

# THE FRIEND OF CHINA, AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

No. 50 VOL. 1

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND, 1842.

Price \$ 1 monthly  
Or \$ 12 yearly

## NOTIFICATION.

H. E. Sir Henry Pottinger Bart. is pleased to direct that the annexed Letter and Quarterly Report be published for general information.

By Order,

**RICHARD WOOSNAM**  
Acting Secretary.

Macao, 25th Feb. 1842.

No. 936 of 1842.

Territorial Department,  
Finance;

To,  
The Secretary to the Hon'ble Company's Agents in China.

Sir,  
With reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Wathen's letter, No 818, dated the 15th October 1836, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit for the information of the Honorable Company's Agents in China the accompanying Copy of a report, shewing the average quality of Sycee Silver, old Spanish and new dollars, received for Coinage at the Bombay Mint for the quarter ending the 31st October 1842.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most Obedt. Servant;  
**J. R. REID**  
Chief Secy.

Bombay Castle,  
22d Nov., 1842.

Assay Office, 17th November, 1842.

## CIRCULATING MEDIUM AT HONGKONG.

The following has been received at Lloyd's:—  
Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,  
Whitehall, Sept. 28, 1842.

Sir—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to transmit to you for the information of the Committee at Lloyd's, a copy of a Proclamation issued by her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China on the subject of the circulating medium at Hongkong.

I am, &c.,  
**J. MACROGEOZ.**

The Secretary at Lloyd's,  
Vide the FRIEND OF CHINA and HONGKONG GAZETTE, of the 14th April, 1842.

## POLICE

### BEFORE THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

January 5th, 1842. **Leang a Tchoi**, Carpenter, charged by a woman named **Ajuk** and **Ho Pokmo**, with Robbery.

**Ajuk**—I am the wife of **Ayut**, a Shop-keeper here, I was on the 13th December, walking at **Wong nai Chong**, in the afternoon, I went to one of the salt Junks to visit a friend, it was raining at the time; I and **Pokmo** were attacked by two men, who robbed me of clothes value about \$5, and the other complainant of clothes value about \$4.—I did not catch the prisoner until yesterday, I can swear to the identity of the prisoner as one of the men who robbed us.

**Pokmo** corroborates the above evidence in full, Defence, I deny the charge, I was not at Hong-kong at the time the Robbery was committed, I have brought no evidence to prove where I was at the time.

SENTENCE.—To receive 50 Strokes, and to be imprisoned for three months, with hard labour, and to pay \$9 to complainant.

January 6th, 1842. **John Colburn**, Seaman, of the "Bella Marina," charged by **Dennis Healy**, Private of the Police, with Riot and Assault.

Complainant states,—"Yesterday afternoon I was on duty near the Bazaar, when I was called by two Officers of the 98th Regiment, to take into custody the prisoner, who had been insolent to them, when I attempted to make him prisoner, he struck me in the mouth and made great resistance, I then gave him in charge to Corporal Mooney of the Police, the man was very drunk and riotous, I do not think the man knew well what he was about.

Corporal Mooney of the Police states,—I was yesterday afternoon told by a Chinese, that a disturbance was taking place in the Bazaar, I went to the spot pointed out, and found the Prisoner and Private Healy of the Police struggling together on the ground, I took the prisoner after great resistance on his part to the Police Station, Healy was struck in the mouth which was bleeding, the prisoner was very drunk, I do not think that he knew what he was about.

The Officers insulted, not appearing to give evidence, the Prisoner was Sentenced to 7 days imprisonment without labour, and to pay a fine of \$4 to the Queen.

January 6th, 1842. **Chin Aop**, Coolie, charged by **Wong Aye** with Assault and Theft.

Complainant states,—On the 3d instant the Prisoner asked me for the loan of 100 Cash, which I refused to do, the next day I found that I Rupee and 550 Cash, all the money I possessed, had been stolen from my box, when I taxed the prisoner with it, he beat me, I have no witnesses to prove it, the Prisoner lives in the same house with myself.

DEFENCE. Prisoner states,—I did not steal the Money I was taxed with stealing it, and I beat Complainant.

SENTENCE. Prisoner to receive 25 Strokes for his assault on Complainant, commitment of Theft dismissed for want of evidence.

January 6th 1842. **Lee Aoi** Cook and Washerman, charged by **Wong Achee** with Assault and Riot.

Complainant states,—On the 2d December I was drawing water, at the same time as Prisoner and one other man, a quarrel ensued between myself and Prisoner, when he and the other man set upon me and beat me, I endeavoured to take the Prisoner into custody, when they assembled 40 or 50 Men with Swords and Spears, and a great riot was the consequence.

Complainant is much out and bruised about the face, and is otherwise injured.

Alone of the Municipal Police states,—On the 2d instant, I was told that there was a disturbance in the Tower, when I arrived at the spot, I saw a great number of Chinese collected with Swords and Spears, I saw the Prisoner being Complainant, I tried with Complainant to seize the Prisoner, but he ran away, we then seized his Master, we only saw the Prisoner that morning.

DEFENCE. I confess the above Complainant had a quarrel and disturbance with me, but did not draw the Riot, I did not see the number of men who came with swords and spears, I do not know for what purpose they came.

SENTENCE. To receive 20 Strokes, and to pay a fine of 10 Dollars to the Queen.

## CANTON.

We are sorry to learn that an uneasy feeling prevails in the minds of the Foreign residents at Canton. Apprehensions of popular violence have been entertained, but our last accounts report they have now quite subsided.

As to trade, there was an improved tone in Imports, but Exports still continued dull. Tea, a few Clops of Middling and low quality of Congou have been bought for immediate Shipment. In barter the following prices are quoted, Congou 19 to 26 taels. Souchong 18 to 25. Pekoe 30 to 60. Orange Pekoe 22 to 28. Twankay 20 to 26. Hyson 30 to 65.

SLK. Nothing doing, stock some 500 Bales. \$ 490 to 500 asked for Taalee.

LONG CLOTHS. White are \$ 3,25 to \$ 3,50 Grey " " 2,90 " " 3,10

YARN 18s to 32s \$ 25.

MONEY is abundant.

At Whampoa the **Gemini**, **Baring**, **Hindustan** and **Thomas Lowry** are said to be loading with TEA for England. We add particulars of the six months Export.

## EXPORT OF TEA.

From 1st of July to 31st January 1842 to Great Britain

Bohea	250,332
Congou	17,922,648
Caper	102,535
Souchong	267,449
Hung-May	159,545
Sorta	35,243
Pekoe	203,445
" Orange	407,168
Twankay	1,055,996
Hyson	703,811
" Skin	46,423
" Young	350,613
Gunpowder	327,295
Imperial	151,550
Total	21,985,093

ADMIRALTY ORDER.—Three first-rate, three second-rate, and four third-rate men-of-war are ordered to be brought forward at Sheerness dock-yard, ready for commissioning. India and China are reported as being the destination of some of them.

It is understood that these ships are always to be kept in such a state of readiness for commissioning and proceeding to sea, as regards their hulls, that they shall neither require docking nor caulking, nor any work to be performed on board, on being ordered for service, except to adapt the ports to the guns, and to take down any temporary ordinary fittings, such as shipkeepers' cabins, ordinary galleries, etc. To meet this intention the ships selected for advanced ships will be regularly docked in turn from time to time, to have their bottoms properly cleaned, etc., as necessary, so that they may be in such a state as to proceed to sea, when ordered, without risk of waiting to be decked for either a year or two. Should these intentions be acted upon, of which there is little doubt, a *bona fide* force of thirty sail of the line, the majority comprised of new ships, will be ready for service on any emergency, and fit for sea in the space of ten days or a fortnight. It is stated from Plymouth that the *St. George*, 120; *Royal William*, 120; *Royal Adelaide*, 110; *Albion*, 90; *Canopus*, 80; and the *Clarence*, *Bombay*, *Foudroyant*, *Walesley*, and *Impregnable*, line-of-battle ships, are likely to be brought forward there as "demonstration ships."—[Sun.]

The *Cambridge* has left Malta for England. She has on board the valuable marbles brought from Xanthus.

The *Vendictive*. This fine Ship of 52 Guns and 500 Men, which came into our port last Sunday, working up most beautifully in the teeth of a strong breeze, is gone round to the domain to refit, she is to remain here for six weeks and then to proceed to Port Phillip and Valparaiso, on her passage home. She did not reach further than Whampoa, amidst the Chinese Seas, her presence not being required at the seat of war, which had just been concluded.—The *Vendictive* lay at Hong-kong, which is a barren, unhealthy Island, in the Bay near Macao. It is however rapidly increasing in population, both British and American, as well as Chinese. *Van Dieman's Land Paper.*

The Prussian Government has determined on the establishment of a comprehensive system of railways, to be realized by the aid of the national resources, and a view to connection between the several provinces of the Kingdom.

The Government of Yellow Amber, of a nation said to be situated in the interior of the continent of Asia, has just issued a proclamation, which is said to be a new law, in relation to the trade in opium, and which is said to be a very liberal one, and which is said to be a very liberal one, and which is said to be a very liberal one.

QUARTERLY REPORT showing the average Assay value, and the Gross and Net output of Sycee Silver, old Spanish and new Dollars received for Coinage, at the Bombay Mint for the quarter ending 31st October, 1842.

NAMES.	Weight in Tons of 160 Grains		Touch-p cent.	Pure Silver Tons.		Gross Value in Company's Rupees.	Mint charges for Change at 2 p. cent.	Net return on Company's Rupees.			
	Tons.	Deci.		Tons.	Deci.			Ru.	Deci.	Ru.	Deci.
Sycee Silver average of the last three months ending 31st Oct. 1842	100.	99.	355.	98.	355.	107.	297.	2.	145.	105.	152.
100 Average old Spanish Dollars	230.	89.	500.	206.	457 1/2.	625.	106.	4.	592.	220.	604.
100 Ditto chiefly new	231.	88.	750.	207.	397 1/2.	226.	252.	4.	655.	221.	727.
A Company's Rupee	One Tola or 180 Grains.	91.	666.		165.						

Payable by 5 Decal upon the Cash and Interest at 5% per cent. N. B. The above figures are for the quarter ending 31st Oct. 1842.

[True Copy] L. M. REID, Chief Secy.

(Signed) M. T. KEAY, Assay Master.

## FRIEND OF CHINA

AND HONGKONG-GAZETTE.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1843.

WE claim the attention of our readers to the interesting OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION, in our first page.

We are confident our Mercantile Community will second the exertions of H. E. to procure for us, so convenient a circulating medium as South American dollars, and that they will endeavour, as far as possible, to dispel the foolish prejudices of the Chinese in favour of the old Spanish dollars.

It appears to be an uncontested fact, that the South American dollars ordinarily in circulation here are *intrinsically*, on an average, nearly 1 per cent more valuable than the *old head* dollars so much coveted by the Chinese, and which now, are at some 13 per Cent premium; whilst the South American are at about 6 per Cent discount. This state of things would seem to be quite incredible, but we are assured of its perfect correctness on undeniable authority.

We note that the Proclamation of H. E. the Plenipotentiary of the 14th of April last, to the effect that owing to the scarcity of the Spanish pillar dollar, "Mexican and other Republican dollars shall be taken as and considered to be the Standard in all Government and Mercantile transactions at Hongkong &c." has been communicated by the Home Government to the Committee at Lloyds. At home generally, it is deemed a very expedient arrangement, and on the strength of its certain adoption, considerable Shipments hither of South American dollars have, we are told, already taken place.

At Singapore, there is no *Agio* ruling on the different kinds of dollars. Whatever the Dollar, whether old or new, Spanish or Republican, as a circulating medium and for remittance to India all rank at the same merchantable value.

With every allowance for the prejudices of the Chinese; yet the increasing scarcity of the old pillar dollar, and the daily augmenting inconvenience of its retention as a Standard of value, must inevitably compel a change, hence, we would urge the obvious importance of carrying into effect the above recommendation, and at as early a period as possible.

It would be very desirable, we think, could some understanding be come to, with the Chinese dealers and Merchants prior to the abolition of the old System. If not to be accomplished, we hold it to be especially important, that the duties under the NEW CHINESE TARIFF should be payable in Republican dollars. Such a Governmental Sanction, on the part of the Chinese Authorities of the proposed *Standard* currency,—with the avowed sanction of H. E. the Plenipotentiary, and the cordial co-operation of our Merchants, would, we nothing doubt, accomplish the object we have in view.

By the *Red Rover* which has maintained its old reputation we have accounts Calcutta of the 1st Opium Sale. The prices realized were as follows.  
*Palna* 1425 to 1525 average 1450 Rupees  
*Benares* 1265 " 1500 " 1283  
 The *Ariel* and *Poppy* had sailed and are hourly expected.

COMMUNICATION WITH CHINA. The importance of rapid intercourse between places of great commercial import is daily manifested, and a growing desire exists to perfect it. We know of no place that requires more attention, with a view to accelerate and regulate the correspondence, than between this country and China, and we are glad to observe that a few of our Merchants are beginning to stir in the matter. We know from experience however, the apathy and want of unity in action, that exists in this City on questions of particular interest, when a combined movement would at once effect the object desired, provided always it was based on reason and justice. We do not intend to make any invidious comparison, but when we see £320,000 annually disbursed from the public purse, to increase and accelerate communications between England and countries comparatively close at hand, and certainly of less

importance than our Indian possessions and China, we may fairly claim a little more attention to the subject; and nothing tends so much to enlighten the minds of those in authority, than "*gentle pressure from without.*" We therefore strongly recommend the merchants and others in China, India, and the Straits, whose interests, social and commercial, are deeply involved in the matter, to send home memorials urging their requests, with all the statistics and arguments that may be forcibly brought to bear upon so important a measure, as the regularity and dispatch of letters between China and England is.

THE above extract is from the ATLAS, which in its issue of Novr. 4th says, the last mail from China, via Bombay, took 120 days to reach London. Now this, is about double the time, that would be ordinarily required, had we the facilities of Steam Communication.

We are gratified to perceive the awakening interest on this subject at home. It has been our aim, to urge its importance on every fitting occasion. It is not necessary to present an array of statistical details and laboured arguments, to demonstrate the positive *necessity* of our partaking, of all the advantages of the quickest and most improved means of Communication with India and England.

We may truly affirm that no branch of British Commerce, has received less attention from the Home Government than the China Trade. The almost perpetual state of warfare, either with Holland, Spain or France, which our history records, has sprung mainly from the contentions and rivalries of Commercial interests; whilst the only war in which we have involved our Country, has secured its own full indemnification, besides obtaining for us an augmentation of mercantile privileges of inappreciable value. Again, has not our staple article, *Tea*, during the last forty years, alone contributed in duty to the national Exchequer fully £ 150,000,000 sterling?

When we see £320,000 per annum, granted by Parliament, in aid of Steam Communication with the West Indies and America; it really behoves us no longer to slumber or sleep. Adequate as is the existing trade, to render a beneficial return to the Peninsular and Oriental, or any other Company, which should undertake to complete a comprehensive plan of Steam Communication; yet the peculiarities of our social constitution, might prevent any Company, at present from undertaking this line.

Hence it is, that we venture to claim the attention of the Indian and Home Governments to our requirements. Lord Ellenborough has lately appropriated, the sum of £40,000 in aid of a monthly communication from Calcutta and Madras, direct to Suez. Seeing there is already a monthly mail, via Bombay, this grant has been cavilled at—we think unjustly. This circumstance and the high intelligence of the Governor General, leads us to hope, that he will not fail to perceive the vast advantages, national and social, which must inevitably accrue from a regular Steam Communication with China.

At present, China takes from India, of its products, full £5,000,000 sterling annually; for a large portion of which she remits bullion. With the new Commercial Treaty, a great expansion of our Indian and English trade cannot but take place.

It is unnecessary to point out the magnitude of the manufacturing interests, at home, which are now, or will be, connected with the China Trade. Enough has been said, to satisfy the most cursory observer that it is the bounden duty of the Indian and Home Governments, to connect *Hongkong*, and thus complete the links of Oriental Steam Communication. The mental qualities both of Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Ellenborough, encourage us to hope that a proper representation, if backed, as we trust it will be by H. E. the Plenipotentiary,

would secure for us an object, which, holding *Hongkong*, has now become of prime necessity.

WE regret to have to record a lamentable accident, which happened at the Point, on Thursday last. These premises which are occupied by Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co. are now the busy scene of improvements and buildings, on a scale which surprises every beholder. One large 3 storied edifice, some 160 feet long and about 80 feet wide, intended, we are told, for the office and residence of a part of the establishment, and which was then being roofed in, suddenly gave way in the Eastern outer wall, burying in its ruins some of the workmen employed.

No blame whatever is attachable to the proprietors, who have begrudged no expense to erect a durable and stable edifice, and who moreover brought an Architect from Calcutta, expressly to superintend their constructions. His premature and much lamented demise, prevented the completion of his plans, or proper care being taken in the erection of a building of such magnitude. We are assured that the party superintending, all unused to such work, took care to avail himself of the best professional and scientific assistance, the Island at present affords.

We hear the whole building is condemned, and will have to be entirely rebuilt. We trust this is not the case, as then, we apprehend the intended removal hither of the firm from Macao, will be further postponed. If so, this accident is a misfortune to the Colony.

WE have per HORATIO received New York papers to the 31st October. We perceive no notice of War between Mexico and the United States. It is certain Mexico, in her official correspondence, has adopted a tone, which is so far resented by America that such an event is by no means improbable. If so, it is not unlikely the first campaign, will see the Stars and Stripes floating in the Mexican Capital. Great Britain and France, would however interfere to avert the subjugation of Mexico, and their friendly mediation would no doubt be acceptable to America.

By last accounts, the Texians had repulsed the invading force, but the loss on the part of the combatants had been very heavy, looking to the numbers engaged.

We see Boz, for an article, which he did not write in the October Quarterly Review on the Newspaper press of America [and which travelled and educated natives of that Country affirm to be wholly correct] is called *no gentleman, an upstart Foreigner, a Foreign adventurer, Fashion's fool, a Literary fop, a libeller of America, a wamp of the Newgate Calendar, &c. &c.* If poor Boz gets this, for what he did not write, what will he receive for what he did?

We note the Steam Ship *North America*, had been destroyed by fire at St. John N. B. also H. M. Steamer the *Sphire* wrecked on her passage from Jamaica to Belize, and the Royal mail West India Steam Packet Coy's Steam Ship the *Isis*. Numerous fatal accidents on the Western waters, of course. We observe a considerable Inventor, advertises a *Life saving Settee* the back of which, is made of India rubber inflated cloth. It seems a valuable and *timorous* invention.

The Whig Journals boast that the Revenue Bill lately passed, will give work to at least 250,000 persons and the means of a comfortable livelihood to about ONE MILLION, or one Seventeenth of the whole Population! If so, the liberties of America have more to apprehend from *democracy*, than aristocracy. We hope they may surmount the hostility of both.

According to the Report of the HOME LEAGUE "the amount of the Public Debt of the States," at this time is \$ 198,000,000, of which \$ 108,000,000 was incurred by eight States, that neglect or refuse to pay the interest. Of these only one, Mississippi, has openly repudiated: the others plead inability; although in the cases of Pennsylvania and Maryland the plea of inability is as dishonest as open repudiation."

The Rates of Exchange on Europe at New Orleans had been very low, having been at four per Cent discount, or thirteen per Cent below the actual par.

Ex-President Jackson, had been thrown out of his carriage and hurt; we hope not seriously.

THE CANTON Press having received late American Papers, now tells its readers, it copied the Californian Proclamation from the FRIEND OF CHINA, and that "it seems at all events somewhat premature, and was altogether so extraordinary a document that we must suppose it a forgery."

Seeing that this item of intelligence, has been quoted from its columns as original, owing to the way it appeared therein, and seeing also that at the time of publishing this document, it adopted our sentiments, such a remark might well, we think be spared, or come at least, a little too late.

We gave the authority at the time. From whence we received this intelligence, we made no secret, and forgery or not, our Contemporary will find a translation in Spanish of the Proclamation in question, published in the SEMANARIO FILIPINO of the 15th of January, and which, it states was brought to Manila from Valparaiso.



The following extract from Messrs Trueman and Cooks Circular of 1st August has appeared in the Colombo Observer, which concerns fully in its views. Our object in drawing the attention of our readers to it, is, that we hold it to be very likely a reduction of the Island duty on Cinnamon, will take place. Many of the Gardens, which belonged to Government are now in the hands of private individuals, who have lately become the purchasers, at a very low cost, and have now a strong interest in procuring the abolition of this impolitic impost. We think a sufficiently good case has been made out to cause a reduction to be made. We see no reason, why a heavier rate, ad valorem should be levied on Cinnamon than on Coffee, or any other product of Ceylon.

Should this view, be taken in the proper quarters, it becomes worth while to consider what effect such reduction will have on the demand for Cassia in the European markets. It is to be observed that Ceylon Cinnamon of the lower quality saw recently quoted in bond at 3s. per lb. in London, which price, if we reckon the accruing charges and interest on the duty if paid on Shipment viz, 2s. per lb. will be nearly the price in London of a relatively inferior article in Cassia.

We have not seen a correct estimate of the Cost of Cinnamon Cultivation, but judging by what we know of the rate at which Coffee and Sugar can be produced, and moreover remembering that Cinnamon is indigenous to Ceylon; we are disposed to think it could be produced there, at a rate, which if the duty be taken off, would materially affect the growing consumption of Cassia.

As we are on the subject, we would venture to hint that a more careful selection of quality (when shipping Cassia), than is generally displayed would not be unattended with profit. The Chinese can themselves use up advantageously all the broken, discoloured, damaged and bad pieces; as from these they distil the Cassia oil.

Up to the 30th June last the Imports of Cassia, as compared with the year previous had increased 180 per Cent. The deliveries 80 per Cent. The Import of Cinnamon, during the same period, had decreased 50 per cent and the deliveries 2 per cent.

CINNAMON.—The state of the Cinnamon Trade with Ceylon has, for some time past, been anxiously engaging the attention of those connected with our Indian Commerce, who have had repeated communications with Government on the subject. It does not admit of a doubt that unless the Export duty of 2s. per lb payable on shipment at Ceylon, be removed; the trade must speedily be annihilated.—On the Island being ceded to the British at the Peace of Amiens, the entire Trade for some time centred in the East India Company, for which Government received annually a large sum. After the agreement with the Company ceased, the monopoly, established originally by the Dutch from whom the Island was taken, was continued till 1833, when it was abolished, and the natives were allowed the right of cultivating Cinnamon where and as they pleased.—The Government Cinnamon was subsequently sold in Ceylon periodically, but the whole remained subject to a duty on Export of not less than 3s. per lb, equivalent to at least 17 per Cent, but it has now been levied at a duty, on the value, of Four per Cent, only. The culture has also extended itself to Guiana and the West Indies, and judging from a small parcel lately received from Jamaica, there can be no question it can be successfully produced in that quarter, and that a supply may at no distant period confidently be expected from thence, the duty there being only Two and a half per Cent. From Cochin China, Malabar, &c., large quantities will also doubtless, ere long, find their way to Europe, being comparatively free from all such charges. It is therefore evident that Cinnamon, the produce of Ceylon, cannot, under existing circumstances, compete with that of other Countries; and if the merits of the question were understood by the Government, this interesting trade would scarcely be no longer suffered to remain in its present anomalous state. Indeed Ceylon Cinnamon, irrespective of other adverse influences would be very soon driven out of the European Markets, by the increased use of Cassia Ligaria as a substitute, which is obvious from the following returns, viz.—Imports for 1838, 381,685 lbs.—1839, 430,511—1840, 399,310—1841, 1,035,258; and for the seven months of 1842 they exceed 850,000 lbs; whereas the supply of Cinnamon for the four years respectively was, say 1838, 404,604—1839, 585,970—1840, 394,483 and 1841, 394,483.—The question of Revenue will no doubt engage the attention of Government, the Cinnamon duty having yielded in 1838 as much as £190,000, or about half the revenue of the Island; but in 1841 the Governor estimated it as £200,000 only; and it is doubtful if it will realize more than £200,000. As that the laying an impost of oppressive bearing, as injurious to the collection of revenue as to the prosperity of the trade, and a perseverance in the system must inevitably destroy both—a result to be avoided as much from being adverse to commerce generally, as from injuriously affecting the interests of manufacturers consigning to Ceylon in particular.

MANILA.

THE SEMANARIO FILIPINO of the 5th February reports the arrival at Manila of the Bark *New Zealand* from Nelson, N.Z., also the *Sahar* from Sydney. The Departures were the *Calypso* for Batavia, the *Comodoro* for Singapore the *Thomas Perkins* and *Yelkoon* for London.

We understand that the Council of War has condemned the military revolvers to the extreme penalty. The leader, who was strangled by the execution, the others, nearly 100, have been run in.

We understand that in consequence of an accident to the Steamer *Phlogethon*, the Admiral was unable to proceed, as he anticipated to Foo-chow-foo. He dispatched a letter to the Authorities by Mr. Covery, an officer of the *Phlogethon*, who was accompanied by Dr. Playfair of the same vessel.

They went up in a Cutter and arrived at the City on the evening of the 7th instant, remained there, all the 8th, and left on the 9th. Nothing could be more friendly than the reception which they had from the Authorities and population; whose curiosity was much excited by their arrival. Even the crew, we are told, are loud in praise of Foo Chow treatment. The well cooked viands and good things provided for the bearers of the Admiral's letter, were no bad evidence of a sincere feeling of hospitality.

On the passage up, they were hailed by a Junk, the bearer of invitation Cards from the Admiral of the station, they were then passing; who wished them to land and partake of a feast. Desirous of proceeding, without delay to the City, the invitation was respectfully declined.

We are informed that *Foo Chow* appears a bustling, thriving place of considerable commerce, but the excessive curiosity of the natives, was a grievous impediment, to any attempts at exploration or even locomotion.

Nothing was apparent on the part of the populace, but an eager yet respectful curiosity. And there was not evinced the slightest aversion to the Foreigner who had coerced the Emperor into a Peace, and whom they then saw for the first time.

We hear the river is not dangerous, or at least its rocks and dangers can be easily avoided, when it is accurately surveyed.

The famed bridge mentioned by Du-Halde, as we expected, did not excite any surprise in the minds of European beholders.

It is not arched, but erected on a series of granite pillars across the River, at the point where there is an island; thus there are thirty-six openings, or rather waterways on one side and nine on the other.

The *Phlogethon*, struck on a hidden rock, about 1½ miles from the shore, and but for the Water tight partitions must have been lost. She will soon we believe proceed to Calcutta, where she will undergo a thorough repair.

It is reported in the SYDNEY HERALD of the 19th December, that an attempt had been made by the inhabitants of New Caledonia to capture the Brigantine, *Bull*. This vessel afterwards proceeded to the Isle of Pines, but remained there only one night, the Master not liking the appearance of the natives, and moreover a Leefoo Islander informed them a brig had lately been surprised there and all the Crew, except three, had been murdered by the natives. The Brig, as also the *Bull*, were in search of *Sandal Wood*.

As we have mentioned this article, we may remark that it seems to be becoming of some importance in Australian Commerce. For this reason we would tell our Sydney readers we are informed by a Merchant, well acquainted with the article, that the *Sandal Wood* sent to this market should uniformly be barked, if possible, in solid, straight pieces of about 4 feet in length and the thickness of a man's arm. The best is of a yellowish brown colour, with a strong scent. This sort is now worth about 6s. to 7s. per picul and is considered at a very low rate. The Timor 1st quality at which possesses the above requisites, generally ranges between 18 per picul. The cargoes generally sent here by the Sydney Merchants, have contained a large proportion of spurious wood which is only worth its value as fuel.

It is easily distinguishable the grain being much coarser, texture spongy, of course lighter, and without scent. The duty at Macao is on the best sort (which competes with the Timor) 14 per Cent ad valorem. The other kinds 6 per Cent. A few years since the Import was 25 to 30,000 piculs. The consumption, owing to the War, has fallen off considerably, and the Imports for the last 3 years have not amounted to one half as much.

Opium cases.—The Philadelphia Inquirer, on the authority of a friend who keeps a drug store, states that 100,000 lbs. of opium were there very lately, and that the quantity of opium was generally speaking, abandoned women, who have received the habit in hours of gloom and despondency, and are unable to discharge other duties in which they are engaged, and have become opium eaters in the moment of distress and pain, and having once resorted to the drug, the Government of their bodily misery, they have found it impossible to abstain, and in some cases their miserable condition has been such, that without either the aid of medicine, or the aid of friends, they obtain none, and die in a few days, or in some cases, in a few hours. It is said that the opium is generally sold in small quantities, and is often sold daily, or enough to fill the person under some circumstances. Cases of women who have become opium eaters, and who are every day dying, are not uncommon, and it is said that the Government of the opium, they have found it impossible to abstain, and in some cases their miserable condition has been such, that without either the aid of medicine, or the aid of friends, they obtain none, and die in a few days, or in some cases, in a few hours. It is said that the opium is generally sold in small quantities, and is often sold daily, or enough to fill the person under some circumstances. Cases of women who have become opium eaters, and who are every day dying, are not uncommon, and it is said that the Government of the opium, they have found it impossible to abstain, and in some cases their miserable condition has been such, that without either the aid of medicine, or the aid of friends, they obtain none, and die in a few days, or in some cases, in a few hours.

Dr. Kay, one of the Government Commissioners, states that the population of New Caledonia is about 100,000, and that it is situated in a very fertile soil.

We insert the following letter, although we disapprove of the tone of parts of it. The CANTON REGISTER has not been very scrupulous in many of its strictures on several occasions: but we confess our task is not a pleasant one, for we dislike the unprofitable proceeding of reflecting on our Contemporaries, unless urged to such a course by some very powerful motive.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,

The important announcement in last CANTON REGISTER, that the Editor would publish his remarks on the Co-hong in an *Extra*, to be dispatched by the *Zephyr*; for the enlightenment of the deplorably ignorant folks at home, naturally enough aroused a curiosity, and I really did wade through this precious Document.

It would be wholly unworthy of the slightest notice, were it not, here, well known to accurately represent the opinions of the most influential house in China on this subject.

The whole article except the concluding remarks, of which more anon, is a stale compilation from the most accessible sources of information, and the best portion is taken *verbatim et literatim*, without acknowledgement from the CHINESE COMMERCIAL GUIDE of John Robert Morrison, *vide* Page 33 *et passim*.

For years past the China Merchants have been desperately clamorous in their complaint against the Hong Monopoly. Every sin of omission, and commission, has been conveniently referred to the Hong Monopoly. Their correspondents, good easy creatures, caught up the tone, agitated the people, pestered Parliament, dunned the Ministers, and even attacked the King in council, to procure the abolition of this most detestable and most obnoxious grievance.

Well the old system is doomed, and we almost catch the sound of the exulting shout, which will hail the announcement in England of its approaching demise; when lo! and behold! the complainants instead of assisting with gleesome alacrity at the obsequies, and deep burying it, ay, even screwing it into a patent iron coffin, never to rise again, now turn round and implore a reprieve, which being granted, are also using their best efforts to perpetuate the hideous Monster.

What must H. E. the Plenipotentiary think? What must Her Majesty's Ministers think? What must the honest but deluded people of England think? when they are told by the pet Organ and Oracle of the principal Merchant in China, that the Old System has a "beneficial influence on the foreign Trade, for these fey and protection of the Foreigners, civil and commercial, from acts of violence and fraud on the part of the Natives; that the debts owing to Foreigners by the Hong-merchants, have been generally paid in the long run," &c. &c. Any comment is unnecessary.

In conclusion, the Editor as a *succedaneum* for the Old System, devises the notable expedient of a Joint-Stock Company, which would possess all the vices of the Co-hong Monopoly, without its *only* virtue the Government Security!

I have already occupied too much of your space, but please to refer to the Editor's Pamphlet, and I think you will find his argument for the continuance of the Company's Monopoly, was its being alone adequate to cope with the cunningly contrived oppression of the Co-hong System.

A reference to a file of the Register, will fix on the Editor the most glaring inconsistency, you have only to quote his own words in times past, with respect to the now expiring, but then much abused Hong.

After such a specimen of versatility of talent, what may we not expect? we may perhaps yet see a funeral eulogium on the Hong Monopoly; which will bind up with the *Lugubrious Lament of Leadenhall*.

For the light of other days has faded And all its Glory's past."

I remain Your Obed. Servant, MERRICOR.

Macao Feb 22d, 1848.

The Gazette of Friday sets forth that the Queen has been pleased to make, ordain, and establish, and constitute, the Church of the Holy Trinity, in the town of Gibraltar, to be a cathedral church and Bishop's See; and to ordain that the whole town of Gibraltar shall henceforth be a City, and be called "the City of Gibraltar." The church of St. David, in Robert Town, is in like terms amply enabled. (Chronicle.)

A JEST ON A SINGLES POINT. Akbar Khan having desired the heroic Lady Sale to write to General Nott, advising him not to advance to Cabool, she immediately wrote, "Advance Nott."

It is said that the Court of the Emperor of India, being desirous to be informed of the state of the Kingdom of Siam, has ordered a Commission to be sent to that Kingdom, to inquire into the state of the Kingdom, and to report thereon to the Emperor.

