

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

SUNDAY, 12TH JULY, 1846.

The arrival of the *Corsair*, has confirmed the rumours that were prevalent yesterday of a serious riot at Canton on the evening of the 8th and on the 9th. The letters which we have seen do not say that the mob were excited by any particular occurrence; and it was probably one of those ebullitions of a spirit of hostility toward foreigners, which, unfortunately for the personal safety of our countrymen, is so deeply rooted in the breasts of the lower orders of Chinese at the provincial city.

The mob appear to have assembled round the factory, early on the 8th, when the Mandarins intimated to Her Majesty's Consul, that they could not control the people, and foreigners would require to defend themselves. The community armed, and headed by Mr McGregor, proceeded to one of the gates which was opened, an attempt being made to persuade the mob to disperse. The rioters would not listen to reason, but commenced an attack with stones, breaking into the house of Messrs Sands, Turner, Church & Co. It was then necessary to fire, and from the proximity of the parties the fire was most destructive—killing 13 and wounding about 20.

A boat was immediately despatched to Whampoa, and a large force of seamen from the Merchant ships was sent to the scene of action as also 50 Marines, 30 Sailors and 4 officers from the Danish frigate *Galathea*. Before they arrived the mob had dispersed, but on the 11th it was still thought prudent to retain them, and from 8 to 12 men were in each house keeping regular watch and watch.

We make an extract from a letter writ-

Letters dated the 9th (by fastboat) state that an English Gentleman was insulted by a Coolie, who after much difficulty, he succeeded in capturing. This was the origin of the riot, an attack being immediately made on Mingqua's Hong where the man was secured. The Ladies were sent to Whampoa, under escort, and the Captain of the Danish frigate—who chanced to be in Canton—lost no time in sending for a force from his vessel. A meeting was held on the 9th and the community divided into three watches each under a Captain, whose orders were to be obeyed implicitly. The Gentleman whose leg was broken is a Parsee, an American and a German were also severely wounded; and a good many were slightly hurt. The Chinese Shopmen posted a placard on the 9th, stating that if the mob renewed the attack on the factories they (the Shopmen) would hurl stones on them from the tops of the houses.

ten on board the *Corsair* which gives the latest intelligence.

On board the *Corsair* for Whampoa,
11th July, 1846,

"Every thing is quiet—the mob dispersed, and not the slightest appearance of any intention to reassemble. I believe we have given the vagabonds a drubbing that will keep them in order for some time. The official return—from the Mandarins to the Consul—gives 13 killed and 20 wounded and this is confirmed by what is said by the Merchants. I should hope that it will now be a long time before we have another disturbance, and at any rate we shall always be ready, and we now know the best way of quelling a riot.

Had we acted in the manner the Consul seemed inclined to adopt, not to fire on the mob till they forced entrance into the ground in front of the Factories, (say the American Garden,) the chances are we should have been burnt out,—as it was, I feel satisfied that a delay of ten minutes would have seen Church's house on fire.

We still keep up a watch all night, it is just as well to be guarded against surprise; but the comrades and merchants say "must have finished."

Our wounded are all doing well. I escaped without even a scratch, altho' I was in the thickest of it, in fact five of us had pretty warm work of it at the corner of the street leading down to Murrow's, and two of the party were hurt severely, one a compound fracture of the leg, the other a deep cut on the head that felled him, the mob made a rush to secure him, and we met them full tilt, and fired five shots within half a dozen paces of the blackguards, the result was one killed on the spot, and it is said that so many were wounded at this place that every shot must have told. It was dark as a pit, so much so that I was within arms length of a fellow in the shade of a doorway ere I saw him, I contented myself with kicking him, in fact I did not like to discharge my remaining barrel till the German was out of harm's way."