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June 8th, 1843.

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THE FRIEND OF CHINA,
AND HONG-KONG GAZETTE.

HONG-KONG, THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1843.

As we long since announced to our readers as inevitable—the Anti-Opium War has been prosecuted with great vigour this Session. It requires no very great farsightedness to perceive that all governmental connexion with this traffic must ere long be dissolved.

A careful perusal of the debate in the House of Commons on the 4th of April, upon the motion of Lord Ashley, on the Opium Trade, will satisfactorily prove that he made out a complete case against the East India Company. He proved to demonstration, that no greater evil, social crime, or moral wrong, had ever been inflicted on a mis-governed country, than the present monopoly of the growth of the Poppy.

He cited the opinion of a justly celebrated individual whose premature demise occasioned widespread regret.

"No sooner, said Lieutenant-Colonel Tod, was it promulgated that the Company's Sahib was contractor-general for Opium, than princes and peasants, nay, even the very scavengers, dabbled in the speculation. All Malwa was thrown into a ferment, like the Dutch tulip bubble: the most fraudulent purchases and transfers were effected by men who had not a seed of opium in their possession. "In a variety of ways the local Government had extended the cultivation of this drug; they had allowed the collectors of the districts a percentage at the sales in Calcutta upon the surplus produced, over and above what was produced by their predecessors."

Lord Ashley most truly added, that he felt—"that by the cursed and unprincipled acts of the Government, they had made the name of God to be blasphemed amongst the heathen."

The Noble Lord's exertions on behalf of the poorer classes, will earn for him an undying reputation which shall pale the lustre of the conqueror's fame, and hence, any proposition which, on moral grounds, he might submit, could not fail to receive the most respectful attention, not only of the House of Commons, but also of the public out of doors.

We hope he will never relax in his efforts, till the detestable Opium Monopoly of the Company is abolished.

The other portion of his Lordship's speech which related to the Opium Trade in China, was singularly erroneous, and strangely contrasted with the general accuracy of his observations with respect to the Indian monopoly.

It is to be regretted that his Lordship has not consulted a file of our *Print*, he would then have obtained far more accurate notions on this subject. In order to give the folks at home some idea of our progress and position, we have gratuitously distributed upwards of twelve thousand copies, and several have been addressed to his Lordship. Esteeming the Noble Lord, and highly valuing his exertions, we shall send him a copy regularly, and then, we are sure he will not again perpetrate the egregious blunders which (for want of better information) characterised this part of his speech. Illustrative of our remarks, we have only to make the following extract:—

"Now, a fact had occurred only yesterday, than which, to him, nothing could be more thoroughly

disgraceful. What had happened on Wednesday last? The Baptist Missionary Society—a society which had done a great deal in effecting the spread of the gospel in this land, and which had produced some of the most eminent and pious men—met last Wednesday to consider the propriety of sending out a Missionary to Hong-Kong; and at that meeting it had been decided to work through the agency of the American missions, because the public feeling in China was so strong against the English, that if the missionaries must work at all, it must be through America, which had kept aloof from this disgraceful traffic. And what had been the result? Why, the Baptist Missionary Society of England had voted £500 to be put at the disposal of the American missionaries for the propagation of the gospel in China [Hear, hear.] So that it came to this, that England, which professed to be at the head of Christian nations, was precluded from sending its own missionaries to that part of the world which she herself had opened for the advancement of civilization, and the enlightenment of Christianity."

We put it to our readers, whether anything can be more thoroughly incorrect and ridiculous than this? It is true, an American Commodore has lately repudiated all connexion with the Opium Trade, and announced that American citizens engaged in that branch of commerce, must not seek protection or indemnity through him. But what of that? Let us glance at the adherence of our *Trans-Atlantic* brethren to a system of domestic slavery, loathsome for its unchastity, disgusting for its barbarity, and revolting for its incompatibility with Republican institutions, and does it not constrain us to believe, that if the profits on Opium had replenished the American Exchequer, we never should have heard a word of repudiation, or any interference by an American officer?

The large amount of American Shipping, and American capital now actually invested in the Opium Trade in China, is palpable evidence, that our Republican friends cannot indulge in any self-exultant exemption from the odium of this trade. The merchants, British or American, are equally obnoxious to animadversion; for, verily, "there are six of one, and half-a-dozen of another."

There was much practical knowledge and great truth displayed in the observations of Mr Bingham Baring, on this question. His declaration, that the whole force of the British Navy, added to the Police of the Chinese Empire, would not be adequate to suppress the trade, we hold to be an incontrovertible fact. The restrictive policy of France compels it to maintain a Custom's [Douane] Force fully twenty thousand strong, to say nothing of its maritime service. We are tired of repeating, that China must adopt a similar course, if it wishes to exclude the Drug. Although, with the venality of the Mandarins, such an expectation is quite hopeless.

It may not be amiss to tell our friends at home, that the Opium is not smuggled or run by the British, according to the usage of contraband trade in other parts of the world. Strictly speaking, not a grain of Opium is smuggled ashore by the British vendors. They lie off the coast, and it is the Chinese alone, who come on board, buy, and afterwards introduce it into their own country. We believe there is rarely a port or cove on the East coast of China which has yet been entered by a Man-of-War, or a Steamer, that application has not been made by the natives for the Drug. With the steamer which had H. M. Plenipotentiary on board, it was a common occurrence.

From all this, it must be apparent that the prevention or suppression of the consumption of Opium must rest wholly with the Chinese, who, whilst they cannot abolish its use, may yet, if sincere, in their wish to put it down readily create such obstacles as would seriously check its general use. Past events have shown that the single determination of an Imperial Commissioner has sufficed to render Opium quite un-saleable, and almost valueless in the Canton market.

It is well known, that we have never shrunk from expressing our detestation of the Opium traffic; we have no one-sided code of morals, for our guide, we equally abhor the distillation and sale of spirituous liquors.—We do not

"Compound, for sins we are inclined to, by damning those we have no mind to."

On these grounds it is that we hold the worst excesses of the Opium Trade to be quite venial, compared to the lasting infamy earned by the Indian and British Governments, by their direct encouragement of the culture and use of the Drug. Besides, look to the Indian licencing system. Have we not for more revenue, created the horrible vice of intemperance among the native population? More, the whole policy of the British Government, in its fiscal regulations, has been one of desperate immorality, the hideous features of which, custom has rendered us so familiar, that they escape observation.

* The Emperor is sincere—his inferior Officers are not so.
† Vide the Corn Laws and Excise regulations.

Not so with the Opium Trade, then "Mole-hills become mountains."

But to resume our consideration of the debate Sir George Staunton was right, we think, when he said—"Should the Emperor attempt to legalize the Trade, he would not sit on his Throne another month." Pagan China has hitherto disdained to imitate Christian Europe, levying a duty upon vice and taxing the wages of sin. An Imperial Duty on the introduction or sale of Opium, is held by Chinese Statesmen to be a governmental sanction, and approval of its use. They are right, and we honour the high morality which prompts such a conclusion. Would to God that our Statesmen could so look at matters at home. There a pure religion is forced to succumb to a vicious expediency.

Lord Jocelyn's speech was gentlemanly twaddle, nothing more—Captain Layard's an *ab cap-tandum* effort in no way remarkable.

Mr Hogg's speech was such as might have been expected of a gentleman of his practical sagacity and talents, and one too who had lived long in India, and was moreover a Director of the Company. He could be none other than an apologist of the infamous monopoly. A high toned moral view of the question could not be expected.

Mr Lindsay's speech it is obvious is very badly reported, and we are told it did not receive the attention it merited. It was listened to very impatiently by the House, the lengthy extracts from Dr. College's letter much impaired the effect of his remarks. He might have much abridged the communication without diminishing the value of the Doctor's respected testimony, which we think is unexceptionable.

Lord Sandon's unreasoning quixotism and assumed morality provoked the deserved rebuke of Sir Robert Peel. If report speaks true, some of his Lordship's Liverpool constituents, the most active instigators of his zeal owe their fortunes and position to the profits of the Slave trade—such are the contradictions of human nature.

Sir Robert Inglis' attempt was such, as any one who knows him, must also know he would make on such a subject, thus we dismiss the remarks of the honourable member for the university of Oxford.

But the speech of the evening was that of the Premier, that portion which referred to the Company's monopoly was wholly artistical, not even rhetorical, merely the technical dexterity of a special pleader, exhibiting not even the qualities of an accomplished debater, which undeniably he is, far less the high souled purpose of a Philanthropist or Statesman. A humiliating trucking to dirty, paltry expediency (which some pismires think the perfection of state policy) was painfully apparent.

According to the approved rule, the immoralities encouraged in India were to be balanced by an affection of great virtue in China. We say affection, we should rather say gross hypocrisy which despite the prohibition to store Opium here, it cannot but be, so long as the Company retains the monopoly of its culture.

The inadmissibility of Opium into a FREE PORT is altogether so preposterous a notion, that we confide in the practical sagacity of H. E. the Plenipotentiary averting the enactment of such an absurd regulation, and which if it be attempted to enforce, will be found wholly inoperative.

At all risks, we have never shrunk from speaking the truth, careless whether it tells for or against the most cherished opinion or prejudice. Hence we say, an attempt to carry out Lord Aberdeen's instructions will much retard, if it does not prove fatal to the prosperity of Hong-Kong.

We are told the largest firm in China (whose expenditure on buildings now in course of erection on the Island, must have exceeded two hundred and fifty thousand dollars) have announced its intention to remain at Macao. Many others will, if they are wise, follow its example.

Had it been believed that such instructions could ever have emanated from the Home Government, not all the exertions and influence of the Deputy-Superintendent, Chief Magistrate, and Captain Mylius [to whom the establishment and success of the Colony is wholly attributable] would have availed; beyond attracting to our shores a few refugees and suttlers for the supply of the Garrison and Men-of-war. Have not then parties who have invested large sums on the Island a just right to complain?

We conclude our remarks with the Extract from Sir Robert Peel's speech, as given in the *Times*, of the 5th of April, to which we above refer.

"Now, with regard to the interdiction of the illegal traffic, that subject has occupied the attention, not only of the present, but of the late Government, who gave instructions to Sir H. Pottinger on the subject which her Majesty's present Government have renewed. And who is Sir H. Pottinger, and what is the course he was directed

to pursue? What was the spirit of the last communication which has been blamed by the noble lord the member for Liverpool? What was his feelings and dispositions towards the people of China? Did he not stand almost alone there, and has he not given proof that he is a man in whom the House of Commons may confide? [Hear, hear.] He has been instructed to represent to the Chinese Government, not, I admit, the attempted impossibility of interdicting altogether the importation of Opium into China, but such a respectful representation as may conduce friendly relations and an advantageous understanding upon the subject of revenue; and if the Chinese Government can be persuaded to look at the question in the way in which European Governments regard similar matters, namely, with respect to the means for the prohibition of smuggling, an amicable arrangement may be agreed upon. The importance of the subject must be my excuse for reading from the last instructions sent out to Sir H. Pottinger, dated 29th December, 1842, to prove that her Majesty's Government have not been indifferent to these matters, and that they are fully aware of the evils with which it may be pregnant to the honour and character of this country, as well as to the employment and safety of a great capital at present involved in the question. On the date mentioned Lord Aberdeen wrote this dispatch:—"Whatever may be the result of your endeavours to prevail upon the Chinese Government to legalize the sale of Opium, it will be right that her Majesty's servants in China should hold themselves aloof from all connexion with so discreditable a traffic. The British merchant, who may be a smuggler, must receive no protection or support in the prosecution of his illegal sale [hear, hear]; and he must be made aware that he will have to take the consequences of his own conduct." Her Majesty's Government have not the power to put a stop to this trade on the part of the British smuggler; but they may impede it in some degree by preventing Hong-Kong and its waters from being used as a point by the British smuggler, as a starting point for his illegal acts. That is to say, when Hong-kong is ceded—until that the smuggling of opium cannot be prohibited there; but as soon as it is ceded, you will have power to prevent the importation of Opium into Hong-kong for the purpose of exportation into China." Now, I think I have proved to the satisfaction of the house that this important subject has not escaped the attention of her Majesty's Government. [Hear, hear.] Considering the present state of affairs, and the negotiations which are pending, I think it much better that the matter be left in the hands of the Government, rather than the house should come to a vote which might defeat the very object of the motion. [Hear.] So much for the illegal traffic.

COMMERCIAL.

Our Canton correspondents write as follows:—"Corron is very dull indeed, prices going lower every day but extensive Sales are making."

	DELIVERIES.	STOCK.	DELIVERIES.	STOCK.
	May, 1842.	31 May, 1842.	May, 1843.	31 May, 1843.
Manila		630		2,765
Bombay	9,872	21,660	16,242	46,450
Bengal	4,236	3,675	3,345	16,802
Madras	559	2,233	1,918	26,058
Total Bales	14,667	28,198	21,505	92,075

Exclusive of any New Cotton either year. The Prices now quoted are, *Best Timmvelly*, 7-5. *Best Bombay*, 6-7. *New*, 7. *Bunda*, 7 to 8, for very fine

COTTON TWIST in good demand, low numbers still preferred, No. 20 to 26—\$29 to 30. No. 28 to 42—\$25. Stocks of low numbers bare—of high, large. LONG CLOTHS—Market bare of Stock, and in active demand with the outside men, deliverable at Hong-Kong. No doubt for the Junks proceeding Northward. They will give much higher prices than the Hong Merchants, whose prices range from \$2-70 to \$2-90, *White* and *gray*.

LONG ELLS. Smuggled (for almost only so are they now sold) much checked by the apprehension of several of the outside men implicated in these transactions, and they do not like now to clear them. An enormous Stock (sold and unsold) lying at Whampoa, and no chance of improvement. SCARLETS are quoted by the Hongs \$9, and good assortments \$6-50. In anticipations of direct supplies up the Coast—the Chin-Chew men are not buyers now, and therefore as the supply on the Coast is scanty, good prices will perhaps be obtained there. The sincerity of the Local Authorities in their efforts to suppress the Opium Trade, can be judged of by the *Hoppo* being able to catch the Piece Goods Boats, but he never can succeed in overhauling any of the Opium Boats, which are exactly the same kind of craft.

TEAS. Few remain, some seventy Chops of *Cougou*, and next to no quantity of *Greens*. Prices moderate. All in the dark about the Tariff—should it be thus? The talk is, the intended duty on Tea is fixed at *four taels*, considering the loss in weight and the expenses of the Hongs, this is no fitting reduction. However, all we have to guide us, is the fact of one house, who should know something about the matter, being in the market for Teas and storing them in the Hongs, although they have a ship only half laden still lying at Whampoa, so that they must expect an early reduction of the present duty.

OPIMUM CLAIMS. By the Papers lately laid before Parliament, H. E. Sir Henry Pottinger, announces as the definite result of his investigations, that he "considers it impossible to arrive at any satisfactory opinion as to the actual value of the Opium." Captain Elliot thinks \$45 per chest, with interest will be sufficient. Lord Ellenborough says \$40 is enough. The Government seem disposed to compensate at the rate adjudged as the value in the case of Da Souza, tried in the Supreme court at Calcutta, viz \$40 per chest.

We need not re-iterate what we have said justice requires, but we would remind our readers that it was stated by us on the 19th of November last that the Opium Claims would be paid, and that we thought (owing to the supineness of the parties interested) not more than \$250 per chest would be awarded. Since then the "Times" has warmly advocated the Claims, so more perhaps may yet be obtained, if not (to use the language we adopted some fifteen months since) there is only another page added to the chronicles of our commerce, which by the rapacity and neglect of our Governors have too often been the veritable martyrlogy of our merchants.

NOTICE.

FOR SALE.—Bally Rice, Manila Coffee, Cocconut Oil, Java Arrack in cases and casks, Port and Sherry, Copenhagen Cherry Cordial, in Pints, Europe and Manila Rope, Oakum, Corks, Singapore Planks, Anchors and Chains, Manila Rum, Chocolate, Cigars, Sardines, Turpentine, Seidlitz Powders, and a great variety of other articles.

JOHN BURD & Co.
Queen's Road.

Hong-Kong, 1st March, 1843.

FOR SALE.—Shaw and Maxwell's Port and Sherry in 3 & 6 doz. cases. Apply at the Godowns of Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON, & Co.

Hong-kong, 10th December, 1842.

PATENT CORDAGE.

A superior Article, of the recent Steam Manufacture recently established at Manila; equal to the best made in the United States, and worked by mechanics from that country. Orders can be forwarded to Manila, and executed in a short time. Apply to

WILLIAM SCOTT,

Hong-kong, 17th May, 1843.

Hong-kong, 12th June, 1843.
J. Mc. MURRAY, Baker, Pastry Cook, &c., opposite the Godowns of W. Scott, Esq., Lower Bazaar, begs to announce to the Public, that he has opened a house in the above named vicinity, and hopes to participate in that Public Patronage which it shall be his constant endeavour to deserve.

N. B.—Parties can be supplied with Bread, Pastry, &c., on the shortest notice.
SHIP BISCUIT.

NOTICE.—JOHN W. NORTH, would most respectfully inform the Merchants and Masters of Vessels, that he has taken the loft over Kent & Co's Ship Yard, for the purpose of Making and Repairing Sails, and would most respectfully solicit their patronage.
Hong-Kong, June 8th, 1843.

ABRAHAM'S, & Co. are now ready to receive Goods on Storage and Commission, at their spacious Godowns—13 Queen's Road.

ABRAHAM'S, & Co. have on Sale, Cognac Brandy in casks. Do. in 1 dozen cases, Champagne do., Sherry in quarter casks and cases. Champagne in 3 dozen cases. Charet, Prime Irish Pork.
Hong-Kong, June 1st, 1843.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore known by the name of Firm of BENNETT, PAINÉ & Co. as Auctioneers and Commission Agents, was this day Dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to, and payable by, the said Firm, will be received and paid by the Firm of PAINÉ & Co.
Dated the 29th day of May, 1843.
BENNETT, PAINÉ, & Co.
E. FARNCOMB.—Witness.

FOR SALE, by the Undersigned, at the following reduced Prices:—
Sillery Champagne [white] \$16 per doz.
Do. Cell de Perdrix 16 do. do.
True Chateau Margaux 12 do. do.
Do. St. Julien 10 do. do.
Sauterne 10 do. do.

AD. GUILLAIN,
At Mr. BOULLA'S Store.

FOR AMOY AND CHUSAN.

The Barque "FORTESCUE," 305 tons, Capt. HALL, lately returned from Chusan and the adjacent bays, will sail for the above Ports early in July. For Freight or Passage apply to the Captain on board, or to Messrs JARDINE MATHESON, & Co. Macao.
Hong-Kong, 21st June, 1843.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.

The Barque "BENCOOLEN" CAPT. CLARIBURTT, for Sydney, Bay of Islands, and Wellington, New Zealand, calling at Manila.
For Passage apply on board.
Hong-kong, June 15th, 1843.

FOR CHARTER OR SALE.

The Clipper Barque "POSSIDONE," CAPT. ASHLEN VALENTINE, 464 TONS, A. 1. at Lloyd's, copper fastened and newly Coppered, now discharging at Hong-kong, and will be clear of Cargo the end of the month.

Apply to Captain Valentine on board, or to Mr RICHARD BROWNE, Macao.

FOR SALE.—A DOUBLE BARREL Percussion FOWLING PRIZE, by JOHN MANTON, with Apparatus complete, and spare Nipples Main-Springs, &c., in a Mahogany Case, —Price \$70. Apply to the Printer.
June 14th, 1843.

NOTICE.—The Gentry of Hong-Kong, and the Public generally, can be furnished with fine ENGLISH MUTTON, [at one-half dollar per Pound] by sending their orders to THE BRITON'S BOAT, on Saturday Mornings.

FOR SALE Anchors, Cables, Copper Sheathing and Nails, Patent Felt, Carpeting and Rugs and Woollen Tartan—by
W. T. Kinsley.
Hong-kong, Jany 11th, 1843.

NOTICE.—Just received, and For Sale. SILLERY, CHAMPAGNE, CLARET, ST. JULIEN, SAUTERNE, and superior FRENCH BRANDY.

A. HUMPHREYS,
Magistracy Street.

GRANITE GODOWNS TO LET,

BY THE MONTH, OR LONGER PERIOD.

THEY are of different sizes, and capable of containing 500 to 2000 Bales Cotton.

ALSO,
Merchandise received on Storage, at a low rate per package. Apply to, C. V. GILLESPIE,
46, Queen's Road.

FOR SALE.—Ship Chandlery, Cables, and Stores of all descriptions, Port Wine, Pale and Gold Sherry, Champagne, Moselle, Marsella, English and French Brandy, Gin, Bottled Ale and Porter, English Butter in Kegs, an assortment of Warm Clothing, and Beaver Hats. Apply to
A. HUMPHREYS, Magistracy St.

FOR SALE.—The following important and valuable Property; several extensive Marine Lots, having deep Water Frontage; convenient Bungalows, delightful situation, and commanding a fine view of the Bay and Town; Large Plots of Ground eligible for Building purposes.

The whole of the Property is situated in a first-rate locality, contiguous to Government Hill, and offers a highly desirable and safe investment for Capital.

For particulars, apply to,
E. FARNCOMB,
Solicitor and Notary Public.
Hong-Kong, 29th May, 1843.

NOTICE.—Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions received and carefully stored in spacious dry and secure Brick Godowns, situated on the Queen's Road No. 20, at Hongkong, upon moderate terms. Apply upon the premises to

W. ALLANSON & Co.
Goods are received and sold on Commission.
Hongkong, 16th Feby, 1843.

FOR SALE.—Superior Port and Sherry, ex City of Derry.
Apply to C. W. BOWRA,
No. 13, Queen's Road.

FOR SALE.—Patent Cordage, from the Steam Manufactory at Manila—a superior article.
Apply to C. W. BOWRA,
No. 13, Queen's Road.

JUST RECEIVED, AND FOR SALE

At the Godowns of the Undersigned;—Forge Bellows, Blacksmith's Tools, Carpenter's ditto; Singapore Plank and Beams, Ship Chandlery of all description, and Ship Provisions, Wines and Spirits, Bengal Rice, Manila Patent Cordage, ditto Chocolate, ditto Cigars, ditto Coffee, ditto Cocconut Oil; Corks, Sardines, Seidlitz Powders, Gunpowder (coarse), Sperm Candles, Copper Boat Nails, Footsail and Writing Paper, Cutlery and Hardware, And a variety of other Articles.

Apply to C. W. BOWRA,
at No. 13, Queen's Road.
Hong-kong, 17th May, 1843.

