

THE



Hongkong's Government

GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

NEW SERIES.

VICTORIA, FRIDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1856.

VOL. II. No. 73*.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Contract for publishing this *Gazette*, entered into on the 24th September, 1853, was terminated on the 30th ultimo; and notice is hereby given, that a New Series of this *Gazette* will be published hereafter, to commence from the 7th instant, under a New Contract, and that

"THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE"

will, as before, be the only Official Organ for PROCLAMATIONS, NOTIFICATIONS, and PUBLIC PAPERS, of this Government.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER, *Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d July, 1855.

Diplomatic Department.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary, &c., &c., hereby publishes for general information, such Correspondence as will exhibit the true character of the proceedings at Canton, and which have necessitated the operations in which Her Majesty's Naval Forces have been so triumphantly engaged.

By Order,

W. WOODGATE.

Superintendency of Trade, Hongkong, 26th November, 1856.

Correspondence between SIR JOHN BOWRING, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary, and YEH, Imperial Commissioner.

TRANSLATION FROM THE CHINESE.

Notification by MR PARKES, H.B.M. Consul at Canton, issued by order: for the removal of misconceptions, by declaration of the truth, to the end that confidence may be restored to the public mind.

In every discussion there is a position which is the correct one; nor can a just conclusion upon the merits of any question be arrived at, until the arguments on both sides shall have been heard.

The Governor General, Yeh, has been at great pains, ever since the approach of the British forces, under command of the Admiral, H. E. Sir M. Seymour, to inflame the public mind by the circulation of unfounded statements on the subject; and it is to counteract the evil effect but too probably to be apprehended from these, that H. B. M. Plenipotentiary has instructed the Consul to issue a Notification of the plain truth to the gentry and people of the city and suburbs of Canton.

At Hongkong, being a British Colony, it is competent for the owner of any vessel of any country, when he shall have obtained the requisite security, to make application, through the proper official channels, to the supreme authority for a Colonial Register. Under this the vessel hoists a British flag, and the register once issued, she is regarded in all respects as a British vessel, while those on board her become alike responsible to British control, and entitled to British protection. The conditions of this colonial registration were communicated some months ago to the Governor General by the Minister Plenipotentiary, who is the Governor of the Colony, and a translation of the Colonial Ordinance was enclosed to him in His Excellency's despatch.

Meanwhile, the *Lorcha Arrow*, a vessel duly registered as above, having come up to Canton in the earlier part of October, information, it appears, was given to the authorities by a person who had been robbed by pirates at sea, that one of the deck hands was serving as a sailor on board the *Lorcha*. Now, by the Treaty between England and China, all authority over British vessels at any of the Five Ports is vested in the Consuls. The proper course, therefore, if any question had been raised against the *Lorcha*, as she was flying the British colours in the port of Canton,—being one of the Five,—would have been, to call on the British Consul to enquire into the case and take the necessary steps. Without any reference, however, to the Consul, a party of the local marine boarded the vessel, tore down her ensign, (seized twelve

men who were on board, and carried them into the city.)

The Consul, of course, as soon as he became aware of this (violation of his jurisdiction) reported it to his superior, H. M. Plenipotentiary. He at the same time made his complaint to H. E. Yeh, as Imperial Commissioner, accompanying his statement of the facts by a request that H. E. would cause the seamen who had been carried off from the vessel to be restored to her publicly; in order that due atonement might be made for the affront that had been offered to his authority as Consul. He added, that if it were still desirable to examine the parties, he was prepared to conduct an enquiry with any officer of his own rank, who might be deputed for the purpose.

The Governor General replied, that (the *Lorcha* was not a foreign vessel) He sent back some of the men, but nine of the twelve that had been taken; but these the Consul did not think it right to receive; and, under the instruction of the Plenipotentiary, he now demanded, besides restoration of the whole number, a letter of apology for their seizure, and assurance that nothing of the kind should occur again,—to be given within forty-eight hours. The Plenipotentiary himself wrote to the Commissioner, on the 12th October, to the same effect, adding that, unless the required satisfaction were accorded within the period assigned, it would be left to the Naval Commander-in-Chief to exact it. This letter reached Canton on the 15th October, but was left without answer for eight days. H. E. Yeh then sent a reply, in which he repeated what he had already said to the Consul. To the requisition made by the latter, he paid no more attention than before.

H. E. the Admiral, unwilling to resort to force without due deliberation, waited from one day to another, until the 21st October, when the Consul, under farther instructions from the Plenipotentiary, addressed a last letter to the Imperial Commissioner. He was now told, that unless he conceded what had been asked for by six o'clock in the evening of the following day, the naval forces would act. At noon of the following day, an officer of low rank was sent with the twelve seamen to the Consulate, with a message from His Excellency Yeh, that two of them were criminals, and must be sent back to him immediately.

The Consul, in reply, put in the hands of the officer sent, two extracts from his letters before referred to, reciting the substance of his requisition, and the form in which it was to be complied with: namely, that the men, publicly removed from the vessel, should be as publicly restored to her, and that a letter of apology should be written. At eight in the evening came another despatch from H. E. Yeh, requesting the Consul to inform him why his despatch of the morning had not been acknowledged.

It being thus apparent that farther protraction of the correspondence would be of no advantage to the settlement of the question at issue, there remained no alternative but to place the matter in the hands of the Admiral. His Excellency, unwilling to inflict unnecessary injury upon the inhabitants, confined himself in the first instance to the capture of some of the forts along the river; this done, he directed the Consul to warn the Governor General, that if he persisted in refusing to listen to us, more serious proceedings would be rendered inevitable. The Governor General proposing nothing, the Admiral proceeded to possess himself of the remaining forts along the Canton River. He then breached the City wall, and blew up the Tsing Hai Gate.

Now, His Excellency has been brought to this point by no intention of his own; he has been simply driven onward by the determined obstinacy, and extreme discourtesy, of the Governor General. The original claim advanced was, comparatively speaking, of no great magnitude. Less could not have been demanded than the formal rendition of a crew unauthorizedly seized without reference to the Consul. To the high official of a nation, with whom the rule and practice of what is due from man to man are so important a consideration, what could have been so easy as to acknowledge an error committed, and to give assurance that none such should be repeated!

How widely different a course was pursued! For several years past, the high authorities at Canton have entrenched themselves in inaccessibility to foreign officials, pleading always that the people are opposed to the admission of foreigners within the walls. It has hence resulted that discussions, which might have been disposed of in a single interview, have endured through months of correspondence, and this, too, without any satisfactory result. The present case commences with an insult to our flag; that is to say, an affront is put upon our dignity as a State; this is followed by the unauthorized seizure of sailors subject to British control and protection;

we complain, and our assertions are contradicted; no attention is paid to our application made, once and again, for reasonable redress; we are constrained to threaten force, and our menaces are similarly disregarded; and last, after repeated delays, we make some demonstration of our power, and the Governor General, Yeh, forgetting that our act is the consequence of his own obstinacy and discourtesy, proclaims to the people that we are in league with the rebels, and sets a price on our heads.

Would barbarism and ignorance have gone the length of such a declaration! Will the people of China, knowing and practising the duty of man to man, believe the fact when it is told them!

To conclude: this quarrel is not with the people; our proceedings have not originated in anything done by the people. They have been caused by the obstinacy and discourtesy of the chief authority, and for any calamity that may result from them, the chief authority is singly responsible. There is but one means of escape from it, and this is in the hand of the chief authority, who, if he lose no time in meeting our high authorities, will be enabled, by arranging matters on a satisfactory footing with them, to put an end to the existing peril, and to prevent the recurrence of like misfortune in the time to come.

Think how completely at our mercy are the lives and property of the entire population of the City; and with what facility, in one moment of time, we could effect their utter destruction—a terrible contingency! You are told this in no spirit of boasting; the power of our nation is too well known to require that we should indulge in self-glorification; but simply because we have no wish to see a long continuance of these hostilities, so cruel to the feelings of the people, and so injurious to their interests.

November 1st, 1856.

Address of the INHABITANTS OF THE WHOLE CITY to his Excellency the Plenipotentiary of Great Britain. (Similar address presented to Admiral Sir Michael Seymour.)

Every question has its rights, every position its contingencies of advantage and disadvantage. We cannot refrain from stating those incidental to the present one for the benefit of your Excellency's nation.

We, the Cantonese, who have been born and brought up in this place, some of us in the public service, some of us in trade, whatever our vocation, have each one all our property, our very food and raiment, in this City; and to all of us, hundreds of thousands in number, (the City is our base and our foundation.)

Your nation has traded at Canton for more than a century, during which it may be said that, between you and ourselves, the Cantonese, there have been relations of friendship, and not of hostility.

The late affair of the *Lorchia* was a trifle—it was no case for deep-seated animosity; no great offence that could not be forgotten. Yet you have suddenly taken up arms, and for several days you have been firing shell, until you have burned dwellings, and destroyed people, in untold numbers. It cannot be, either, told, how many old people, infants, and females, have left their homes in affliction. If your countrymen have not seen this, they have surely heard, have they not, that such is the case! What offence has been committed by the people of Canton that such calamity should befall them!

Again, it has come to our knowledge that you are insisting on official receptions within the city. This is doubtless with a view to amicable relations; but, when your only proceeding is to open a fire upon us which destroys the people,—supposing that you were to obtain admission into the City,—still, the sons, brothers, and kindred of the people whom you have burned out and killed, will be ready to lay down their lives to be avenged on your countrymen, nor will the authorities be able to prevent them. The authorities are able to accord you admission into the City, but they are not able to assure to such of your countrymen as do enter a perfect immunity from harm. If, then, your countrymen were admitted, could you always have a large force here for their protection? A protecting force cannot remain here any great length of time, and if death and wounds were to be the condition of your entering it, what would admission into the City be, even were you to obtain it!

There is another point:—although shell have been flying against the City for several days, burning buildings and destroying life, no fire has been returned by the troops; this is friendly and conceding. It is enough to content you; and as you resorted to hostilities for a small matter, so, now, for the sake of the peoples' lives, you may suspend them; and considering what has been achieved at the present stage of proceedings, there

* Now,—that is, having now taken such ample satisfaction.

allow them to terminate. Why add another difficulty to the existing one, and so cause an interruption of the friendly understanding between our countries!

To conclude: it is not well to trust one's own might too far, neither is it right to let a feud so confirm itself, that it cannot be ended. There is one point of which you lose sight: you do not remember that our authorities are subject to promotion, translation, and similar changes of office, which may remove them from Kwang-Tung. In the twinkling of an eye its whole establishment may be changed; but the native trader has been here, generation after generation, from father to son, from grandfathers to grandsons, for hundreds and thousands of years, without interruption of the line. You do not reflect upon the distant future,—that to inflict injury on the Canton people is to make enemies of thousands and millions of men,—that the longer the feud endures, the deeper rooted it will be,—that the more protracted the struggle, the more impetuous will be the zeal for it. It is in your power to go the extreme length of injury that can be inflicted. To resolve on this is truculently to contemplate the extermination of every living being in Canton—is to contemplate the total abandonment of its trade. What in that case would be your gain! And if resolved to go this length, how are you to dispose of the French, the Americans, and other foreign nations?

This is the unanimous declaration, made with sincerity and earnestness, of the Cantonese. We submit it in the hope that your Excellency will deign to consider it, and we respectfully present our wishes for your Excellency's peace and prosperity.

Representation made by the whole Population of Canton.

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

Reply of H.B.M. PLENIPOTENTIARY to the foregoing Address, purporting to be from the whole Population of the City of Canton.

HONGKONG, 10th November, 1856.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, Kt., &c., &c., has received an Address purporting to be from the whole population of Canton, deprecating a continuance of the operations of the British naval forces now before that city, and in particular, objecting to the demand made by His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, for unrestricted intercourse between the Native and Foreign authorities.

The operations in which the British navy are engaged, have been rendered necessary by the obstinacy and discourtesy of the Governor General Yeh. His executive having insulted the British flag, and seized persons subject to British control and protection, he has withheld the reparation required of him. To the present hour, he has neither expressed regret for what was done, nor has he promised that the like shall not be done again. He has consequently compelled the Admiral to proceed from one coercive measure to another, and although every care has been taken by His Excellency the Admiral to spare the lives and property of the people, many doubtless have suffered much. The responsibility of their suffering must be laid upon the Governor General, and on him alone.

As to the admission of Foreigners into the City, this is a Treaty right, undisputed at the rest of the Ports. The Petitioners themselves do not dispute it, for, say they, "the authorities can concede it." Were it other than a Treaty right, no such concession could be made by the authorities. But they add that, "the authorities having conceded it, cannot protect those who avail themselves of it against the people." This is to entail on Foreigners the necessity of teaching the people, that if interfered with by any one in the exercise of a right conceded by the Government, they can protect themselves. The interests of commerce which, according to the petition, are to be so seriously prejudiced by the enforcement of this claim, must derive their main security from a faithful observance of Treaty provisions. It is by the violation of these alone that they are in risk of being jeopardized. These interests are indeed most important, but they are not so dear to the British nation as its honour, nor is a British Minister at liberty to give them precedence where the national honour is involved.

Petitioners have been misled on this occasion. To prevent the recurrence of small misunderstandings, which experience shews may grow to serious consequences, His Excellency the Admiral, with the full concurrence of His Excellency the Plenipotentiary, insists that there shall be henceforth unrestricted freedom of intercourse between the Native Authorities within, and the Foreign Representatives without, the City. This simple and reasonable request, the Governor General has mixed up with the past discussions

regarding the Treaty right. Petitioners will do well at once to move His Excellency, with all speed, to abandon this false and dangerous position. If they neglect to make this appeal to him, they will share not only the calamitous consequences of his stubbornness, but, at the same time, the serious responsibility of not averting these in due season. His Excellency has tested the power with which he has to deal; he must have seen with what certainty that which is threatened is accomplished. Let Petitioners reflect, that more sudden and terrible things are yet in its hand to do, and let them earnestly press their chief authority to yield while it is yet time.

Reply of His Excellency Rear-Admiral SIR M. SEYMOUR, Naval Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., to the same Address.

5th November, 1856.

His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, has read with some surprise a paper, purporting to be an Address from all the people of Canton, in which it is stated, that serious injury has been inflicted on the inhabitants during the last few days, &c., &c.

There is no part of the City which the guns cannot reach, and with the means at the disposal of the force, its utter destruction is perfectly practicable at any moment, should such a measure appear necessary: let the people be well assured of this. Still, nothing has hitherto been aimed at but the official residences and public buildings: the present misunderstanding being due to no act of the people, but to the obstinacy and discourtesy of the Imperial Commissioner Yeh. This will be seen in the papers herewith forwarded to the Petitioners, who are farther recommended to lose no time in urging His Excellency Yeh to accede to the simple and reasonable demands of the Commander-in-Chief. All present danger will thus be averted, and the future will be secured against any similar disturbance of the peace.

YEH, Imperial High Commissioner, &c., &c., &c., makes this communication to His Excellency Rear-Admiral SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, Naval Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

I have received your letter of yesterday, in which, in acknowledging my communication of the 5th instant, Your Excellency observes, "I have nothing to add to what I have before written, except that to observe with much regret that no satisfactory result is to be anticipated from a protracted correspondence."

This communication I have well considered, and have now to remark, that the several replies I have made to your communications, have been so exceedingly clear and distinct, that Your Excellency, I conclude, must at an early stage of these proceedings have understood all that I advanced. To resume, however: the rules which should guide us in the transaction of the affairs of our two nations, should be based upon divine principles. By this course may we carry with us the opinion of our fellow men, and not by resorting to force at the mere inclination of either party.

I should request Your Excellency to again carefully examine all my previous communications, and I avail of the opportunity to wish Your Excellency prosperity, &c., &c.

Hien-fung, 6th Year, 10th moon, 10th day, (7th November, 1856.)

Addressed to His Excellency SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B., &c., &c., Naval Commander-in-Chief.

True Translation,

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

PROCLAMATION issued at Canton, by the Governor General, 5th November, 1856.

YEH, Governor General of the Two Kwang, &c., &c., makes a Proclamation to the whole population of Canton, the military, tradespeople, and others.

Whereas the English barbarians have commenced disturbances on a false pretence, their real object being admission into the City,—the Governor General, referring to the unanimous expression of objection to this measure on the part of the entire population of Canton in 1849, has flatly refused to concede this, and is determined not to grant their request, let them carry their feats and machinations to what length they will.

Let, however, you should feel ill at ease on other points, His Excellency considers it his duty to issue a notice to you, the military, tradespeople and others, to continue to follow your vocations peacefully, not giving way to alarm, nor allowing yourselves to be misled by the fabrications of traitorous Chinese.

The Governor General having resolved to abide by the proposition as it stood, and considering that

maintenance of the City defences is involved in the security of the people, and the preservation of peace and order, has assumed a very large force, and he is decided in his mind as to the course he is to pursue. He has heard that you as well, the inhabitants of the island and suburbs, thousands and tens of thousands in number, loyal and brave every one, are every ready to give evidence of your patriotic ardour. This is most praiseworthy. By uniting, hand and hand, you will shew your gratitude to the Emperor above, while below you give safety to your houses and families. Let one spirit animate the authorities and the people. This is the earnest wish of the Governor General. Let every one tremble and obey. A special

Hien-Fung, 6th year, 10th moon, 8th day, 28 November, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

28th November, 1856.

JOHN BOWRING to YEH, Imperial Commissioner.

SUPERINTENDENCE OF TRADE,
10th November, 1856.

SIR.—His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Sir Michael Seymour, has communicated me copies of his late correspondence with Your Excellency.

In the hope of preventing a recurrence of the present unfortunate state of things at Canton, Your Excellency has proposed that, as elsewhere, there should be free intercourse between the Authorities within and Foreign Representatives without the city. This proposition Your Excellency desires to entertain; you insist not only in concurring with the past discussions of the Treaty of all Foreigners to enter the City, but in maintaining that the right itself is shown to have been definitively abandoned in a despatch from my predecessor, Mr Bonham, dated 9th April, 1849.

The passage cited is not quoted in full by Your Excellency. Referring to the non-fulfilment of the engagement entered into in 1849, Mr Bonham writes,—"Although entered into by Keying, and confirmed by your Emperor, it [the engagement] has not been carried out; the question at issue rests where it was; and must remain in suspense. The discussion of it cannot, at present, be further prosecuted between Your Excellency and myself. I can but repeat my regret at the unsatisfactory report which this evasion of the Treaty will compel me to make to my Government."

Your Excellency seeks to construe as declaration of its cessation for evermore, words simply implying that discussion of our Treaty right was suspended until reports of its repudiation could be made to Her Majesty's Government. Pending your reference, Mr Bonham called on British subjects to abstain from attempting to enter Canton.

That the British Government never abated an iota of its claim, is shown by Mr Bonham's letter of the 21st August, 1849. This was written under instructions of Lord Palmerston, then Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Excellency Su was requested to transmit it to Peking. The assumption of Su himself in his reply, dated 27th August, 1849, that the discussion was no more to be renewed, was at once rejected by Mr Bonham; and Your Excellency must be well aware, that ever since my return to this country as Minister Plenipotentiary, the subject has been foremost amongst those of which I have had occasion to advise Your Excellency the British Government looked for a satisfactory adjustment.

I beg to refer you particularly to my communications of the 25th April, 10th July, and 27th December, 1854, and of the 11th June, 1855.

The tenor of your correspondence with Sir Michael Seymour, obliges me once more to remind you, that the Treaty right of British subjects to be admitted into Canton has never been abandoned by the British Government. But this is not at the present moment under discussion. The Admiral is simply insisting on equality of access to the local authorities; and that is a good reason. Had the British Consul been allowed to obtain such access on the day that the British flag was torn down and her crew unlawfully seized, the affair might have been settled by a single interview; as it was, letter after letter had to be addressed to Your Excellency; several had to remain for days without a reply; and at this hour you have neither apologised for the conduct of your executive, nor have you given any sufficient assurance that henceforward the flag and jurisdiction shall be respected.

Your Excellency's pertinacity in ignoring your obligations on these points, has rendered necessary a series of coercive measures; and it is to

avoid the future necessity of a course as opposed to our interests as it is offensive to our feelings, that the Admiral has made to you this simple proposition.

I have only to add, that I heartily concur with His Excellency in the necessity and propriety of what he has proposed.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

YEH, Imperial Commissioner, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, &c., &c., makes communication in reply.

On the 11th instant, I received Your Excellency's letter of the 10th, with the contents of which I have acquainted myself.

Your Excellency addressed me on the 12th, and again on the 14th ultimo, respecting the seizure made of a Chinese criminal on board a Lorcha; and my replies to these letters, of the 21st and 22d respectively, in which the circumstances of the capture and conviction of the criminal were clearly set forth, will, I presume, have received Your Excellency's careful attention.

It was shown on trial of the prisoner, that the Lorcha was built by Soo-Aching, a Chinese; a register was purchased for her of the merchant Block for \$1000, and she assumed the British Flag without being entitled to it.* She was lying, at the time of the seizure, off the Dutch Folly, and, as has been clearly proved, with no ensign flying; it being, as it appears, an established law with British vessels to haul down their ensign when they drop anchor, and not to hoist it again until they get under way.

Had it been shown on the trial that her flag was bona fide that of a British merchant vessel, it would have been doubtless correct to follow some other course than the one pursued; but the fact being, that a Chinese had assumed the flag without title, what need was there for Mr Consul Parkes to put himself forward as his advocate?

Again,—the twelve men seized were all taken back by Heu, Assistant Magistrate of Nanhae, on the 22d ultimo; but Consul Parkes declined to receive either them, or a despatch sent with them from me. The letter under acknowledgment says, that had the authorities been accessible to the Consul, the affair might have been disposed of in a single interview.

The Assistant Magistrate, Heu, was sent twice with the men to be surrendered: it is through him that [foreign] correspondence with me is always transmitted. Now the Assistant Magistrate is a commissioned officer of the Chinese Empire. Heretofore, any foreign business that has had to be transacted by deputy has been transacted by officers similarly deputed, and the present was a case of all others requiring common conference; but Consul Parkes had made up his mind not to consent to what was proposed.

On a subsequent occasion I sent Tseang, Prefect of Luy-chow-foo, to the Foreign Factories, to consider what steps should be taken; but the Consul now insisted on something more than [the rendition of] the men captured on board the Lorcha. There being in all this no inaccessibility on the part of Chinese officials, what was there to make an immediate adjustment impracticable?

Yet, on the 23d, 24th, and 25th ultimo, the different forts of the city were occupied or destroyed; and, from the 27th ultimo to the 5th instant, a cannonade was kept up, by which numberless dwelling-houses in the new and old city were consumed, with considerable sacrifice of life. I still forbore, remembering how many years you have been at peace with us; but the people were now gnashing their teeth with rage, at the terrible suffering to which they had been subjected.

Imagine it,—that the simple fact being, that a seizure was made by the Chinese Government of Chinese offenders, whom it was a duty to seize, it is pretended that the British ensign was hauled down; and this is followed up by a movement of troops and a cannonade, to the infliction of terrible suffering on the people. I must beg Your Excellency to pass an opinion on such a state of things.

To come to the question of admission into the City. On Your Excellency's arrival here as Minister in 1854, you addressed me on the subject. I replied in plain terms, that the real truth was, that the whole city population was opposed to it, and that there was not, on my part, either fiction of statement or design of obstruction. On the last occasion [that it was discussed], the British Plenipotentiary, Mr Bonham, saw that the trade of every house was (or would be) stopped; the foreign mercantile communities, as well, became alarmed lest the trouble incidental

* Or, fraudulently.

† The words are put so as to lead the reader to suppose that the Prefect was to confer with the Consul. He had been sent to confer with the Admiral, as appears from Yeh's letter, of the 31st October, to Sir Michael Seymour.

to this question should be productive of other troubles. A letter was received from Mr Bonham, stating that it could be no more discussed, and a notice was issued by him prohibiting Foreigners from entering the City, which was put in the papers. If admission into the City was practicable in 1849, Mr Bonham need neither have written this letter nor issued this notice. Mr Bonham having so written, a representation was made to that effect to His Majesty the Emperor by myself, then Governor of the Province, in concert with the late Commissioner Sou. Mr Bonham, as I have understood, addressed † Your Excellency's government to the same effect, and thus it was that there was not a native of any nation unaware that there would be no more discussion of this question.

I have understood, too, that some time after this, in 1850, Mr Bonham despatched an officer to Tien-tsin, with an earnest request that admission into the City might be conceded, and that His Majesty the Emperor did him the honor to signify his pleasure that it should not be conceded. It will be hence apparent that this [exclusion] is the result of a feeling participated in by all ranks, of a common sentiment of the whole City population, and not of any private opinion individually entertained by me.

In a letter from His Excellency Admiral Seymour, received some days ago, he says that the present proposition is in no way connected with those of former years; that his demand is simply for admission of the Foreign Representatives. The proposition made before was objected to by the entire population of Canton; the people affected by the present proposition are the same Canton people; the city is the same Canton city; it is not another and separate Canton city. How then can it be said that there is no connection whatever between the two propositions?

But more than this,—the Canton people are very fierce and violent, differing in temper from the inhabitants of other provinces; admission into the City was refused you in 1849; by the people of Canton, and the people of Canton of the present day, are the people of Canton of the year 1849; and there is this additional difficulty in mooted the question of admitting British subjects into the City now, namely, that the strong feeling against Your Excellency's countrymen having been aggravated by the terrible suffering to which the people have been subjected without a cause, they are even more averse to the concession than they were before.

It were best then to adhere to His Excellency Mr Bonham's policy. With my long experience of Your Excellency's intelligence and justice, I have spared no pains to make my reply both clear and specific. Let Your Excellency give careful attention to it.

I therefore reply, availing myself of the occasion to wish Your Excellency prosperity and peace.

A special communication, addressed to His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c., &c., &c.

Hien-Fung 6th year, 10th moon, 15th day, (12th November, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

† 'Kwei-kwo,' honorable, i.e., your government,—a phrase unobjectionable in itself; but the word translated 'addressed,' meaning specially to address the Throne, there should by right have been used instead of Kwei-kwo, some one of the many deferential equivalents of Her Majesty's person or position.

YEH, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kwang, &c., &c., makes communication in reply.

On the 16th inst., I received your Excellency's letter of the 14th, and acquainted myself with its contents.

In my reply to an earlier letter, I shewed by a detailed and specific statement of the whole case, that the prisoner seized on board the Lorcha, was a Chinese criminal. The letter under acknowledgment tells me, "the lorcha without doubt, lawfully bore the British flag, under a register granted by me." This attests the truth of what was stated in evidence before the officer sent to conduct the examination in the case of the Lorcha, viz., that having been built by Soo Aching, a Chinese, a register was purchased for her for \$1000, and that she fraudulently assumed the flag of your nation. I have always understood foreign flags to be each one peculiar to a nation—they are never made so little of as even to be lent; how then could a foreign nation do anything so irregular as to sell its flag to China? This appears to Your Excellency a proceeding in accordance with law; all I can say is, that I am not aware that foreign nations have any such law. As I have said before, therefore, had the flag belonged bona fide to a British merchant vessel, it would have been proper to follow some

other course than the one pursued; but, the fact being that a Chinese had fraudulently assumed the flag, why should Mr Consul Parkes have put himself forward as his advocate? Simply because he wanted a pretext for making trouble.

As to the entry into the City: after a long correspondence upon this question between the late Commissioner Seu and the late Plenipotentiary Mr Bonham, the discussion of the matter closed* definitively. The letter now under acknowledgment says, "Mr Bonham never did so close, and never was authorized so to close, it." If he did not so close it, why did Mr Bonham issue a notice at the Factories, which was put in the papers, to the effect that foreigners were not to go into the City? What is this but proof that he had definitively closed it? His despatch at the same time stated, that he had reported it to his Government, and on this I, then Governor of the province; and the late Commissioner, Seu, represented to his Imperial Majesty that the English had definitively closed their negotiations respecting admission into Canton, and had the honor to receive in reply the following Decree:—

"The purpose of walling cities is to protect the people; in the protection of the people lies the security of the State. When the people of Kwang Tung are unanimously determined against the admission of Foreigners into the City, can an Imperial Injunction be laid on them by proclamation so to do, whether they will or no? It is not in the power of the Government of China to cross the wishes of the people out of deference to those of the men from afar; on the other hand, it behoves foreign nations to study the temper of the people; to the end that the capital of their merchants may work free from risk, &c., &c. Respect this!"

It seems plain, in my humble opinion, that the reason why his Imperial Majesty refused [what was asked,] was, that he had, on his part, so studied the temper of the Kwang Tung people, as to appreciate their aversion to it; and Your Excellency, to judge from your letter, where it speaks of "the opposition of the gentry, and the turbulent violence of the people of Canton," it would seem had also sufficiently studied the temper of the Kwang Tung people. The people are looked on by the State as its foundation. When the ruler loves his people, there is some prospect of their obeying their ruler. Thus, as a general rule, has it ever been. To run counter to the feelings of man, is to disregard what nature teaches is right before heaven. This has never been the policy of China; and I assume that Your Excellency's Government no less recognises as paramount the obligation of conforming to what is right before heaven, and due by man. Now, ever since the arrival of Admiral Seymour, he has been attacking and demolishing houses both in city and suburbs. He has also demolished a number of forts. These forts, again, were constructed at the expense of the gentry and the people of Kwang Tung, to protect them against pirates. Will they, when they find them one day attacked and destroyed—will they be disposed to desist from hostilities; and yet, when, in addition to all this, the trade of every mercantile house has been stopped by these operations, begun without a cause, Your Excellency still says, in speaking of the city question, "I cannot for a moment admit, &c."

As to another passage in the letter under acknowledgment,—“were it to be admitted that the unruly spirits of a nation,† might be permitted to disregard the supreme authority, &c.” As the merchants of Your Excellency's nation have come to Canton in the hope of finding a flourishing trade, so has the mercantile community of "every nation" come in the hope of finding a flourishing trade. Is it then reasonable, I would ask, to expect that "every nation" will be satisfied at this stoppage of their trade?

As to your proposal in the same letter, that we "should meet as becomes, &c." An interview might of course have been practicable in the first instance, but do the proceedings of Admiral Seymour, who has commenced hostilities without cause, shew any acquaintance with what "becomes!"‡ He has come to Canton, and at a moment's notice he has destroyed habitations without number, with considerable loss of life; the sufferers are crowding to my Court, complaining of their distress, and entreating me to do them justice; and such at this moment is "the opposition of the gentry and the turbulent violence of the people," that not only would Your Excellency have some difficulty in entering the City, but, for the time being, I myself

* The word used in the Chinese version of Sir J. Bowring's letter sent, is *pa*, meaning final cessation, namely, from insisting on the right. Sir J. Bowring's English is "never surrendered."

† A nation, in Chinese, each or every nation, any nation, or different nations. The Commissioner chooses to read it "every nation," for the simple purpose of employing the argument that our acts are calculated to provoke the resentment of "every nation."

‡ *Hu*, "Forms and observances." Sir John Bowring's words were, "meeting as becomes the representatives of great monarchs."

should have equal trouble in getting out of it. It is the Admiral's wanton proceeding that has provoked all this irritation. Let your Excellency once again well consider it!

I therefore reply, availing myself of the occasion to wish Your Excellency prosperity, &c.

A necessary communication addressed to Sir John Bowring, &c., &c.
Hien Fung, 6th year, 10th moon, 20th day, (17th November, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

H. B. M.'s CONSULATE, CANTON,
18th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have received Your Excellency's letter of yesterday.

I do not think it necessary to say more than I have already said in reference to the past. But my present object is to advise Your Excellency, that I am still willing and desirous of meeting you in your own Yamun, to discuss in the spirit of peace and harmony the means of putting a stop to the miseries which the existing state of affairs has brought upon the people, and the still greater miseries which are impending over them.

It is the obligation of all Governments to receive and protect those Ambassadors properly accredited by their Sovereigns; but I wish Your Excellency to understand, that while I claim your attention to all the laws of courtesy, which your nation has the credit of properly appreciating, I am quite in a position, if you cannot control the people, to protect myself in my official visit to Your Excellency, and to punish those who shall dare to interfere with my purposes of peace and friendship.

If you consent to a meeting in the manner I propose, I shall request His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief to suspend hostile operations.—I have, &c.,

JOHN BOWRING.

To His Excellency YEH,
Imperial High Commissioner,
&c., &c., &c.

YEH, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kwang, &c., &c., makes a communication in reply.

I am in receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 18th instant, and have acquainted myself with its contents.

So far as an interview within the City is concerned, I communicated to you in my last reply a copy, respectfully made, of His Majesty the Emperor's Decree. Having had the honor to receive this intimation of the Imperial Pleasure [that that which was proposed] was not to be sanctioned, dare I, even were there no other objection, act, contrary to the Will of His Sacred Majesty?

Mr Bonham's reason for issuing a notice prohibiting Foreigners from entering into the City, was, that he rightly understood what policy consisted with safety. The native and foreign mercantile community have in consequence traded together without a misunderstanding for many years. Now, the causeless operations of Admiral Seymour, by the damage they have inflicted on the people, have excited on the part of the inhabitants of the whole city a feeling of animosity, which is daily increasing. You say in your letter that you are quite able to provide for your own safety; it is, I think, but too probable that so far from having your safety in your own hands, you are incurring mortal danger. Would Your Excellency but follow the course of the late Plenipotentiary, Mr Bonham, you would in so doing be following the policy of safety. Your Excellency, during your service [here] as Consul, must have seen with your own eyes the real condition of things.

To conclude, I request Your Excellency once more to ponder well on this, that in the management of all matters, we must act as reason teaches is right before heaven and due by man, before we can arrive at any satisfactory result.

I accordingly reply, availing myself of the opportunity to wish that Your Excellency's prosperity may daily increase.

A necessary communication, addressed to H. B. M. Plenipotentiary, Sir JOHN BOWRING, &c., &c.

Hien Fung, 6th year, 10th moon, 22d day, (19th November, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE,
CANTON CONSULATE, 20th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have received Your Excellency's despatch dated yesterday.

It has caused me much disappointment and distress: Your Excellency repudiates my words of peace and friendship.

I must now leave to His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief the measures which a painful necessity may compel him to take, and to Your Excellency all the responsibility which belongs to those who disregard Treaties, and visit upon a people the unhappy consequences of their own obstinacy.

I shall not fail to advise the Court of Peking of the needless miseries Your Excellency has brought upon the City and neighbourhood, all of which might easily have been averted.—I have, &c.

JOHN BOWRING.

To His Excellency YEH,
Imperial High Commissioner,
&c., &c., &c.

YEH, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kwang, &c., &c., makes communication in reply.

I am in receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 20th instant, in which you state that "my repudiation of your words of peace and friendship has caused you much disappointment and distress."

In a late reply I communicated to you a copy, respectfully made, of an Imperial Decree, in which His Majesty the Emperor,—on the representation of myself, the then Governor, and Seu, the late Commissioner, that negotiations [respecting the City question] had been closed by the late Plenipotentiary, Mr Bonham,—had signified his pleasure that the request made was not to be sanctioned. The mercantile communities, native and foreign, [I argued,] were well satisfied, and the trade between them ever since, a period of some years, had, in consequence, daily advanced in prosperity: and this was a true policy of safety. [These words of mine] were "words of peace and friendship."

As I have in several replies explained, minutely and detailedly, His Majesty the Emperor refused his sanction [to the demand made,] because he knew the temper of the Canton people so thoroughly as to be aware of their aversion to it; the late Plenipotentiary, Mr Bonham, represented this to his government, and the British government, also knowing the temper of the Canton people, and their aversion [to the proposed measure,] therefore closed negotiations respecting it.

It is Your Excellency who "repudiates,"* not I who am "obstinate."

In 1850, Mr Bonham sent an officer to Tientsin, with a request that he might be admitted into the City, and His Majesty the Emperor signified his Pleasure that it should not be sanctioned; again, in 1854, when your Excellency came forward earnestly repeating that request, His Majesty again signified his Pleasure that it should not be sanctioned; and the fact that the request made on these two occasions was on both refused, proves that it is not the case that I, individually, am "repudiating." The city in question is the Provincial City of Kwang Tung; the people are the people of Kwang Tung; nor can any parallel be drawn between them and those of other provinces.

The "unhappy consequences visited on the people," of which your letter speaks, have been brought upon them by the wanton and hasty acts of Admiral Seymour. I have nothing to do with them. How can all the responsibility of them belong to me?

In short, when things are done otherwise than is consistent with what is due by man, an offence is committed against what is right before heaven. Your Excellency, by command of your government, has come to Canton (or Kwang Tung,) to exercise general supervision over all things pertaining to trade. The chief authority being thus in your grasp, why have you allowed Admiral Seymour to carry hostilities to this length?

I have myself long since transmitted to Peking an account of all that has happened, and of the present state of things here.

I therefore reply to you, availing myself of the occasion to wish Your Excellency increase of prosperity.

A necessary communication addressed to H. B. M. Plenipotentiary Sir JOHN BOWRING, &c., &c.

Hien Fung, 6th year, 10th moon, 24th day, (21st November, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

* Who will not accept what is tendered to you, viz, the plain truth that admission into Canton has been refused you from first to last, on account of the temper and unwillingness of the people.

† This is not properly phrased: "your government" is *kuo* *kuo*, honorable nation, but "command." Royal Commission, being, in effect, intended, should be otherwise worded and placed.

Correspondence between Their Excellencies SIR JOHN BOWRING, and Admiral SIR M. SEYMOUR.

Coromandel, OFF THE BARRIER FORTS, 23d October, 1856, 9 A.M.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to inform Your Excellency, that in furtherance of the decision come to our conference, on the morning of the 20th instant at which Her Majesty's Consul at Canton was present, I have this day taken possession of the Four Forts known as the Barrier Forts, without casualty on our side, but with the loss of 4 or 5 killed on the part of the Chinese, solely arising from their ill-considered resistance to our forces, two of the Forts having fired upon us with guns in position and small arms.

After rendering the Forts incapable of interfering with our operations in the River, I shall proceed to Canton, where I shall continue such further operations as circumstances may render necessary.—I have, &c.,
M. SEYMOUR,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
H. M. Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE, HONGKONG,
24th October, 1856.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge Your Excellency's despatch of yesterday and to express my high satisfaction at the prompt, able, and successful manner in which the naval operations have been carried on in accordance with the arrangements made at our conference of the 20th instant.

I cannot doubt that the Imperial Commissioner will now feel the absolute necessity of complying with the demands which have been made; and I have to add, that if Your Excellency and the Consul should concur with me in opinion that the circumstances are auspicious for requiring the fulfilment of Treaty obligations regarding the City of Canton, and for arranging an official meeting with the Imperial Commissioner within the City Walls, I shall willingly come to Canton for that purpose; and request you will kindly give me the means of conveyance thither.—I have, &c.,
JOHN BOWRING.

To His Excellency
SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Naval Commander-in-Chief,
&c., &c., &c.

Encounter, AT CANTON, October 25th, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform Your Excellency of my proceedings since my last letter of the 23d inst.

After rendering the guns in the Forts which I had taken possession of useless, I set fire to the buildings, and then proceeded to Canton, where I found the *Encounter* lying close off the Factories. I sent the *Sampson* and *Barracouta* to secure the capture of the *Blenheim* Reach, and on my return I found that those ships had taken possession of the *Blenheim* and *Macao* Forts, without resistance. The latter I retain temporary possession of.

Yesterday morning, I proceeded down the Macao Reach, where I met the *Barracouta*, and, at a given signal, the Fort opposite the Factory, and the Bird's Nest Fort, were taken quiet possession of, as were afterwards the two Forts called (I think) *Cha-min*, commanding the passage: the guns were rendered unserviceable.

I shall continue my offensive operations against the Chinese Government, avoiding as much as possible any injury to life or private property, until satisfaction is rendered by the Imperial Commissioner.

A sufficient party of Royal Marines is on shore for the protection of the Factory.—I have, &c.,
M. SEYMOUR,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

Coromandel, AT CANTON, 26th October, 1856.

SIR,—I beg to acquaint your Excellency, that my proceedings yesterday were confined to the taking of the Fort called the Dutch Folly, without opposition.

To-day, being Sunday, is kept as a day of rest. I propose resuming offensive operations to-morrow.

The *Encounter*, *Sampson*, *Barracouta*, and *Coromandel*, are at anchor off the Factory, and the *Comus* guarding the Barrier in the Macao Passage of the River.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Hongkong.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE, HONGKONG,
27th October, 1856.

SIR,—I have read with extreme satisfaction Your Excellency's report (dated 25th instant,) of the

capture of the *Blenheim* Reach Fort, that of the *Macao* Passage, the *Red* and *Sha-Min* Forts, and of your intentions, with as much regard as possible for life and private property, to continue your hostile operations until satisfaction is obtained from the Imperial Commissioner. I am also gratified to find that the Factories are adequately protected.

I can only renew my congratulations on the most successful issue of all your naval operations, and hope our diplomacy may be equally auspicious.—I have, &c.,

JOHN BOWRING.

To His Excellency
SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Naval Commander-in-Chief,
&c., &c., &c.

Encounter, AT CANTON, 28th October, 1856.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter of the 26th instant, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency, that the measures which had been taken to compel the High Commissioner to yield compliance with our just demands having proved of no avail, I opened fire at 1 P.M. on the 27th, on the Governor's Compound in the new City, from the stern pivot gun of the *Encounter*, and continued it till sunset, at intervals of from 5 to 10 minutes. The *Barracouta* at the same time also shelled the Troops on the hills at the back of the City, from a position at the head of Sulphur Creek.

No change in the state of affairs having followed, I yesterday resumed offensive operations from the Dutch Folly, where I had placed two guns in position,—having previously given the fullest warning to the inhabitants in the vicinity to remove their persons and property, an occupation they were engaged in during the whole of the previous night. Our fire in the direction of the City Wall, aided by a conflagration of a large portion of the houses in our line of attack, has materially furthered our object of opening a clear passage between the Dutch Folly and the Walls of the City, and will, I have reason to hope, facilitate our further operations.

The fire has reopened on the City Walls this morning earlier than I intended, in consequence of the Chinese mounting guns on the walls opposite the Dutch Folly.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE, HONGKONG,
30th October, 1856.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge Your Excellency's Despatch of yesterday, advising the continuance of hostile operations consequent upon the unsubdued obstinacy of the Imperial Commissioner. I venture to hope that the pressure will be soon irresistible, and the final results all we could reasonably anticipate.

In addition to the small body of Artillery sent up to be placed under Your Excellency's orders, we have thought it desirable to despatch an Officer of Engineers (Captain Cowper,) who will be at your disposal for any service required at his hands.—I have, &c.,

JOHN BOWRING.

His Excellency
SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Naval Commander-in-Chief,
&c., &c., &c.

Encounter, AT CANTON, 30th October, 1856.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 29th, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency, that a practicable breach having been made yesterday about 2 P.M. in the new City Wall, from the guns in the Dutch Folly, a strong detachment of seamen and royal marines took possession of the City Wall, destroyed, by blowing up, one of the gates, entered the City, and having visited and inspected the house and premises of the Governor, the forces were re-embarked at sunset, and returned to their respective quarters.

Little opposition was offered by the Chinese troops, beyond a scattered fire from the streets and houses, from which we sustained a loss of two marines killed, and twelve men wounded.*

The High Commissioner having made no concession, I have re-opened fire this morning, with a view to maintain the breach, and preserve the facilities it offers for re-entering the City, if necessary.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

* One since dead.

Encounter, AT CANTON, 3d November, 1856.

SIR,—Since my letter of proceedings of the 30th ultimo, I have confined my operations to maintaining the breach in the City Wall, which the Chinese have continually evinced a disposition to close; also to clearing away the Chinese buildings in rear of the Factory.

On the 30th ultimo and 1st instant I wrote the two letters to the High Commissioner of which your Excellency has received Copies from Mr Consul Parkes, as well as a Copy of the High Commissioner's reply to the first. The result has been, my resuming offensive operations this day against the Government Buildings in the City, from the *Encounter*, *Sampson*, and the Dutch Folly, which, as far as can be at present ascertained, will be continued to-morrow.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
H. M. Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

Encounter, AT CANTON, 6th November, 1856.

SIR,—Since my communication of the 3d instant, my operations have been limited,—1st, to shewing the Authorities that it is in our power to throw shot and shell to reach the most distant of the City Forts and Government Buildings; and this morning, in consequence of a most menacing number of War Junks having collected under the protection of the French Folly fort, and it appearing absolutely necessary for the security of our position that they should be dispersed or destroyed,—the *Barracouta* and *Coromandel* steam vessels, with our armed Boats, successfully accomplished this service, though, I regret to state, not without the loss of 1 man killed, and 3 wounded.

Considerable resistance was offered, and the fire from the Junks and Fort, in the early part of the operation, was stoutly maintained. The security of our position here will now be the main object of our exertions.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency
SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary,
Hongkong.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 8th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have received Your Excellency's Despatch of the 6th instant, informing me that shot and shell had been thrown into the most distant of the City Forts and Government Buildings, and announcing the destruction of a large number of Chinese War-junks and the capture of the French Folly Fort.

I have to express to Your Excellency my great and admiring sense of the consummate skill and prudence with which the military operations have been directed, and to all concerned my thorough appreciation of the promptitude, zeal, and bravery which have given them such successful results. Whatever may have been the importance of the question which necessitated the first appeal to hostilities, it has now assumed a character seriously involving all our present and future relations with China; and I am of opinion that every thing possible should be done to give effect to Treaties which have been pertinaciously and recklessly violated. A small and turbulent fraction of the population of China cannot be allowed to supersede the engagements of their Emperor to the Sovereign of Great Britain.

I submit to Your Excellency, that the next step to be taken should be, a notice to the Imperial Commissioner, that unless within a period to be fixed by you, your reiterated demands are complied with, the Bogue Forts will be destroyed.

I think it should also be stated, that the object of our entering the City is to carry forward a work of peace and amity, to put a stop to the miseries whose infliction has been rendered imperative by the resistance to lawful requirements, and to prevent their recurrence on any future occasion.—I have, &c.

JOHN BOWRING.

To His Excellency Rear-Admiral
SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Naval Commander-in-Chief,
&c., &c., &c.

Niger, AT CANTON, 14th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch of the 8th instant, submitting that the next step to be taken should be the destruction of the Bogue Forts.

Concurring in this opinion, I accordingly informed the High Commissioner that, unless he complied with my reiterated demands within 24 hours, I should resume offensive measures. Having waited more than the stipulated time, I proceeded below the

Bogue Forts, on the afternoon of the 11th, (leaving the *Samson* and *Niger* to protect the Factory,) and anchored, in company with the *Calcutta*, *Nankin*, *Encounter*, *Barracouta*, *Hornet*, (just arrived from Shanghai,) and *Coromandel* Tender, Captain Wilson of the *Winchester* and Commander Bate being also present with part of their ships' crews in the boats.

On the following morning I sent to the Chief Mandarin to state that my holding the Forts was necessary, pending the difference with the High Commissioner, and that I would retain them in their present condition if forthwith surrendered. This being refused, the squadron then attacked and assaulted the two Wantung Island Forts, from the Bremer Channel side. They fell into our hands after a considerable, though ill-directed, resistance of about one hour. These Forts were fully manned, mounted upwards of 200 guns, and were found stronger than when captured in 1841. The Chinese troops stood to their guns up to the moment our men entered the embrasures, and stink-pots were freely thrown at those who first entered.

The Mandarins had boats in readiness to facilitate their own escape, leaving their unfortunate followers, who rushed into the water, until they were pacified by our officers, and afterwards landed on the main. One boy killed and four men wounded on board the *Nankin*, was luckily the extent of our casualties.

On the 13th, the Annung-hoy Forts, on the opposite side of the Bogue entrance, mounting together 200 guns, were similarly taken possession of, with some resistance, but I am thankful to state, without a casualty on our side.

The command of the River being now in our hands, I have no other operation in immediate contemplation, beyond the security and maintenance of our position; and it will remain with Her Majesty's Government to determine whether the present opportunity shall be made available to enforce the Treaty stipulations, which the Canton Government have hitherto been allowed to evade with impunity.—I have, &c.,

M. SEYMOUR,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency

SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,

&c., &c., &c.,

Hongkong.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE, HONGKONG,
18th November, 1856.

SIR,—I have received Your Excellency's most satisfactory Despatch of yesterday, announcing the capture of the Bogue Forts, with small loss of life or limb on the part of H. M. Naval Forces.

At every step I have had occasion to admire the great prudence and skill with which all Your Excellency's operations have been devised, the promptitude and valour with which they have been carried forward, and the almost bloodless success which has accompanied their victorious results. To Your Excellency and all under your command my warmest thanks are due.

I am quite of opinion that the high position we now occupy should not be surrendered until Your Excellency's most reasonable demands are complied with; and cannot but hope that the experience of so much power as has been exhibited, though associated with the display of forbearance and humanity, will compel the submission of that intractable Viceroy, who appears now to be the main impediment to the recognition of our rights, and the consequent restoration of the public tranquillity.—I have, &c.,

JOHN BOWRING.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral

SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.

Naval Commander-in-Chief,

&c., &c., &c.

Printed at the Office of the *China Mail*, Hongkong.—
PRICE, \$12 per Annum. Single Copies, *Thirty-six Cents.*

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.—Five Lines and under, *One Dollar*; each Additional Line, *Twenty Cents*—*One-half* of these charges for each Repetition.

THE



Hongkong Government

GAZETTE.

NEW SERIES.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1856.

VOL. II. No. 74.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Contract for publishing this *Gazette*, entered into on the 24th September, 1853, was terminated on the 30th ultimo; and notice is hereby given, that a New SERIES of this *Gazette* will be published hereafter, to commence from the 7th instant, under a New Contract, and that

“THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE”

will, as before, be the only Official Organ for PROCLAMATIONS, NOTIFICATIONS, and PUBLIC PAPERS, of this Government.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER, *Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d July, 1855.

No. 124.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency The Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Colonel FRANKLIN DUNLOP, Commanding the Forces, to a provisional Seat in the Executive Council of this Colony, pending the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government.

The Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop has been this day sworn in accordingly.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 25th November, 1856.

No. 125.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Notes in Circulation and Specie in Reserve at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 28th November, 1856.

—+—

Account of the average Amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, for the Month ending 31st October 1856, rendered in accordance with the Terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED.....\$180,505,
exclusive of the Notes of the Oriental Bank still outstanding.

WM. LAMOND,
Acting Sub-Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong, 1st November, 1856.

I inspected this day the Books and Treasure of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and hereby certify that I found the necessary Amount of Specie as required by the Royal Charter.

H. REINHARD,
A Member of the Colonial Treasury Commission.

Victoria, Hongkong, 27th November, 1856.

No. 126.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

D. R. CALDWELL, Esquire, has been duly sworn in to the Offices to which he was recently gazetted, and has also this day taken the Oaths as a Justice of the Peace for the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 28th November, 1856.