

No. 73.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency The Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., has received a Despatch from His Excellency Major-General SIR CHARLES T. VAN STRAUBENZEE, K.C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in China, reporting the results of an Expedition to Nantaou, where the Chinese Imperialist Troops had fired upon the Bearers of a Flag of Truce, who were distributing the Proclamation published in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* of the 31st ultimo.

The Despatch is herewith published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. BRIDGES,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 13th August, 1858.

HONGKONG, 13th August, 1858.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that, in consequence of a Flag of Truce from H.M.'s Gun-boat *Starling*, having been fired upon by the Imperial Troops at Namtow, when posting your Excellency's Proclamation, I, in conjunction with Commodore the Honourable Keith Stewart, decided upon visiting that place with an armed Force for the purpose of exacting retribution for the insult.

On the 10th, I embarked with the Honourable the Commodore in the Gun-boat *Starling*, for Tyshan Bay, where the Force was assembled. On the morning of the 11th, the tide not serving till a late hour, as the Gun-boats were steaming to the shore, several shots were fired from a newly erected Battery to the S.W. of the Walled Town of Namtow, and close to the beach, which was soon silenced by the admirable fire from the Gun-boats.

The Force as per margin* landed about 11 A.M. at the S.E. in the Village of Namtow, where written notices were given to the people, that so long as no hostile act was committed on their part, their village and property would be respected; which was rigidly adhered to, though, from every Street, as we approached the Fort, a heavy fire of Gingalls and Matchlocks was kept up by the Braves, who retreated as we advanced; by this we had one Officer—Commander Madden, of H.M.'s Ship *Sans-Pareil*—very dangerously wounded, three men killed, and about 12 wounded. (The returns I have not yet received.)

About 2 o'clock P.M. the Fort was taken by assault, the party being lead by Commander Saumarez of the *Cormorant*, accompanied by Captain Lambert of the Royal Engineers, who was unhappily mortally wounded by the accidental discharge of a firelock of one of the numerous men crowding up the ladder after him. His loss is deeply to be deplored.

The Wall gained, the enemy fled, leaving the Fort almost untenanted; and those remaining having been ordered out, the place was given up to destruction, and principal gates blown in.

The Force bivouacked in the Fort that night, and were re-embarked the following morning, bringing away two large Brass Guns found in the Battery near the water. A deputation from the Inhabitants of the village was received by Commodore the Honourable Keith Stewart and myself, and their petition "that we should not burn their village," was granted. I have to record the loss of another gallant young Officer, by the accidental discharge of a musquet, as we were leaving the Fort—Lieut. Danvers, 70th B.N. Infantry.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE,
Commanding H.M.'s Troops in China.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, &c., &c., &c.

* Royal Artillery.—3 Officers, and 60 Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
59th Regiment.—6 Officers, and 106 Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Royal Engineers.—3 Officers, and 20 Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Royal Marine Light Infantry.—7 Officers, and 150 Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
12th Madras Native Infantry.—2 Officers, and 100 Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Naval Brigade.—About 200 Officers and Men.

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Steam for
SINGAPORE, PENANG, POINT DE GALLE,
ADEN, SUEZ, MALTA, MARSEILLES,
& SOUTHAMPTON;

ALSO,

BOMBAY, MADRAS, & CALCUTTA.

THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steam-ship "GANGES," Captain BOWEN, with Her Majesty's Mails, Passengers, Specie, and Cargo, will leave this for the above Places, on TUESDAY, the 21th August, at 2 P.M.

CARGO will be received on board until 5 P.M. on the 22d; SPECIE until Noon on the 23d, and PARCELS until 2 P.M. on the 23d.

For Particulars regarding FREIGHT and PASSAGE, apply at the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Office, Hongkong.

CONTENTS AND VALUE OF PACKAGES ARE REQUIRED.

A Written Declaration of the Contents and Value of the Packages for the Overland Route is required by the Egyptian Government, and must be delivered by the Shipper to the Company's Agents with the Bills of Lading or with Parcels; and the Company do not hold themselves responsible for any Detention or Prejudice which may happen from incorrectness on such declaration.

MAXN. FISCHER,
Superintendent.

Peninsular & Oriental
Steam Navigation Company's Office,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1858.

POST-OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

THE Next GENERAL MAILS per Steamer "GANGES," will close on MONDAY, the 23d August, at 6 o'clock P.M.

The usual SUPPLEMENTARY MAILS will be made up on the following morning. LETTERS received from 9 to 11 o'clock A.M., for a late fee of 6d.; and from 11 A.M. to 12½ o'clock P.M., for a late fee of 1s.

All Letters and Newspapers posted between the hours of 11 and Half-past 12 o'clock must be prepaid.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Acting Post-Master.

Post Office, Hongkong,
13th August, 1858.

IN THE VICE-ADMIRALTY COURT OF HONGKONG.

ROSSELL ASHBY, Master, v. The SHIP "SPRAY."

TAKE NOTICE,—That this Suit will come on for hearing before the Worshipful JOHN WALTER HULME, Esquire, Judge and Commissary of the said Court, in the Supreme Court House in Victoria, on WEDNESDAY, the 18th day of August instant, at 12 o'clock at Noon; or on such other Day and Hour as the said Judge may be pleased to appoint. Dated the 14th day of August, A.D. 1858.

(Signed) N. R. MASSON,
Acting Registrar of the said Court.

WILLIAM GASKELL,
Promovent's Proctor,
Victoria.

NOTICE.

THE next CRIMINAL SESSIONS of the SUPREME COURT, will be held on WEDNESDAY, the Eighteenth day of August, A.D. 1858, at 12 o'clock at Noon.

By Order of the Court,

NORMAN RAMSAY MASSON,
Acting Registrar.

IN THE VICE-ADMIRALTY COURT OF HONGKONG.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,—that an intermediate SITTING of the above COURT, will be held at 3 o'clock P.M., on WEDNESDAY, the 18th day of August instant.

By Order of the Court,

NORMAN RAMSAY MASSON
Acting Registrar.

Hongkong, 14th August, 1858.

NOTICE.

MR GEO. RICHARDS LAWRENCE is authorised to sign our Firm per procuracy from this date.

JAMES PURDON & Co.
Hongkong, 13th April, 1858.

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr THOS. DUNN in our Firm, ceased on the 30th of June last.

HEDGE & Co.
Foochow, 14th July, 1858.