

holders to state the Amount, to be paid in advance per Month. The privilege is to commence on the 1st of March for One Year.

By Order,

W. T. BRIDGES.  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 20th February, 1858.

憲示

照得近日日本港定例總局商議欲  
改發賣鴉片烟章程凡賣鴉片烟  
坭者免餉惟鴉片熟貨則招頭人  
一名承充領出發賣茲故出示曉  
諭爾等商民週知但有人想領做  
熟貨者祈寫暗票赴總  
憲署呈閱限本年正月廿八日截票  
票內則寫明通港各處地方及海  
面發賣鴉片烟在港現沽并裝往  
別埠發售每月納上期餉銀若干  
以本年二月十八起計至一年領  
出為滿特諭

一千八百五十八年  
正月二十七日  
示

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade, &c., &c., received from His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and publishes for general information, the enclosed Copy of a Despatch, detailing successful operations against Pirates in the neighbourhood of Hongkong, and the Naval Force recently despatched against them.

GEO. S. MORRISON.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d March, 1858.

OPERATIONS AGAINST PIRATES.

H. M. S. *Algerine*, HONGKONG, 24th February, 1858.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that, in obedience to the Commander-in-Chief's orders, I proceeded with two Boats of the *Calcutta* under Lieutenant Kennedy, with Messrs Byles and A'Court, Midshipmen, and Mr J. B. Murphy, Assistant Surgeon, to the neighbourhood of Port Kennedy, and thoroughly examined the vicinity, including the head of the Bay, passing to the northward of Kemi Island and down Rocky Island, where we anchored for the night. The following morning we started for Grass Island, where we heard that the Pirates were at anchor. On nearing it, we observed two Junks standing out between the Island and the Mainland. The Boats of the *Calcutta* were sent in chase, whilst we proceeded round the Island to prevent the escape of any others; and as Lieutenant Kennedy was unavoidably separated for some hours, I give his statement as follows:—  
The first Junk proved to be small and without guns; the larger one, however, opened fire on our approach, and finding her retreat cut off, she ran up and ran on shore on the east side of the Island, the Crew jumping overboard, several of whom perished in the surf, and many were killed and wounded by our fire; the remainder escaped to the hills. After much difficulty I veered the cutter in, and got on board with a few hands; she mounted 15 guns, several of a large size, and had a quantity of muskets, stinkpots, and other offensive weapons on board. In the hold we found a Prisoner chained, and one of the Pirates who was afraid to land. As the vessel was bilged and fast breaking-up, we proceeded to the boat taking the Prisoners. Shortly afterwards she blew up. On our way to rejoin the Gunboat, we captured another Junk, mounting 3 guns, the crew of which deserted at our approach. To resume my own narrative: On opening the bight on the other side of the Island, we were immediately fired on by two Junks moored abreast of it, mounting about 30 guns, and some other guns concealed in the Bush. I then chose my position, and after several rounds I blew up the largest with her guns and crew, she firing to the last. Shortly after the other Junk caught fire, and her stern blew up. The boats of the *Calcutta* now rejoined, we landed, and burnt some huts belonging to the Pirates, who, having all taken to the hills, we re-embarked, not thinking it prudent to attempt the recovery of the guns, on account of another explosion. After leaving, about 150 Pirates and Fishermen swarmed on board of and around the wrecks in Sampans. We did not open fire on them, however, fearing to kill innocent people, though I believe all were equally pirates. In ten minutes, the fore part of one of the wrecks blew up, as it was crowded, many met their fate. Being limited to time, I did not attempt the recovery of the guns, which were in 8 feet water; but having examined the bottom of Long Bay, I returned to this anchorage, with two small Junks and a few Prisoners. In concluding my report, I have to express my great satisfaction at the conduct of all the Officers and men employed, especially the crew of H. M. Ship *Calcutta*, under Lieutenant Kennedy.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) C. FORBES,  
Lieutenant and Commander.

Junks captured or destroyed.—1 of 20 guns, and about 50 men; 2 of 15 guns, and about 50 men each; 1 of 3 guns, and about 25 men.  
Casualties.—1 Seaman, severely wounded  
Prisoners.—1 Pirate, and 1 Prisoner of the Pirates; 3 men and 3 women found in Pirate boat.

Sir ROBERT J. L. M. M'CLURE,  
&c., &c., &c.,  
Senior Officer.

True Copy,  
H. F. HANCE.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade, &c., &c., has received from the Consul General of Her Most Catholic Majesty in China, Copy of a Decree issued by His Excellency The Governor and Captain General of the Philippines, by which the Free Importation of Foreign Rice, Paddy, Wheat, Beans, and Coconut Oil, is allowed in the Ports of Manila, Sual, Hoilo, and Zamboanga, during the Year 1858, which announcement is hereby published for general information.

By Order,

GEO. S. MORRISON.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 9th March, 1858.