fire, of irrigating, of cooking, of river navigation; it supplies a delicacy in pickles or sweets; and, what is by no means an unimportant consideration, a means of punishing his evil dispositions, in the shape of a severe bastinadoing.

#### A DOUR ACROSS COUNTRY.

IN the month of October, 1858, a small detachment of Sikh cavalry and infantry, accompanied by two or three European officers, was encamped amid the ruins of a deserted indigo factory in one of the most disturbed districts of Upper Bengal. The factory had been "looted" and burnt by a band of mutinous Sepoys some time previously, and the work of destruction had been complete. Only a small portion of the dwelling-house was standing amidst the *débris* scattered about; the greater portion of the walls were level with the ground, while those still standing, tottering to their fall, seemed to set the laws of gravitation at defiance. Beams of wood, broken utensils of all kinds, bits of furniture, dead animals, and scraps of old letters, littered the ground. Ever and anon a vulture winged its slow heavy flight across the spot, or flapped its wings over its revolting banquet. Desolation reigned over the scene, so lately alive with life and activity.

The factory had stood upon a small natural elevation, at the foot of which a broad shallow river flowed sluggishly along through banks of sand. The Sikh encampment was placed outside the ruins of the factory, and the small dingy tents, in shape something like the Australian banyan, were pitched with slovenly irregularity on the slope of the mound. The greater portion of the Eastern warriors are solacing themselves with their morning repast, and with a white cloth wrapped round their loins, and wholly disencumbered of any other article of clothing, are watching with intense satisfaction the culinary process which is converting their *ottah* (a kind of flour) into the thick, greasy, indigestible *jepati*. Some, in an easy military undress, consisting of a Karkee tunic, soiled with many a stain, a buff belt dangling about the shoulders, a turban half untied, the loose end forming a long streamer behind, and with shoes like those worn by the Esquimaux, saunter easily along with an independence of manner charming to behold. Others, stretched at length upon the ground, carol in harsh