

# THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

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VICTORIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 1846.

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Terms of Subscription to the "Friend of China and Hongkong Gazette," per annum \$12. Six months \$7. Three months \$4; all paid in advance. Credit prices, \$14, \$8. 50, and \$5, for the periods of twelve, six, and three months respectively: Single numbers to Subscribers 25 cts. each, to Non-Subscribers 1 Rupee. Parties calling or sending to the office for papers are requested to pay cash. Terms of Advertising.—Ten lines and under \$1; additional 10 cents per line. Repetitions one third of the first insertion. Ships: First insertion \$2; subsequent insertions 45 cent. Advertisements to have written on the face of them, the number of times they are required to appear, otherwise they will be published until countermanded. In all instances, those who are not Subscribers, must pay in advance.

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

**THE** Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Ship **BRAGANZA**, will leave this for the above places on the afternoon of the 26th May.

Cargo will be received on board until Noon, and Specie until 4 p. m., of the day previous to sailing. 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, and the Bombay Steam Navigation 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.

Until further Notice the rates of freight will be as follows, viz:—

From HONGKONG to SOUTHAMPTON  
 4 Ton Measurement of 40 Cubic feet \$120 Sp.  
 and for Specie to SINGAPORE and PENANG 1 1/2 Ct.  
 CEYLON " " 1 1/2 Ct.  
 MADRAS and CALCUTTA " " 2 1/2 Ct.

No goods can be received on board 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. Further particulars regarding the rates of Freight and passage may be obtained by application at the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Office, Hongkong.

J. A. OLDING, Agent.  
 Hongkong, 29th April, 1846.

TO LET.

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

BUSH & Co.

Victoria, 6th March 1846.

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 Gardens, 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.

TO LET.

**A** HOUSE on Queen's Road, containing twelve rooms, with godowns. Apply to

ARCH: MELVILLE

Victoria, 14th April, 1846.

TO LET.

**A** spacious bungalow on Caine's Road. Apply to

HUGHESDON & Co.

Victoria, 3rd, January, 1846.

TO LET.

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

HUGHESDON & Co.

TO LET.

**TWO** Houses on the south side of Gough Street. Apply to

GEORGE STRACHAN.

TO LET.

**SEVERAL** convenient tenements situated in Wellington and Stanley Streets, at \$ 15 per month. Apply to

BURD, LANGE & Co.

Queen's Road, March 27th, 1846.

TO LET.

**THAT** commodious House, (lately occupied by Mr. Gabriel as the British Hotel) situate in Stanley and Graham Streets. For particulars apply to

C. MARKWICK,  
 Auctioneer.

FOR SALE.

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

FLETCHER & Co.—Hongkong.  
 or DIROM, GRAY & Co.—Canton.  
 Victoria, 1st July, 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.

**MR. GEORGE PERKINS** is this day admitted a partner in our firm.

RUSSELL & Co.

Canton, 27th March 1846.

FOR SALE.

**MADEIRA** in Pipes, Hogsheads and quarter Casks from the well known House of Stoddart & Co. Port in Cases of 3 dozen each. Hodgson and Abbots 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.

NOTICE.

**THE** undersigned have been appointed Agents at Shanghai for the Imperial Fire Office of London.

BLENKIN, RAWSON & Co.

Victoria, 22d April 1846.

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

Hongkong, 15th January 1846.

FOR SALE.

**AT** the Godowns of Messrs Blenkin, 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.

FOR SALE.

**THE** undermentioned Wines from the House of Gledstones, 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, Cossart & Co's** superior Madeira, in Hhds, quarter and half quarter casks, and in cases. FLETCHER & Co.  
 Hongkong, 1st March, 1845.

**MR. ROGER JACSON** is authorized to sign our firm by procreation.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Victoria, 26th December, 1845.

NOTICE.

**MR. HENRY LIND** is authorized to Sign for our Firm by Procreation.

R. OSWALD & Co.

Victoria, Hongkong, 27th February, 1846.

NOTICE.

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

HEGAN & Co.

1st January, 1846.

FOR SALE.

**BLANDY'S** Madeira, in half pipes, hhd., and quarter casks. Apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

Victoria, 19th April 1846.

NOTICE.

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

AUGUSTINE, HEARD & Co.

Canton, 26th March, 1846.

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

J. N. A. GRESWOLD.

Canton, March 26th 1846.

NOTICE.

**THE** interest of the late Mr WILLIAM ANDERSON in our Firm, ceased on the 2nd December 1845.

WM. HALL & Co.

Penang, 31st December 1845.

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.

FOR SALE.

**A** Small LORCHA fitted as a pleasure Boat.

ALSO

**A** fine full toned Piano Forte. For particulars apply to

W. H. FRANKLYN.

Queen's Road,

7th April, 1846.

**JUST** landed ex *Earl Powis* from *Liverpool*, and on sale by the undersigned:—  
 Superior Navy Canvas, Anchors of various sizes, Chain Cables from 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches, Sheathing Copper, fine rounds of Beef and Ox Tongues.

W. H. FRANKLYN.

Queen's Road, 17th April, 1846.

**A** QUANTITY OF GUN POWDER, for sale. Apply to,

W. H. FRANKLYN.

**FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.**  
**ALLSOPS** Pale Ale, in wood and bottle.  
 Port, Sherry and Madeira.  
 Still and sparkling Moselle.  
 A good cheap Claret for summer use.

ALSO

Twilled flannel and Orleans cloth of black, blue and other colours; an article expressly for summer Coats. A variety of fancy goods; and all kinds of Ships stores, as Canvas, Rope &c. Horse clothing, Snaffle Bridles and fifty dozen superior half hose.

W. H. FRANKLYN.

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, Cerrito, Duvernay, Fanny Elssler, Dumelatie, Carlotta Grisi &c. &c. Also a variety of colored engravings, French, without frames. The whole will be sold by Auction on an early day of which notice will be given.

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.

Victoria, 27th March, 1846.

FOR SALE.

**JOHANNISBERGER** in 1 dozen cases,  
 Hockheimer " " 1 " "  
 Cutlers Claret " 3 doz. cases,  
 Champagne (Perigal & Bradys) "  
 Port, Cockburn and Campbells in pint, bottles  
 Brandy in 1 doz. cases,  
 Beer and Porter in bottle.

ROBERT RUTHERFURD.

Queen's Road

Victoria, 31st March, 1846.

FOR SALE.

**MARGAUX** and Lafite. Clarets. in one dozen cases. ROBERT RUTHERFURD,  
 Queen's Road.

Victoria, 13th April, 1846.

SADDLERY.

**JUST** landed ex "Earl Powis" and for sale by the undersigned, an Invoice of Saddlery, consisting of  
 Snaffle and Weymouth Bridles,  
 Double and single Head Reins,  
 Head Stalls,  
 Stirrups and Stirrup Leathers,  
 The above are from one of the first London houses, of a superior quality, and will be sold at very moderate prices.

F. FUNCK

Victoria, 9th April, 1846.

**JUST** landed ex "Earl Powis" and for sale by  
**F. FUNCK**  
 Allsops Pale India Ale in three dozen cases. A few sets of Parkside and other Jugs. Blue and black Cachemere for summer clothing, and an invoice of fine Smyrna sponges.

Opposite the Commissariat,

April 2th 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, 1846.

ROMAN CEMENT.

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

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

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

FOR SALE.

**SUPERIOR** Sherry and Madeira in wood; also a few half pipes and quarter casks Cape and Teneriffe 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.

SUMMER WINES.

**FOR** sale by the undersigned, Rhenish and French Wines at moderate prices.

Graffenberger - Destournal.

Hockheimer - Lartiguer.

Geissenheimer - St Julian.

RAWLE, DUUS & Co.

Victoria, 21st April 1846.

PONIES FOR SALE.

**FOR** Sale two ponies.—One has been accustomed to carry a Lady. Apply to

N. DUUS.

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.

**L. E. CHRISTOPHER** begs to inform the Ladies of Hongkong that he has just received by the "Braganza" a splendid assortment of ladies French Silk and Gauze dresses, Barege cachemire, Glacé broché, Barege satin, Labrador, Veloutine fleurie, and other robes; Ladies plaid Silk shawls and Scarfs, Cravats goulfrées, and Mille raies, 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.

**MESSRS HUNTER & BARTON**, beg to announce that their Macao Establishment has been removed to No. 12 Danish Hong CANTON. WHERE THE FOLLOWING ARE FOR SALE. Soda Water and Aerated Lemonade direct from the fountain. Patent Medicines, Perfumery. Ships Medicine chests sold and replenished. Canton 16th March, 1846.

FOR SALE.

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

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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

AGERT AT CANTON,

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

DISPENSARY, CANTON.

**THE** FOLLOWING SELECT MEDICINES, &c. ARE ON SALE AT THE DISPENSARY, 4 FUSION HONG, CANTON

**BUTLER'S** Tasteless Seidlitz Powders; Concentrated Decoction of Sarsaparilla, of double strength, to obviate fermentation; Capules Gela-tinenses; Castor Oil Capsules; Concentrated Disinfecting Solution of Chloride of Lime; Stomachic Bitters; Spirit of Camphor; Castor Oil, Superior Colddrawn; Liston's Healing Lotion; Rose Water, Grenville's Lotion; Prepared Chalk; Perfumed Chalk Balls; Lip Salve; Aromatic Syrup of Rhubarb; Tooth Powder; Hydrate of Potash; Carbonate of Soda in Bottles; Gregory's Powder; Chalybeate Salts; Quinine in Bottle and in Pills; Turkey Rhubarb; Balsamic Paste; Suppository Candages; Hæmorrhæoids; Ear Syringes; Venereal Do.; Bone and Glass; Lavement Machines; Patent Lint; Specific Solution of Hydrate of Potash; Sarsaparilla, &c. for Rheumatism and Chronic Catarrhus Affections; Spirits of Wine; Sponges; Liqueurs; Rowland's Toothache Drops; Wall-man's Anodyne; Flesh Creams; Snow Waxen, Medicine Chests, &c. &c.  
 EDWARD CULLEN,  
 N.B.C.S.L., L.A.L.

To the Editor of the Friend of China.

Sir.—Permit me to make your paper the medium of expressing my abhorrence at the disgusting exhibitions of public flogging which are almost daily to be witnessed in the town of Victoria.

In the early days of the colony, before the establishment of Courts of justice, and while the island was infested with robbers, it may have been necessary to make some severe examples; and the Magistrates in indulging their taste for the cat, were possibly resorting to an almost unavoidable punishment; now, however, there is no occasion for such barbarity, and for one, I protest against it, as being injurious to his community—as being cruel and unjust towards the Chinese—and as having a tendency to strengthen those feelings of dislike which have been engendered in the native mind.

I will not trespass further upon your columns, but before concluding this letter I would express an earnest hope that the matter will be taken up by the local press, who if they cannot prevent judicial tyranny, can at all events damn it to notoriety, and brand it with the execrations of those who like myself glory in the name of,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

Table with columns for Day, Month, Temperature, Wind, and other meteorological data for the week ending 19th April 1846.

NOTICE.

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

LATEST DATES.

Table listing shipping dates for various destinations including England, United States, Batavia, and others.

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd 1846

From the Britannia we copy a long article on the past and present condition of the United Kingdom. It shows a most satisfactory improvement in the physical condition of the people during the last 20 years; though it will be observed with regret, that a corresponding advance has not been made in religion and morality.

A case was tried before the police court a few days ago, which has been through to our observation, as offering a little additional insight

into the working of the opium farm. At appears that the holder of the monopoly is allowed by government to board native boats and search them, lest they should have opium on board. This worthy has a custom-house of his own, and with the sanction of the authorities, his cruisers board the boats of the natives and bully and terrify the crew.

A correspondent comments on the frequency of corporeal punishment in Hongkong, and the injurious effects of this unnecessary severity.

The subject has not escaped our observation, though it may not have engaged our pen. The barbarity of the municipal court is of a piece with the brutality of the legislation, which would brand and mutilate human beings who have committed no crime, but who are obnoxious as being members of a secret society.

Crime has certainly diminished greatly, and severity is less called for. We seldom hear of a robbery of any magnitude, nor do the natives shew the slightest disposition to be insubordinate. That they have no confidence in our municipal court—or rather the court which usurps the duties of a municipal court—is sufficiently well known, and a continuance in the system of flogging for the most trivial offences is cruel and injudicious.

It is also a subject of regret, that while some are flogged for trivial offences, other prisoners who have been tried and sentenced to transportation are permitted to escape. It is scarcely two months since six convicts broke out of Jail. We again hear of the escape of a man charged with having attempted to poison his employer. In the first instance the prisoners on a stormy night forced the door; in the last a hole was burned in the roof allowing of free egress.

As had been previously advertised the Coroner took a pleasure trip to Macao on Saturday afternoon, returning on Monday morning. A considerable number of our Townsfolk availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy a little relaxation from the labour consequent upon the accelerated departure of the Overland Steamer.

was completed in little more than five hours, while the former occupied four hours and a half. Every attention was paid by those connected with the vessel, of which we can speak from personal experience, as well as of the hospitality of our kind friends at Macao.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVALS.

- APRIL, 26, John G. Coster (Am.), Benjamin, New-York. 26, Cousins Family, Durham, Calcutta. 26, Sisters, Dorn, Whampoa. 27, Zephyr, Mann, East Coast. 28, Sarah, Watt, Singapore.

SAILED.

- APRIL, 24, Mazepa, Macfarlane, East Coast. 25, Lady Mary Wood (St-Ship), Evas, Ceylon. 25, Albion (Swe.), Litgedahl, Whampoa. 27, Corsair (Str.), Soames, Canton. 27, John G. Coster (Am.) Benjamin, Whampoa. 27, Sisters, Dorn, Singapore.

REPORTS.

- Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Connor, Siam. Colon (Sp.), Urbietta, Manila. Island Queen, Priestman, Bombay. Wanderer, Priest, London.

SHIPS LOADING AT WHAMPOA.

- Buckinghamshire, McGregor, London, with despatch. Zenobia, Kenny, New York, early in May. Douglas, Sumner, New-York, 31st April.

VESSELS IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

- H. M. S. Vestal, Captain Talbot. H. M. S. Dardalus, Captain MacQuhae. H. M. Str. Vulture, Captain Macdougall. H. M. Tr. S. Alligator, Master Commanding King. H. M. Tr. S. Sapphire, Master Commanding Pitcock. H. M. S. Minden, 2nd Master in charge Osmer, Hospital and Store Ship.

SHIPPING AT WHAMPOA.

- Albion (Swe.), Litgedahl, Bush and Co. Anita, King, Dent and Co. Buckinghamshire, McGregor, D. & M. R. and Co. Devil, Furley, Hansen. Earl Powis, Mossop, Fischer, Willis and Co. Esmeralda (Ham.), Tollens, Boustead and Co. Governor Doherty, Wilson, P. F. Cama and Co. Hebrides, Melville, J. Matheson and Co. Joren Corin, D. & M. Rustomjee and Co. Meloe (Fr), Durand, Reynvaan and Co. Masdeo, Chape, C. G. Lungruna. Prince of Waterloo, Birch, Ord r. Rob Roy, Francis, Turner and Co. Shah Allum, Dumayne, J. D. Rustomjee. Sir John Byng, Forbes, J. Matheson and Co. Wild Lish Girl, Buckton, Captain.

VESSELS AT MACAO.

- Amelia (Fr), J. A. Durran, Jr. Falcon, Bellamy, J. Matheson and Co. Harrier, C. Saporjee Lungrah. Isabella Robertson, Kelly, F. J. de Paiva. Lady Hayes, Langley, J. Matheson and Co. Lyra, J. A. Durran. Snipe, Endicott, A. Heard and Co. Uniao (Sp), J. Salido. Velez (Sp), Bordenove, J. Matheson and Co. Vizza, Milne, J. Matheson and Co.

AMERICAN AT WHAMPOA AND MACAO.

- U. S. S. Columbus, Commodore Biddle. U. S. S. Vincennes, Captain Paulding. Don Juan, Harding, Augustus Heard and Co. John G. Coster (Am.), Benjamin, Russell and Co. New Linton, Chase, Wetmore and Co. Douglas, Sumner, J. M. A. Griswold. Zenobia, Kenny.

HONGKONG CLUB.

A General Meeting of the Members of the Hongkong Club will be held on Friday the 1st of May at five o'clock for the purpose of Balloting and transacting general business. The Secretary has been requested by the committee to state that the Club is in that state of forwardness, which will admit of its being opened on the 1st of May.

JOHN RICKETT, Secretary.

Hongkong 27th April 1846.

FOR SALE.

MADEIRA in Pipes and Hhds. Also, Superior Malmsay in quarter casks. apply to BELL & Co. at Canton. or here to ARCH. MELVILLE Victoria, 25th April, 1846.

CIGARS!!

FOR SALE.—By the undersigned a few boxes of superior No. 2 and 4 Manila Cigars; 1, 2 and 3 years old. F. FUNCK.

GRAM!

JUST landed, and for sale by the undersigned, a few bags of Bengal Gram in good condition. F. FUNCK.

NOTICE.

JUST received an invoice of Westphalia Hams in good condition. ROB: RUTHERFURD. Queen's Road, Victoria, 28th April, 1846.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

MR. W. H. FRANKLYN will sell by Public Auction, at his rooms Queen's Road, on this day, 29th April, at 11 o'clock precisely, for benefit of the concerned

A quantity white and Grey Shirtings. ALSO, On Saturday next at 11 o'clock. A quantity of white and Grey Shirtings, more or less damaged by sea water. Terms at Sales. Victoria, 28th April, 1846.

PUBLIC AUCTION, PICTURES.

MR. FRANKLYN will sell on Tuesday evening next, the 5th May at 1/2 past eight o'clock, the remainder of that choice collection of colored engravings of the Pets of the Ballet, without reserve.

ALSO, A few handsome pieces of Calcutta made furniture, consisting of Couches, Chiffoners, Tables, Chess do.

AND,

A lot of choice wines, Champagne and sparkling and still Moselle of superior quality, Sherry and Cherry brandy.

PUBLIC SALE of Furniture and Glass-ware &c., on Friday the 1st May next, at Chinam's Hong, commencing at 11 o'clock a. m.

Terms of Sale, Mexican Dollars or Rupees. MACEWEN & Co. Victoria, 29th April, 1846

C. MARKWICK.

WILL sell by the Public Auction on Thursday 30th April 1846, at 11 o'clock a. m. at his sale room, Pottinger Street.

Wearing Apparel; Furniture; an Iron chest; a shower bath; and various articles belonging to the estates of the undermentioned deceased persons.

JOHN CAMPBELL, GEORGE ROSS.

By order of R. D. Cay, Esq; Registrar of Supreme Court. At the same time will be sold on account of the underwriters.

A quantity of Rattans; more or less damaged by sea water. Terms of Sale, Cash, before delivery.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

SMITH & BRIMELOW, will sell on Thursday next, the 3th Instant, at their Auction Room, KEYING HOUSE, at 11 O'clock precisely, a quantity of Beer and Porter, in bottle without reserve; also a small Invoice of Champagne, Hock, Claret, Moselle, Bucellas, Sauterne, Port; and few cases of Champagne Cider, to close an Invoice; with any other Articles that may offer previous to the sale.

Terms of sale:—Cash before delivery.

All lots to be cleared before 4 p. m. the following day. Victoria, April 27th, 1846.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

SMITH & BRIMELOW, will sell by Public Auction, on this day, the 29th instant, at 11 o'clock precisely, at their Godowns, KEYING HOUSE, the following articles:

A few cases Saleratus, Bright Varnish, Pitch, Porter and Beer, Manila Rope, Tobacco, Cider, Dried Apples, Corks, Manila Hats, Turpentine in Tins, Preserved Peas, Cocoa, Jams and Jollies, Pearl Barley.

ALSO,

A few Barrels of Prime Porter in bottle; and a small quantity of Panacea.

Terms of Sale:—Cash before delivery. All lots to be cleared before 4 p. m. the following day. Victoria, 28th April, 1846.

PORTO NOVO IRON WORKS.

THE INDIA IRON and STEEL COMPANY, have again blown in their Furnaces, and are now ready to execute orders for Pig Iron and Iron Castings of every description.

From improvements in the Manufacture of their Iron, they are now capable of making Castings of the softest description and malleability, and of great strength which can be filed, turned and bored with ease.

The uniform and excellent strong quality of their Pig together with the superiority of their Castings, give them confidence in the perfect certainty of executing any orders they may receive to the entire satisfaction of those who may employ them.

The arrangements to complete their Forge are nearly finished, and they hope by the beginning of the year to supply Bar Iron of all sizes, uniform in quality and equal to the best European Marks.

Castings of the following description may be procured:—

- Large Castings:—Columns or Pillars, Beams and Pipes, for Buildings, &c. Small Castings:—Plain and Ornamental Brackets for Wall Shade, Lamp, Shelves, &c. Do. Do.—Railways and Balusters. Do. Do.—Bedsteads with and without Posts. Hinges and Bolts for large Gates and Door's Castings for Beds, or for Tables or Boxes. Pestles and Mortars of large and small sizes, and many other Castings of the like description too numerous to mention. Order or Letters of enquiry addressed to their Agents:—

Messrs. BAINBRIDGE & Co., Madras.

TULLOCH & Co., Calcutta.

REMINGTON & Co., Bombay, or

to the Managing Director at Porto Novo, shall be immediately attended to.

**NOTICE**  
ICE will be delivered to Shareholders, on application at the Ice House this afternoon between the hours of 4 and 6; and hereafter to the Public between 1/2 past 5 and 7 in the morning, till further notice.  
Hongkong, 22nd April 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.

**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.

AN Invoice of lead piping ex "Earl Powis," for sale by the undersigned,  
HOLMES & BIGHAM.  
Victoria, 13th April, 1846.

FOR Sale by the undersigned:  
Allsop's Beer in bottle.  
Byass's do. do.  
HOLMES & BIGHAM.  
Victoria, 22nd April 1846.

**SODA WATER**  
AND  
**GERATED LEMONADE,**

TO be obtained at the manufactory of the undersigned.  
SMITH & BRIMELOW.  
No 1 and 2 Woosnam's Buildings, corner of Pottinger Street.

SMITH & BRIMELOW have received ex *Prociosa*, a quantity of Zebu Chocolate in suitable packages which they offer for sale.  
1 & 2 Woosnam's Buildings,  
Queen's Road, 31st March 1846.

**A CARD.**  
R. A. BRINE.  
Shipping General and Commission Agent and Auctioneer,  
CHUSAN.

BEGS to acquaint the merchants and others of China &c. &c. that he has commenced business in the above capacity; and in soliciting their patronage, assures them, that his best endeavours on all occasions shall be to promote their interest. From his long experience in mercantile houses, his having been two and a half years on the island, and doing business on moderate charges, he trusts to insure success.  
Respectable reference can be given if required.  
Chusan, 3rd April 1846.

**FOR SALE.**  
ONE Bay Manila Poney, suitable for a Lady or Gentleman; apply to G. DEWAR, at Mr Mac Knight's Brook Cottage.  
West Point, 9th April 1846.

**BRITISH HOTEL,**  
KEYING HOUSE,  
Queen's Road, Victoria,

MICHAEL GABRIEL has the honour to announce to his friends and the public, that he has taken those spacious and commodious premises known as Keying House where he intends to carry on the business of a Hotel keeper, and he begs to assure those parties who may be pleased to patronize his new establishment, that nothing shall be wanting on his part to insure to them the greatest comfort and attention.  
Billiards can be engaged in airy and spacious rooms with a water frontage, at the following rates, viz:—

Day Games . . . . 1/2 Rupee.  
Night do . . . . 1/4 do.

**NOTICE.**  
THE undersigned begs 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 Newspapers of Names and particulars); will be put up for sale by Public Auction, and sold off to the highest bidders.

Those who have established on the East Coast of China, or elsewhere, or have left China, since 1839, are requested to send their address, and their accounts will be forwarded to them without delay.

JNO: SMITH  
Macao, 18th February, 1846.

**FOR SALE.**—By the undersigned.  
Champagne,  
Hock,  
Beer, and Stout, all of the first quality.  
EDWARD NEWMAN.  
Victoria 7th October, 1845.

**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.  
S. DRINKER.  
Wm. S. HEYL.  
Victoria, March 2nd 1846.

**FOR SALE.**  
A very superior Soda Water Fountain complete, to be sold at Public Auction (unless disposed of at private sale), on Saturday the 1st of May, by the undersigned.  
DRINKER & HEYL.

ON Saturday 25th at 10 A. M. will be sold by Public Auction at the rooms of the undersigned:—A superior Soda Machine complete and in perfect order &c. can be set immediately to work, being on the most approved principles.  
DRINKER & HEYL.

Victoria, April 19th, 1846.

**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.  
DRINKER & HEYL.  
Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

**NOTICE.**  
DRINKER & HEYL, offer for sale, at their Stores, superior Port, Sherry, Madeira, and Claret Wines, Peppermint, and Cherry Cordials, Beer and Porter in wood and bottles, Wine Bitters, Choice Butter in Kegs, Neats Tongues, Tobacco, Cigars, Old No. 3 and 4 Manila Cheroots, Paint Oil, and Turpentine in cans, Bright Varnish, Ravens Duck, &c. &c.  
Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

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

ALSO  
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.  
DRINKER & HEYL.  
Victoria, 16th February, 1846.

**FOR SALE.**  
BY the undersigned a few Jars of superior English Paint Oil.  
C. MARKWICK,  
Auctioneer.  
Pottinger Street.  
Victoria, 19th November, 1845.

McEWEN & Co.  
General Commission and Shipping Agents  
Wine Beer and Spirit Merchants.  
And Auctioneers Queen's Road & Chingams Hong.  
Supply Ships, Families and foreign residents at the consular ports, with all descriptions of Stores, Salt provisions, Wine, Beer and Spirits upon moderate terms.

Also dry and convenient storage for goods.  
Victoria, 1st January, 1846.

**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. 1st for goods deliverable at London; 2nd for goods deliverable at Southampton; 3rd for goods deliverable at Suez; 4th for goods deliverable at intermediate ports. They are printed after the Company's forms on Bank post.

Office "Friend of China" }  
25th October, 1845. }

**FOR SALE.**—At the office of this paper.  
Compradores cheque books.  
Ships Articles, with an abstract of the merchant seaman's act endorsed on the back.  
Charterparties, after forms by Chitty.  
Powers of Attorney, after forms by Chitty.  
Bills of Lading.

Chinese Tariff of imports, and exports, for counting houses.

**SHIPPING ARTICLES,** according to the recent act (Victoria 7 & 8) for sale at this office.

Office "Friend of China," }  
Victoria, 10th October, 1845. }

**LINGUIST'S REPORTS and NAVY BILLS** for sale at this Office.  
Office "Friend of China, 28th Dec. 1844.

**THE PAST YEAR REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED.**

In treating of contemporary history, it is often necessary, if we would truly comprehend our own time, to compare it with some period sufficiently remote to enable us to decide what effect a course of years has produced on our social condition. If we merely viewed the year 1845 in relation to the year 1844, we should hardly be able to arrive at any satisfactory result as to the true position of the country, and its progress or decline; because the time is too brief to have caused any marked difference one way or the other, and the few facts we could establish might be the consequence of accidental circumstances rather than of permanent causes. But, if we refer to a period of twenty or five-and-twenty years back, we shall be able to positively determine, from the comparison of a number of facts, which decisively test the social condition of the people, as well as the state of trade, of commerce, and of every branch of industrial pursuit, what is our present position as compared with the past, and whether we have advanced or receded on the great highway of civilization and commerce.

In this way only can we form a just estimate of the national fortunes, for the progress of a great community is so disturbed by temporary circumstances, and all its pursuits are so liable to occasional fluctuation, that we rarely find its course, however prosperous in general, to be perfectly even and steady. When it advances, it appears to do so by occasional jerks rather than by an equable motion. Its recesses, its exports, its imports, its manufactures, its carrying trade, are all extremely variable. They will frequently advance with tolerable steadiness for three or four years together, then fall back for two or three years, so as to occasion at one period flattering hopes of unbounded prosperity, and at another gloomy fears of impending

ruin. These alternations succeed each other with more or less of intensity. In 1841 it was confidently asserted by some great manufacturers that at last the day of England's decline had arrived; but, when that partial depression had cleared off, the industrial energies of the country again resumed their elastic spring, and carried our prosperity to a higher point than it had ever reached before. At the close of 1844 we were enabled to say that the past year had been one of the most satisfactory ever known in our history; and, fortunately, we have the same declaration to make at the close of 1845.

The fluctuations we have alluded to are sufficient in themselves to render it unsafe to compare succeeding years with each other; but all chances of error are obviated when we refer to a period sufficiently distant to exclude the effects of accidental and disturbing influences. A person might doubt whether the season had advanced in February, or even in March further than in January, but all room for doubt would be excluded when June arrived, and he contrasted its warmth and life with the chill and barrenness of the depth of winter.

Any inquiry into the progress of the country, however briefly conducted, must certainly be useful. Since noisy agitators, bent on frightening the community to advance their own selfish ends, and flighty novelists, desirous of creating a sensation by their fictions, have taken it on themselves to publish expositions of our social state, very erroneous impressions have been circulated concerning it. Some newspapers, too, have diligently lent themselves to the task of misrepresentation, and we have had notices of meetings by rushlight and moonlight, and reports of commissioners, who, being used all their days to the luxuries of London life, are surprised to find that people live in cottages with thatched roofs, dig the ground or tend cattle for a living, and are quite ignorant of the fare of London taverns and potations of brandy and water. Were we to judge solely from their expressions of disgust with what they see, and their highly-wrought stories of wholesale starvation, we should be forced to believe that England was the most wretched country on the face of the earth, and that her people were sinking lower, year by year, in the scale of existence.

Were these representations in any degree true, we should have little reason to boast of our high state of civilization, and of the freedom of our political institutions. The value of an enlightened system of government can only be estimated by the benefits it confers upon the community at large. Directly the improvement in their general condition ceases, there must be something wrong in the system under which they live, for there appears no limit to the beneficent progress of human society in a Christian state.

The real greatness and strength of any country depend upon the degree of comfort and prosperity enjoyed by the great bulk of the people. If they are not in the mass better off now than they were ten years back—if they are not enabled to procure a larger share of the comforts of life—we may conclude, whatever show of splendour pervades the streets of our great cities, that this empire is really in a declining state, and that the foundations of its greatness are giving way. But if it can be shown that the people live better than they did formerly—that, so far from having stood still or receded, they have actually advanced in the scale of being, and consume, in proportion to their numbers, an augmented share of those commodities which are removed some degrees above the bare necessities of life—then the conclusion is forced on us that the work of social amelioration is going steadily forward, and that each year will show some further improvement in our general condition.

There are persons who from sentiment or party feeling take up with an opposite opinion. The increase of luxury, and the decay of honest industry, have always been favourite topics of declamation. In every age it has been asserted that the rich are getting more rich and the poor more poor, and the belief these representations have induced has sometimes created great revolutions, and broken up the very framework of society and government. The cry prevails in our own day, and has been adopted by statesmen of influence. Yet it is evident that the inevitable tendency of luxury and refinement is to lessen, and not to widen, the distance between the various classes of the community. In our time we have no serfs bearing their owner's name on collars of iron, nor have we any great barons feeling their thousand retainers daily. The middle classes, fast increasing in numbers and influence, are invading the ranks of aristocracy at one extreme of society, and the masses of operative life at the other. As money circulates more freely and more rapidly, it must eventually be brought nearer to a level. A taste for luxury is one of the great means for the diffusion of wealth, and for raising the condition of those who minister to it.

From all the sources of information before the public there can be gathered no support of the opinion that the tendency of this age is to aggrandize the rich, and to depress the poor. On the contrary, the whole current of evidence is the other way. We find that property is gradually becoming divided into smaller portions, and that the increase in the use of luxuries bears no kind of proportion to the increase in the use of comforts. We believe that the real action of society in our day is,—to promote a greater equality of enjoyment, and to render the rich less rich, and the poor less poor.

It can be shown by the most decisive testimony that the progress of the United Kingdom since the close of the last war has been rapid beyond all precedent in every element of wealth and prosperity—in augmented capital, in extended commerce, in growing manufactures, in great public works, in useful inventions, and in the superior condition of the great body of the people. It is that position we shall attempt to illustrate in the remarks that follow.

**PROGRESS OF THE NATION SINCE 1820.**  
Before we proceed to show the increase that has taken place in the consumption of those commodities whose use is justly viewed as the best test of the general state of the community, we must first note the increase that has taken place in the population. In the last twenty years it will be seen that that increase has been about thirty per cent.—

POPULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.  
1821 - 20,467,159 | 1841 - 26,792,010

If the consumption of such articles as coffee, tea, sugar, tobacco, and spirits, has increased in the same period in a greater degree than thirty per cent., it will be evident that the people have greater command over those commodities than they had in 1820. And there seems no fairer standard for testing their general condition. We are prevented from showing that there has been a vastly increased consumption of wheaten bread and animal food, because no official accounts of the sale of those articles are kept. But it is a fair presumption that man's hunger must be appeased before he thinks of buying tea, and that, in fact, whatever sum he lays out in the purchase of that article, or in similar articles is an excess above what is required for his actual sustenance. We group together some commodities of customs and excise that enter largely into general consumption. An interval of something more than twenty years elapses between the periods selected, but that difference will not greatly affect general results:—

COFFEE CLEARED FOR HOME USE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE UNDER-MENTIONED YEARS.

Year	lbs.	Year	lbs.
1820	7,103,409	1843	29,974,404
1821	7,593,001	1844	31,352,382

TEA.

Year	lbs.	Year	lbs.
1820	22,426,627	1843	40,293,393
1821	22,496,571	1844	41,363,770

TOBACCO

Year	lbs.	Year	lbs.
1820	16,053,503	1843	23,012,403
1821	15,828,950	1844	24,595,491

SPIRITS OF ALL KINDS.

Year	Gals.	Year	Gals.
1820	9,448,435	1843	18,841,860
1821	9,822,573	1844	22,031,485

It is not a question here whether the whole of the money expended in these commodities was wisely spent but only whether the expenditure does not in itself prove that the consumers of the above articles—that is the great body of the people—must of necessity have been better off, and had more money to lay out in what to them are the luxuries of life, in 1843-44 than they had in 1820-21.

Two articles in general consumption, the only two in addition to those quoted above which afford any test of the augmented comforts of the people, do not exhibit the same proportionate increase. They are sugar and beer:—

SUGAR RETAINED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

Year	Cwt.	Year	Cwt.
1820	2,901,864	1843	4,038,307
1821	3,046,882	1844	4,126,413

MALT.

Year	Bushels	Year	Bushels
1820	27,836,210	1843	36,164,295
1821	32,008,466	1844	35,051,407

The consumption of sugar has not more than kept pace with the growth of the population; has hardly done so, in fact; but it is to be remembered that up to the last year no reduction had taken place in the enormous duties levied on it; and that, from the effects of slave emancipation and the scarcity of labour, the supplies from our colonies were greatly reduced, and the price to the consumer raised. That the consumption of malt has not been greater may be attributed, first, to the enormous increase in the use of spirits during the last twenty-four years, amounting to much more than one hundred per cent.; and secondly, to the high duties which are still kept up, most impolitically, on the manufacture of beer. In 1822 the duty was reduced from 3s 6d to 2s 6d per bushel; the immediate effect was to reduce the revenue from £5,360,705 to £3,618,000. But in 1835 this decline was more than recovered, the revenue yielding £5,848,950. It has since been stationary, or rather declining, yielding in 1844 only £4,752,296. The pertinacity with which the Government clings to the enormous duty of 20s. a quarter on malt, at the time that it proposes a large reduction in the duty on brandy, is wholly unaccountable. A liberal reduction in the existing heavy rate would probably occasion little, if any, decline in the revenue; while it would greatly benefit the consumer; and perhaps tend to the promotion of social morality.

There is one other evidence still more decisive than any we have yet quoted, as to the growing prosperity of the working classes. It is to be found in the rapid accumulations of deposits in savings banks:—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Year	£	Year	£
1830	13,719,495	1841	20,504,861

NUMBER OF DEPOSITORS.

Year	No.	Year	No.
1830	412,217	1841	1,012,017

Thus in the space of fourteen years have the number of depositors and the amount of investments been more than doubled. It is a very gratifying reflection that among the humbler classes of society there are upwards of one million persons enabled to save and to invest money and to an amount averaging £30 for each depositor. These institutions are yet in their infancy. Should they, as there is every reason to believe, continue to prosper as they have done, and to increase their accounts in the same proportion, the vast majority of the labouring people of this country will soon become depositors in them.

But it would be quite an inadequate view of the case to suppose that those thirty millions represent the whole amount of the savings of the labouring classes; a large proportion of the superfluous capital must be invested in other ways. The agricultural labourer rents an allotment of ground, and stocks it; and the artisan will frequently invest his savings in the business of a relative, or in the purchase of a dwelling, or in some speculation which promises him a high rate of interest. The savings-bank's returns, satisfactory as they are, afford no more than an indication of the growing wealth and importance of the operative classes. Still it is a new circumstance in the history of the world to find an accumulation of thirty millions sterling possessed by labourers of a country alone, and that amount advancing at a rate which will double itself every twelve years. Thus, in 1856 we may expect the amount will be £60,000,000, in 1868 £120,000,000, and in 1880 £240,000,000. Even the

amount at present realized is almost equal in value to the harvest of wheat gathered in the United Kingdom for one entire year. It secures the great body of the depositors from the casualties of sickness and temporary loss of employment, and it is a pledge, the most certain and satisfactory that could be desired, of their industrious and temperate habits, and of their rise above a state of abject and painful existence.

When we come to those articles that, in a greater or less degree, are indicative of luxurious habits, we find that their use has not advanced so rapidly as might have been anticipated from the growing wealth of the country. Wine is now so generally favoured by the middle classes that its increased consumption can scarcely be advanced as an argument in favour of the accumulation of capital. But it does not appear, nevertheless, that the quantity of this luxury of the middle classes imported for home use has exceeded the rate of increase that has taken place in the population. For the last twenty-four years the imports have not risen much more than twenty five per cent, and, therefore, cannot be compared with the increase that has taken place in the luxuries of the poor, as tea, tobacco, spirits, and coffee.

WINE OF ALL KINDS CLEARED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 4,586,495; 1843 - 6,068,987; 1821 - 4,686,885; 1844 - 6,538,684

If we examine other official returns which test more decisively the increased means of the rich, we shall find no countenance given to the notion that great fortunes have been rapidly advancing of late years. The best standards we can find are, the duties paid on carriages, horses, servants and dogs for the last twenty years. Under those heads we find a general increase, but not sufficient to warrant the belief that the fortunes of the highest classes of the community have risen with anything like the same rapidity as those of the middle and lower classes. If it were true that in this country the rich were becoming more rich, and the poor more poor, we should undoubtedly find the use of luxuries advancing in a higher ratio than the use of comforts, yet the following returns of duties included in the assessed taxes will show, if compared with the extracts given from excise and customs returns, that the evidence leads to an exactly opposite conclusion.

In 1823, the assessed taxes on carriages, servants, horses, and dogs, were reduced to their present amount, so that the comparison is made on perfectly equal grounds:—

PRODUCE OF THE TAX ON MALE SERVANTS.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1823 - 158,630; 1840 - 189,478; 1824 - 164,167; 1841 - 204,321; 1825 - 162,294; 1842 - 203,816; 1826 - 167,167; 1843 - 104,263

ON CARRIAGES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1823 - 113,322; 1840 - 163,039; 1824 - 121,577; 1841 - 176,106; 1825 - 131,918; 1842 - 174,671; 1826 - 147,637; 1843 - 173,061

OF RIDING AND CARRIAGE HORSES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1823 - 298,014; 1840 - 289,931; 1824 - 306,620; 1841 - 306,666; 1825 - 309,178; 1842 - 304,989; 1826 - 315,895; 1843 - 284,530

ON DOGS.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1823 - 178,082; 1840 - 156,655; 1824 - 179,742; 1841 - 167,440; 1825 - 178,620; 1842 - 168,878; 1826 - 182,574; 1843 - 158,088

ON GAME CERTIFICATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1823 - 140,427; 1840 - 148,844; 1824 - 129,111; 1841 - 155,374; 1825 - 151,645; 1842 - 134,748; 1826 - 158,955; 1843 - 135,820

Perhaps the best test that can be taken of the advance or decline of wealth in the highest ranks of life is that afforded by the number of horses kept for pleasure, whether used for carriages or riding. Now, during the last twenty years, we find the number has declined to a considerable extent. Certainly that would not have been the case, considering the enormous increase in the property of the country—an increase estimated at £65,000,000 yearly—if wealth had not become more equally diffused.

Judging from all the means of information open to us, and especially from the financial reports of Government, it would appear that the number of large fortunes have not increased within the last twenty years, notwithstanding the great increase in the property of the country; while it is quite certain that the use of the luxuries of life has not advanced at all in the same proportion as the use of its necessities and comforts. A reference to the number of horses and dogs kept at intervals of twenty years, and of the quantities of tea and spirits consumed at the like intervals, must establish that position beyond all possibility of doubt.

There is but one other duty which might further illustrate the subject, and that is, the amount paid on gold and silver plate. Mr Huskisson, about twenty years back, was of opinion that the increase of that duty showed a dangerous accumulation of wealth in the hands of the higher classes. Experience, however, has not supported his conclusion. The Government duties on gold and silver plate, of all kinds, have produced the following amounts:—

DUTIES ON GOLD AND SILVER PLATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 2,750; 1841 - 100,725; 1821 - 81,326; 1842 - 91,476

This increase is rather apparent than real. The amounts vary greatly with different years. In 1825, for example, the duty produced £118,167, and in 1826, £104,137, higher amounts than have been received in any subsequent years. The average amount can hardly be said to have perceptibly increased; at all events, not more than 10 per cent. For the last twenty years would be the highest average that could be taken, and this increase would, of course, fall much below what we might have expected from the great additions made to the capital and population of the country.

We take next another branch of national progress—the increase in the trade, commerce, and manufactures of the kingdom. The results presented to us under those heads will show the surprising progress made in recent years by every branch of industrial enterprise. The imports and exports furnish a fair standard of the progress of foreign trade:—

EXPORTS (OFFICIAL VALUE).

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 43,951,000; 1843 - 131,850,000; 1821 - 51,461,000; 1844 - 145,960,000

IMPORTS (OFFICIAL VALUE).

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 32,433,000; 1843 - 70,800,000; 1821 - 30,792,000; 1844 - 75,450,000

The increase in the declared or real value of the exports is much less than in the official value, from the decline in the prices of most kinds of manufactures, but the returns of the real value still show a rise in the same period of from 60 to 70 per cent. Our shipping, notwithstanding occasional times of dullness and stagnation, displays an augmented activity, equally indicative of the general progress of the kingdom:—

Vessels employed in the foreign and colonial trade of the United Kingdom, including their several voyages in the year.

BRITISH VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Ships, Tons, and Amount. 1820 - 11,235 ships, 1,668,060 tons, 1843 - 18,987 ships, 3,294,725 tons; 1821 - 10,810 ships, 1,599,274 tons, 1844 - 19,500 ships, 3,545,346 tons

BRITISH VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Ships, Tons, and Amount. 1820 - 10,102 ships, 1,549,508 tons, 1843 - 18,725 ships, 3,375,270 tons; 1821 - 9,797 ships, 1,488,644 tons, 1844 - 18,500 ships, 4,635,833 tons

Thus, our commerce, as shown by the employment afforded to our shipping, has somewhat more than doubled since 1820. The increase in our commerce carried on by foreign bottoms has been even greater:—

FOREIGN VESSELS ENTERED INWARDS.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Ships, Tons, and Amount. 1820 - 3,472 ships, 447,611 tons, 1843 - 8,054 ships, 1,205,303 tons; 1821 - 3,261 ships, 396,256 tons, 1844 - 8,541 ships, 1,301,950 tons

FOREIGN VESSELS CLEARED OUTWARDS.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Ships, Tons, and Amount. 1820 - 2,909 ships, 433,528 tons, 1843 - 8,375 ships, 1,252,176 tons; 1821 - 2,626 ships, 383,736 tons, 1844 - 8,709 ships, 1,341,433 tons

Here the increase has been about 300 per cent. If the principles of free trade are to prevail, if the vast protection at present afforded to British shipping by the navigation laws is to be withdrawn, our merchants may perhaps find themselves beaten in the race of competition with foreign shipping, and be compelled at last to withdraw from the unequal contest.

The cotton manufacture is declared by the Premier to be the great national manufacture of the country. The increase of late years one would suppose had been sufficient to satisfy even the Lancashire manufacturers. The following figures show the amount of exports in yards of plain and printed calicoes, and in value of the total quantity of cotton manufactures:—

PLAIN COTTONS EXPORTED.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Yards, and Amount. 1820 - 113,632,486 yards, 1843 - 520,911,625 yards; 1821 - 122,921,692 yards, 1844 - 569,697,792 yards

PRINTED COTTONS EXPORTED.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Yards, and Amount. 1820 - 134,688,144 yards, 1843 - 257,787,304 yards; 1821 - 146,412,002 yards, 1844 - 313,111,455 yards

DECLARED VALUE OF ALL COTTON MANUFACTURES EXPORTED.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Amount. 1820 - 16,516,748; 1843 - 23,317,971; 1821 - 16,092,787; 1844 - 25,805,318

The prices of cotton goods, which had been falling for a number of years past, took a turn in 1813, and have since continued on the advance, so that now the manufacturers are doing an immensely increased trade, and at rising prices.

One other evidence of the general prosperity of the country may be found in the decline of sums expended for the relief of the poor. The new law has effected some change in this respect, but will not account for the decline of pauperism which has taken place in the last few years. If we allow for the increased population of the last twenty-three years, the following return will show a decrease in sums expended for the poor to the extent of at least fifty per cent. —

Table with 4 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 7,330,256; 1843 - 5,218,027; 1821 - 6,959,219; 1844 - 4,976,003

We have hitherto considered only the physical state of the people, and judged of their social improvement as shown by their augmented means. But if we turn to their moral state, as evidenced by the number of crimes committed, we shall find much less cause for congratulation. Under a truly wise Government, the moral and physical amelioration of the community would be made to advance together; and certainly it would be only reasonable to expect that the temptation to crime would be diminished as the means of comfortable subsistence were augmented. But this does not appear to have been the case; for, until the last three years, the number of criminals have been continually on the increase. The following table is satisfactory only as it shows that the tide of crime, which for a number of years had flowed unintermittedly, received a check in 1843, and had continued to ebb since that year:—

CRIMINALS COMMITTED FOR FEAR.

Table with 4 columns: Year and Amount. 1820 - 12,710; 1840 - 27,157; 1821 - 12,115; 1841 - 27,700; 1822 - 12,241; 1842 - 27,309; 1823 - 12,207; 1843 - 26,371; 1824 - 12,205; 1844 - 26,371; 1825 - 12,137; 1845 - 26,371

A more minute investigation than we have space for would show, that the progress of crime depicted on the foregoing table is the natural result of the system of government pursued of late years. It has been the principle of successive Administrations to attend only to the physical wants of the nation, to relieve it as far as possible from the pressure of taxation, and to free its trade and manufactures from the duties that restricted them. Every provision was made for the acquisition of a great

ing population, except moral and spiritual provision. Care was taken to place excisable and customs commodities within reach of the people, but not to afford them the elements of education and an opportunity of Christian worship. Our statesmen were satisfied that the nation was going on well while they saw a yearly increase in spirits and tobacco, without at all inquiring in what way this spirit-drinking population was growing up. The result that has occurred was perfectly natural. Crowded townships grew up in a state of heathenism, and thousands, on the first temptation that presented itself, commenced a career of desperate crime.

Our Governments since the peace, uniformly attentive to the well-being of the country, have been uniformly neglectful of its higher interests. They have repealed millions of taxation (often with the best effects) to increase the consumption of particular commodities, but they have rarely given grants to promote the cause of scriptural education. Placed at the head of a Christian state, they have yet never dared to act on Christian principles. They have faltered and refused whenever asked to extend their aid to morals and religion. They have considered that those subjects lay out of their sphere of action. They have passed acts, and voted millions to multiply beer-shops, but they could never make up their mind to propose estimates for scriptural schools and new churches.

During the closing years of the Whig Government the country was aroused to a sense of its danger, and a great movement commenced for the establishment of schools in connection with the Church of England, and for supplying the spiritual destitution of crowded neighbourhoods. Sir Robert Peel attributes the diminution of crime to his tariff alterations. In the absence of any positive knowledge on the subject, we are rather inclined to refer it to the exertions made some years previously on behalf of our neglected population. The experience of the last twenty-five years has decisively proved that an increase in the mere comforts of existence may be accompanied by a great and alarming addition to the number of criminal offences. If this country should ever possess a Government with principle to recognise its duty as the head of a Christian state, and with courage to act on its convictions, it would make an effort to raise the moral as well as the physical state of the people, and would watch the progress of criminal returns as narrowly as the accounts of exports and the revenue from customs and excise.

In the year 1845 the progressive improvement in our trade and manufactures during the previous three years has been fully maintained. Every branch of industry has been prosperous, and employment more plentiful than at any period since the late war. During the harvest it was not uncommon for the cry to be heard in the streets of agricultural towns offering labourers employment at liberal wages on neighbouring farms. One cause of this prosperity we shall have to notice hereafter in speaking of railway enterprise; but the principal cause is undoubtedly to be sought in the average harvest of the last three years, which have rendered us to a great extent independent of foreign supplies.

For the four years ending with 1842, a succession of bad harvest had rendered large importations of foreign corn necessary, on an average 2,000,000 of quarters yearly. The result was, that trade of every description was depressed, that the revenue fell off, and that our exports declined. In the year 1842 there took place one of the largest imports of foreign corn ever known, 2,761,000 quarters. If the principle of the free traders was correct, that our exports of manufactures would always be in proportion to our imports of foreign grain, this year, after such liberal importations, should have been a prosperous one for the mill and the loom. But the contrary was the case—they stood still, while the vessels that had brought us wheat from foreign ports sought return freights in vain. The declared value of British exports fell from £53,000,000 in 1839 to £17,000,000 in 1842, and this notwithstanding that £35,000,000 sterling had not been expended for foreign grain in that and the previous four years.

With the fair harvest of 1843 trade again revived, and the people were employed. The figures that follow will show the connection between the activity of our export trade and the growth of moderate abundance at home.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. Declared Value of British Exports vs Foreign and Colonial Wheat entered for Consumption. 1842 - £17,000,000 vs 2,784,000; 1843 - 52,000,000 vs 847,000; 1844 - 58,000,000 vs 791,000; 1845 - 53,500,000 vs 200,000

The last year is certainly a remarkable one. Prices of all descriptions of produce have been well maintained. The country has been comparatively independent of supplies of foreign grain, and yet trade has never been more active, or the people better employed.

We conclude here our remarks on the Progress of the Nation. The figures we have given are full of significance, if rightly considered. They prove that, notwithstanding the complaints heard at intervals since 1823, the predictions of ruin which the country has been threatened, and occasionally some instances of mischievous or, at least, "retrograde" legislation, as the Currency Bill of 1819 this country has made unprecedented progress during the last twenty-five years, and has increased in every material element of national greatness and social prosperity. Whatever is said regarding the moral depravity of a portion of the people must be received with attention, for the facts to prove it are before our eyes, too plain to admit of question. But when it is said that their physical condition is deteriorated, that they are worn off ere they were a quarter of a century back, that luxury flourishes while industry starves, and that, in the favorite phrase of those declaimers, "the rich are more rich, and the poor more poor," we must treat the assertions as mere rhetorical embellishments, very fit for the purposes of such oratory, but quite unworthy of serious reflection.

A wide field still is, and always will be, open for the labours of well-directed beneficence. The condition of the people is susceptible of vast improvement. The future is full of promise and hope. But, looking to what has been accomplished in the last quarter of a century, we should be extremely cautious how we rudely disturb that system, which has proved so beneficial to the country, and been productive of so many advantages to the general community.

LEGISLATION AND FINANCE.

The Parliamentary Session of 1845 was the most laborious of any on record. In the six months that the Legislature continued its sitting there were passed no fewer than 160 public and 246 private acts. Of the private acts 106 concerned the formation of railways.

Parliament met on the 4th of February. The recommendations of the speech were chiefly directed to the policy of extending the opportunities of academical education in Ireland, and the propriety of continuing the income-tax, so that reductions in other taxation might be effected.

Sir Robert Peel made his financial statement ten days after the opening of the session. The Premier had to deal with a prosperous revenue. Instead of a gross amount for the year ending 5th Jan'y, 1845, of £51,790,000, as estimated in the previous years by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the real amount was £54,003,000; leaving a surplus over the amount of expenditure of £3,357,000. By making the account up to the approaching 5th of April the Premier estimated that the actual surplus revenue would be five millions, the great increase having taken place on customs, excise, and stamps. How was the surplus revenue, then, to be appropriated? It would suffice for the repeal of the income-tax, or it would be sufficient to make large remissions in general taxation. The Minister decided on the latter course. He proposed that the duties on British plantation sugar should be reduced from 25s 3d per cwt to 14s per cwt, and the foreign free-grown sugar from 35s 2d to 23s 4d. He proposed also the total repeal of the duty on cotton-wool, amounting to five sixteenths of a penny per lb, and yielding a revenue of £680,000; the repeal of the auction duty, £250,000; of the duty on glass, £640,000; of the export duty on coal, £183,000; and of reductions on duty on minor articles in the tariff to the extent of £320,000; which, together with an estimated loss on the sugar duties of £1,300,000, would amount to £3,388,000. To make this great experiment in remissions and reductions of duties he proposed the income tax should be continued for three years longer.

This plan was well received by the House, as it relieved some great branches of national industry from duties which, if they did not fetter them, yet acted as a restraint on the full development of their energies. As regarded sugar, the reduction was felt to be only an act of bare justice, as it had long been felt extremely hard that so necessary a commodity should have had to bear a tax of 3d per lb. By proposing the income-tax for a limited period longer, the alternative was obviated of having either to justify its inequality and injustice in rating all incomes alike, or of entirely reconstructing it, so adapt it to different kinds of incomes.

The scheme, however, met with some opposition, principally from the Whig side of the House. Mr Roebuck demanded that real property in Ireland should be assessed to the tax, and other members moved that distinctions should be made between the incomes arising from trades and professions, and those that resulted from real property. These amendments were uniformly negatived by large majorities, and eventually the whole financial scheme received the sanction of Legislature.

It would be very inconsiderate to attribute to those alterations any material share in producing the prosperity of the last year. Undoubtedly they were calculated to have a good effect, as all judicious remissions of taxation must have; but it would be irrational in the highest degree to suppose that they have had any material influence either in stimulating trade, affording employment, or augmenting the revenue. The Premier in speaking of the national revenue, boasts that his remissions of duty do not greatly reduce its gross amount. Notwithstanding his reductions to the amount of nearly three millions and a half, the revenue for the year 1845 is only £133,000 less than for 1844. But it can hardly be contended that the rise in 1845 in the revenue from stamps of £540,000 can have any notion with a remission of the duties on sugar and glass. Had those duties remained untouched, the increase would still, there can be no doubt, have been shown in stamps. So with £19,000 arising from repayments of advances, and £500,000 from China and other sources. The repeal of the auction duty could not have hastened over the Chinese silver. If we deduct from the total revenue of 1845 its accidental items, of miscellaneous £509,011 more than in 1844, and its repayments, &c., £333,550, also in excess over 1844, together with increase in stamps, plainly owing to greater speculation, amounting to £540,724, and add to those items the actual deficiency on the year, we shall find the revenue of 1845 less by £1,852,411 than the revenue of 1844, which, as the reduction of the duties had only eight or nine months to operate in, is about the result that might have been anticipated, without being obliged to suppose that the financial scheme of last year has been productive of any marvellous consequences in raising the revenue.

The general productiveness of the national income for some years past, together with prudent economy in expenditure, has had an excellent effect on the finances of the country. In July the Gazette announced that the clear surplus for the year amounted to the large sum of £6,543,000; and a proportion of that sum was, in compliance with the statute, ordered to be invested in stock for the reduction of the national debt. The Government banker has accordingly made moderate purchases at intervals, and his operation have been beneficial in checking any tendency to great decline in the public stocks.

(To be Continued)