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June 8th, 1843

Any irregularity or delay in the Delivery or Receipt of the PAPER, if brought to our notice, we will endeavour to rectify. We shall be much obliged to our Subscribers, if they will inform us when any change of residence takes place.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Paper is uniformly published every Thursday morning. Our Subscribers can have their Copies on application at the Printing Office. Owing to an un-anticipated change at the Post Office, we have not been able to communicate with many of our Subscribers, whose addresses we do not know—where we do, the delivery will be by a Gentleman named Cooley, with a list, which it is requested parties will sign when receiving the Paper.

Post-Office, MACAO.—In answer to Mr. Rickett's letter we beg to state, that postage is payable on letters to Postmasters, connected with official duties.

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONG-KONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, THURSDAY, July 13th, 1843

In our issue of the 15th ult., we took occasion to point out the anomalous state of our relations with the Chinese Empire. Whilst on the one hand we have the local Officers of Canton, and the Imperial Commissioner giving us the most unequivocal evidence of their earnest desire to cultivate an amicable and mutually beneficial intercourse with us, we have, on the other, an equally unequivocal manifestation of aversion, and hatred towards us by the Court of Peking.

So undisguised is this repugnance to the Foreigner, displayed in the Pekin Gazette, that we have several times deemed it our duty to draw public attention thereto, as from its recurrence we were very reluctantly compelled to believe that it was not the intention of the Chinese Government to permit us that freedom of commercial and friendly intercourse we would fain hope should have resulted from the Treaty of Peace.

Not to go over ground already occupied, we yet cannot refrain from mentioning that our opinions have been much strengthened, and our fears greatly confirmed, by the last number of the CHINESE REPOSITORY.

In an excellent Journal of occurrences compiled, [if we mistake not, by the most eminent of our Chinese scholars] from the Pekin Gazette, and other native authorities, we find that the Imperial denunciation of the Formosa massacre exhibits most markedly a seriousness of feeling in favour of this matter acted in compliance with the wishes of the outer barbarians, and whilst the Officer who commanded the slaughter, and also the Intendant who assented, are ordered up to Peking to be tried by the proper Board, to whom their cases are remitted by the Emperor, yet the Chifu who too was far from showing any mercy to the prisoners under his charge, has been advanced to the Intendency of Formosa in lieu of the former occupant of that office.

Again, New-Kien has been condemned to death as a traitor, for having been compelled by French valour and skill to abandon the batteries of Woo-sung, and as a contrast with this treatment, and also the ignominious death of Yu-poo-yun, before noticed, the Emperor accords to the son of the Commander-in-Chief of Kiang-se province, who fell defending his post, at Woo-sung, the titles and honours of his deceased parent. His adopted

child, too, has been adopted by Imperial favour, with high distinctions. We should be glad to believe that all this is referable to an allowable openness at the national defect and humiliation, the sense of which, time will soon obliterate, but we fear we should be deceiving ourselves, were we to encourage such a belief. It cannot be disguised, that public opinion is against us in China, and of its teeming millions (proud in their numbers, strength, and time-honoured antiquity) but few believe that the nation has really been beaten; the popular idea being that the cowardice and venality of the Imperial Officers constrained the Emperor to grant conditions to the barbarians, which the people confidently rely on his abrogating at the first convenient opportunity.

Bearing this in mind, we ought to be especially guarded in our intercourse, and as far as in us lies, we should give no occasion of offence, always striving, if possible, to disabuse the national mind of its inveterate prejudices, by sedulously pursuing the most conciliatory course, and adopting a firm but strictly correct behaviour in all our coming relations with the Chinese.

We learn from Canton that Howqua, the senior Hong Merchant, has been collecting a vast quantity of Mexican, or South American Dollars, although, before he made this sweep, they were quoted at 8 per cent. discount. The rate of exchange then being on London, six month's sight 4s 6d the dollar, on Calcutta, 222 to 224 Coy's Rupees for \$100, and Sycee at 3 per cent premium.

It is said Howqua's object is to pay them to the British Government in liquidation of the old claims or for the War indemnification, and hopes they will be taken up.

Whilst there is not a payable factory to let at Canton, yet Howqua will not proceed to repair or rebuild one, until an agreement be made to take it at an enormous rental, far exceeding the highest rate hitherto paid, and all the world knows that was most exorbitant.

The uncertainty and delay in the Tariff Negotiation and opening of the Northern Ports, with the announcement of Lord Aberdeen with respect to Opium, has been a heavy blow and sore trial to the merchant, and most of us think that the Commercial purpose we must place ourselves under the Yellow Flag instead of our own as we expected.

Another topic of gossip in the Provincial Capital has been the elegant diversions indulged in by some of our compatriots there, since they have repaired the inclosures and restored the Camp-Joy's Garden, which has long been in a most discreditable condition. (The Americans having in this respect set a very laudable example.) We are told that the exuberant feelings of several of our countrymen at the restoration, could find no more agreeable vent than (much to the astonishment of the natives) precipitating themselves from the trees into the river, with their clothes on top; as the water was muddy and rather fragrant—cigars have been adopted by the more recent bathers, who would only be laughed at, did not this public exhibition of their gambols and ablutions tend to depress the national character and deservedly provoke the contempt of the Chinese residents.

CHINESE INTELLIGENCE.

to Patriotic Contributions.—By the Late Pekin Gazette we observe that there is no diminution of the Anti-British feeling, it est Chinese patriotism.

We have long lists of voluntary contributions (on the average of a very large amount) furnished by the different provinces for the defence of the Empire. Individuals are particularized who have signalled themselves by their zeal in collecting money and sending volunteers to equip the provinces. The names who have been rewarded by the Emperor for their devotedness and loyalty in the overplus and surplus to be appropriated according to the future determination of the military board.

It is reported of one individual in Kiang-se province, that the rebels, soldiers and people have contributed 173,000 taels of silver (about 230,000) and 68,000 pieces of copper (about 210,000) to the Emperor in the same province. It furnished 27,500 taels of silver and 8,000 pieces of copper. One high official says the Emperor has the most favourable glance to award for his military services, and he assures that the Emperor has ordered to record his application for distinctions, medals, and devoted people who were ready to dedicate their lives and property to the Emperor, which was none other than the military board of nobles, nobles, the common people, and the public safety.

A (Goon) is said to be formed by native, in the dangerous in the Court, and is a silver containing 10,000 copper Cash.

The Emperor is graciously pleased to command that the name of every place which have contributed, be reported to him, as also the names of the individuals who have been foremost in moving the zeal of the people. He moreover directs, that a record of the same be duly prepared and preserved.

AN IMPERIAL REBUKE.—We perceive that a strong feeling has been excited by the pardon of Yik-King who was degraded for having been disqualified by the English.

Yik-King is now restored to his former high rank, but has received official employment. Ke-shen, who was stripped of his wealth and rank, has been similarly treated. This last act of the Emperor seems to be very unpopular, if we may judge by a lengthy report of the Imperial Censor, who hesitates not to speak very plain to the Celestial Majesty. He commences with a quotation from Confucius in favour of peace and good-will towards all mankind, a paraphrase for the axiom Yao says, Yao Dei. The Censor says, that which the people love is good, that which the people hate is bad. Do they not love truth and virtue, and do they not hate iniquity and falsehood? If, then, you (the Emperor) reward not the righteous and punish not the evil-doer, verily it will become a sore sickness to the land.

When the disobedient barbarians (the English) like foul birds and unclean beasts, wrought strife in the land, did not civil and military authorities and their men flee away? Many reasons were given for this disgraceful conduct, but although the barbarians' ships were strong, and their cannon great, yet are not the laws of the Emperor stronger, the certainty of the Emperor's wrath greater, and if afraid of the English, ought they not to have been more afraid of condign punishment? How much better to risk life in battle, than certain death in flight.

Although the disobedient barbarians returned to their country last autumn, and the beacon fire was not lit, yet the Emperor was justly angry, for the barbarians have so grossly violated the laws of the Emperor, that he commands the boards to investigate and report to him. The said officers were disgraced, deposed, and banished to death according to law. The Emperor's anger (see No. 65) who was degraded on the 24th day of the 12th month, were those found who did not clap their hands in approbation of his well-merited punishment. The Emperor's crime, much greater than the crime of Ke-shen, Yu-King, Woo-see, and others, who have not yet received like punishment. Surely the hearts of the people are sorry and men cry out, that it is by reason of their being of Tartar tribes and not Chinese like Yu-poo-yun. The Censor here enumerates the tribes to which they belong, and proceeds to say, that the whole empire was astonished at seeing official employment, in lieu of deserved death, accorded to Ke-shen and Yik-King, the former of whom, he says, was the first to be censored, by, and flee before, the English, which example, in so high a station, became so contagious, and wholly demoralised both the land and sea forces, hitherto unconquered.

He implores the Emperor to listen to the people's prayers, and at least, to degrade Ke-shen to the lowest rank, never again to be employed in a service he has betrayed. Thus gratifying the people's wish, then will the people's hearts be glad. True it is, that the people hate Ke-shen as a traitor, and would tear him into pieces for selling them to the barbarians.

He adds, the secret of rightly governing, is to know when and how to reward, when and how to punish.

Disturbed Districts.—Another Censor reports, that owing to the negligence of the officers in charge, some of the disbanded soldiers have organised themselves into gangs of robbers, and in one instance captured a caravan of merchandise, with all the riches of the caravan, and money, amounting to 3000 taels of silver. He complains also of some of the names of officials, and other bad acts, going about in the pretext of searching for opium, and really plundering the houses of the people, they gain advantage.

Coinage.—(Permission is given, at the request of the proper officer, to cast copper cash in Shan-se province.) It appears that none have been made for ten years past, that now the present value of copper cash is 140 to 150 for a tael of silver, in old times two taels and one piece of silver was worth no more. At the present rate, it is held fit to issue a fresh supply of cash. We learn there are six furnaces at Shan-se mine, each will furnish annually 17,400 taels, and 17,400,000 cash. It is intended to employ at present only four for one year. The composition of the cash is stated to be a mixture of Copper, Zinc, and Lead.

A Chinese Patronym.—By an announcement in the Canton Official Intelligence, we perceive that the Victoria has from the banks of the river, near the gardens, witnessed the raising of the novel invention of a Chinese, Warner, who, with equal quickness to his English prototype calls his invention, "The bottom of the water cannon." The





