

*Loss of the French whaler Narwal* — This vessel was a ship of 450 tons from Havre, and was totally lost on the islands near the southwest of Corea on the 3d of April, in lat 34° 11 N.; the crew, with the exception of one man, reached the shore in boats, or by leaping from the wreck to the rocks, saving almost nothing but their lives. In the morning of the 4th, they met together in a small cove, and immediately began collecting fragments of the wreck, casks, spars, and boats, for the purpose of forming a camp. Here they all remained for a week on good terms with the natives, who assisted them with rice and other provisions, and showed no disposition to injure them. M. Arnaud, the chief officer, with eight men, who volunteered the desperate venture, left the island on the night of the 10th in one of the whale-boats, and after the perilous and rough passage of five days safely reached Chusan and Lukong, from whence they were taken to Shanghai. On hearing their story, M. de Montigny, the French consul, chartered a lorcha to go himself to the rescue of Captain Rivelan and the nineteen men still in Corea. He took four of the whale-boat's crew with him, and set sail the next day, April 20th, with a fair wind, accompanied by M. de Kleczkowski, the interpreter connected with the Consulate, and Mr. McD., an English gentleman residing at Shanghai. From the account given by the latter, inserted in the North China Herald, we collect the particulars of the trip, which resulted successfully in the rescue of the survivors.

Land was sighted on the morning of the 25th, and the lorcha ran into the shore, casting anchor in a cove which was little better than an open roadstead; where the beach was lined with black basaltic rocks. This was the western point of Quelpart I, in lat 33° 19'N., near a small islet off the roadstead named Eden I. by Sir E. Belcher. Only one house was visible, but on the party reaching the shore they saw a crowd of the lower sort collected to see them, and a number of catamarans aground near by; these last were made by lashing a dozen logs together, and defending their top by a framework of bars and stanchions. We extract the account of the reception of the foreigners, condensing some of the details a little : —

“The people on the beach were of the lowest class, clad in wide quilted jackets and trowsers of unbleached coarse hempen cloth, yet their appearance did not indicate less cleanliness or comfort than that of the same order of Chinese. Their complexions were similiar to Chinese of a corresponding latitude, yet their *tout ensemble* was very different, arising chiefly from the head not being shaved as in China, the men wearing the hair tied up in a knot on the crown of the head, and the boys having it long and hanging over the back. They were good humored, cheerfully collecting shells, sponges, &c, for us in the hope of being rewarded with a cigar. Presently the whole of our party had landed, and our attention was called to the top of the beach where an officer appeared, who was talking and gesticulating with some vehemence of manner. He had just arrived on a little rough pony, and as we approached he beckoned us to return on board in a way not to be misunderstood; but his rapidity of gesture and volubility of speech were alike lost upon us, as we merely replied by handing him a slip of paper with a line in Chinese intimating that we intended to have a parley with him at his house, but not there in a crowd. This he read off in a loud and interrogative sort of tone, then talking on for some minutes in a vociferous voice as before; but as we showed no intention of returning, he suddenly mounted his little horse, whose height was about equal to the diameter of his master's hat, and trotted off.

“The day was wet, and the appearance of the country dreary, but we trudged on by a narrow road confined within stone dikes on either hand, and at the time little better than a water-course. We soon descried the walls of a fort at the distance of about half a mile across some wet field land. One of the Coreans, a numerous retinue of whom accompanied us, beckoning us to follow him into the fort, we approached within a short distance, but as the official cavalier did not show himself to receive us, and the gate being shut, we turned off and entered the first cottage in the adjacent hamlet. It was that of a poor husbandman, having three small apartments nearly filled with agricultural implements, &c, walls not six feet high, and thatched roof; a rough stone dike of about five feet high inclosed the premises. Finding seats as we best could, we sat down under the projecting eaves of the house, and as the yard in front was soon thronged by the Coreans, we ascertained that most of them could read and

write Chinese, and accordingly addressed ourselves to one of the principal men, inquiring regarding the officer and the fort. The former, we were told, was a Great Frontier Protecting General, on reading which I am afraid some of us laughed rather disrespectfully, but our peasant scribe was not discomposed. Send and tell the Great Frontier Protecting General that we guests are waiting to be received,' we added — The General has no time for idle conversation answered the old fellow. — 'Not very polite,' said we. Our country is distinguished for propriety of manners and rectitude of principle, he rejoined — 'How many men and guns are there in that fort ?' we asked — 'The laws of our country are very severe, and forbid communication with you, so I can not tell you,' he replied, moving away, as he drew his hand across his throat giving a very significant sign thereby

"Finding nothing could be learned thus, we advanced to the fort. The gate was atill shut, but one of our European sailors climbed over the wall to open it from the inside, while our Canton braves put on a fierce look, as if in expectation of a desperate sortie from the garrison. Great was our amusement therefore to perceive on the gate being opened that the interior contained nothing but a field of young wheat, with several small huts and two ponies at the further end. The wall of the fort was built of rough stone, about twenty feet in height, having numerous embrasures in the parapet, and of a quadrangular form, with a projecting bastion at each of the four corners, and a covered gate way. Its extent was about two hundred yards in length and about one hundred yards in breadth, and to judge from its decayed appearance was probably built during the war with Japan about 150 years ago, and neglected since that time.

As we advanced up the path in the centre we perceived the General. He received us courteously in the only place he seemed to possess adapted for public occasions It was a small square cottage open to the west, which direction it fronted, and partly at the sides, covered with a good thatched roof, which was supported by four substantial wood pillars about eight feet high, their bases resting on stone pedestals, and having a plank door and tolerable clean appearance. Mats were spread for us on the floor, but finding the posture à la Turque not very convenient, the General did his best to procure substitutes for chairs. He was a man of middle stature, olive complexion, features somewhat sharp but in teresting, and his eyes resembled the Japanese more than the Chinese. His look was intelligent and penetrating. His hands and feet were small, his hair was dressed in a knot on the top of the head, and secured by a broad band of delicate network composed of black silk and hair. 'The hat,' says Belcher, speaking of another officer he saw, 'which is a light fabric, and most beautiful piece of workmanship, is composed of the fine outer fibres of the bamboo, dyed black [many are not], and woven into a gauze, like our finest wire-work. The rim is about two feet in diameter; the cone rises to nine inches, having a diameter at the truncated vertex of three inches, where it is slightly convex, and has one or more peacock's feathers attached in a kind of swivel, forming a graceful head dress, and one not unbecoming a military character. Beneath this hat our chief was decorated by two necklaces or collars, one composed of large ultramarine blue balls apparently of porcelain, the centre being about nine-tenths of an inch in diameter, diminishing in size towards the extremities. The other fastened behind the left ear and crossing the breast, but this was composed of long tubular pieces, about a quarter of an inch in diameter, by two inches in length, tapering at the extremes and apparently amber, having a dark colored red bead between each. His personal dress consisted of a fine loose shirt of grasscloth, trowsers and stockings in one, of a specie's of [white] Nankeen, and leathern boots of very neat workmanship in the loose Wellington style, the upper part being of a black velvet; a loose tunic of open texture approaching to coarse grasscloth or muslin, having the cuffs lined and turned up with scarlet silk, confined by a broad sash of blue at the waist, completed the house dress.' The only article of foreign manufacture that we observed in our host's dress was his hat strings, which were composed of fine white twilled Manchester cotton cloth. At the Amherst group, we subsequently observed one of the officials who visited us had the wide sleeves of his gown turned up with longcloth. These were the only instances we perceived of European manufactures.

"Shortly after communication commenced in Chinese writing. The people around our little hall began to express their interest in the proceedings with more noise than was agreeable, intimation of which being given, our host gave a loud order, and a man was instantly seized in the crowd. Making no resistance by word or action, he quietly submitted to be thrown on the ground face downwards; his clothes were then drawn down bare from the waist to the knees, and the instrument of flagellation was about being applied to the hams of his legs, when we interfered, giving the General to

understand that no punishment of that nature could be permitted before us. This instrument resembled somewhat in size and shape the blade of a wherry's oar, having a round handle of about two feet, and would seem to be in much more diligent use than even the bamboo in China for the same purpose

"Our host ordered a repast to be spread for us, consisting of boiled rice, dried fish, slices of beef, vegetables, sea-weed, and a species of sea slug, accompanied by samshoo and a beverage tasting like cider. The whole was served up on small tables of about fifteen inches in altitude, a convenient height for the posture of the natives. The rice, &c., was served up in bowls made of metal, apparently a mixture of brass and tutenague, with small flat dishes of common earthenware; the chopsticks were composed of the same metal and flat in shape."

During the interview, the old General protested that he had heard of no European vessel lately wrecked on the coast; but his information on other subjects more nearly connected with his position, was not such as to lead his visitors to expect much. However, after arranging that he should return their visit on the morrow, they took leave and went aboard. During the night, a squall came up and drove the lorcha inshore, putting the whole in great danger of shipwreck for a while, but the wind subsided towards morning, leaving a very turbulent sea. The General was not able to get off that day, but the next day he came in company with a chihien and some other officials, all of whom after some trouble managed to get on board. Here they were entertained with a repast, and requested to furnish a pilot to assist in taking the lorcha up to the scene of the shipwreck, it being civilly intimated to them that they would be detained till the request was granted. They soon therefore acceded to the proposal, leaving one of their secretaries and four of the boatmen to carry the lorcha through the islands, glad enough doubtless to get ashore again. The breeze favoring, M. Montigny ordered his vessel to stand out to the south, which she did till the southern coast of Quelpart opened out around a lofty perpendicular bluff, where she anchored. The view from this anchorage is thus noticed : —

"On our left was the bold head recently passed, its black rocks mingled with several masses of iron-stone; before us a hill extending nearly to the beach, bold, rugged, and nearly perpendicular on three sides, towered up to a height of about 600 feet, its flattened top, and bleak withered sides of gray basalt, standing out in strong relief against the the sylvan ranges and conical-shaped hills which skirted the vale behind; while on the right the sandy bay terminated at the distance of a few miles in another rocky headland, rising like a vast wall sheer out of the water, and behind which the mountains rose to the highest summit on the island."

Towards evening the foreigners took a stroll on shore, groups of natives following them, or tarrying on the beach to see their boat. The fields near by were in many places separated by stone dikes, and cattle grazing within the inclosure. Iron seemed to abound, and the beach under the steep hill near the shore was composed of a conglomerate into which iron entered as a constituent. Wheat and barley occupied the fields on the uplands, and laborers were ploughing up the low grounds for receiving the rice. Wherever the foreigners went, the people shouted to the women to retire, but no serious obstacle was placed in the way of their progress.

The next day, one of the party went ashore to receive some provisions which had been requested, and found the General and the district magistrate, with other officiate in waiting. They received the presents of cottons and other things in exchange, being especially pleased with some bottles of spirits; in this particular the Corean functionaries act more sensibly than those of Japan, who decline all remuneration. The articles having come on board, and the wind favoring, the lorcha set sail for the Amherst isles, passing around Loney's Bluff, as Belcher named the southwest cliff of Quelpart, and steering north along its western shore, till she cleared it entirely. Mount Auckland, the loftiest summit on the island, 6544 ft high, rose far above the clouds, and formed a commanding object. During the night, the breeze carried the vessel rapidly on, and in the morning she was in sight of what was thought to be Lyra island, off which she had to beat during most of the day; that night she lay to off a narrow passage, which was entered the next day, and an anchorage reached towards evening. On inquiring of the islanders near the place, where the wreck of the European ship was, the Consul was told, "on the Eastern island." Next morning, May 1st, M. Arnaud descried in the distance the islets where the "Narwal" was finally lost, and sail was immediately set; it was about twenty miles off, and was not reached till noon. The anchorage of the lorcha was in lat. 34° 11' N., on the west side of Perkontau, or Flying-bird I., in the district of Lochau, and department of Tsiuen-lo. It is girded on three sides by bare hills rising five or six hundred feet, and partially protected from northwest winds by by

bold cliff at its entrance. Two rounds were fired to announce the arrival of the party to their friends, and after some delay, which gave rise to apprehensions lest relief had come too late, the natives were seen on the ridge. The party landed and proceeded to the camp formed by the "Narwal's" crew, where they found two Corean officers, one of whom recognized their guides with apparent pleasure. Captain Rivalan and his party were at a neighboring village, whither all immediately started; the officers and their trains in company, The account of the meeting with them, and of their treatment since the departure of M. Arnaud, are here quoted : —

"After leaving the camp we climbed over a hilly ridge, and then found ourselves descending towards the central valley of the island. The slopes of the hill were bare and sandy except in those parts which were sheltered from the fury of the northern blasts, on which a scanty soil supported some tracts of stunted firs, which supply the islanders with fire-wood. Our path led down along the sandy bank of a small brook which issued from the hill, giving life to a scattered line of dwarf willows.

"One of our men had preceded us, carrying the news of our arrival to their former shipmates, and here it was that we at last beheld the crew of the lost Narwal. A grizzled and a motley band they seemed, as they advanced towards us with their captain at their head. A month in Corea had certainly not refined their appearance, and the meagre and broken-down looks of some of them bespoke little satisfaction with their diet of rice and aromatic fish thrice a day, varied by the addition of a small portion of beef every seventh day. No wonder then that they should welcome their deliverers with hearty shouts; that our party should feel the pride and gratification of success; so that when both joined, the vivas and cheers that arose made the old hills ring again. In fact, a general enthusiasm prevailed — the liberated Jacks tore off their tickets, and jumped about for joy, and even our brave captain Demetrius shouted and cheered till the tears ran down."

It was well that relief was not longer delayed. After the escape of the first boat as already narrated, the headmen of the village induced the Captain to leave the camp and remove thither with his men. They quartered them however, not in the village, which was situated on a healthy site on the slope of a hill, but in huts at some distance in the midst of the paddy fields. The huts were three in number, two of which were appropriated to the Captain and his men, and the third to the Corean guard. Their dimensions, like most others on the island, were on the most Lilliputian scale, the principal apartment in each measuring only about seven feet by nine; hence the twenty men to be accommodated found themselves so crowded that they could not stretch themselves at length when they laid down to sleep; and they were in every respect the most wretched places I saw on the island. There was a small courtyard around each hut, beyond the precincts of which they were strictly prohibited from proceeding. Any attempt of the sort was certain to bring down the vengeance of the shang-kwan or high officers, of the village, upon the guard, who were bastinadoed without mercy; and irksome as the confinement was, the sailors refrained from involving these poor fellows in trouble. Shortly after the escape of the boat above noticed, four more officers arrived and took up their residence at the village; the crew were then numbered from one to twenty, beginning with the captain; each man having his wooden label with the number in Chinese characters inscribed on one side, and the same number of bars cut on the other, tied to his breast. The party had understood by signs that they were in a few days to be transferred to the mainland, about a hundred miles distant; and we afterwards learned from the officials that the men were to have been taken to King-ki-tao, the capital city, there to await instructions from Peking.

"Numbers of people visited the distinguished foreigners 'to gratify their curiosity, and by levying a regular toll in kind the sailors continued to keep up a small supply of tobacco. Some of the villagers also took lessons in the French language, in which they succeeded much better than Chinamen could have done; and it was diverting to observe them exhibiting their proficiency to us; pointing upwards, they would exclaim, "Le soleil!" and looking down cry, "La terre!" The r and l, which puzzle the Chinese of the South, are sounds too common in Corean to be difficult to them.

"We all went on to the village, where the population was in a state of unprecedented excitement, and the whole body of the shang-kwan came forth to receive us. We were led up to the principal house, which was divided into three apartments. Generally speaking the cottages are thus divided; one end compartment forms the kitchen; the middle room is the eating and sleeping-chamber, and is not incommoded with chairs, tables, or such like superfluous articles, but being raised two or three feet from the ground, the plank floor is covered with matting on which they sit; the walls are

covered with a stout white paper, as also the lattice-work doors which fixed— (on iron hinges)— are about four feet in height, giving light and ventilation to the apartment; one or two boxes in the corner contain spare clothes, and in the other is a small roll of bedding. The average size is about eight feet by ten, and the height of the interior barely sufficient to admit of standing upright at the sides. The third room is devoted to agricultural implements, &c, and the eaves of the house projecting about three feet are supported by wooden posts, thus forming a verandah about three feet deep, which when floored with plank, as is often the case, affords an excellent sitting-place, being raised from the ground to a level with the floor. The cottages are warmed by under-ground stoves lighted from without, which heat the air under the floors, and in the severe colds of winter these little nests must be snug and comfortable. Each cottage is surrounded by a yard, in one corner of which is the humble cow-shed. Close by is the cabbage-yard; a clump of dwarf bamboos in the corner yields tubes for tobacco-pipes; here and there is a fruit or flowering tree; and magnificent specimens of the wild Camellia in full blossom shone conspicuous above all.”

On reaching the village, a muh-sz, or Village elder, and five others received the foreigners with much ceremony. A repast was spread for them in the yard of the house where they were sitting, and the Corean officials strove to render the interview agreeable. Communications were made in writing, and all well-dressed people seemed to have a knowledge of the Chinese language, sufficient for ordinary intercourse. A transcript of the British, American, and French Treaties with China was taken by them, from a copy shown them. After inviting them to visit the lorcha, the Consul and his friends left to go on board, taking the crew of the whaler with them; they made a wide circuit on their return, visiting the wreck of the lost ship in the way. On the morrow the Corean officers came on board, “a decent, grave, and reverend body of functionaries, clad in the usual whitey-brown colored stuff; their dresses, especially at the sleeves, were of most capacious width. Their caps, of the same color as the dress, resembled in shape those of the ancient Chinese as seen on the stage; the rank of the wearer was indicated by the number of black spots on the band surrounding his cap.” They mentioned that they were in mourning for the king who died two years ago; and that the designation of his successor was Jih-ho (Sun-fire).

A few presents were made them, and they promised on their part to send off some provisions and other articles the next day. The interview passed off pleasantly, which is doubtless ascribable, in no small degree, to their full knowledge of the designs and wishes of their foreign visitors, who were, on this and most other occasions, able to make themselves understood. The next morning the presents and provisions came off as agreed upon, and during the day everything was settled to depart. The foreigners ramhled about at pleasure in pursuit of game or to see the country. In one of his excursions, Mr. McD. was met by two well-dressed persons, one of whom wished to accompany him in the lorcha, proposing “to ramble over the world with him!” He afterwards met him on board, desirous of going with the crew, but they were obliged to deny him. Two Corean Christians were, however, received as passengers. The next morning, May 3d, the lorcha set sail, and reached Shanghai on the 8th, having been absent eighteen days.