

# THE FRIEND OF CHINA, AND HONGKONG GAZETTE. EXTRAORDINARY.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1843.

## NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency, Sir Henry Pottinger, Bart &c. &c. is pleased to direct the publication of the annexed Correspondence, and to intimate that he will be glad to hear from any Gentlemen, who may be disposed to submit his individual opinions on the subjects to which the letter from Sir Henry Pottinger particularly refers, viz, a Tariff and Scale of Duties including Anchorage fees, &c. &c.

By order

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
*Acting Secretary.*

Government House at  
Hongkong, Jan'y, 16, 1843.

Macao December 28th 1842.

To,  
The British Merchants.

GENTLEMEN,

I have reason to expect, that one or both of the Imperial Commissioners, will arrive at Canton, in the course of the ensuing or current month, with the object of negotiating with me, upon and finally adjusting the still pending questions as to the Tariff to be established, and duties to be levied at the five Ports, that are to be thrown open, in conformity with the late Treaty; and as the discussion of such matters, and the adjustment of the important questions they involve, are strange to me, owing to my never having had to look much into Mercantile matters, I came over to this place, a few days ago, with the intention of inviting you all to a conference, but subsequent reflection, has led me to think, that it will be better to obtain your sentiments (whether you may decide on favoring me with them, individually or collectively) in writing, which will have the self-evident advantage over verbal communication, that you will all be more likely to weigh your opinions, with even greater care, than if you were to express them orally; but your putting those opinions on paper will be an effectual guard against the possibility of my misunderstanding your object; and that it will enable me to submit the result in a clear and concise shape to H. M. Government.

I had proposed to myself, to publish for general information the Treaty, which I have concluded with China; but there appears to be objections to that course, until it shall have been formally ratified by the Queen, and, therefore, I, herewith send you copies of the 3 articles, 2nd, 5th and 10th, immediately connected with the subject of this letter, and which will show you distinctly what remains to be done.

I had, as you may readily imagine, a great deal of discussion with the Imperial Commissioners, subsequent to the signing of the Treaty, and I likewise forward for your notice, Extracts from Memorandums which passed between those High officers and myself. To the last of these Extracts, dated the 17th of September, the Imperial Commissioners replied, on the 27th of the same month, amongst other matters in these words.

"Putting aside, however, the question of the duties, which shall hereafter be printed, and bound into a large volume, according to the rules established by the Board of Revenue, and published also on the 17th of September, the all men may see and the various charges, and

"of examining distinctly which are those that ought to be retained, and which those, that ought to be abolished, the result to be fixed by Treaty, upon a moderate scale, which end will be worked out, after we, the High Commissioners, shall have arrived at Canton, where we shall again consult about matters, so as to leave no room for any disagreement or unpleasant discussion. Putting aside all this, there only remains &c. &c. &c." And, as I quitted Nanking the day the communication reached me, from which the above is a quotation, the matter rests in that state.

I am not aware, I can add any observations to the views, I have recorded in the Extracts from my Memoranda; but I presume that you will all agree with me, as to its being most desirable that every thing should be strictly defined, so as to leave no opening, however small, for exactions or perquisites under whatsoever name or pretence; and also, that the duties should be fixed on a scale, which will not only provide for the liberal maintenance of the requisite establishment, but will, after providing for the Expenses, form a fair source of Imperial Revenue and I am sure, that in taking this letter and its accompaniments into consideration, you will also bear in mind, that the benefits of a Commercial Treaty beyond all others, must be as far as possible, reciprocal, if we hope and wish they shall be permanent; and that you will also remember that the nearer the points, now to be fixed, can be made to approach to, and assimilate with, what is at present in force in China, and the more simple the whole system, the better hope may be indulged that it will work well.

You will observe, that no allusion is made in any of these documents to the Subject of the Trade in Opium. It is only necessary, that I should at present tell you, that the Subject has not been overlooked by me, and that I indulge a hope, a very faint one I admit, that it will be in my power to get the traffic in Opium, by barter, legalized by the Emperor; but whatever arrangement, I may be able to effect regarding it, when I again meet the Imperial Commissioners, will be hereafter intimated to you in common with all other Mercantile arrangements. In the meantime, I shall be glad to receive your reply on this matter, at your convenience.

I have the honor &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY POTTINGER.

### No. 1. THREE ARTICLES OF THE TREATY. ARTICLE 2.

His Majesty the Emperor of China, agrees, that British Subjects with their Families and Establishments, shall be allowed to reside for the purpose of carrying on their Mercantile pursuits, without molestation or restraint, at the Cities and Towns of Canton, Amoy, Foochow-foo, Ningpo, and Shanghai, and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain &c. will appoint Superintendents, or Consular officers, to reside at each of the above-named Cities or Towns, to be the medium of communication between the Chinese Authorities and the said merchants, and to see that the just Duties and other Dues of the Chinese Government, as hereinafter provided for, are duly discharged by Her Britannic Majesty's subjects.

### ARTICLE 5.

The Government of China having compelled the British Merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants called Hong Merchants, or Co-Hong, who are licensed by the Chinese Government, to that purpose, the Emperor of China, has agreed, that the practice in future, shall be, that British Merchants may reside at Canton, and carry on their Mercantile Transactions

sons they please, and His Imperial Majesty further agrees, to pay to the British Government, the sum of Three Millions of Dollars on account of Debts due to British subjects, by some of the said Hong Merchants or Co-Hong, who have become insolvent, and who owe very large sums of money to subjects of Her Britannic Majesty.

### ARTICLE 10.

"His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees to establish, at all the ports, (which are by the 2nd article of this Treaty to be thrown open for the resort of British Merchants, a fair and regular Tariff of Export and Import Customs and other Dues, which Tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information, and the Emperor further engages, that when British Merchandise shall have once paid, at any of the said ports, the regulated Customs and Dues agreeably to the Tariff, to be hereafter fixed, such Merchandise may be conveyed, by Chinese Merchants to any province or City, in the Interior of the Empire of China, shall not exceed . . . per Cent on the Tariff value of such Goods.

(True Copies.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
*Acting Secretary.*

No. 2. From the Plenipotentiary dated 20th Augt 1842

"A vast object both for China and England might I think be gained, by assimilating the Duties and Tariff, at all the four Ports, which are to be thrown open to British Merchants. The best way of attaining this object is for the Emperor, to be pleased to command the local officers to furnish, from each port, a detailed Report of the fixed and authorized Export and Import Duties, rejecting of course all Consoo, Co-Hong and other arbitrary Charges. These reports can be examined by the High Officers, on both sides, and on being pronounced suitable and correct, an average of the whole, both as to Export, and Import duties and Tariff, might be assumed and established at the five ports. This plan has many advantages. Its simplicity would prevent disputes: It would render the accounts of the Customs Department, concise and clear: it would enable the Chinese and British Consular officers, to detect any attempts at smuggling or extortion, and it would be a most satisfactory arrangement for the Merchants of both Countries.

"2. When the Export and Import Customs should have been once decided upon, there will be no difficulty in fixing the amount of Transit Duties, since they are to depend on the other.

The mode of levying the Transit Duties will require alteration, and, were it possible to arrange for so doing at the Sea Port, it would be a great benefit. The Goods might be stamped, or furnished with a certificate showing their quantity &c. and exempting them from further demands.

"3rd. The prohibitory laws as to the Exportation of particular articles, from particular ports, must all of course be annulled, seeing that after the re-establishment of friendship and peace, the great aim of the Treaty is to facilitate and encourage Commerce.

(True Extract.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
*Acting Secretary.*

No. 3, From the Imperial Commissioners, dated the 1st of September 1842.

1. The five Ports of Canton, Fuchow, Amoy, Ningpo and Shanghai, being thrown open, it will be right, except at Canton (where Hongkong has been given as a place of residence) and no further deliberation on the matter is therefore needed, to build at the four Ports of Foochow, Amoy, Ningpo and Shanghai, only, general Factories whereat, when the English Merchant people arrive, they may reside. That they should bring with them, their Families, is a natural compliance with the constant principles of human nature.

But, after commercial affairs are at an end, they should then, return again on board their vessels and go home: it will be unnecessary that they should remain throughout the year, residing in the Factories.

This is what would appear, the right and sure course, and if any really have accounts unsettled or transactions unfinished, they may, according to the rule at Canton, of leaving Merchants to those who were to be their agents, to settle them.

ment, takes the responsibility, hereafter, seeing it is now determined that the English may have commercial dealings with any Merchants whomsoever they please, so that, being able to choose the Merchants for themselves, they are nowise in the same position, as when dealing with a limited number of Hong Merchants, licensed by China: whatever Debts therefore, there may be, they shall only be able to sue for the recovery thereof, through the Government, and can no longer call for reimbursement by the Government itself.

(True Extract.)

R. WOOSNAM,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 4. From the Plenipotentiary  
5th September 1842.

The High Imperial Commissioners and Governor General, are already perfectly aware that one of the Chief causes of this disagreement and consequent hostilities, that are now happily at an end, was the unauthorized exact ons and extortions of the Canton Custom House officers, and local Authorities, and which exactons and extortions frequently raises the Imperial and regular duties, to double and treble and even fourfold the proper amount; to speak therefore of making the Canton Custom House regulations and Tariff the bases of future arrangements, is as it were, "Perpetuating remonstrance and discussion." Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, has already recommended that the Authorized Tariff and Duties of the five Ports should be called for, and compared with an average struck for the whole.

The advantages of this arrangement are so obvious, that they do not require to be enlarged on. H. M. Plenipotentiary can most solemnly and conscientiously assure their Ex's the Imperial Commissioners, that on the Questions of Import and Export Duties, as well as Transit dues, his sole and anxious object, is to fulfil the duties, of an impartial umpire between the two Countries. He neither wishes to see the Duties so high as to encourage or foster Smuggling, nor yet so low, as not to form a fair and legitimate source of Imperial Revenue after paying the expenses of Establishments &c. With these sentiments the Plenipotentiary will be happy to confer with the Imperial Commissioners, as soon as they have received instructions from the Cabinet, and the Plenipotentiary will meet their Excellencies at Canton, or any other Port, they may consider more convenient, to bring this Important Question to a final close.

Steam Frigate "Queen," off Nanking, 5th September 1842.

(True Extract.)

R. WOOSNAM,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 5. From the Imperial Commissioners dated  
the 13th of September 1842.

2ndly. Another article (see under head No. 4) alludes to the duties being high and low, at different Ports; and we proposed that the scale of the Canton Custom House, should be assumed as a model, and sent in to the Board of Revenue, when being duly canvassed by them, the same should be respectfully put in force. Your Excellency objects to this, as still more perplexing matters, and says that it is, as it were perpetuating remonstrance and discussion. We find that in China, the Custom House duties, have certain fixed rates, beyond which, no extortion is permitted, thus in the case of the Custom House duties, these are printed and made up in a volume, and the Englishmen, who have resided for many years at Canton cannot but know all about them. Where in any case, has excess of Duty been levied? Those extortions and abuses, alluded to, which trebled and quadrupled the Duties, must have proceeded from the followers and underlings of the Hoppo, the Hong Merchants, Linguists and Compradores.

Now we, the High Commissioners, looking up, embody in ourselves, the kind intentions of our gracious Emperor, and how can we permit, that matters be carried on, on any other principle, than that of satisfaction for what is past, and guarding against mischief for the future? Thus, when we spoke of adopting the scale of Duties of the Custom House of Canton, and referring it to the Board of Revenue, to be fully canvassed by them and respectfully put in force, we were expressly alluding to the Regular Imperial Duties, and as your Imports, such as Woolen-Cloths, Camlets, Clocks, Watches &c, and your Exports such as Raw Silk, Piece-Goods, Tea, Rhubarb &c. are not articles, which every year, pass through the Custom House of Foochowfoo, Ningpo, and Shanghai, when the matter is submitted to the Board of Revenue, for examination and deliberation, they cannot do otherwise than adopt the Canton fixed Duties, as a standard, and proceed to act upon it accordingly.

With reference to those abuses and extortions which amount to 3 or 4 times more than the regular Duties, not only will the Board of Revenue be unwilling to let these enter into their calculations, but due care will be taken most rigidly to exclude them, so there is no occasion for your Excellency feeling further anxiety on this head, but having created a Custom House, this House, has not only current expenses, and the different Clerks and what therein employed, must have had to pay, and some little money, wherewith to support

themselves, these items, are in addition to the regular duties; and afterwards, when the four Ports (up the Coast) shall be opened, arrangements must be made with the Viceroys and Governors of the Provinces concerned, to provide for those extra expenses, but on no account, will there be such a Paradox, as their amounting to three or four times the regular Duties. Thus, in like manner, at the City of Canton, there have always been certain established rates, and the extortions and augmentations, that have swelled these to 3 or 4 times the regular Duties, should be submitted to the Viceroy and Hoppo of Canton, who will examine and distinguish clearly, between those charges which ought to be abolished, and those which ought to be retained; but on no account, will such a vicious custom of trebling and quadrupling the regular Duties, be permitted.

In your Excellency's reply, it is stated; that after paying all expenses, you wish that a large overplus of Revenue, may flow into the Imperial Treasury &c. In our Chinese Custom House, just as we collect the regular established duties, so do we send them on; this is our constant rule.

We do not ask more than the fixed rates, that we may have an overplus, and yet the expenses of the Custom House must be paid, (as your Excellency is well aware) somehow or other, so that we can only calculate on, and decide upon, what is just enough to cover these expenses, and there stop. If your Excellency will consult with those who transact business with this Country, and have long resided in China, and if your Excellency will carefully examine into particulars, you will clearly comprehend our meaning.

3rdly, British Subjects being permitted to trade at five Ports, as above specified, a Superintendent must of course be established, at each place, for the direction of their affairs. All Englishmen whatever, ought to be completely under his control, and the Mandarins of the Central land, will also undertake that our Merchants and people be placed under proper restraint. Thus, both parties, carrying on their Trade on a footing of perfect equality and justice, no insults or deception whatever, will be permitted, which might lead again to the involving of the two Countries in war. As for the Goods, which are to be bought and sold, we can only permit these to be bargained and settled at the Public Residence, it will never do, for them to proceed to distant markets in the Country, and such places, thereby causing loss to the Revenue by smuggling, be that ever so small.

13th September, 1842.

(True Extract.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 6 FROM THE PLENIPOTENTIARY

DATED THE 17th SEPTEMBER 1842.

"2nd. With respect to the second item of their Excellencies memorandum, Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, can only repeat his anxiety to see the Tariff and Duties, fixed on a fair scale, so that they shall, as before stated, neither be so high as to foster or encourage smuggling, nor yet so low as not to form a fair and legitimate source of Imperial Revenue after defraying the Expense of Establishments &c. H. B. M. Plenipotentiary reads with real satisfaction, the firm intention of their Excellencies, to abolish all extortions and abuses and he earnestly suggests, that whatever the amount of Duties and charges, whether Import, Export, or Transit may be, it should be specifically defined, and not in the smallest degree left to the arbitrary pleasure, or opinion of the local officers.

That, has been the great evil at Canton, out of which so much discussion and discontent has sprung. Let the necessary salaries to Clerks, writers and other Functionaries, high or low, be included in the scale of duties, so that Merchants shall know precisely, what they are to pay on their Merchandise, whether on Importation or Exportation. Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, is still of opinion, that if the duties can be equalised, whatever may be the model, at the five ports of Canton, Foochow, Amoy, Ningpo and Shanghai, it will be a most advantageous arrangement for both Empires, though the Plenipotentiary admits, that the equalization is secondary to every thing being defined, on a moderate scale.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, is so very anxious that this Question should be settled to the satisfaction, not only of the Government of England, but also to that of China, that should their Excellencies, the Imperial Commissioners, be of opinion that their presence at Peking, might facilitate the arrangement, the Plenipotentiary is willing to defer the final discussion and settlement of the matter, for an additional month or six weeks, to enable their Excellencies to proceed to Court, and afterwards to come to Canton, where the Plenipotentiary will be happy to meet the Imperial Commissioners.

3rd. With regard to the third article of their Excellencies memorandum, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary will in due time lay down, in concert with the Im-

perial Commissioners, the most minute and stringent rules; as to the conduct of the British Merchants, and their Servants or dependants, on no pretence will they be permitted to go into the Country, or away from the Sea Ports to trade, and every merchant, will be held responsible, for the orderly behavior of his servants and dependants, of whatever nation, or class they may be.

Moreover, no British Ships will be allowed to visit any other Ports, than those opened by Treaty, and should any person be detected in attempting to smuggle, or trade without paying the established duties, the Chinese Government Officers will be at perfect liberty, to seize and confiscate such Goods. It is however so obviously the interest of the British Merchants, to live on friendly terms with the people of China, among whom, they are even to dwell for a time, and with whom, they will have Mercantile dealings, that there is no fear of their misbehaving, and H. M. Consular officers will see that they strictly conform to the rules, to be laid down, so far as the Government of China and its officers, are concerned.

The moment these points can be finally settled, they shall be embodied in a Supplementary Treaty, and submitted for the gracious ratification of the Sovereigns of both Countries.

Signed  
HENRY POTTINGER  
H. B. M. Plenipotentiary.  
RICHARD WOOSNAM  
Acting Secretary.

(A True Extract)

To His Excellency

SIR HENRY POTTINGER, BART,  
H. M's Plenipotentiary and  
Superintendent of British Trade  
in China.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter to the British Merchants in China, under date 28th ultimo, with the several enclosures therein referred to, and in replying to that communication, we beg leave to forward to your Excellency copies of Resolutions passed at a general Meeting of the Merchants, by which Your Excellency will observe, that the Undersigned have been requested to act as a Committee on the occasion.

It does not appear to us that, at the present moment, the information before us, is of a sufficiently tangible or specific character, to enable us to place any thing before Your Excellency which could be useful; but if Your Excellency could furnish us with translations of the documents, which are said to contain an exact account of the Imperial Duties, we might be better able, on arrival of the Chinese Commissioners, to state the views of the British Merchants as to any proposed alterations.

On all other points, Your Excellency will probably agree with us, that it might be expedient to refrain from drawing up any statements, until the arrival of those Authorities may enable us to learn the principles, upon which it is intended the Trade shall in future be conducted.

We need only add, that our Committee will at all times be ready to communicate with your Excellency personally, or by letter, whenever your Excellency may wish us to do so.

We have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's,  
most Obedient, Humble Servants  
Macao, Jany. 6th, 1843. (Signed) Alexr. Matheson,  
George T. Braine,  
Wm. Thomson,  
D. L. Burn,  
W. P. Livingston.

(True Copy.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM,  
Acting Secretary.

NOTE of proceedings at a meeting of British Merchants held on the 31st December 1842, at the house of Messrs Dent & Co. to take into consideration a letter dated, Macao, 28th December 1842, addressed by Sir Henry Pottinger, H. M's Plenipotentiary, to the British Merchants, in which he requests to be put in possession of their sentiments regarding the adjustment of the Tariffs to be established and the Duties to be levied at the five ports, that are to be thrown open in conformity with the late Treaty.

The letter having been read, after some discussion the following proposition was made by Mr. G. T. Braine, seconded by Mr. A. Matheson, and passed unanimously.

That the Communications desired by Sir Henry Pottinger should be made by the Merchants collectively.

After some further conversation it was proposed by Mr. Matheson, seconded by D. L. Burn, and passed unanimously.

That a Committee should be formed, to draw up a memorial to His Majesty's Commercial Agents, in relation to British Interests.



the same should be submitted to a general meeting of the Merchants before being communicated to Sir Henry Pottinger.

A committee was then balloted for, when the Scrutineers declared that the following gentlemen had been chosen viz.

Messrs Matheson, Braine, Thomson, Burn, and Livingston.

These gentlemen having consented to act, the meeting was dissolved.

Macao, 31st December, 1842.

(True copy.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
Acting Secretary.

Copy  
No 13.  
Gentlemen,

Government House,  
Hongkong, Jany. 7th, 1843.

I have this moment received your letter of Yesterday's date, and lose no time in informing you, in reply, that I have as yet received none of the Papers which the High Commissioners speak of in one of their Memoranda as likely to come from the Board of Revenue at Peking, nor do I expect to be furnished with those Papers until I recommence my discussion with the Commissioners at Canton.

Under these circumstances I have the honor to suggest, that you should proceed with the information which you must already possess, from your long local experience of the Trade of China, to draw up, in a concise form, a Report showing the alterations in the present system which you would wish to see effected and the footing as to Tariff and Duties—including anchorage charges, &c. &c.—and which you would desire to see the Trade placed in times to come.

Should your Report and the Deliberations of the Revenue Board at Peking, nearly or wholly assimilate, the matter would be at once arranged without further delay or trouble, and, on the other hand, should there appear important discrepancies between the two Documents, I shall have good grounds for urging a reconsideration of the Chinese plan (which you will have seen the Commissioners say is to be based on the present system), and supporting my arguments by your opinions and advice.

It is almost superfluous to add, that in the latter case, I shall communicate with you further, before I accede to any final arrangement.

I have &c.

(Signed) HENRY POTTINGER  
H. M's. Plenipotentiary.

To Messrs Matheson,  
Braine,  
Thomson,  
Burn, and  
Livingston

(True copy) RICHARD WOOSNAM  
Acting Secretary.

To His Excellency

Sir Henry Pottinger, Bart,  
H. M's. Plenipotentiary and  
Superintendent of British  
Trade in China.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of 7th instant.

As it is understood, that the new Tariff is to be based on the regular Imperial Duties, and, as we have no means of ascertaining what those duties actually are, we do not conceive there could be any advantage in proceeding as Your Excellency suggests, "with the information actually before us, and our long local experience" in preparing a Report on the Subject.

The Imperial Duties, properly so called, are generally understood to be very moderate, except on 2 or 3 articles; but those duties have been swelled by a variety of additional charges, some of which are possibly regular, although it is generally believed many of them have arisen from either the necessities of the Local Government, from Consoo charges, or extortions of the Government Functionaries.

We may instance the article of Tea, the Imperial Duty on which is said to be nominally (2) two mace per picul, but raised by incidental charges to one tael, two mace, and four candereens; while for several years the actual payment, including Consoo charge, has varied from 2½ taels to 8½ taels.

We may observe, however, that we never have been able to obtain any authentic account of the authorized Duties; and we again beg leave to suggest to Your Excellency the expediency of obtaining for us, from the Canton Government, a copy of the Imperial Tariff, to enable us to proceed with the consideration of any alteration which may suggest themselves.

As the privileges of the Hong Merchants, and indeed the system of which they were part, are to be abolished, an entire change must necessarily be made in the management of the Trade. Hitherto the Settlement of Duties inward and outward, arrangements for warehousing Goods, taking charge of them when landed, in short all details of the Trade have been made by that body, while they are besides proprietors of the Factories in which we have resided, and the Warehouses in which our property has been stored. As the responsibility both of them and of the Government will necessarily cease with the existence of the Co-Hong, the important question arises, of what system Your Excellency and the Chinese Commissioners may propose to establish in place of the former one; We are not aware whether it is the wish of Your Excellency that our Report should embrace this Branch of the Subject; but should such be the case, we may be allowed to observe that unless other parts of the Treaty than those we have seen, should in some measures define the principles upon which the Foreign intercourse in Canton is to be in future conducted, it might be desirable that we should defer any consideration of the matter, until some specific plan be placed before us in the room of the system about to be abolished.

(Signed)

Alexr. Matheson  
George T. Braine  
D. L. Burn  
Wm. Thomson.

Macao, 13th January, 1843.

(True copy.)

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
Acting Secretary.

Copy  
No 33.

Government House,  
Hongkong, Jany. 15th, 1843.

Gentlemen,

I have this day had the honor to receive your letter of the 13th Instant, in reply to mine of the 7th.

I beg to point out to you that most (if not all) of the facts as to extra charges, &c, which you detail, are expressly alluded to in the Extracts from both the High Commissioners and my own Memoranda, which I sent to you with my letter of the 28th ulto., so that it was quite unnecessary for you to bring them to my notice; and I have to add, that I still retain my opinion, that it would have been advisable for you to furnish me with a Statement as to Tariff Duties, &c., showing what you would consider in future desirable, without reference to the Papers that may have been prepared by the Board of Revenue at Peking. In fact, I may further here observe, that I believed, in affording you the opportunity of stating your unbiased opinions on those points, I was doing the very thing you had all, collectively and individually, been most anxiously longing for, for years past; and I am sorry to find that it is out of your power to comply with my suggestion.

As to the arrangements to be made for carrying on your Trade at Canton, after the Co-Hong shall be formally abolished, it appears to me that they will depend solely on yourselves. The Trade is to be conducted in China as in all other parts of the World, and I am not aware that it would be possible, or proper, to make the smallest difference between Canton and the other Ports which are to be thrown open to British Merchants.

After I shall have seen Elenor, should I have any fresh information to communicate, I will again address you; but you will understand from the above observations, that it is my present intention to leave the Commerce totally unshackled by rules, beyond those providing for a Tariff and Scale of Duties, including anchorage fees, &c.

I have &c.

(Signed) HENRY POTTINGER  
H. M's. Plenipotentiary

To Messrs Matheson,  
Braine,  
Burn,  
Thomson.

(True copy)

RICHARD WOOSNAM  
Acting Secretary