

# 16. Manila 1

**11 Nov – 8 Dec 1856**

Manila is a city belonging to the Spaniards and is situated on the Louthorse part of Leceonia, one of the Philippines islands. It is their seat of Government. On the east having 10,000 soldiers. Here part of them are native troops.

The idea that I formed of the city when I first saw it that it was comprised of barracks, black walls, prisons and the inhabitants, soldiers and prisoners all chained together. Sometimes you will see a row of these fellows walking along the street with all their right legs chained together so when one walked the whole must walk and keep step.

There is a wall around the city and soldiers stationed at the gateways. The suburbs outside of the walls is where the natives live, there are no houses but Bamboo Huts built on Pilio about 4 feet above the ground or mud so underneath the huts is all mud and pools of water where dirt and filth of all descriptions collects. The natives in general are all clean (outside) the women are in the water nearly all day.

There is a small river runs through here, there are several small branches which spread themselves through the city and ----- . They have banked it up and made a kind of canal of it connect the mouth so that ships can come up to the Town and lay alongside the Banks, there are now wharfs and discharge and receive.

There are two or three large Dofercean ships. The Indiman 1200 tons dismasted with the Abussieum. They had last month loaded with Segas call Opoill. Two or three others were driven ashore. They have not had such a hurricane for years. Leeward ----- ships were driven ashore too.

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** received 1<sup>st</sup> boat load of luqars (ed. rice?)

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Went ashore in the gig to the stevedores where ---- lay down and want to sleep until 4 o'clock. Got a carriage and pair and drove out in the country, passed through fields of paddy which is rice in its green state. It is just like our own barley, you would hardly know the difference. Came back through the Drive. It is along the beach and is where you will every night hundreds of carriages with Spanish ladies and gentlemen and English Capt. of a ships. Two military bands play here every night from 6 to 9. The musicians play pretty well and are all dressed in white with red epaulets on their shoulders. We stopped here until half past eight then drove home.

Stevedore put me in a Banka and I came off to the ship. A Banka is thin canoe, they are from 18 to 30 feet long and 2 to 4 feet beam. The passage

Banka is pulled by 2 sometimes 8 men, thin sculls are like our old fashioned round tablespoons, only flat instead of hollow. Thin fishing Bankas and large Bankas are paddled along sometimes 80 or 40 paddles. At a distance they look like a living thing walking along on the water. Stevedores Bankas I used to call the Centipede, they don't keep stroke with their paddles, but everyone uses their paddles as they like. One man sits in the stern and steers with a paddle, see him flourish it over his head according to which side he wants it. They are all like Robinson Crusoe canoes hewened out of a tree but sharp at both ends.

### **Sundays 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Went ashore with Mr Thomas. On going up the river I have to pass ---- of women and children and girls bathing and washing clothes.

Children seldom wear anything before they are 7 or 8 years old but seem about naked as they were born. The women are not much better. They have only a jacket of very thin stuff made of Pineapple coming down to the middle of their back, thin of petticoat and over that a wrapper, generally blue, which they as they haul taught as they like. Thin hair they comb all back to the back of their head and that is Loturn Toilettries. (ed?)

**Mondays 8 December** Left Manila.