VI---BOATS AT CHEFOO

Boats gave us sso much pleasure. They had to be solid, fit for seafaring. I

Wish I could discover how and where our best boats were made.

Daphne, Hector and Neptune Were our biggest boats. They were

Four-oared, clinker-built and about 20 feet long. So they could carry

Passengers as well as four oarsmen and cox. At bow and stern they rose

Well above the water, though amidships where the oarsmen sat, there

Was not much freeboard. This made for easy rowing. But they were

Seagoing craft, and waves did not daunt them. In my day(the 1930s)

Daphne was getting rather ancient. For races we had Hero and Leander.

Kiangnan Arsenal in Shanghai, the husband of an Old Girl, Jeanie Weir.

They were much lighter than the three big boats, but they were not so

Well designed. Their cross-section was almost a V, while the big boats

Had a cross-section like a wide and shallow U. Also they rode higher in

The water, which meant that the oarsmen were tugging at oar-handles

High up above their waists.

In addition to these five four-oared boats, we had a number of

dinghies, very useful for the master on duty as he supervised the boys

Bathing. These were Shamrock and Thistle, Dorrie and Cam；and later on

Dolphin, Castor and Pollux. Every year these boats were repainted and

Repaired, if necessary, by the carpenter in the town. This man later on

Carved for me the figures for a Punch and Judy show, and he carved them

For nothing；he said they were for the children.

I was always interested in visual effects；so I got this man to adorm

The boats with figures, a boxer for Pollux, a horseman for Castor, and our

Chefoo Dolphin for Dolphin. This made things easier for Kansampandy,

Who could not read the names of the boats, but knew which one I meant

When I said “the boat with the horseman”or“the boat with the fish.”

Kansampandy served the school for about forty years；in the winter

He looked after the coal or coke-burning stoves in the class-rooms, and

In the summer he with other servants helping him carried the boats down

From the boat-house into the water. Every year on Boat Race day he