

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

Showing the range of the Thermometer and Barometer, direction of the Wind, Rain fall, &c.

MONTH.	THERMOMETER.			BAROMETER			WIND.	WEATHER.
	Max.	Med.	Min.	Max.	Med.	Min.		
January.	66	62	50	29.94	29.89	29.83	N.E. & E.	Rain 15 days, 2.30 inches; only a few fine days.
February.	67	63	57	29.95	29.90	29.86	E. & N.E.	Rain 0.28, 5 slight showers.
March.	75	67	59	29.85	29.77	29.75	E.N.E.	Rain 18 days, 3.69 inches; overcast.
April.	80	71	66	29.82	29.77	29.73	E.S.E.	Rain 6 days, 0.71 inches; generally fine.
May.	81	73	75	29.70	29.66	29.64	E.—S.W.—S.E.	Rain 22 days, 15.45 inches; a few fine days.
June.	86	82	79	29.61	29.57	29.54	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 19 days; 27.91 inches; heavy thunder from 22d to 25th—18.50 inches; rain fell in three days; latter part fine.
July.	91	84	78	29.97	29.83	29.70	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 21 days, 6.37 inches.
August.	91	84	78	29.94	29.69	29.57	S.W.—S.S.W.—S.E.	Rain 17 days, 12.07 inches.
September.	90	83	72	30.12	29.80	29.67	S.W.—S.E.—N.E.	Rain 16 days, 5.42 inches.
October.	82	78	69	29.92	29.70	29.64	S.W.—E.—N.E.	Rain 0.54, clear, fine.
November.	77	66	60	30.09	29.91	29.79	N.E.—S.W.—E.N.E.	Rain 0.15.
December.	72	65	59	30.00	29.87	29.75	E.N.E.—N.W.	Rain 0.14; several days cloudy, overcast.

I have to add a few observations with regard to the Central Police Station, the Civil Hospital, and the Gaol.

The Drainage of the Central Police Station is in a very unsatisfactory state, and requires immediate amendment. It seems that the Station is entirely surrounded by a drain which has not a sufficient fall into the sewer, and that the contents of two privies pass into this drain, and must remain there for a considerable time.

Such an arrangement cannot but be injurious to the health of the many persons who inhabit the Station, and I have myself in the Summer several times noticed a most offensive effluvia to arise from it.

The Superintendent of Police has, I believe, called the attention of the Surveyor General to the matter.

I need not dilate upon the necessity which exists for the enlargement of the present Gaol, and the improvement of the Hospital accommodation therein, as the Government is fully alive to it, and has already appropriated funds for the purpose.

A large and commodious house situate at West Point, on a site which, as far as sanitary matters are concerned, is unobjectionable, has been purchased by the Government for a Civil Hospital. On the fitness of the building for this purpose I cannot now report, as its former owners have not as yet vacated it.

T. A. CHALDECOTT,  
Acting Colonial Surgeon.

No. 28.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Despatch from His Excellency Rear-Admiral SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B., covering Captain COLVILLE'S Report of a most successful Expedition against Pirates in the neighbourhood of Koolan, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 17th March, 1859.

Calcutta, at HONGKONG, 17th March, 1859.

SIR.—Having received information that a number of Pirate Vessels had assembled near their old haunt at Coolan, I despatched Her Majesty's Ship *Niger*, and the Gun-boats *Janus* and *Clown*, on the 11th instant, in search of them, accompanied by Mr Caldwell, Registrar General, who, as usual, kindly volunteered his services.

The Squadron returned last night, and I do myself the honour of forwarding your Excellency Acting Captain Colville's report of his proceedings, which will show the essential service rendered to the community at large, and the gallant manner in which Captain Colville and the Officers and Men engaged, have succeeded in destroying a formidable force of Pirates.

I beg to draw your Excellency's notice to the good service rendered by Mr Caldwell—an additional claim to the many already possessed by that zealous Officer. As this is the last opportunity I shall have of addressing your Excellency on the subject of Piracy, I beg your Excellency will express to Mr Caldwell my high sense of the important services rendered by him on the numerous occasions he has volunteered to accompany Her Majesty's Ships on expeditions against Pirates, in which he has volunteered to share all the danger, without the inducements which animate Naval Officers to distinguish themselves.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient, humble Servant,

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

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

H.M.S. *Niger*, HONGKONG, 16th March, 1859.

SIR.—I have the honour to lay before you the results of my late cruise after Pirates, and to congratulate your Excellency on the success of the undertaking.

Acting on information received at Macao, the whole of the 12th instant was spent in searching for a Fleet of Piratical Vessels cruising in the vicinity of the Tang Rocks, but failing to discover them, I weighed towards evening, and anchored late off Koolan, with the intention of visiting Tsoo-chong, under whose batteries a formidable Fleet of Piratical Junks were known to be lying—the depredators of several valuable cargoes: an Owner and Master of two of the captured Junks acting as Pilots, under the able and effective assistance of Mr Caldwell, Registrar General.

Accordingly, at 7 on the morning of the 13th, I proceeded with the Boats (as per margin\*) in tow of the Gunboats *Clown* and *Janus*, and after a run of 14 miles came within sight of a large flotilla of heavily-armed Junks and Row-boats, hauled under the protection of what we subsequently discovered to be regular defences, consisting of a water Stockade, with a double ditch and high stockaded embankment, armed with 36 Guns, protecting the whole sea face and flanks of Tsoo Chong.

Directing Lieutenant Wells in the 10-oared Cutter to examine a suspicious Junk to windward, whilst the *Janus* overhauled two others to leeward, I took the remaining Boats directly in towards the central force of Junks, leaving the *Clown* to cover our movements, but with peremptory orders to fire only in case the Shore Batteries opened on the Boats.

However, it soon became evident that the Enemy were prepared for a determined resistance, the Crews of the Junks joined the Villagers, who, with violent ejaculations and waving white Flags, on which the characters Hoong-kin-wong, (*Triad King*), was prominent, invited us on, at the same time a heavy fire of Round and Grape opened on our advance.

Forming behind a knoll of land, insulated by 500 yards of shallow water from the left extreme of the Stockade, leaving the Pinnacle to cover the landing, and much assisted by the very excellent shell practice of the Gunboats, the storming party dashed waist deep at the Stockade, and receiving a fire of Grape entered the embrasures of an 8-gun Battery, bayonetting the defenders, who crowded the inner ditch and appeared paralysed by the vigour of our proceedings. After a short hand to hand encounter, they retired precipitately, and now was seen the extraordinary sight of 60 Blue Jackets and Marines chasing fully 500 armed Men, through brakes and narrow acclivities for nearly two miles in the rear of the works.

In this movement great numbers of the Enemy were killed, and it had the effect of turning the Sea-defences, thus rendered comparatively harmless.

\* *Galley*,—Acting-Captain Colville.  
*Pinnacle*,—Lieutenant Blako, Mr Laurensen, Mr Pearce, Mr Markham, and Mr Buok.  
*1st Cutter*,—Mr Price, Midshipman.  
*2d Cutter*,—Mr Smyth, do.  
*3d Cutter*,—Mr Wells, Mr Potter, and Mr Wesley; subsequently to the destruction of Tsoo-Chong, Lieutenant Villiers.

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... party were now joined by the men under Lieutenants Blake and Wells, who, by a judicious detour to the right, had ... to the destruction of the Pirates.  
 ... House in the Town was a Magazine, in which large quantities of Arms and Munitions were stored. I consequently directed the ... be burnt. Eight large piratical fighting Junks and eleven Fast-boats shared a similar fate, their Guns having previously been sunk ... Water. The 36 Guns of the Land-defences were also destroyed. Considerable resistance was offered by two of the Junks; the ... repeatedly hulled.  
 ... I bring to your Excellency's notice the very large force of Men, consisting of at least Thirteen Hundred effectively armed, with a ... perfect knowledge of locale, and the determination they evinced in opposing our landing, I cannot but feel astonished at our good ... that a casualty occurred, whereas the loss of the Enemy could not have been under a Hundred and Eighty Men.  
 ... communicating with a Mandarin Junk force just arrived from Macao, with the information that 7 Pirate Junks were at anchor off ... opposite Moto, the Boats returned to the Ship at Koolan.  
 ... 14.—Having despatched the *Niger* to await my arrival at Macao, I proceeded with the whole Boat Force to examine the numerous ... the west of Broadway *en route* to Lie-wan-moon.  
 ... 14. By opposite Koo-lan, four piratical Junks, with Guns, numerically formidable, were driven on Shore and burnt by Lieutenant ... In the largest, an English red Ensign was found.  
 ... a deep inlet to the North of Louchow, three others were captured and destroyed.  
 ... Arriving at the Lie-wan-moon, I was informed that the seven Junks had slipped a few hours previously, and ran higher up the Creek. ... in pointing out their position were graphic in their account of the barbarities they were committing, and hailed our arrival with ... enthusiastic rejoicings. A Hamlet had been sacked and a Passage-boat taken that very morning. Advancing until dusk I anchored, ... (by getting Pilot.) for prosecuting my search in the morning.  
 ... 15.—Weighed at Daylight and piloted by Boatmen, who had been robbed by these Pirates on the Evening of our visit, threaded ... of the tortuous Reach connecting Broadway with a River running in a parallel direction.  
 ... The Piratical Squadron were shortly discovered ahead, using every effort to escape.  
 ... When the sternmost one, mounting 24 Guns, was brought to, she proved to have been a Rice-boat captured in January last, from a ... Chinese Merchant, who accompanied Mr Caldwell. I caused her, therefore, having previously removed the Guns, to be restored.  
 ... Three Passage-boats were likewise released.  
 ... The Gunboats now unfortunately taking the ground, I despatched the Boats to capture the remainder, a service I am bound to add most ... created, the Pinnace under Lieutenant Blake (the senior Lieutenant present,) after a running fight of one hour and a quarter driving ... 9-guns on Shore, her Crew being immediately pounced upon by Mandarin Soldiers. Another Junk of 12-guns after a vigorous ... in which two Stinkpots were thrown into Boats of *Janus*, under Lieutenant Knevitt, was carried by boarding; and three others, ... respectively 7, 9, and 22-guns, were captured and burnt by Lieutenant Villiers, with the two Cutters in co-operation with the *Clown*.  
 ... Exclusive of the Crew who fell into the hands of the Mandarins, Twenty-one Pirates were killed on this occasion by the fire from the ... and the Guns mostly 18 and 24-pounders, of American manufacture, were sunk beyond means of recovery. I then returned to the ... Macao, arriving at midnight, from whence I proceeded this morning to join your Flag.  
 ... In bringing before you the important results achieved by the zeal and gallantry of the Officers of the Boats and their Crews, I beg to ... the great assistance derived from the Gunboats, to Lieutenants Lee and Knevitt, and the 2d Masters Messrs Gilpin and Worsfold, so ... in their attention, every praise is due. Yet to Mr Caldwell the success attending this expedition is mainly owing; without his ... and adept method of gaining information, I fear our endeavours would have been futile.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your ... servant,

GEORGE S. COLVILE,  
*Acting-Captain.*

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

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, 18th March, 1859.

Account of the average Amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, for the Month ending 28th February, 1859, rendered in accordance with the Terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED,	\$545,910.
SPECIE IN RESERVE,	\$200,000.

P. CAMPBELL,  
*Manager.*

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong, 1st March, 1859.

I inspected this day the Books and Treasure Vault of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and hereby certify, that the Specie in Reserve is in accordance with the Terms of the Royal Charter.

FRED. FORTH,  
*Colonial Treasurer.*

J. A. CARVALHO,  
*Accountant.*

Victoria, Hongkong, 11th March, 1859.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Notes in Circulation and Specie in Reserve at the Bank of the CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA, in Hongkong, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 18th March, 1859.

Account of the average Amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, in Hongkong, for the Month ending 28th February, 1859, rendered in accordance with the Terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED,	\$324,866.*
SPECIE IN RESERVE,	\$150,000.

\* exclusive of the Notes of the Mercantile Bank still outstanding.

JOHN COSTERTON,  
*Manager.*

Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, in Hongkong,  
 Hongkong, 1st March, 1859.

I hereby certify, that I have this day inspected the Books and Treasure Vault of the above-mentioned Bank, and that the Amount of Specie in Reserve is in accordance with the Terms of the Royal Charter.

FRED. FORTH,  
*Colonial Treasurer.*

J. A. CARVALHO,  
*Accountant.*

Victoria, Hongkong, 11th March, 1859.