

THE FRIEND OF CHINA

AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

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FOR ENGLAND, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, CEYLON, AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS.

THE Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Ship BRAGANZA, Captain Lewis, with Her Majesty's Mails, will leave this for the above places on Monday, the 30th of March, at 2 P. M.

Cargo will be received on board until Noon, and Specie until 4 P. M. on Saturday the 28th instant. This Route affords an opportunity of visiting Singapore and Penang, remaining a short time at Ceylon, and thence proceeding to England by Overland Conveyance through Egypt in 54 days, to Madras in 30 days, and Calcutta in 34 days, from the date of leaving China. Steamers belonging to the H. E. I. Company are also understood to ply between Colombo and Bombay, thus affording Passengers a much more speedy means of reaching the latter place than is otherwise obtainable.

Cargo, Parcels, &c. may be forwarded to England by the above Vessel with the same despatch as H. M. Mails; and Specie, Silk, or other Goods to Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta, on Terms nearly the same as by sailing vessels, the rate of Insurance having been reduced by several Offices in favour of the Company's Steamers.

Arrangements are made in the Steamers throughout for the convenience of the Native Merchants of India, proceeding as Passengers; certain accommodation is also reserved in the Calcutta Steamers for Passengers from China joining the Suez line at Galle, to secure which it is requisite that a Notice of at least Two Months be given to the Company's Agent here.

Information regarding the Rates of Freight and Passage can be obtained by application at the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Office; and Shippers of Cargo are requested to take notice, that no Goods can be received for Overland Transit unless packed in non-susceptible Coverings, as Wood, Matting, Tarred Cloth, &c. and the Contents and Value of each Package either marked on the outside, or declared in Writing at the time of Shipment.

J. A. OLDING, Agent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, 9th March, 1846.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY'S STEAMER "BRAGANZA."

PASSENGERS and Shippers of Cargo by the above vessel are requested to take notice that she will be despatched on the 30th instant.

J. A. OLDING.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, 9th March, 1846.

TO LET.

A House in Pottinger Street opposite the R. C. Church and next to Mr Shortt, apply to

BUSH & Co.

Victoria, 6th March 1846.

TO LET.

A HOUSE situated on the North Side of Gough Street. Apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

TO LET.

TWO Convenient Houses in Gough Street, with Verandahs, each containing nine Rooms, exclusive of outhouses, enquire of

ROWLAND REES.

Pottinger Street.

Victoria, 6th December, 1845.

TO LET.

A House in Gough Street. Apply to

JOHN CARR.

TO LET.

A Bungalow in Queen's Road, opposite the Albany Godowns, consisting of Six Rooms well ventilated below, with detached Offices and Stables complete. Apply to

TURNER & Co.

Hongkong, March 2nd, 1846.

TO LET.

THREE Houses situate in Wellington Street, commanding a fine view of the Bay. Early possession can be given. For further particulars apply to

R. OSWALD.

Victoria, 27th February, 1846.

FOR SALE.

MARINE Lot No. 64 Situated between the lots of Messrs. Macvicar & Co. and Francis Jamsetjee Esq., measures 200 feet sea frontage, and altogether is a very desirable lot. For further particulars apply to

FLETCHER & Co.—Hongkong.

or DROM GRAY & Co.—Canton.

Victoria, 1st July, 1845.

TO BE LET.

THAT Commodious House, now occupied by Mr Gabriel; as the "British Hotel," situated in Stanley and Graham Streets. Possession can be given on the 4th of March, 1846. For further particulars apply to

C. MARKWICK, Auctioneer.

Pottinger Street, Victoria, 13th Feby. 1846.

TO LET.

THE HOUSE in Queen's Road lately occupied by Phillips Moore & Co. Apply to

HUGHESDON & Co.

TO LET.

A spacious bungalow on Caine's Road. Apply to

HUGHESDON & Co.

Victoria, 3rd January, 1846.

TO LET.

THE upper part of a commodious and well built dwelling House containing seven rooms with servants rooms, and outhouses with stabling. For further particulars apply to,

D. LAPRAIK.

No. 1 Wellington Terrace D'Aguiar Street. Victoria, 24th October, 1845.

NOTICE.

THE Commercial Business of the undersigned will from this date be continued, under the style of "Senn Van Basel & Co."

M. J. SENN VAN BASEL.

Canton, March 1st, 1846.

NOTICE.

PARTIES receiving letters directed to the late C. LLOYD, Esq. are requested to forward the same to the office of the undersigned at Macao. All charges or postage on the same will be paid on delivery

M. J. SENN VAN BASEL. His Netherlands Majesty's Consul. Executor.

Netherlands Consulate, Canton, 3rd October, 1845.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned has been appointed Agent at Macao for the India Insurance Company of Calcutta; and is ready to grant Policies, payable in London, Liverpool, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Penang, Singapore and China.

J. J. REMEDIOS.

Macao, 1st February, 1846.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY.

MESSRS DENT, BEALE & Co. are authorized to issue Policies on behalf of the Society at Shanghai, payable in Hongkong, Calcutta, Bombay, and London.

DENT, & Co.

Secs. Union Insurance Society.

Victoria, 1st January, 1846.

FOR SALE.

MADEIRA in Pipes, Hogs-heads and quarter Casks from the well known House of Stoddart & Co. Port in Cases of 3 dozen each. Hodgson and Abbot's Pale Ale in Hogsheads. Apply to

DENT & Co.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned have received authority from the Directors of the Imperial Fire Insurance Office of London, to issue Policies on the New Buildings at Canton.

MACVICAR & Co.

Victoria, 23rd January, 1846.

FOR SALE.—AT the Godowns of Messrs Bleekin, Rawson & Co., Burton Ale in Hhds, from Worthington and Robinson.

Hongkong, 15th January 1846.

FOR SALE.

AT the Godowns of Messrs Bleekin, Rawson & Co. Allsops Pale Ale in bottle; Barclay's Porter in bottle, Superior Sherry, Madeira, and Port, in wood and bottle.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned have been appointed Agents at Canton for the "Globe Insurance Office" of Calcutta, and are prepared to grant Policies payable in London, Calcutta, Bombay and Canton.

MACLEAN, DEARIE & Co.

Canton, 10th November, 1845.

FOR SALE.

THE undermentioned Wines from the House of Gleditsia, King & Co. London.

Port in cases of 3 dozen

Madeira " " 3 "

Champagne " " 1 "

Apply to

LINDSAY & Co.

Victoria, 26th January, 1846.

FOR SALE.

WEBSTER, Gordon, Cosart & Co.'s superior Madeira, in Hhds, quarter and half quarter casks, and in cases.

FLETCHER & Co.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1846.

NOTICE.

MR F. H. TIEDEMAN is authorized to sign for our firm by procuration.

VAN DERBURG ROMSWINCKEL & Co. Canton and Macao, 31st Jan'y. 1846.

MR. ROGER JACOBSON is authorized to sign for our firm by procuration.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Victoria, 26th December, 1845.

NOTICE.

MR. HEAR Lavo is authorized to sign for our firm by procuration.

R. OSWALD & Co. Victoria, Hongkong, 27th February, 1846.

NOTICE.

MR WILLIAM WARD BROWN is authorized to sign for our Firm by procuration.

HEGAN & Co.

1st January, 1846.

NOTICE.

MR. JOSEPH L. ROBERTS is a partner in our firm.

AUGUSTINE, HEARD & Co.

Canton, 20th March, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned beg to notify, that they have formed a partnership for the transaction of a general Commission and Agency business at Canton, under the firm of CARLOWITZ, HARKORT & Co.

RICHARD CARLOWITZ.

BERNHARD HARKORT.

Canton, 1st January, 1846.

BILLS on London, drawn under Messrs Baring Brothers & Co's Credits, in sums to suit purchasers, for sale by,

J. N. A. GRISWOLD.

Canton, March 5th 1846.

CIRCULAR.

MR. FRANKLYN, General Commission, Land and Shipping Agent, receives goods from alongside ships and stores them on the most moderate terms in dry and secure godowns, sells them by Public or private sale as required. A variety of goods on view at the show rooms.

Queen's Road February, 17th 1846.

TO LET.

A Bungalow situated in the most healthy locality with a good view of the Harbour; has a Verandah of 7 feet breadth in front and 6 feet at the back, contains a Dining and Sitting Room 22 feet by 15, and two Bed Rooms 16 by 10, with Bathing Rooms attached to each. The ventilation and fittings will be found in excellent order. Out Houses and stabling detached.

Rent \$25 per mensem.

Apply to

W. H. FRANKLYN.

A QUANTITY of GUN POWDER, for sale. Apply to,

W. H. FRANKLYN.

FOR SALE.

A Splendid rich toned square Piano forte; just landed.

W. H. FRANKLYN.

FOR SALE.

SAUNDERS Pale October brewed ale in Wood, Allsops Beer in Wood, Port and Sherry, Champagne and Claret. Apply to

ROBERT STRACHAN.

Victoria, 25th July, 1845.

HOLMES & BIGHAM have for sale, Gold and Silver skeleton and plain lever Watches, Pistols in cases, Wiltshire Cheese and Cumberland Hams, Butter in kegs and jars, Beef, Pork, and Tongues in small and large barrels, English Paint Oil, best White Lead in 28lbs kegs, Sheet Lead, Beer, Porter, Brandy, Rum, Gin and Whiskey in bottles and cask, Champagne, Claret, Port, Sherry, Cordials &c., Blankets, Regatta Shirts, Chesterfield wrappers &c. &c.

H. & B. have also a small family medicine chest ready fitted up, and a few tape lines on sale.

Victoria, 25th February, 1846.

BILLIARDS.

HOLMES & BIGHAM beg respectfully to inform the Gentlemen of Hongkong that they have opened a Billiard Room with a first rate, "Thurston's" Slate Table on their premises 2 doors East of the House occupied by Gen. D'Aguiar. Gentlemen honoring them with their patronage will meet with every attention.

L. E. CHRISTOPHER begs to inform the Ladies of Hongkong that he has just received from the "Braganza" a splendid assortment of ladies French Silk and Gauze dresses, Barege cachemire, Glacé broché, Barege satin, Labrador Velourine Barege, and other robes; Ladies plain Silk shawls and Scarfs, Cravates gouffrees, and Mills rades, of the latest style, which he offers with confidence as being the newest and most distinguished lot of goods that has yet been received in Hongkong. Also gentlemen's Black Silk and Satin Cravats and Waistcoatings of superior quality.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned beg to inform parties indebted to him, to pay the same as early as possible; claims on those residing in China, not paid, or arrangements made to do so, up to the end of next May, and those in Europe, &c., up to the end of next August, (after giving due notice in the New-spapers of Names and particulars); will be put up for sale by Public Auction, and sold off to the highest bidder.

Those who have established on the East Coast of China, or elsewhere, or have left China, since 1830, are requested to send their address, and their accounts will be forwarded to them without delay.

JNO SMITH

Macao, 16th February, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned have formed a partnership, for the transaction of a general Agency and Commission business, under the respective Firms of RAWLE, DUUS & Co. at Victoria, and DUUS, RAWLE & Co. at Shanghai.

S. B. RAWLE.

N. DUUS.

Victoria, Hongkong, 1st October, 1845.

ROMAN CEMENT.

FOR sale at the Godown's of the undersigned a consignment of Roman Cement.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, Queen's Road, 9th Feby. 1846.

JUST Received per late arrivals and for sale by the subscribers.

Patent Salamander Safes of various sizes warranted secure in the hottest fire.

ALSO.

Patent Weighing Machines from 700 a 2,300 pounds, which can be made to weigh peculs and cattie.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 28th October, 1845.

FOR SALE.

SUPERIOR Sherry and Madeira in wood; also a few half pipes and quarter casks Cape and Tenerife Wines, Sherry, Madeira, Port, Claret, Cognac, Cherry Brandy, in 1 2 & 3 dozen cases.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 28th October, 1845.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED. An assortment of Anchors and Chain Cables, Europe, Manila and Coir Rope, Hemp and Cotton Canvass, and several Spars for lower and topmasts.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 28th October, 1845.

FOR SALE.

100 Piculs Camphor; packed ready for shipment.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 25th February, 1846.

NOTICE.

THE following parcels forwarded by Messrs Waghorn & Co., and received by the "Braganza," will be delivered on the presentation of written orders from the parties to whom they are addressed.

2 Parcels President of the Mess Com. H. M. 18th Regiment.

1 " Officer Commanding H. M. 18th Regt.

1 " " " H. M. 98th Regt.

1 " President Mess Committee H. M. 98th Regiment.

1 " James Hardy, Esq. H. M. 98th Regt.

1 " F. Macqueen, Esq.

1 " Kenneth Moffatt, Esq.

1 " R. Rawlin, Esq. H. M. S. "Espiegle."

Parcels to be transmitted to England by the Braganza will be received by the undersigned until 4 o'clock on Saturday the 28th instant.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 24th March 1846.

WAGHORN & Co's AGENCY.

THE undersigned has been appointed Agent for Messrs Waghorn & Co., and is prepared to forward parcels to England and India by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam vessels which sail from this port on the 1st of every month.

N. DUUS.

Victoria, 23rd January, 1846.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

SODA WATER, AERATED LEMONADE. Aerated Chalybeate Water, (highly recommended, on account of its tonic properties).

AGENT AT CANTON.

ACHOOK, Comptrolor. No. 3 Imperial Hong. Hongkong, 13th March, 1846.

SODA WATER.

ON SALE.—At the Store of Mr. John Smith in Macao from Dr. Hunter's.

Soda Water Manufactory there. Macao, 11th January, 1845.

DISPENSARY, CANTON.

THE following Select Medicines, &c. are on Sale at the DISPENSARY, 4 FANCY HONG, CANTON.

BUTLER'S Tasteless Scillitiz Powder; Concentrated Decoction of Sarsaparilla, of double strength, to obviate fermentation; Capsula Glaucones; Castor Oil Capsules; Concentrated Disinfecting Solution of Chloride of Lime; Stomachic Bitters; Spirit of Camphor; Castor Oil, Superior Coldraw; Lister's Healing Lotion; Rose Water, Grenville's Lotion; Prepared Chalk; Perfumed Chalk Balls; Lip Salve; Aromatic Syrup of Marsh-mallows; Tooth Powder; Hydriodate of Potash; Carbonate of Soda in Bottle; Gregory's Powder; Chalybeate Salts; Quinine in Bottle and in Pills; Turkey Balm; Balsamic Paste; Suspensory Bandages; Hernia Trusses; Ear Syringes; Oesthra &c. Bone and Glass; Lavement Machines; Patent Lint; Specific Solution of Hydriodate of Potash. Sarsaparilla, etc. for Rheumatism and Chronic Cutaneous Affections; Spirit of Wine; Sponges; Liquorice; Rowland's Toothache Drops; Hoffman's Anodyne; Flesh Eraser; Sans Warren; Madame Chrestin, &c. &c.

EDWARD CULLEN,

M.R.S.L., L.A.L.

(From the China Mail, March 26.) PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the Governor has received the Commands of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, conveyed through the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, approving of and confirming the Five Ordinances hereinafter specified, namely:—

Ordinance No. 6 of 1845, intituled, "An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 15 of 1844, for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Judicature at Hongkong and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof."

Ordinance No. 7 of 1845 intituled, "An Ordinance for the regulation of Juries and Jurors."

Ordinance No. 8. of 1845, intituled "An Ordinance to regulate Criminal Proceedings."

Ordinance No. 9, of 1845, intituled "An Ordinance to invest the Supreme Court of Hongkong with a Summary Jurisdiction in certain cases."

Ordinance No. 12, of 1845, intituled, "An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 1 of 1845, intituled, "An Ordinance for the suppression of the Triad and other secret Societies in the Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies."

Now it is hereby declared, that the said Five Ordinances have been so approved of and confirmed, as aforesaid.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, J. F. DAVIS,

By Command of His Excellency the Governor, FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE, Colonial Secretary,

Given at Victoria Hongkong, this 23d day of March, 1846.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Lieutenant William Pedder, R. N., Harbour Master, having returned from leave of absence, has this day resumed the duties of that office.

By Order, FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Office, Victoria Hongkong, 23d March, 1846.

MARCH 1845.

8 A. M.

9 A. M.

NOON.

3 P. M.

9 P. M.

MINORITY.

Meteorological Register for one year from August 1844, to August 1845, kept on board of a Ship near Chapel, Island East Coast of China.

Meteorological Register table with columns for Days of Month, Bar, Alt. of Ther., Temp., Wind, Force, Weather, and Summary of Month.

strictures were written from private information furnished by parties here, and hence the absurd mistakes made by one of the "the leading morning papers."

Setting aside much of the verbiage contained in the London paper, and blowing off the scum of falsehood with which it is coated, we will shortly analyse the residuum, with a view of showing that the writer has taken up a false position, and that the parts of his strictures which merit any notice at all are probably founded upon misconception, and upon ignorance of the state of affairs in China, and more especially the past and present condition of Hongkong, with its capabilities and prospects.

The London paper argues that as Hongkong had not been ceded to Great Britain when Captain Elliott made grants of land to the Merchants and others,—the said grants being conditional upon their immediately laying out certain sums in building,—therefore the British government was not bound to support the engagements entered into by her Majesty's plenipotentiary. This also is the view of the case taken by Sir Henry Pottinger and the other paid servants of the Crown, who have sacrificed the rights of the Colonists to meet the wishes of the late Secretary for the Colonies. In equity this argument would not bear discussion; but as it has not been settled by the laws of equity, we enquire whether it has been settled according to precedent.

We might enumerate twenty British colonies which have been captured from the enemy in time of war—the last of them is Hongkong.—After these colonies were taken possession of by a British force, years frequently elapsed before they were formally ceded to the Crown. In the meantime her Majesty's representatives exercised the rights of sovereignty, and her Majesty's subjects acquired property, which they improved relying upon a confirmation of the title promised them by the representative of the Crown. Such was precisely the position of affairs in Hongkong when the island was formally ceded by China—it was acquired by capture, as was the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch, the Isle of France from the French, or Trinidad from the Spaniards. Years elapsed after taking possession of these colonies, before they were ceded by treaty, and some have never been ceded, but the right of property acquired by British subjects was held inviolate, and we submit, that in Hongkong, the title to land upon which the proprietors had been compelled to build before the island was ceded by China was equally good, and ought to have been put on the same footing as the titles to property in other captured colonies. If it can be proved that in any other colony her Majesty's government did not respect the claims of her subjects to property acquired by a rigid adherence to the requirements of the representative of the Crown, then we will admit that the Landholders of Hongkong have not been treated more unjustly than other Colonists; but in the whole range of Colonial history there is no precedent for the injustice exhibited towards those who were actually cowed into building in Hongkong.

Canada was taken in 1759 and ceded in 1763; the Cape of Good Hope taken in 1805, ceded in 1815; Guiana taken in 1803, part restored to Holland and past ceded in 1815; Mauritius surrendered in 1810, ceded in 1815; Trinidad captured in 1797, has never been ceded, and Gibraltar in 1704 is in precisely the same position, as are many of our West India possessions. Hongkong was taken possession of in 1840 and ceded in 1843, at which period those in possession of property were in all respects in the same position as the British subjects of the captured colonies to which we have referred, previous to the formal cession of these colonies by their former owners.

"The permanent settlement of the land tenure" was however conducted upon a principle laid down "by Sir Henry Pottinger, and therefore we need not say a just one." Such is the opinion of the "leading London morning paper" to which few disinterested persons, acquainted with the question, will assent. With every respect for Sir Henry Pottinger's talents and honourable character, we look upon him as one of the most unfit men that could have been selected to settle the question of land tenure. From childhood—or at least from the early age of thirteen years—Sir Henry had been actively engaged in military and diplomatic pursuits in India, and there he had made himself a name, which his career in China has rendered historical, and which will go down to posterity with Clive, Hastings, Metcalf and the other great men who are distinguished in the history of British India. Sir Henry Pottinger was not, however, a proper person to settle the question of land tenure. He was entirely Indian in his ideas—a just man we admit, but just after the oriental fashion.—In fixing the land tenure, he set aside all established custom—in doing so we doubt whether he was aware of any.—The acts of his predecessor he would not recognise, and in virtue of the extraordinary power with which he had been intrusted, he regulated the land question, not according to the fixed rules of British colonial law in similar cases, but according to his own prejudiced ideas.

It would be an unprofitable waste of time to follow the writer of the article in question through all the mazes of his sophistical remarks—he has ingeniously wove a thread of truth into a web of falsehoods, and he would draw the attention of the casual reader from his rotten fabric by the glitter of its slender adornment. We have said that we blow aside the scum, intended to convey false impressions, such as the non-existence of any other taxes than certain licenses to retail, and a moderate ground rent for land,—there is no notice of a direct tax upon property. It is also asserted that Merchants are disappointed because Hongkong has not become the seat of a smuggling trade, and various other statements equally absurd are made. It is unnecessary to expose all these idle assertions, by showing the oppressive land rents that have been forced upon parties after they have built, or by showing the dissimulable means by which the price of land was raised at the first sale—it is equally unnecessary to show how commerce (such as it was) has been sacrificed to support a system of monopoly, which there is every reason to believe has led to fraud and collusion.—Neither is it necessary to show that one third of the nominal purchases of land have never been actually confirmed, or that parties who took up leases two years ago are now allowing them to lapse to the Crown after having incurred expenses in improvements. Equally as

surd would it be for us to attempt to prove to the writer in question, that in a free port, there can be no smuggling transactions; or that British Merchants have not abandoned their establishments in Canton on purpose to avail themselves of opportunities for engaging in illicit trade in Hongkong. If the writer in question has been so informed by his worthy correspondent in China—for it is evident that he does not take his information from the documents to which he refers—he has been deceived. We do not believe that one British Merchant has given up his Canton establishment—there can be no smuggling transactions in Hongkong—and the opium trade to which allusion is made, is chiefly carried on in the territories of the Emperor of China, where it is nominally illegal—here it is legalized, but here we have it not.

The London paper says that no man expects that Hongkong will be the centre of the trade of China, who does not expect Gibraltar to become the centre of British trade. This comparison is sufficiently absurd, Hongkong being within a mile of the coast of China, and within seventy of the principal seat of Chinese commerce, and Gibraltar an isolated fortress, on the peninsula of a foreign country, hostile to its prosperity and prohibiting all commercial intercourse with the country. With all its anti-commercial character, Gibraltar does import about a £900,000 worth of goods from Great Britain annually. Gibraltar is valuable in a political light, and not as a commercial colony, so is Hongkong, and as such both places ought to be viewed by a liberal government. Great Britain's pays annually £200,000 out of the general revenue for the support of Gibraltar, nor does she complain of the expense of supporting a point of such political importance. Let her look upon Hongkong with same unprejudiced vision, and she will be satisfied that at present the island is also politically valuable, and that the attempts which have been made to raise taxes are equally impolitic and unjust.

THE HONGKONG MEMORIAL.

We have published at length greatly disproportioned to the interest or importance of the subject, a series of communications between certain merchants of Hongkong and Sir John Davis, the governor of that colony.

After carefully reading these documents, we must confess a feeling that the remonstrant merchants are certainly not the most modest persons in the world, highly as we must of course estimate their respectability. The demand of these gentlemen is one which we may describe briefly in the O'Connellite phrase, "no rent no taxes." They claim their land at a nominal rent, or at most at a price of one or two year's estimated value, while they solemnly protest against all taxation, whether in the shape of an opium farm or auction tax, or even those moderate port dues necessary to keep the harbour in a sufficient and safe condition. These are the only taxes of any kind to which they are subject, and these they repudiate; though at the same time, not very darkly intimating their disappointment that Hongkong has not as yet become the centre of the China trade, which assuredly no man who does not expect Gibraltar to become the centre of British trade can ever anticipate.

The unreasonableness of the complaint to which we refer will be appreciated upon the consideration that most of the subscribers to it acknowledge themselves to have been of those merchants of Canton and Macao to whom we are indebted for all the obloquy, risk, and expense of the war with China, and that they never paid one penny towards the cost of acquiring the territory upon which they now claim to sit rent free and free of taxes, at the sole and exclusive charge of the metropolitan country, which as it had the honour of conquering the island without their pecuniary aid, may, as they think, also have the honour of retaining it upon the same (or them) easy terms.

They complain of the rates to which it is proposed to subject them, though these rents are about thirty per cent, less than the present current value, upon the pretence that they were the first settlers and upon the authority of a letter of Capt. Elliot, in June 1841, professing an opinion, but conveying no promise, that they ought to have land (provisionally, of course, for the sovereignty of Hongkong was not ascertained until long after), at the rate of two year's purchase, or a nominal quit rent. Now, it will be considered, that as it was not only possible, but perhaps probable, that Hongkong might be abandoned in less than two years, this was at the time fair enough as a provisional arrangement on both sides. The gentleman merchants had a reason for leaving Canton and Macao, or rather for not returning to it, as most, if not all of them, had withdrawn from those dangerous quarters; and they swarmed to Hongkong where they were sure of protection under the British flag, and the British commander owed them protection and hospitality.

It probably occurred to the merchants also that though not precisely adapted to become a centre of commerce, the island was a post from which Great Britain could not be driven, and which might not be given up; they probably, moreover, saw that in the event of all the ports of China remaining sealed to legal traffic, Hongkong would supply an excellent entrepot for that kind of traffic that had previously been carried on in the Canton River. They, therefore, eagerly caught at Captain Elliot's provisional proposition, though fully apprised, as they admit, "that the terms and tenure of all property" would be hereafter defined by Her Majesty's Government.

The Treaty of Nanking for the first time made Hongkong an integral and permanent part of the British empire, and as soon as it could conveniently be done, after the ratification of that Treaty, measures were taken to replace the provisional by a permanent arrangement. We must, however, observe, that if on one side that Treaty of Nanking added to the permanent security of the Hongkong settlers, it much dimmed their prospects on the other. The opening of the Chinese trade in several ports of the continent rendered it impossible that Hongkong could ever become "the centre of Chinese trade," or an entrepot for smuggling.

The permanent settlement of the land tenure was, however, conducted upon a principle laid down by Sir Henry Pottinger, and therefore we need not say a just one. The first occupants, were left in

NOTICE. New advertisements, will be received, until 4 O'clock, on the evenings previous to publication, viz: Tuesdays and Fridays.

LATEST DATES table with columns for Location, Date, and Day.

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE. VICTORIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1846.

The Overland "Friend of China" will be published and ready for delivery at 8 O'clock to-morrow morning.

We are informed, that pending a reference to Lisbon, His Excellency, the Governor of Macao, has resolved to abolish all Custom house duties and harbour dues. Macao will thus be a free port in every meaning of the word.

We will briefly revert to the extract from an anonymous London paper lately copied by the Mail with the view of showing the impression made upon a portion at least of the public at home by the memorial to Lord Stanley and the correspondence of the Merchants with the Government here.

The article in question purports to have been written after a careful reading of the documents, &c. however, constant internal evidence, that if the writer read the documents at all, he must have done so hurriedly—or at least without appearing to understand them.—We are inclined to think that the

possession of their lands on the condition that they would undertake to pay for them the minimum price or rent at which lands estimated to be of equal value, but previously unappropriated, were sold or leased.

It is not pretended that the improvements by building, &c., of the early settlers have been taken into the account against them: the principle of the arrangement proves the reverse to be the case.

London Paper, November 24th, 1845.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVALS.

MARCH, 25, Prince Albert, Thompson, Whampoa. 27, Corsair (steam), Soames, Canton 26, Buckinghamshire, McGregor, Bombay 21st December.

PASSENGERS

Per Buckinghamshire—Mrs McGregor and Child, and Miss Lawless.

SAILED.

MARCH, 24, Euphrates, Gifford, Whampoa. 26, Warlock, Jauncey, East Coast. 25, U. S. Vincennes, capt Paulding, Whampoa.

REPORTS.

Glentanner, Brock, Whampoa. Buckinghamshire, McGregor, Whampoa. Prince Albert, Thompson, Calcutta.

VESSELS IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

H. M. S. Vestal, Captain Talbot. H. M. Str. Vulture, Captain Macdonald. H. M. Brig Pioneer, Captain Collinson, c. b.

AMERICA AT WHAMPOA.

Bengalee, Fisher, Lindsay and Co. Chatham, Ilbery, Jamieson, How and Co. Corsair (steam), Soames, W. H. Franklyn.

VESSELS AT MACAO.

Amelia (Fr.), J. A. Durran, Jr. Falcon, Bellamy, J. Matheson and Co. Harrier, C. Sapoorjee Langrah.

AMERICAN AT WHAMPOA AND MACAO.

U. S. S. Vincennes, Captain Paulding. Eagle, Prescott, Russell and Co. Great Britain, Endicott, Russell and Co.

MARRIED.

At Aluwick, on the 7th of January, Captain WILLIAM SPOONER, of Bengal European Regiment to Mary, daughter of J. Lambert, Esq.

DIED.

On the 22d October, 1845, of Deter in the English Channel, JANE ARRY, wife of Dr. HENRY of the Medical Missionary Society, Hongkong.

TO LET. SEVERAL convenient tenements situated in Wellington and Stanley Streets; at \$ 15 per month. Apply to BURD, LANGE & Co.

FOR SALE. TWO Manila Ponies, broken to saddle and harness. Also a Palanquin Ghurry, and a Set of double harness. Apply to BURD, LANGE & Co.

NOTICE. IN consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather and departure of the Mail, the Sale of Mr Lay's books is postponed.

SALE OF PICTURES. ON view at the sale Rooms of Mr FRANKLYN, a choice collection of beautifully colored engravings in gilt frames, comprising all the principal favorites of the Ballet, Taglioni, Cervite, Duresnay, Fanny Elser, Daimlatu, Carlotta Grisi &c. &c.

COMPOSITORS WANTED—Apply at this Office. Office "Friend of China."

MESSRS HUNTER & BARTON, beg to announce that their Macao Establishment has been removed to No. 12 Danish Hong Canton.

FOR SALE. SODA WATER and AERATED LEMONADE direct from the fountain. Patent Medicines, Perfumery Ships Medicine chests sold and replenished.

FOR SALE. SODA WATER and AERATED LEMONADE of superior quality at Messrs. HUNTER & BARTON'S Dispensaries, Pottinger Street, Victoria Hongkong, and 12 Danish Hong, Canton.

NOTICE. THE undersigned have this day formed a Partnership, as Attornies, Solicitors, Proctors, and Notaries, at Victoria, under the firm of FARNCOMB AND GODDARD; Mr Farncomb will transact the business of the Firm as Notary Public.

SMITH & BRIMELOW. Ship Chandlers, Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Merchants, and Commission Agents &c.

FOR SALE. BEER and PORTER in Cask, Barclay and Perkins Stout in bottles, Allopp's Beer.

ON SALE. AT the Godowns of the undersigned, a small invoice of Hodgson and Abbott's Pale Ale, in cases of 3 dozen each.

FOR SALE. A small invoice of superior black Hats; for sale by F. FUNCK, Opposite the Commissariat, March 11th 1845.

FOR SALE. Four Sedan Chairs. Apply to McMURRAY & Co. Victoria, Queen's Road and Aberdeen Street 19th March, 1845.

NOTICE. McMURRAY & Co. hereby intimate to their friends and the public generally, that from this date they will not receive cash on account in payment for BREED.

NOTICE. JUST landed, ex Chatham, an Invoice comprising an Assortment of Scotch Cambric Handkerchiefs, and English made Shirts.

FOR SALE. FINE Guava Jelly, and Jams of every description; Pickles and Sauces, assorted; Durham Mustard; superior Mangoes Chittney; Portugal Dried Figs and Plums in Tin.

EXCELLENT York Hams, Red Herrings in Tins, and some Prime Berkley and Cheddar Cheese. Superior Seltzer Water in 2 doz. cases.

NEW GENERAL STORE AND COMMISSION ROOMS. MR R. RUTHERFURD begs to inform the Merchants and Foreign Residents in China, that on Monday first, he will open the Godown in Mr Strachan's New Houses, Queen's Road; and will have for sale a General Assortment of Goods, consisting of—

STATIONERY. Consisting of Ledgers, Cash and Day Books; Letter Books; Drying Books; Copying Books and Paper; Memorandum and Note Books; Blotters and Blotting Paper; Plain and Ruled, Yellow and Blue Foolscap; Letter and Note Paper; Playing Cards; Envelopes of sizes; Pencils, Quills; Steel Pens; Copying and Writing Inks; Wafers, &c. &c. with an Assortment of London made Gold and Silver Pencil cases.

AND THE FOLLOWING SUPERIOR WINES, &c. Champagne in Pint and Quart Bottles. Hockheimer in 1 dozen cases.

FOR SALE. By the undersigned. Champagne, Hock, Beer, and Stout, all of the first quality.

NOTICE. WE the undersigned have formed a Partnership for the transaction of a General Agency, Auction and Commission business at Victoria Hongkong, under the firm of DRINKER & HEYL.

NOTICE. DRINKER & HEYL, offer for sale, at their Stores, superior Port, Sherry, Madeira, and Charet Wines, Peppermint, and Cherry Cordials.

BOOTS! BOOTS!! BOOTS!!! THE Subscribers have just received and offer for Sale, a large assortment of highly finished Dress and Waterproof Boots, Half-Boots, Shoes and Gaiter Boots.

GOLD PENS. JUST Received, and for sale, a few superior Gold Pens, in Silver Cases.

FOR SALE. An Invoice of Stationery, consisting of Plain and Ruled Letter Paper, Plain and Ruled Foolscap, Account Current, Account Sales, Office, Envelope, and Blotting Paper, Quills Lead Pencils, Parallel Rulers, Office Inkstands, &c. &c.

PUBLIC AUCTION. ON this day, 23rd March 1845, at 11 o'clock A. M. at Messrs. Dent & Co. Godowns, (On account of the underwriters) 25 Chests Patna Opium, more or less damaged by Sea water.

FOR SALE. A few Deal Panel Doors. 6 feet 6 inches, High. 2 " 10 " Wide.

FOR SALE. A few Haggards of Abbott's Pale Ale. Victoria, February 24th 1845.

FOR SALE. BY the undersigned a few Jars of superior English Paint Oil.

GENERAL Commission and Shipping Agents Wine Beer and Spirit Merchants. And Auctioneers Queen's Road & Chinams Hong.

FOR SALE.—At the office of this paper. Comrades cheque books. Ships Articles, with an abstract of the merchant seaman's act endorsed on the back.

BILLS OF LADING FOR THE OVERLAND ROUTE. FOR sale at this office, four forms of bills of lading for goods or specie shipped by the P. & O. Company's Steam packets.

COURT AND FASHION. The resignation of two noble Lords in the Royal Household is rumoured in the clubs.

At a Chapter held at Windsor on the 19th, the Garter was conferred on George Charles, Marquis of Camden, and Richard, Marquis of Hertford; D. Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, took the oaths as Chancellor of the Order.

The Earl of Harewood is successor of the late Lord Wharcliffe, as Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the Earl of Verulam has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Herts, vacant by the demise of the late highly respected Earl.

The alliance between the Hon. Col. Douglas Pennant M. P., and Lady Louisa Fitzroy, youngest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Grafton, is to be solemnised next month.

James Duff, Esq., M. P. for the county of Banff, is shortly to be united to the Lady Agnes Hay, second daughter of the Earl of Errol.

The Hon. Percy Moreton, brother to the Earl of Ducie, is shortly to be married to Miss Jane Price, youngest daughter of the late Sir Ross Price, Bart. of Troonwainston.

The marriage of the Hon. Edward Bennett Wrottesley, youngest son of the late Lord Wrottesley, with Ellen Charlotte, third daughter of George Rush, Esq., of Elsenham Hall, Essex, and Farthinghoe Lodge, Northamptonshire, was solemnised on the 8th instant, at the parish church, Elsenham, in the presence of a select family circle.

TIMES' COMMISSIONER.—In that trashy compilation of sketches of the characters of traitors and bombastic nonsense, Sir Joshua Barrington's Rise and Fall of the Irish Nation—one of the many books which I have felt it my duty to wade through in the progress of this inquiry, there is this truth.

—“What,” he asks, “sets one nation above another, but the soul that dwells within her?” What is it but “the soul,” the indomitable spirit, the enterprise, the persevering industry of England, which has made her the first among nations?

It is that same “soul” which makes Belfast and the north and east of Ireland tread in her foot-steps, and rival her in the race of civilization. Here is the real strength and the pride of Ireland. But beyond these few northern and eastern counties, we have to consider before we can state what is “the soul” of the Irish nation!

The “soul” of Ireland! It is a lazy and an apathetic soul; a soul without energy or enterprise. It is a soul which lolls against a door-post with a pipe in its mouth, and its hands in its breeches-pockets. It is a soul which is content to live with a dunghill under its nose and to feed with its pigs.

It is a soul which always has a want which prevents it doing anything, and whose greatest want is industry. It is a soul which is content to see its hedges down, its lands undrained and unproductive, its house a hovel, and which complains of poverty. It is a beggarly, and withal, a basting soul.

Yet the people of Ireland, if taught and urged on, have every qualification for success. But they are like a rich soil uncultivated, which grows weeds. Partly from apathy, and partly from neglect, a people capable of accomplishing anything, are sunk in the lowest degradation. Left to themselves they will remain stationary, as they have ever done. In Fyne's Morghin's Itinerary, an old and scarce book which describes the manners and habits of the Irish people, and which was published in London in 1617, the Irish of that day are thus described:—“Touching the meane or wild Irish, it may truly be said of them which of old was spoken of the Germans—namely, that they wander about naked and lodge in the same house (if it may be called a house) with their beasts.”

(Part in p. 150.) This, their condition 220 years ago, is literally their condition at Desjardins at this moment. Why? Because they are left neglected, uncultured, and uncared for, and of themselves it is not their character to improve. Should not this be a lesson to the Government, and to every landed proprietor in Ireland, and instruct them what course it is their duty to take towards the degraded and neglected Irish peasant? To the honour of many of the Irish gentry, they do make efforts to improve the peasantry. It is such men who deserve to be encouraged, and praised, and supported, and protected; whose suggestions ought to be listened to by the Government as the wisest (if I may so term them) and true indication of the wants and requirements of the Irish kingdom. But in the face of Ireland, successive Governments seem to attend only to the charge of the grasshoppers.

and neglect the more important denizens of the pasture. The warnings and entreaties of the magistracy of whole countries are neglected, the suggestions of the real patriots of Ireland—of those who strive to advance and improve her are unnoticed; while the yells of a rabble, and the sordid and selfish deceptions and boastings of characterless impostors, whose only use in the world is to furnish examples of the truth of Dr Johnson's definition of "patriotism," as being "the last refuge of scoundrels," are attended to, treated with respect, and dealt with as if representing the feelings of the best and worthiest men in Ireland!

The sooner the Government undecives itself in these respects, the sooner will Ireland be tranquil and prosperous.

TREASURY WARRANT.—POSTAGE.

The London Gazette of Friday September 19, contains a Treasury Warrant altering the postage on letters sent to the following places:—

First, that on all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by packet-boat between any of the countries or places following—that is to say, the Cape of Good Hope, or any ports on the eastern coast of Africa, the coast of Arabia, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, any ports in Hindostan, Ceylon, the Mauritius, or the East India Islands, and any of the countries or places following—that is to say, any port in China, the Chinese Seas, the Philippines, the Moluccas, Australia, and New Zealand, or between any of the countries and places respectively, next hereinafter mentioned—that is to say, the Cape of Good Hope, any ports on the eastern coast of Africa, the coast of Arabia the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, any ports in Hindostan, Ceylon, the Mauritius, the East India Islands, any ports in China, the Chinese Sea, the Philippines, the Moluccas, Australia, and New Zealand (except between Australia and New Zealand) or between two ports in any of the countries or places hereinbefore mentioned (excepting ports in Australia and ports in New Zealand), there shall be charged and taken one uniform rate of postage of 1s.

That on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the post between any place within the United Kingdom and any port or place on the Isthmus of Panama (conveyed by packet boat), there should be paid on uniform rate of British postage of 1s.

That on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the post between any place (wheresoever situate) within the United Kingdom and Chargres, or any other port or place on the eastern coast of the Isthmus of Panama, there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of British postage of 1s; and on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the post between any place within the United Kingdom and any port or place on the western side of the said Isthmus, or on the western coast of America (the sea conveyance being by packet boat), there shall be charged and taken an uniform rate of British postage of 2s., in lieu of the rates heretofore payable on such letters as aforesaid.

That on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in or addressed to the Island of Heligoland, transmitted between any part of the United Kingdom and Heligoland, direct by packet boat, or by private ship, or via the territories of Hamburg and Bremen (conveyed direct by packet boat or private ship between the United Kingdom and the territories of Hamburg or Bremen), there shall be charged and taken, in lieu of the rates heretofore payable on such letters, an uniform rate of British postage of 6d.; but the rates fixed by the first, second, and third clauses of this present warrant shall not extend to the letters of soldiers or sailors in the service of Her Majesty or of the East India Company, provided such letters do not exceed half an ounce in weight, and be forwarded in conformity with the existing regulations.

That all printed British and colonial newspapers may be conveyed between any of Her Majesty's colonies, without passing through the United Kingdom, by packet boat free of British postage; that all printed British and colonial newspapers may be conveyed between any of Her Majesty's colonies by private ship, without passing through the United Kingdom, at a sea rate of 1d. each, which sum the Postmaster-General may allow as a gratuity to the captain of the vessel conveying the same.

That on every printed newspaper (whether British, colonial, or foreign), passing through the United Kingdom, conveyed by packet-boat between any of Her Majesty's colonies and any foreign port or ports within any of the countries, islands, or places mentioned in the first clause of this present warrant, or between any such foreign ports, there shall be charged and paid a rate of British postage of 2d.; and if not passing through the United Kingdom, then a packet rate of 1d.

That on every printed British newspaper sent by the post between any places within British North America, or within the British West Indies, without passing through the United Kingdom, there shall be paid (in lieu of the rates heretofore chargeable thereon) one uniform inland rate of 4d. without reference to the distance or number of miles the same may be conveyed.

That every printed supplement or additional sheet to any newspaper, shall, for the purpose of charging the postage under this warrant, be deemed a distinct newspaper, whether sent in the same cover with the newspaper to which it is a supplement or not.

That printed Belgian newspapers may be sent from Belgium through the United Kingdom to any of Her Majesty's colonies, at an uniform rate of British postage of one penny each.

The 12th clause states that no printed newspaper either alone or together with a supplement or addition to a newspaper, or any printed price current or commercial list, shall be conveyed by the post under the regulations of this present warrant, unless the same shall be sent without a cover, or in a cover open at the sides, and unless there be no word or communication printed on the paper after its publication, or upon the cover thereof, and no writing or mark upon it or upon the cover of it, except the name and address of the person to whom sent nor any paper or thing enclosed in or with the same.

The other clauses relate to the powers of the Treasury Commissioners, or any three of them, to alter the rates as they may see fit.

THE COLONIAL SYSTEM.

(From the Sun.)

In these times of colonial mismanagement, the hard fate of our distant, but noble transmarine possessions, at all times harshly used, if not absolutely neglected, is peculiarly cruel. It seems to be the condition of Lord Stanley's continuance in office that such of those dominions as, prior to his incumbency of the Colonial Secretaryship, had made large and rapid advances in commercial, and consequently in financial, prosperity should retrograde in both respects from the moment of his Lordship's inauspicious advent to power. The West Indies, the Canadas, the Australian Colonies New Zealand, all seem to be on the same tale. Vexatious imposts are levied (like the pasturing licenses of New South Wales) on the domestic community of the colonists, or their trade is harassed and diminished to a fearful extent by injudicious duties on all imported commodities. In every case the complaints of the colonists resolve themselves into this allegation, that the interference of Downing-street is exercised to their absolute prejudice, and under circumstances of obstructiveness and annoyance, for the most part as distasteful to the local authorities as to the people placed under their charge. Some day, it is to be expected, the country will be informed, in the usual course of Parliamentary disclosures, how it can have happened that results so discouraging and so little creditable to the administrative talents of the chief, within whose official jurisdiction, as it were, they have occurred, can have been produced. Here we have the graziers—there the sugar growers,—in one island the coffee planters,—in another the hide-curers,—to-day the fishers of Newfoundland, tomorrow the producers of cotton, and, all the year round, British emigrants, settlers, planters, farmers, cultivators in both hemispheres, north, south, east, and west, remonstrating against what may be called organic grievances in the political or social condition to which the Colonial Government of the noble Lord has reduced—or in which, if it found so it will also leave them. For our own part, readily conceding to Lord Stanley the possession of great powers, of signal talents and (the more homely but very important of good intentions, we are at a loss to account for the discrepancy that is thus fatally palpable between his capacity and his acts; for aptitude for business, and his ingenuity in managing it. Jamaica protests against him as the author of her apprehended ruin, and cries, loud and deep, are wafted hither from the Southern Ocean and the Pacific in deprecation of his measures. He himself, seems to be at once the child and champion of inconsistency. He represents the true secret of West India depression to be, the increasing deficiency of agrarian labour, consequent on the great measure of 1834, for Negro Emancipation. Yet his virtual reprobation of, or cold assent to, the importation of free Coolie labour from Bengal into Jamaica and other islands, has left them in a state which has already paralysed their trade, and threatens an no distant day to destroy the entire property invested there in the land and its cultivations. The same noble lord spoke and wrote of New Zealand, as if, after having stipulated for and established certain conditions on behalf of the rights and authority of the home Government, he meant to take it under his peculiar protection and patronage. But New Zealand had twice already nearly expired under his embraces, when as if disgusted with the protegee, he handed her over to the persecutions of the native chiefs, and the barbarous impetuosity of John Heki.

Just before the rising of Parliament for the recess—that is to say, on the 3th of this month, a bill was brought into the House of Commons by his Lordship's "Man Friday." Mr G. W. Hope, entitled "a Bill to amend an Act for regulating the sale of waste land, belonging to the Crown, in the Australian colonies, and to make further provision for the management thereof," which does not solve the problem we have above alluded to—the discrepancy between the capacity to do and the mode of doing—so remarkable in his Lordship's official career, but further illustrates the singular notions which the noble Secretary appears to entertain of the means most available for developing and cherishing the native resources of a valuable dependency. The reason or exigency of the bill is declared to be that—

"Doubts have arisen whether, under that Act Her Majesty, or any person acting in the name and on behalf of her Majesty, can convey or alienate any waste lands of the Crown in any such colony by lease or demise, reserving an annual rent or payment for the same.

And it is in the first clause declared that as to the 5 and 6 Victoria, c. 36—

"Nothing in the said recited Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent her Majesty, or any such person acting in the name and on behalf of her Majesty, as aforesaid, from demising for a term of not more than seven years, any waste lands of the Crown in any such colony, at an annual rent payable to her Majesty by the lease for and in respect of such lands. Provided always, that all leases so to be made and granted shall contain clauses of forfeiture and provisos for re-entry for non-payment of such rent, or for underletting or assignment of the whole or any portion of such lands by such lessees without licence in that behalf first obtained from her Majesty, or such person acting in the name and on behalf of her Majesty as aforesaid, and shall be offered by public auction to the highest bidder for the same, after due notice of such public auction given as in the said recited Act is directed, together with a specification of the lands intended to be demised, and of the duration of the proposed term. And provided also, that during the continuance of any such lease it shall not be lawful for her Majesty, or any such person acting as aforesaid, to sell the reversionary estate expectant upon the determination of such lease, without the consent in writing of the lessee or other party to whom the lease may then belong.

The intention of these Crown leases to seven years is very good; but surely the demising Crown lands to individuals, without such restriction, is an arbitrary and a most impolitic restriction. Arbitrary, because one can readily imagine how small a chance a tenant of the Crown, who may have seen reason to oppose the measures of the colonial authorities, will possess of procuring such a license, however advantageous a contract he may have entered into with third parties for underletting his lands. Impolitic, because if it be his interest to transfer, or rather delegate, his holding, it is not less that of the colony and the Colonial Government; the natural presumption being that he underlets at an advanced rent; and that his sub-tenant paying more for the rent, will invest more in the cultivation or improvement of the property. The crown officers cannot—if even they were disposed to do so—exercise as much vigilance and caution in imparting this beneficial character to original crown leases. The same spirit of interference produced all that mischief, and that long depression of the natural energies of Canada, which the home Government itself has repeatedly denounced as consequent on the absurd incumbrances of the "Clergy reserve;" blocks of land whose tardy reclamation long prevented the clearing of the lands adjacent to, or in the midst of which they were situated. In those colonies, the primary element of improved value in every property is the improvement (the clearing or the cultivation as the case may be) of the adjoining lands.

Clause 2, which reserves to the Crown, or rather authorises the reservation to it, of all minerals in any such leases of waste land in Australia, is also, in our judgment, very unwise, and behind the enlightened spirit of English legislation generally on these points. We all know how many years had elapsed before the Crown either discovered or dreamed of improving any former discovery of metalliferous districts in New South Wales. We have only to contrast the recent accounts received of the astonishing success and extent to which mining operations have been pushed by private British capitalists in the colony, or resident British agents there, to see all the short-sighted folly of the Crown's proposed reservation of mineral rights. Lead, silver, copper, are now largely added to the coal treasures of our Australian possessions. What more legitimate or reasonable course can be taken with the private adventurers who find and work the veins, or smelt the ores that contain them, than to give them every benefit which they have merited by their industry, skill, and spirit. The Crown or the public is sufficiently enriched by the indirect advantage derived from the realising so large an accession to the capital and staples of the colony. The powers given by clause 4 to the Governor, to grant licenses for the occupation of waste lands, are much too sweeping. Great tenderness should always be extended to the hard-earned homes upon the waste acquired by the enterprising "squatters" of the colony, against whom this clause is as much directed as if they were mere vagrants or bush-rangers. We have other remarks to submit on the remaining clauses of the Bill but these we reserve to a future paper.

From the Merchant, January 7.

THE TEA TRADE.

The deliveries last week amount only to 318,000lbs. Holders are firm, and prices are well supported. Congou ordinary, is selling at 9d to 10d. Twanky, common, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; midding, 1s 4d to 1s 5d per lbs.—Times.

THE TEA TRADE—THIS DAY.

At a period like the present, when expatriations of British Manufactures are being continued to China and importations of Tea arriving here in exchange, information respecting the Foreign Market will prove as interesting and valuable to our Merchants and Manufacturers as Dealers in Tea. The following is an extract from a private letter, addressed by a gentleman in China to a friend of our own. Having a personal knowledge of the writer, we can rely on his information and the correctness of his judgment, therefore publish his letter with a view of checking exportations to a Market already overstocked with manufactures and thereby preventing large losses both on the exportation of goods and importation of Tea.

"Respecting China and your views, you would find every thing so utterly changed out here that you would be disappointed if you came with any expectations of the success which generally followed well conducted operations; instead of profits being made in homeward investments, a mere remittance is all that is calculated on, and to such a large amount is that now required in return for the immense quantities of manufactured goods that we import, that prices of Tea, and Silk are kept up by competition and offer no margin for a profit, and indeed in this year we expect the losses on Tea shipments will be very great; we cannot sell goods for cash without a great reduction in the price, and there is nothing of any importance but Tea and Silk to obtain in return; and with shipments going on from the northern ports we cannot make those nice calculations as to probable stocks at home which we were formerly able to do. An average out turn of 1s. 6d. per dollar for a season is considered now a most fortunate result, and there is nothing that will lay the dollar down here under 4s 3d, paying commissions, so that a very large amount of capital must be turned over to make anything worth while. Our business is almost entirely that of Merchants in exchanges and goods through India, with occasional consignments from home. Our operations in Tea during the last two seasons have been scarcely enough to keep our Tea Inspector in practice, and, from all I hear, we may consider ourselves fortunate in having avoided that article. We, therefore, do not see anything in trade to offer encouragement to come among us. We have new houses, numberless, most of them established by manufacturers' all opposing each other in disposing of their goods, and buying Tea at the most exorbitant rates, which by holding over, the Tea-man always succeeds in obtaining? You must be astonished at hearing of 4s 12s for the first grade Congou 22 and 23 for Selected Orange Pekoes; and similar rates for all classes of Tea, Black and Green; there is no 6s per dollar, nor 4s, nor 4s 6d, to be got out of that, except in one or two cases, which would not bring up the average on others.

"Our society, too, is altogether changed, we do not know our half the people here by sight or name, and we do not associate with one-twentieth; whereas we were all acquainted and on friendly terms formerly. Shanghai will undoubtedly be an important place, competing closely with Canton in one or two years, but it has been a severe ordeal to go through and the crisis is coming on; there must be a serious crash there ere long, and then things will improve."

From the foregoing extract it will be observed that China is no longer a waste empire, but some of the ports are already occupied by enterprising Europeans. In China at present, as in the case in the majority of new Markets, the Merchants and Traders are too numerous and the stocks of manufactures and articles of produce too large to yield an immense profit to the

Merchant or Manufacturer. But when the interior of the vast Empire has been penetrated and our manufactures have been introduced in the northern parts of it there is no doubt it will open the widest field ever known for British enterprise, skill, and capital.

In the midst of these immense losses some one interested in the Tea Trade here should be gainers, instead of which there is so much competition—unsound competition—amongst the Dealers, both Wholesale and Retail, that the only persons benefited are the public. There has been, however, within the last few days, as we anticipated, a brisker demand for Tea and in few cases prices a shade higher have been obtained. We have no doubt that the demand will be an increasing one, for we have reason to know at the end of last year many of the large Dealers both in town and country were bare of stock. We have no desire to influence the operations of country Dealers, unless at periods when by so doing it may either prove profitable to them, or prevent loss. The nature of our information from China, together with the present state of the Market, must carry conviction to the mind of every Dealer that this is the period to purchase, and freely too, those classes of Congou which range from 1s to 1s 8d per lb. The Market for some time past has been well supplied with such sorts, in consequence of large quantities of this description having been offered on arrival.

In a brief period it will be nearly cleared of these qualities and filled with the new crop. Each class and description is most frequently sold cheapest when first landed, it being often the property of either needy persons, or others anxious to realise. The wealthy importers hold for the highest prices.

There is no new feature to notice in the general stocks, though next week we shall comment upon it at length.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE. BOMBAY. EXPORTS.

Cotton.—The new crop continues to arrive and is bought up in small quantity for the China and English markets.—Transactions are on a limited scale for the season and shipments to England are going forward very slowly.

Table with columns: Item, Price, Unit. Includes items like Surat, Broeck & Jum, Oomrawutt, Gogo, Dholera, Bhowungur, Compta, Mangarole & Pore, Bharsee, Mahua Opium.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM OF MADWA OPIUM. FOR THE SEASON OF 1844-55.

Table with columns: Passes granted at Indore and Bombay from 1st Oct. 1844, up to the 30th Sept. 1845. Total chests 31,971.

Table with columns: EXPORTS. Exported from the above up to the 27th ult. Charles Grant, Sir H. Compton, Recovery.

TOTAL CHEST 27,575 FOR THE SEASON OF 1845-46

Table with columns: Passes granted at Indore from the 1st Oct. 1845 up to the 17th ultimo. Ditto from 5th to the 24th ultimo. Ditto at Bombay from 1st October 1845 up to the 27th ultimo. Ditto from 23th ultimo to the 3rd instant.

TOTAL CHESTS 8,710

Table with columns: IMPORTS. Imported into Bombay of the above passes up to the 27th ultimo. Ditto from 23th ultimo to the 3rd instant.

TOTAL CHESTS 3,704

Table with columns: EXPORTS. Exported from the above passes up to the 27th ultimo. Charlotte.

TOTAL CHESTS 984

Gums.—Arabic, 32 at 35 Rs. and Copal and Ammi, 80 at 100 per cwt for best garbled qualities.

Senna Leaves.—Rs. 9 at 10 per cwt, garbled coarse quality.—None good in the market.

FRANCOURS. Have receded to our quotations, with little doing. To LONDON & LIVERPOOL.—£3. 0s. at £3. 5s. per Ton.

To CHINA.—No alteration.—Rs. 17 per candy for Cotton.

per chest of Opium per Clipper 87. per chest of Opium per Ordinary Sailing Vessels 84.

THE MONEY MARKET. Exchange on London.—1s 11 1/2d. at 2s.—0d. per Rupee at 6 months' sight.

Exchange on Calcutta.—At sight, Rupees 100. Ditto.—At 30 days, Rupees 99 1/2.

Ditto.—At 60 days, Rupees 99. Ditto on Madras.—At sight, Rupees 99.

Ditto.—At 30 days, Rupees 98 1/2. Ditto on China.—At 60 days, Rupees 20s at 210 per 100 Spanish Dollars.

Sovereigns.—Rupees 11 1/2 each. Sycor Silver.—Large Ingots.—Rs. 103 1/2 p. 100 tola.

Ditto.—Small Ingots.—Rs. 103 p. 100 tola. Spanish Dollars (whole).—Rs. 222 per 100 tola.

Ditto (broken).—Rs. 221 per 100 tola. German Crowns.—Rs. 220 per 100 Crowns.

Gold Leaf.—Rs. 19 1/2 a lb. 18; 14; 0; per tola. Oriental Bank Shares.—Rs. 210 a 225 per share of Rupees 1,000 (Rupees 500 paid up).

Commercial Bank Shares.—Rs. 7 per cent premium. Madras Bank Shares.—At 37 per cent premium (Bombay Price Current, Feb'y 7)

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