

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

A
WINTER IN NORTH CHINA

—♦—
CHAPTER I.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO YOKOHAMA.

Chinese population in California—China-town—Mission work—Prohibitive legislation—The Pacific voyage—Reasons for calling at the Sandwich Islands—Honolulu—Marvellous change in these islands since their discovery by Captain Cook—Yokohama—Tokyo—The Pagoda of Towers—Shiba and its temples—Zojyoji—Vries Island—Kobe and Hiogo—Sunday in Kobe—Mission work—Productions—Civilization.

I PASS over, without remark, our pleasant Atlantic voyage, and our rapid run across the American continent, in which we saw just enough of that wonderful country to awaken the desire to see more. The only matter on which I would touch, as related to the errand on which we were going forth, is the short visit we paid to what is called China-town. In the State of California there is a Chinese population of 35,000, and of these more than 15,000 are resident in San Francisco. These are all huddled together in one quarter by themselves, and it is very difficult to understand how so many people can contrive to live in so small a space. This part of the city is

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

so exclusively occupied by the Chinese, that as you walk through its streets, and see all the peculiarities of Chinese life about you, you can scarcely bring yourself to believe that you are not in a Chinese city. But there, side by side, Chinese and American life touch each other at many points, not intermingling, but each retaining all its characteristic differences.

We called at the head-quarters of the Episcopal Chinese Mission. The clergyman in charge was not at home, but we had a pleasant talk with the matron of a female school and home, which seems to be doing a good work among Chinese women and girls, in a quiet and unobtrusive way. We were guided to this mission-house by a young lady, whom we encountered in the street, and who is working among the Chinese in connection with the Baptist Mission. The Chinese are creating a difficulty in San Francisco and all along the Pacific coast. They seem to be a quiet, sober, industrious, and pre-eminently frugal people, who can live and save money where others would starve. But they live by themselves as a distinct people. Their ambition is to save money and return to their own country, or, at all events, they would like to be buried at home. There were several coffins on board the ship by which we went to China.

The difficulty with the Chinese is a labour difficulty. They undersell the labour of the United States, and, in consequence, a very bitter feeling is displayed against them by the labouring classes, and this feeling is so decided and widespread that it has secured legislative interference. The entrance of Chinese labour is prohibited. The Chinese already in the

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO YOKOHAMA 23

United States may remain, but no more must come in. The Chinese are not only a very industrious, but also a very persistent and a very ingenious people, and thus it happens that those who have the administration of this prohibitive law have need of all their wits to keep the Chinese out. Many of the most intelligent people I met with in these parts strongly condemn this legislation as unnecessary and harmful, and they did not hesitate to say that America cannot afford to dispense with Chinese labour. And in this legislation, which is designed to prevent Chinese immigration, we have another of the many expressions of the American love for protection. This prohibitive legislation has naturally excited a very bitter feeling in China.

On October 9, 1890, about noon, we went on board the steamship *China*, but our start was delayed until nearly seven p.m. It was a splendid afternoon, and though we grew a little impatient because we should not get through the Golden Gate by daylight, we much enjoyed the varied scenery which stretched away from us in every direction as we lay at anchor in the beautiful Bay of San Francisco.

After getting on board, we found we were not to proceed directly to Japan, but to call at Honolulu. There was a sufficient reason for this detour, which added several days to the length of our voyage. The *China*, on its way to San Francisco, ought to have landed at Honolulu a large number of Chinese; but, having come from a cholera-infected port, the authorities would not allow them to land without subjecting them to a lengthened quarantine. The

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

24 *A WINTER IN NORTH CHINA*

captain could not spare time for this, and so carried his Chinese cargo on to San Francisco, to be discharged at Honolulu on his way back!

We had about eighty saloon passengers—a few missionaries and missionary ladies, proceeding to their different fields of labour, a considerable number of Americans, and a few English, travelling for pleasure; a good many Japanese, several Chinese, and a Korean gentleman, who had been acting as the Korean Minister at Washington, all of whom were returning to their respective countries after more or less lengthened absence from them. We were made to feel that, not Europe or America, but Asia, was the great object of interest to the majority of our fellow-passengers, for, besides those of the saloon passengers who were Asiatic by birth, or had commercial or social relationship to that great continent, there were seven hundred and fifty Chinese in the steerage. The crew was almost entirely Chinese, the servants Chinese and Japanese in almost equal proportions, so that we had an Oriental atmosphere about us, and received a Chinese education before we reached China. The more we saw of this wonderful people, the deeper was our interest in them.

Several of the Orientals on board had been led formally to embrace Christianity during their residence in Europe or America, and were intelligent and earnest Christians; and others were deeply interested in the Christian religion, and favourably affected towards it, though at present, with several of them, it was chiefly an intellectual preference, they regarding Christianity as one of the most potent

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO YOKOHAMA 25

factors of our Western civilization, of which the Japanese especially seem enamoured. My colleague and myself had many long and interesting conversations with this section of our fellow-passengers, who were thoroughly well-educated men, and very conversable. They talked in a perfectly free and unconventional way, and with almost childlike simplicity, of their own position and experience, and of the light or lights in which our civilization and religion presented themselves to them.

The first Sunday service was conducted by my colleague. The congregation, though small—forty or fifty people—was a representative one, including many nationalities, and all seemed interested. Let us hope that the seed sown may spring up and bear fruit. The great Sower has many different ways of scattering His seed. The second Sunday the preacher was a Canadian Presbyterian minister; and in the evening, after dinner, we had a very pleasant devotional service, an American Baptist presiding, who had been some ten years missionary in Japan, and who was returning to his work there. On the third Sunday the author conducted the service, preaching to a congregation not quite so large as on the previous Sundays, owing to the almost suffocating heat.

On October 16 we approached the Sandwich Islands, our destination being the port of Honolulu, on the island of Oahu. This group of islands has been spoken of as the Paradise of the Pacific. It seems strange, looking upon what we see to-day, to remember that they were discovered only a little more than a century ago, and were then the abode

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
 T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
 Excerpt
[More information](#)

26 *A WINTER IN NORTH CHINA*

of savages and cannibals. But so it is. In a place called Kanwaihoa a monument has been erected to the memory of Captain Cook—a plain obelisk of concrete—in the centre of a small enclosure surrounded with chains, supported by old cannon. The monument was put in its place in 1874, and bears this inscription:—

IN MEMORY OF
 CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, R.N.,
 THE GREAT CIRCUMNAVIGATOR,
 WHO
 DISCOVERED THESE ISLANDS
 ON THE 18TH OF JANUARY, A.D. 1778,
 AND FELL NEAR THIS SPOT
 ON THE 14TH OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 1789.

THIS MEMORIAL WAS ERECTED BY SOME OF HIS
 FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.

As we entered the tropics, we were not only sensible of the increased heat, but we were struck by the intense blue of the ocean. In approaching Oahu we passed to the windward of the island of Molokai, the leper island, associated with the name and labours of Father Damien. The leper settlement of Molokai is maintained by the Hawaiian Government, and is well managed. They spend upon it nearly 100,000 dollars a year. There are seven hundred lepers and three hundred relatives and assistants of the sick—about 1000 in all. The lepers are not allowed to leave the place, and strangers can only visit the island with special permit of the Board of Health. As we think of the poor lepers who form this settlement, it is with feelings of pity and compassion, and thankfulness that as much is being done as can be done to ameliorate their condition.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
 T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
 Excerpt
[More information](#)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO YOKOHAMA 27

The appearance which Oahu at first presents is not very prepossessing. Of volcanic origin, the mountain heights look drear and barren, but once round the bold headland known as Diamond Hill, the beauties of the island began to appear, and we felt that we were drawing near to one of those isles of Paradise of which we had often heard and read.

‘ I sailed beneath a burning sun,
 By coral reefs and isles of balm,
 Where orange groves and silvery palm
 By faint spice-winds were gently fanned,
 Until I reached a tropic land.’

The islands which constitute this group consist of Hawaii, Oahu, Molokai, and Kanai. In these the bulk of the inhabitants are found and the chief industries carried on. There are several smaller islands, which need not be named.

At Honolulu we were obliged to anchor in deep water outside the coral reefs, upon which the waves broke in long lines of surf. There is only twenty-two feet of water over the bar, and our ship drew twenty-four or twenty-five feet. Honolulu presents a very beautiful appearance, nestling at the foot of the mountains which form the background of the picture, and embowered in tropical vegetation. I was especially struck by the colours of the sea—every shade of blue—indigo, ultramarine, *lapis lazuli*—while nearer the shore there was an expanse of the most brilliant emerald green, and there, sweeping over the coral reefs, are the combers, as they are called, rushing over or breaking upon the hidden reefs, leaving only a comparatively narrow and tortuous entrance to the harbour proper, in which

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

28 *A WINTER IN NORTH CHINA*

were lying two American men-of-war and many other vessels.

Honolulu, on the island of Oahu, is the capital of the Hawaiian kingdom, the seat of government, and the great commercial centre. It is a town of considerable size, with a population of about 25,000. As we were lying off a considerable time—thirty hours—an opportunity was afforded of going ashore, of which most of the passengers availed themselves. Steam-tugs, sailing-vessels, and shore-boats were the means of conveyance.

The population of these islands probably exceeds at present 90,000. Of these there are about 20,000 Chinese, 15,000 Japanese, and 11,000 or 12,000 Portuguese. The Chinese and Japanese are largely engaged on the sugar plantations, the principal industry of these islands. The Hawaiian nation has a complete system of national education, sustained by several grants from the national revenue, the total number of schools being a hundred and seventy-eight, with 10,006 scholars, mostly taught in English; number of teachers, three hundred and sixty-eight, of whom two hundred and fifty-two are foreigners, and a hundred and sixteen of Hawaiian birth. The public schools are free, while the private schools charge a fee of from fifty cents to one dollar a year for each pupil.

The Hawaiians have their own postal system, which is said to be well managed—a telephonic system, which is much more largely used than in any European city of the size. There are over 1100 subscribers in connection; the cost is very small. Railways also have been recently introduced.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO YOKOHAMA 29

Honolulu is well supplied with churches—Congregational, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Christian Chinese. Some of the church buildings are of considerable size and architectural pretensions. The great attraction to visitors to the Sandwich Islands is, of course, the volcano in Hawaii, which for the size and depth of its crater has a place by itself among the volcanoes of the world. The crater is nine miles in circumference, and the depth varies from eight hundred feet to 1100 feet in different years, according as the molten sea is at ebb or flood. The Sandwich Islanders are nearly amphibious, and seem as much at home in the water as out of it. As I was standing on the deck of the tug which was to take us back to our ship, I watched for some time the graceful movements of a Kanaka boy, who was swimming about in the clear and deep water. A gentleman threw over a ten-cent piece; he dived after it and caught it before it reached the bottom, and came up with it between his teeth.

This week was marked by an incident novel to most of us—the leaving out of a day from our reckoning when we reached a hundred and eighty degrees longitude. So that we have had a week of only six days.

We were all anxious in our approach to Japan to get as good a view as possible of the Holy Mountain—Fuji-yama—of which we had heard and read so much, and it was somewhat a disappointment to be told by the captain that we should come within sight of it about five o'clock the next morning. 'If you wish to get a good view of it,' he said, 'you must be up very early.' I was on deck before daylight,

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01382-6 - A Winter in North China
T. M. Morris and Richard Glover
Excerpt
[More information](#)

30 *A WINTER IN NORTH CHINA*

and found that many of my fellow-passengers were already there. Our first view of this wonderful mountain, which by its form and beauty has so powerfully impressed the Oriental mind, was in the clear, cold light of the full moon, and a very striking appearance it presented in that light; but the light gradually became clearer and warmer. The sun at last climbed above the mountains on the other side of the narrow sea through which we were passing, flooding everything with its glory, and there rose up Fuji-yama out of a low-lying bank of clouds, in its solitary majesty, an immense truncated cone 12,265 feet in height, a height which is the more impressive because she sits there as queen, without peer or rival. No one was disappointed by the sight, however large his expectations may have been. Fuji-yama was more than all we had been told of her; her snow-clad summit glowing in the light of the rising sun, she was

‘A mountain of white marble
Steeped in light, like molten gold.’

The glorious vision soon faded from our view—the clouds gathered around her—and it was difficult, and at last impossible, to distinguish the sun-lighted mountain from the sun-lighted clouds.

We reached Yokohama soon after nine o'clock, but there was the usual tedious delay getting goods ashore, and through the custom-house, though on the busy landing-place, where we were waiting nearly two hours, we saw so many strange sights that the time did not seem very long to us. At last we got our baggage examined, and sent to our hotel,