

in character, rising to heights of 4000 feet, and the clear weather so frequently experienced shows to advantage the wild mountain scenery, which offers a *coup d'œil* that can hardly be excelled.

The city of Victoria, on the north side of Hong Kong Island, extends for upwards of 3 miles along the coast at the base of the hills. Owing to the nature of the ground, which rises abruptly from the sea, the streets are built in terraces, rising one above the other, nearly a third of the way to the peak, which renders the view of the town from the sea exceedingly picturesque. Along the coast, in front of the city, some land has been reclaimed, embanked, and formed into a handsome esplanade, 3 miles in length, from which a few wharves extend to facilitate landing merchandise. A good military road, 22 miles in length, encircles the island, and other roads cross the mountains, the principal being the road to Victoria Peak, on the summit of which is a signal station, and near it a sanatorium and a few bungalows. The city of Hong Kong is remarkably well built and laid out. Besides several handsome Government Buildings there is a cathedral and bishop's palace, several good hospitals, extensive barracks, and club houses. At the back of the town, near Government House, on the slope of the hill, are the botanical gardens, from which a fine view of the harbour is obtained, and at the eastern extremity of the town is the only flat piece of land on the island, called "Happy Valley," utilised as a racecourse, and close to which, in somewhat awkward proximity, are the cemeteries.

The occupation of Hong Kong was originally of considerable cost to England, the vote from Parliament in 1845 being nearly £50,000 in addition to military expenditure. Since 1867, however, the colony has been self-supporting.

Lying as it does just within the tropics, Hong Kong is subject to an excessively hot and a somewhat cool season, coinciding with the southwest and northeast monsoons. The city being situated on the north side of the island, under the hills, does not receive any benefit from the southwest monsoon, which on the southern side agreeably tempers the violent heat. July and August are the hottest months, and November to January the coolest period. March and April are foggy, with a penetrating damp, requiring great care to be taken of books or instruments liable to injury from that cause. The rainy season proper commences in May, and continues until the beginning of August, and during this period the rain falls almost without intermission, frequently causing floods which do great damage.

A meteorological register has been kept at Hong Kong for fourteen years, from which the following table has been compiled, showing with far greater precision than a long explanation what the average climate of the island is. To this is added a register for two years on Victoria Peak, and for the sake of comparison one for the same period at the sea level :—