

THE FRIEND OF CHINA,

AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 1842.

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NOTIFICATION.

The publication of the Hongkong Gazette under the authority of Government, will be discontinued from this date, but all public orders and notifications appearing in the Friend of China and Hongkong Gazette, with the signatures of duly authorized Functionaries of the Government are still to be considered as official.

By order,

J. Robt. Morrison,

Secretary and Treasurer.

Hongkong, March 23rd 1842.

Reply of H. E. Sr. Henry Pottinger to the Merchants Letter of the 14th Dec. 1841.

Macao December 24th, 1841.

I am directed by Sir Henry Pottinger to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday date, and to return you a copy of it, as well as the other correspondence to Her Majesty's government by the steamer now under despatch. The Excellency further directs me to take this opportunity to mention to you, that the viceroys of Canton has, in reply to the letter which was addressed to him, declared his great anxiety, as well as perfect ability, to protect all foreigners, and has also expressed his readiness to repay such losses as may have been incurred during the late riots, after they shall have been correctly ascertained and submitted through Her Majesty's government.

Your most obedient humble servant,

Henry Pottinger, Secretary.

Messrs. Dent & Co.

Messrs. Turner & Co.

Advertisements.

SHOWING THE FRIEND OF CHINA.

Disgrace of New Keen. The Emperor of China has issued orders against New Keen, late Governor General of Keang-tan, and Keang-se Provinces. The Imperial dispatch charges him with criminal ignorance and neglect as to the high and important trusts committed to his hands in guarding and defending the sacred territory of the middle Kingdom, against the aggressions of the barbarians, and for allowing them to invade the Provinces under his direction.

He is therefore degraded from his official rank, and ordered to retire with the rank of a second rank official. The Emperor has also ordered the former high imperial commissioner at Nanking, and successor, as Governor General of New Keen, to be degraded from his office, and to be liable for New Keen's immediate appearance at the Court of Punishment.

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City, about fifty carriages of Sam Shoo, was taken by the Police, and when brought to the customs, the affair was investigated, and the smuggler was punished with eighty strokes, which were laid on so severely as to cause the loss of his life. The relations of the man have appealed to the Emperor, and one of the Ministers recommends that the Custom house officer, who ordered the smuggling, be immediately arrested and tried.

HOOAN. Additional and large sums of money continue to be voluntarily paid at the disposal of the Emperor by military operations against the barbarians, by various officers, and opulent merchants of the Province of Hooan.

KWANSE. The Literati of Kwang-se Province have combined and made large contributions for the erection of a magnificent Literary Hall at Kwei-tin, the Provincial capital of Kwang-se. For such liberality, the Emperor brings the donors to the notice of the court, and the Emperor dispenses favours to them accordingly.

Private. A captain in the imperial guards, hearing of the death of his father, at once set out for home, without first applying for leave. The case was represented to the Emperor by the Governor of the Province, and His Majesty declares vengeance against the party, in case such a manifest violation of all military order, should again occur.

FORMOSA. In consequence of the barbarian ships twice going to Formosa, to attack the forts, many Formosan natives seized upon the occasion to band themselves into banditti, and cause great disturbance. The officers in command however, have exerted themselves and succeeded in taking about two hundred of the banditti, and the commander-in-chief represents the officers to the Court, as fit persons for promotion and imperial favours.

Private. One of our Pinkets, a Portuguese, who visited Macao for the Christmas holidays, writes us that he left there for Hongkong on the 5th instant, in the Lorchia, No. 62, when near our harbour of the Kap-shu-moon about ten o'clock at night they were attacked by a large private boat, with several men, who were armed with Swords, Axes, and other weapons, and boarded the Lorchia and demanded the surrender of the money and valuables of the passengers. Two Englishmen on board, named Brown, who resisted, were seized and carried off, and the other passengers were robbed of their trunks, and of all their money.

On the same night, near the above mentioned place, the Commodore's ship, the Commodore, was attacked by a private boat, who were armed with Swords, Axes, and other weapons, and boarded the Commodore and demanded the surrender of the money and valuables of the passengers.

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proceeded in a vessel to Canton, direct from hence, whither he went, on the news of the Peace and laid his Lorchia alongside the Factory, much to the surprise of the denizens of the provincial capital.

We are sorry to hear from Whampoa, that parties supposed to be connected with the Pirates who captured the Hongkong Lorchia, have been dealt with summarily by some of the avengers. It is said, eight China men, have been slaughtered. This kind of Lynch law, we hope will at once be put down by the strong arm of Authority.

We are sickened at the detail of atrocities, which are daily committed in our vicinity, all of which are ascribed to the habits of recklessness and insubordination induced by the British contraband trade in Opium.

Deeply do we deplore the verification of our prognostics. Again and again, have we bootlessly claimed attention to what was passing around us. So long ago as July, in our No. 16, we published the letter of Senex, which abounded with practical suggestions for putting down the growing evil, but nothing was done. Now, our port is practically blockaded, for native vessels are afraid to come hither, or depart when here.

The Public mind is much excited and although an inroad is, we believe, lately made by the Pirates on the other side of the Island, no apprehension need be entertained for the security of the Toys from similar visitors. We discredit the report that the Pirates have attacked the clipper, Pantisloon, in Macao Roads and been beaten off.

Communicated.

Macao Lorchia on her passage hither from Macao, was attacked in the night of the 6th instant by a Pirate Boat in the Cap-shu-moon whilst under weigh.

Among the Passengers robbed was the unfortunate gunner of the late Brig "Ann" who was on his return to Hongkong with 812, which he had received as the amount of his wages up to the time of the shipwreck. He was wounded in 3 places by the Pirates.

It is to be regretted that a subscription cannot be set on foot to relieve the poor fellow, who had cut off himself with the idea of going home with his hard earnings, after the protracted and miserable imprisonment and suffering he had undergone on board.

Monday morning at night, a fire broke out at the warehouse of the late Regt. Madras N. 10, which soon spread to the building in which it commenced, and the whole of the troops and stores were destroyed. The loss is estimated at 20,000 dollars.

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such a regulation by the Chinese, and our assent thereto, if not ignominious, savours too much of Canton Custom, to suit our taste. We have ever held this confinement, to a certain spot, as one of the most personally degrading features of our intercourse with China, and besides, one of the greatest obstacles to that mutual better acquaintance, out of which, great good to both Countries could not fail to result.

It is indeed much to be lamented, that we are still to be confined to a certain quarter, like the lepers among the Chinese, and like the Jews in our cities, during the Middle ages. It cannot be disguised that the same feelings which induced such treatment of the Jews, dictates the present Chinese Policy towards ourselves. It is true the natives have no apprehension of our "devilish sorceries and infidel spells" but by compelling us to abide in a specified spot, in their cities, they thus uphold the popular belief in our moral depravation and mischievous tendencies: besides confirming the general impression of our infinite inferiority, to the inhabitants of the Central flowery land.

Our history affords many instances of our paying large sums to Foreign states, for Commercial privileges and for philanthropic objects such, as for the Suppression of the Slave trade &c. &c.

China has yet to pay us \$ 16,000,000 as a War indemnification, it would be very agreeable to the vanity of the Celestials, if we were to forego a portion of this amount, for permission to introduce British Goods, and to Export China produce, free of duty, for a certain time. The Shippers to China from England, and India, would gladly pay what might be required by the Home Government, to save it from loss by this arrangement.

Hereafter, by a convention, the British Government might agree to pay a certain annual sum to the Emperor, for permission to Import and Export merchandize, free of duty. If Opium were legalized, the Emperor might be safely guaranteed for the next ten years, double, nay treble, the amount he now derives from our Trade. We have no doubt this contribution would be called the English tribute. We care not for a mere name, provided we secure a substantial advantage. We much err in our estimate of the Chinese character, if some such an arrangement, would not be very attractive to the Court of Pekin.

Neither would the Machinery be at all cumbersome, to enable the Government to carry out our suggestion. We feel certain, that here, in India, and in England, there are many individuals, who would be glad to farm the duties, required to be levied on British Imports, so as to leave a profit, rather than a loss to the Home Government.

Our space admonishes us, so we must conclude our article by reiterating our conviction that after the frank avowal of H. E. the Plenipotentiary, it will rest with the Merchants, whether or not we shall derive the anticipated advantages from the New Treaty. Did it not involve too much delay we should have been glad to have learned that a reference would be made, by Lord Aberdeen to Wm. Gladstone, the Vice President of the Board of Trade, or that one of his subordinates either Mr. MaGregor or Mr. Porter, were to come out with the ratified treaty. We should hail their presence here with much satisfaction, if even the details of the Commercial Treaty and Tariff, should by that time be settled. We are quite sure, either of those intelligent public servants, would on their return, press on the attention of the Home Government, the expediency of a reduction of the Import duties on China produce. They well know that "all duties on imports, are duties on exports, and as foreign nations can purchase only, as far as they sell, every restriction on importation, is a restriction on the exportation of the British commodity, with which the foreign commodity, would directly or indirectly have been purchased".

We understand it is stipulated in the new Treaty with China, that British Officers shall alone take cognizance of offences committed by British Subjects; although against the natives of China. Also that Chinese offenders against the person and property of British Subjects, shall be only punishable by native Authority. We have learned that so very chafy were the Chinese Authorities of British Officers ever exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction over the natives, that the Imperial Commissioners strenuously urged the propriety, of such functions being alone exercised on the Island of Hong Kong, by a Mandarin appointed by the Emperor.

This of course could not be assented to, but we are told a kind of intimation, was given, that it would not do to be more satisfactory in the British Authorities themselves, to retain the Chinese residents to be amenable to their own laws, and the Mandarins recommended, that the Emperor, on world wide grounds, should be satisfied with the present arrangement, and that the British Government, should not insist on a more extensive jurisdiction, than that which is now exercised by the Chinese, their own

adaptability to surrounding circumstances, and their correct appreciation of the advantages of a higher civilization than their own.

A reference to Singapore is alone necessary, to attest the correctness of the foregoing remark. With our unaffected aversion to any Governmental connexion with the East India Company (arising out of the nationally degrading associations, which are identified with its Chinese Policy in past times) we yet should be right glad to have our future government as cheaply and as well administered, as Singapore, Penang and Malacca are at this day.

In these dependencies, the large bulk of the population is Chinese, and mostly of the worst class, still the British Laws are found admirably suited to their necessities, and fully adequate to all the moral and social exigencies of this strange people.

It was a profound policy of Old Rome, to carry her laws and language whither soever her victorious arms prevailed. It is now admitted to have been a capital error in English policy, to have guaranteed the maintenance of the laws, franchises customs, besides the authorised official use of the languages of Conquered countries. In India this practice has been carried out to an extent, which is universally regretted, and to the great detriment and deterioration of the native population. In Canada, after eighty years rule, we now talk of Anglifying the French settlers.

At the commencement of the Colony, a small effort on the part of the Government directed to this end, will suffice to give a permanent character to our institutions, and will besides induce an earlier ultimate predominance of British sentiments among the Chinese, not only on our Island but on the main land.

But a small acquaintance with the native Character cannot but convince one, that there is every thing to hope from its great capabilities and aptitude for knowledge. The existence of an English Patois which is regularly taught in schools and is spoken by thousands, is in itself a fact of immense value. The English placards, which were exhibited by the natives in deprecation of our violence on the banks Yang-tze-keang—the facility with which the domestics acquire enough of our tongue to discharge their duties—the disposition and wish of the intelligent classes of the Chinese to know more of us as our institutions; leads us to hope, that every exertion will be made to encourage the adoption of our customs, manners and language by the natives; and the only effectual way, by which this can be attained, is by making all residents on Hong Kong, amenable to British laws, and to none other whatsoever.

New Zealand. In our last week's *Shipping List*, we reported the arrival of the *Jane Gifford*, which is the first arrival from the new Colony. By this time, we have no doubt there are at least ten thousand of our Countrymen, located at Wellington, Nelson, Auckland and other parts of the two islands.

All accounts concur in the eligibility of New Zealand, as an emigration field, and we are glad to see that in England large numbers are on the point of leaving for that destination. It has been proposed by the Mr. George Renne, to found a new settlement on the Northern Island, and to appropriate a large portion of the original purchase money of the lands, to the building of houses, making of roads, bridges, wharves &c. These public works and private buildings, are to be executed by a preliminary expedition, who will thus make all ready for the out-coming settlers.

This plan, if adopted will be a signal improvement in modern colonization.

We perceive by the *Auckland Chronicle* of the 26 Novr. that a Municipal Council is in action at Wellington.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the FRIEND OF CHINA.

Sir,
I regret to find that I am not to have the support of your opinion in advocating the propriety of stipulating, that a British Minister may reside at Peking. The measure appears to me of considerable importance, and it will offer a few more remarks, which I think dis- cussible will promote the cause of some policy.

It cannot be necessary for me to dwell upon the advantages which nations in general derive from having Ministers at the Capitals of the different States with whom they have intercourse, and the only question that presents itself is, whether existing circumstances render incumbent in China, what elsewhere has been found so highly useful.

The manner in which the Chinese Government is administered, and the manner in which the British Government is administered, are very different. The Chinese Government is administered in a manner which is very different from that of the British Government. The Chinese Government is administered in a manner which is very different from that of the British Government. The Chinese Government is administered in a manner which is very different from that of the British Government.

monstrances are unattended to, we may send an armed Steamer to the Northern Parts of China, and so command a hearing, but I think this is a cumbersome and inconvenient manner of conveying memorials to the Emperor, necessary perhaps in extraordinary cases tho' unsuitable to the ordinary course of transacting affairs. The usual method of transmitting memorials there, by a Minister at the Capital is in all respects far preferable.

The objection you have advanced, that the acquiescence of the Chinese Court (to this measure) would have compelled France, Russia America, and other powers to have sent accredited agents to Peking, which in the sequel must have proved a source of mutual involvement and intrigue, &c is entitled, to serious consideration. In cases like this, we must weigh the evils and advantages, and decide according as either preponderate.

In the first place, the war which we have been carrying on, was undertaken at the risk of Britain, unassisted by any other nation, and if we did obtain peculiar privileges, they would be the legitimate result of our success. I do not believe however that our interests require us to claim any peculiar right, all that we desire, is, fair commercial intercourse let the world at large reap the benefit of our triumphs. Apart from the peculiar situation of China, its integrity and security will consist, in the great powers mutually controlling each other. It is this national jealousy alone, which has upheld the Empire of Turkey. The same watchful vigilance, will prevent any particular power, from gaining an undue ascendancy in China.

I fear our Consuls, will have more difficulty to contend against, than is generally apprehended. The accounts which have been given of the friendly disposition of the Chinese towards us, seem to me inaccurate. There is certainly no army more humane than the British, yet no one who knows the inevitable effects of war, will expect that the inhabitants of a captured town, could, while the event is recent, feel favorably towards their conquerors. The dread inspired by a victorious enemy, must not be mistaken for kindly feeling, nor ought we to forget the peculiar misery of war, in which those who suffer most, are often, if not always, the least guilty.

Again, as long as the Opium trade continues illicit, it will prove a never ending source of embarrassment and yet it yields such large profits, that no personal or national considerations will prevent people from engaging in it.

Seeing therefore the difficulties which surround the commencement of our intercourse with China, instead of wacting for the progress of events, it becomes the part of prudent and provident men, to stipulate for every provision, that will enable us amicably to solve those difficulties. The arrogant demeanour of the Chinese Government, towards all Foreigners, has long been notorious, and now that the success of our arms, has rendered all opposition to our demands fruitless, why should we not require the adoption of a measure alike beneficial, to both Empires?

OBSERVER.

Montpellier, 24th
December 1842.

Mr. Editor.

In confirmation of a statement which recently appeared in your paper relative to the system of piracy, among the Chinese here, I send you the following.

Three Chinese junks from Namo, called at Hongkong on the 12th of the 11th moon, and paid to a man in town, for their pirate pass, seventeen dollars for each junk. They proceeded immediately to Macao where they sold their cargo for about two thousand one hundred dollars, and on their return to this place, on the 16th of December were attacked by a pirate boat, with one hundred men and plundered of all including the money and other valuables, on application to the man who received the money for their pass, he refuses to make good the loss sustained, on the plea that the pirates belonged to another clan. This statement I received this morning from the men of the junks, and there is every reason to believe it correct.

Hongkong, 9th January 1843.
Yours &c. C. W.

P. S. Since writing the above three junks have arrived from the east coast. On their entrance into Hongkong harbor, two of them were attacked and plundered by pirates, while one made its escape. One man is said to have been killed and others wounded, while the remainder declare themselves unwilling to proceed in either direction from the harbor for fear of pirates.

The Courier of yesterday contains the Report of a case heard before the Supreme Court on Saturday last, arising out of a sale of opium at Macao, in which an important point of Mercantile law is involved. This Report—with some alterations essential to its accuracy—we have transferred into our paper of this day. Captain Melville of the *Arcturion* it appears when at Macao, agreed by some contract, to sell the opium to the Honorable Company of the East India Company, and the opium was accordingly sold to the said Company. The opium was then shipped to Hongkong, and on the 10th of the month of December, the ship was captured by a pirate vessel, and the opium was plundered. The Captain of the ship, and the crew, were taken to the harbor of Hongkong, and the opium was sold to the Honorable Company of the East India Company. The case was heard before the Supreme Court on Saturday last, and the Court decided in favor of the Honorable Company of the East India Company.

