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No. 63.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Colonial Surgeon's Report, with Returns on the Sanitary Condition of the Colony for the past Year, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th April, 1864.

VICTORIA, HONGKONG, *March*, 1864.

In drawing up this my Fifth Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Colony, I regret that it must exhibit in several important respects an increased rate of mortality and an apparently less healthy condition of the population. On looking more carefully however, at details it will be seen that there are explanations sufficiently well founded to remove to some extent this first impression. But even if this modified position were untenable it must not be forgotten that the year 1863 was one of exceptional severity, and I believe that the majority of old residents in China felt, in common with myself, a degree of oppressiveness in the summer atmosphere quite unusual and altogether disproportionate to the admittedly high range of the thermometer. In spite of this it will be seen that the ratio of mortality among Foreign Residents was not quite so high as in 1861—nor as in 1859—the Table (No. IX.) shewing the manner in which an unhealthy year is generally followed by one remarkable for its salubrity.

Hongkong from its peculiar position in relation to the mainland of China and the other ports of the East must at all times be liable to epidemic diseases, and notwithstanding the energetic efforts of the health officer cases of infectious disease are undoubtedly imported. The past year has nevertheless exhibited a remarkable exemption from that fearful scourge: Small-pox; only three cases having been admitted into the Civil Hospital against 29 cases in 1862.

Cholera proved a much more fatal malady and to its invasion must be traced, to a great extent, the unsatisfactory statistical returns hereto appended. From July to October cases continued to occur, but the greatest number of persons were attacked during the heat of August, when the atmosphere conveyed the sensation of being saturated with miasm. 14 cases were admitted into the Civil Hospital, of which 10 died; 8 into the Seaman's Hospital, of which 6 died; and 1 into the Gaol Hospital, which proved fatal; besides a few in the Town, which were not admitted into any Hospital, and of which I possess no official record. It was however at Stone Cutters' Island, where the men being in an unusual condition, and more prone to be attacked by epidemics, that it shewed its greatest virulence; for there out of 27 seizures there were 20 deaths. Thus out of 50 recorded cases there occurred 37 deaths or 74 per cent—a very high rate, shewing the severe character of the epidemic; for in this disease it is customary to consider 50 per cent a fair average mortality; nine-tenths of all attacked dying at the commencement of an epidemic and very few towards its termination.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea have been, as might well have been expected, considering the choleraic infection, much more prevalent as well as more intractable and fatal than in former years; in both Hospitals the number of admissions has been doubled, and the rate of mortality much increased beyond the average.

Some few cases of fever shewed themselves of a more dangerous type than has been met with for some years past. One in particular approached very closely in several important symptoms to yellow fever.

Altogether the past year has been remarkable for its depressing effect on the European constitution. It has not been rare that patients recovering from one disease have been attacked by another which proved fatal. And where no such second infection has followed the convalescence from the first disease, relapses have been frequent and ultimate recovery and restoration to perfect health the exception.

Leprosy comparatively unseen in the Colony hitherto has become common during the past year. The subjects of this loathsome and contagious disease have all come here in their infected condition, and the Police have most properly transported them several times even as far as Canton, but the same individuals return again and again. Having in view the health of the Town it will be necessary to devise some means of putting a stop to their visits, which at present are encouraged by the liberality of several charitable people.

It only remains for me, prior to recording the statistics of the various institutions which come Officially under my cognizance, to refer to the Committee for Sanitary purposes, the appointment of which was mentioned in my last report. This Committee has terminated its labors, and already one of the good results emanating from its appointment by the Government, may be seen in the trapping of the openings of several of the drains throughout the Town.

I. THE POLICE.

This body continues to be distinguished for its extreme healthiness even more markedly than in previous years. This is shewn in the following tables:

Table I. shews the admissions into and deaths in the Hospital of Members of the Police Force during every month of 1863.

Table II. shews the rate per cent of Sickness and Mortality of the Force during the same year.

With an average strength 25 per cent over that of 1862, the deaths in 1863 have only exceeded those of the former year by one; and the rate of sickness has little more than reached half of the percentage of 1862.

The men have for the most part become quite reconciled to the monthly examination for the detection of Venereal disease; and the good effects resulting from the system continue to be as marked as formerly recorded, in the smaller number of affected men and the greater facility of treating the cases of disease met with. I am glad to be able to record that there has been a great improvement in the number of impostors feigning disease to avoid disagreeable duty or punishment for its neglect. The number admitted under this head amounting only to 25 in 1863 against 50 in 1862.

The force is well clothed and well housed, and as might be expected under such circumstances is not peculiarly liable to any special class of disease.

Table XII., kindly furnished to me by Dr. Home, the Principal Military Medical Officer, gives a comparative return of the health of the Troops serving in Hongkong.

II. THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

Tables III. and VI. give the classification and result of treatment of the various patients admitted into this Hospital, with the percentage of Mortality during the last five years.

Table IV., kindly sent me by the Resident Surgeon Dr. Adams, gives similar information in regard to the Seaman's Hospital. It will be noticed that the death ratio in this establishment exhibits an improvement upon that of the preceding year, but any fair rate cannot be looked for until both the building and appliances for treatment are placed upon a very different footing than they are at present. In comparing the return of this Hospital with that of the Government Civil Hospital it must not be forgotten that the patients in the former neither comprise destitutes or schemers, which, as will be seen by the tables, form a considerable item in the number admitted into the latter institution.

In the Civil Hospital the result of treatment has not been seen so successful as I should have desired. Indeed judging by statistics only, the rate of Mortality has greatly exceeded that of any year since 1858. This excess is however much more apparent than real, for a glance at the Tables will shew that the great increase may be fairly attributed in a large measure to Cholera, to which I have already referred and to starvation: two accidental sources of mortality. Of the former there were no less than ten fatal cases, to which may be fairly added six cases of Diarrhoea, fatal at the time of the outbreak of Cholera; of the latter there were thirteen deaths, making a total of twenty-nine, which if deducted from the number recorded, reduces the rate of mortality to a not unusual average. In proof of the correctness of this view it will be seen that the increase has been principally among the Chinese; the death ratio of Europeans scarcely exceeding that of 1861, and the ratio of colored persons being less than 1862.

It is a subject for serious consideration that thirteen persons should have died in Hospital from the effects of starvation, besides sixteen whose bodies were picked up by the Police and brought to the Hospital for examination; 29 deaths from this cause therefore of which I am cognizant, and two of the number were Europeans. With reference to the Chinese it is extremely difficult to suggest an advisable means of preventing or diminishing the frequency of a spectacle so harrowing, as any efficient relief offered to the starving mendicants would at once make this Colony the almshouse of the South of China. No similar argument applies in the case of Europeans, and I am certain that such an occurrence requires only to be pointed out to be prevented for the future.

III. THE GAOL.

Table V. shews the rate of Sickness and Mortality in this establishment.

It will be noted that the death rate was less than one-half of that of the previous year. The total number of fatal cases only amounted to 12, and none of those were the result of incarceration. Most providentially, when Cholera was committing such ravages at Stone Cutters' Island, and striking its victims in our crowded streets and among the taverns in Queen's Road, only a single case occurred in Victoria Gaol. An exemption more remarkable from the fact that in 1862 Cholera occurred there in a most malignant form and was almost entirely confined within the limits of the Chinese prison.

Since my last Report the whole of the Chinese prisoners have been transferred to the new buildings, and the establishment is now clean, wholesome and well ventilated, in every way leading us to expect a continuance of the satisfactory sanitary condition of Victoria Gaol. This has further been improved by the removal of the Convicts, or Chinese under sentence of more than 12 months imprisonment, to Stone Cutters' Island, which has permitted the new buildings to be kept in a comparatively uncrowded condition.

The numbers confined in Victoria Gaol during the year 1863, were:—

Europeans,	521
Indians,	299
Chinese,	2,611
Total,	<u>3,431</u>

But the daily average was 533½, of which number only 12 died.

An important improvement has been introduced in the manner of shackling prisoners sent out to work on the roads. Instead of the cumbersome double rod which formerly made the prisoner nearly useless as a laborer and rendered him extremely liable to ulcers and chafes on the legs, a small ring and light chain have been substituted, which remove to a great extent those inconveniences.

IV. THE CONVICT HULK.

In the middle of June the ship *Royal Saxon*, having been purchased and fitted up as a Convict Hulk by the Government, was moored between Stone Cutters' Island and the Mainland, and the Island declared a Convict Station.

280 convicts having been examined and pronounced fit for outdoor work were sent on board, and in the opinion of every qualified person who examined the excellent arrangements, these prisoners should have enjoyed a fair share of health.

The Hulk was visited daily by Mr. Richardson, the Surgeon appointed to perform that duty, and was inspected by me about once a fortnight.

Table XIII. appears to point to a result altogether unexpected; for out of a total of 384 prisoners received on board up to the 31st of December no less than 41 died of disease—being a death ratio of 10.67 per cent. But when we come to analyse this great mortality we find that 20 died of Cholera, and 6 of Diarrhoea connected with an epidemic of Cholera, which raged

principally during the month of August. Thus deducting 26 from 41 we have only 15 deaths to account for. By this deduction the death ratio is at once reduced within ordinary limits. I do not believe that the vessel in which the prisoners were confined had much to do with their sickness and death. The cause must be looked for in a different quarter, and I am of opinion that it was principally due to the following circumstances:

1. Most of the prisoners had been confined in Victoria Gaol for some time before their removal to Stone Cutters' Island. They had been carefully guarded from sun, rain and any but the most wholesome diet, as long sentence prisoners did not work on the roads.

2. On arriving at Stone Cutter's Island they were sent on shore to work and were necessarily exposed more or less to sun and rain, and freely partook of the wild pineapples and sugar cane which grew abundantly on the island.

3. The work which they performed was cutting roads and turning over and levelling the soil. Whether correctly or otherwise, such labor was pronounced to have been a fertile cause of disease in the early days of this Colony, is supposed to have been partially so at Kowloon, and was most probably so also at Stone Cutter's Island.

The greatest care was taken to have the Hulk freely ventilated and kept clean and wholesome, and I venture to assert that the thermometer never attained the same elevation, nor the ozonometer never indicated the same foulness of the atmosphere on the lower deck of the *Royal Saxon*, as might have been observed any night of the preceding year, in the long rooms in the old Gaol, occupied by the same Chinese Prisoners, who were then eminently healthy.

V. THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

The results of the working of Ordinance No. 12 of 1857, by which this Institution was established continue to be very satisfactory.

Table VII. affords most instructive information on this subject.

It is unnecessary for me to reiterate my already frequently expressed opinion (vide previous Annual Reports) as to the importance of taking every possible means of controlling the spread of venereal disease among disciplined men. Nor is it necessary for me to repeat here that I consider this disease a danger of much greater gravity to the European constitution than the climate itself. I shall limit myself to repeating that the Ordinance and the periodical examination have enabled us to effect much good in reference to the Police; and I believe that both the Military and Naval Authorities have marked the great benefit accruing to their men. The table conveys the following information: that during the six years the Ordinance has been in force 1,994 infected women have been segregated from the localities in which they could convey infection and that during a total of 53,977 days; or in other words, supposing that every infected woman would only convey the disease to one man during each day she was diseased, we have at least 53,977 cases of disease prevented, or at all events 53,977 opportunities of conveying disease have been prevented.

Table VIII. gives fuller details as to the character of the diseases, and their average duration during every month of the year 1863.

In every respect the Ordinance work well and only requires extended action to effect all that could have been hoped from it by its framers.

Table IX. is an approximative estimate of the Mortality among Foreign Residents in Hongkong during the last six years. The data from which it is compiled are furnished to me by the Registrar General as regards the Number of Residents and by the sextons of the two Cemeteries as regards the deaths, excluding in both cases Military, and Naval and Merchant Seamen, as well as burials in the Hospitals. Supposing the data to be correct, the result is not so satisfactory in reference to the climate of Hongkong as in the previous year. It would however be unfair to omit all mention of an important piece of statistical information afforded me by the Sheriff, viz: that at least one third of the residents change every year; and it is notorious that as soon as an European becomes attacked by any climatic disease of a serious character, he leaves the country if at all able to do so. This fact must materially affect all attempts at statistical observation, still it is probable that the comparative ratio will prove tolerably near the truth, as this exodus of the Foreign population must tell equally or nearly so every year.

Table X. gives the usual information regarding the work performed by the Inspector of Nuisances attached to this Department.

Table XI. shews the annual mean state of the atmosphere during the year 1863, as recorded at the Government Civil Hospital, which fully corroborates all that has been affirmed in reference to the severity of the past year.

J. I. MURRAY, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

1.—THE POLICE.

TABLE shewing the Admissions into Hospital and Deaths during the Year 1863.

MONTH.	EUROPEANS.		COLOURED.		CHINESE.		TOTAL. Admissions.	TOTAL. Deaths.
	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.		
January,	11	..	28	3	3	..	42	3
February,	7	..	10	1	..	..	17	1
March,	8	..	26	..	..	..	34	..
April,	11	1	25	..	1	..	37	2
May,	14	1	22	..	1	1	37	2
June,	13	1	21	..	1	..	35	1
July,	9	..	26	..	3	..	38	..
August,	15	1	22	..	2	..	39	1
September,	9	1	20	1	..	..	29	2
October,	7	..	25	..	1	..	33	..
November,	8	..	19	1	..	..	27	..
December,	8	..	21	..	..	..	29	..
Total,	120	5	265	6	12	1	397	12

2.—TABLE *showing the RATE of SICKNESS and MORTALITY in the POLICE FORCE during the Year 1863.*

AVERAGE STRENGTH.				TOTAL SICK.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.
Europeans.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Total.				
46	360	110	516	397	12	76.95 per cent.	2.32 per cent.

3.—TABLE *showing the RATE of MORTALITY in the Government Civil Hospital during the Five Years ending 1863.*

RATE TO TOTAL NO. OF ADMISSIONS.						RATE TO NO. OF EUROPEAN ADMISSIONS.					RATE TO NO. OF COLORED PERSONS ADMITTED.					RATE TO NO. OF CHINESE ADMISSIONS.				
1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863
17.88	8.62	6.90	6.47	5.41	10.63	6.09	9.31	9.16	5.41	10.97	6.44	3.43	2.01	2.70	2.44	28.98	8.23	11.65	12.78	32.27
per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.

4.—THE SEAMAN'S HOSPITAL.

TABLE *showing the Number of Admissions and MORTALITY during the Year 1863.*

DISEASE.	ADMIS- SIONS.	DEATHS.	DISEASE.	ADMIS- SIONS.	DEATHS.
			<i>Brought forward,.....</i>	159	25
Abcess,	5	..	Hernia, direct,	2	..
Accidents,	18	2	" strangulated,	1	..
Amaurosis,	2	..	Jaundice,	1	..
Ascites,	6	3	Orchitis,	4	..
Asthma,	2	..	Paralysis,	2	1
Abcess, p.soas,.....	1	..	Pleuritis,	1	..
Boils,	3	..	Phthisis,	6	1
Bowels, Inf. of	1	..	Pneumonia,	2	..
Bronchitis,	2	..	Psoriasis,	1	..
Bubo,	3	..	Necrosis,	2	..
Cholera,	8	6	Nephritis,	3	..
Constipation,	2	..	Rheumatism,	22	1
Debility,.....	1	..	Sciatica,	1	..
Delirium Tremens,.....	1	..	Scurvy,	15	..
Diarrhoea,	16	3	Stricture,	6	..
Dysentery,	27	10	Syphilis, 2dy,.....	5	..
Eye, Inf. of.....	3	..	" Primary,	7	..
Fever, Brain,.....	1	..	Tonsillitis,	1	..
" Continued,.....	3	..	Ulcers, Chronic,	7	..
" Intermittent,.....	24	..	" Syphilitic,	3	..
" Gastric,	1	1	Ulcerated Legs,	3	..
Gastritis,	1	..	Variola,.....	3	..
Gonorrhoea,	27	..	Wounds, gun shot,	2	1
Hæmoptysis,	1	..			
<i>Carried forward,.....</i>	159	25	TOTAL,.....	259	29

Rate of Deaths to Number of Admissions,.....11.19 per cent.

5.—TABLE *showing the RATE of SICKNESS and MORTALITY in the GAOL during the Year 1863.*

TOTAL NO. OF PRISONERS.	AVERAGE NO. OF PRISONERS.	TOTAL SICK IN HOSPITAL.	TOTAL SICK TRIFLING CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF SERIOUS SICKNESS.		RATE OF MORTALITY.	
					To Total.	To Average.	To Total.	To Average.
3,431	533½	50	1815	12	1.45	9.56	0.34	2.25

7.—TABLE shewing the ADMISSIONS into the GOVERNMENT LOCK HOSPITAL during the Six Years of its existence, with the number of Diets issued and the average length of treatment.

ADMISSIONS.							NO. OF DIETS ISSUED.							AVERAGE NO. OF DAYS TREATED.					
1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
124	162	361	442	485	420	1,994	4,797	5,389	9,107	10,778	12,198	11,707	53,977	43.8	30.8	23.7	23.4	22.0	23.7

8.—TABLE shewing the Monthly Admissions, Classification of Disease, and average duration of treatment of each, in the GOVERNMENT LOCK HOSPITAL during the Year 1863.

MONTHS.	CHANCRES.	AVERAGE DAYS.	GONORRHEA.	AVERAGE DAYS.	ULCERS OF UTERUS.	AVERAGE DAYS.	TOTAL CASES.
January,	5	10½	1	3	32	22¾	38
February,	5	24	1	8	37	20	43
March,	17	41	1	11	33	20½	51
April,	14	41	4	6½	12	31	30
May,	11	44	12	17½	15	23	38
June,	10	54	15	21	7	25¾	32
July,	14	63	12	29	11	23	37
August,	6	39½	14	19½	3	24	23
September,	7	30½	13	19	10	32	30
October,	6	32	20	25	8	21	34
November,	6	34	18	24	1	9	25
December,	9	13	23	11	7	32¾	39
TOTAL,	110	..	134	..	176	..	420

9.—TABLE shewing the Rate of MORTALITY among the FOREIGN RESIDENTS in HONGKONG, during the last Six Years.

YEARS.	NO. OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN RESIDENTS.	BURIALS OF RESIDENTS IN PROTESTANT AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES.	PER CENTAGE OF DEATHS TO NO. OF RESIDENTS.
1858,	1462	110	7.52
1859,	1031	70	6.66
1860,	1592	51	3.20
1861,	1557	101	6.48
1862,	1604	46	2.24
1863,	1644	104	6.32
TOTAL,	8890	482	5.42

10.—TABLE shewing the Work performed by the INSPECTOR of NUISANCES during the Year 1863.

NO. OF SUMMONSES ISSUED.	NO. OF PERSONS FINED.	NO. OF PERSONS DISCHARGED.	NO. OF NOTICES ISSUED.	FOR DEFECTIVE DRAINAGE.	FOR ACCUMULATION OF FILTH.	AMOUNT OF FINES.		
						In Dollars.	In Sterling.	TOTAL.
1,324	1,523	114	5,510	1,930	3,533	\$ c. 1,335.00	Nil.	£ s. d. 278.2.6

11.—TABLE showing the ANNUAL MEAN STATE of the ATMOSPHERE during the Year 1863, as recorded at the CIVIL HOSPITAL.

1863.	BAROMETER.			FAHRENHEIT THERMOMETER.				HYGROMETER.				Rain in Inches during the Month.	STATE OF THE WEATHER.			
	Standard.		Aneroid.	Self registering in Shade.		Detached.		Dry Bulb.		Wet Bulb.				In inches.		
				During the Month.		In Sun.		In Shade.		In Shade.						
	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 A.M.				3 P.M.	
MONTH.					Max.	Min.								Average during the Month.		
January,	30.44	30.39	30.08	29.98	65	57	72	71	59	60	60	62	55	57	1.80	Fine, cloudy and misty.
February,	30.34	30.27	29.48	29.81	69	61	79	79	63	64	64	65	59	61	..	Overcast, gloomy and fine.
March,	30.33	30.29	29.98	29.92	71	61	71	75	64	65	64	64½	60	61½	1.99	Overcast, gloomy and foggy.
April,	30.16	30.10	29.83	29.75	79	66	90	95	71	73	73	75	68	69	0.43	Fine.
May,	30.30	29.98	29.75	29.65	81	73	90	89	75	77	77	79	73	74	4.40	Overcast, cloudy and gloomy.
June,	29.97	29.88	29.55	29.52	88	79	100	98	82	81½	83½	83	77	77½	29.75	Fine, cloudy and rain.
July,	29.84	29.82	29.50	29.48	87	78	103	102	79	78½	83½	84	78	78½	5.96	Do., overcast and cloudy.
August,	29.85	29.80	29.51	29.45	85	77	93	96	80	81	82	83	77	76	15.91	Overcast, cloudy and rain.
September,	29.93	29.84	29.58	29.54	84	77	93	90	80	79	81	80	74	76	20.12	Fine and clear, overcast and rain.
October,	30.30	30.15	29.83	29.79	78	73	86	88	74	75	75	76	70	71	3.61	Fine and clear.
November,	30.33	30.26	30.20	29.92	78	63	81	82	66	67	67	68	60	61	1.63	Fine and clear.
December,	30.34	30.10	29.95	29.85	62	64	74	78	55	56	56	57	50	52	2.20	Fine and overcast.
Annual Mean,	30.16	30.80	29.76	29.72	77	68	86	80	70½	71½	72	73½	67	68	81.61	

12.—TABLE shewing the Rate of SICKNESS and MORTALITY of the TROOPS serving in HONGKONG, during the Year 1863.

STRENGTH.			ADMISSIONS INTO HOSPITAL.			DEATHS.			RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.
White.	Black.	Total.	White.	Black.	Total.	White.	Black.	Total.		
1025	470	1495	2271	472	2751	39	12	51	184.01	3.41
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	per cent.	per cent.

13.—TABLE shewing the RATE of SICKNESS and MORTALITY in the CONVICT HULK "ROYAL SAXON" from June 15th to December 31st, 1863.

TOTAL NO. OF PRISONERS.	AVERAGE NO. OF PRISONERS.	TOTAL SICK IN HOSPITAL.	TOTAL SICK TRIFLING CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF SERIOUS SICKNESS.		RATE OF MORTALITY.	
					To Total.	To Average.	To Total.	To Average.
384	250	90	157	41	23.43	36.00	10.67	16.40

No. 64.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

At the Annual Meeting of the Hongkong Volunteers, held on the 7th Ultimo, it was resolved that subject to the approval of His Excellency the GOVERNOR, Rule 13 should be so far added to as to read that any Vacancies occurring in the Committee during the year be filled from the Corps by the Committee for that year only.

Under Section 5 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1862, the above alteration has been submitted to His Excellency the GOVERNOR, who, having confirmed the same, directs it to be published for general information, as an addition to the Volunteer Rules and Regulations of 14th May, 1862.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th April, 1864.

No. 65.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following letter from Captain Nolloth, Senior Naval Officer, detailing certain property found on board of a piratical Lorch, is published for general information.

The Articles enumerated may be seen, for purpose of recognition and identification, at the Central Police Station of this City.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th April, 1864.

H. M. S. *Princess Charlotte*,
HONGKONG, 4th April, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, on the 16th ultimo, H. M. gun-boat *Bustard* captured off Bohea Village, in Pinghai Bay, a Canton pirate lorch—formerly a Canton fishing vessel—and that in her were found:—

1. A brown cloth Great Coat.
2. Pair of India-rubber Boots.
3. A House flag, red, with a white centre, bearing the letters H.E. in blue.
4. A Note-book with gilt edge leaves, containing Chinese writing.
5. Fragment of an American Periodical entitled "Gleasons Pictorial Drawing Room Companion," (apparently for 1856.)

N.B.—All these Articles appear to be American.

The lorch had arrived, four days previously from off Ningpo and had recently engaged some foreign lorchs off Quancheu. As three of the crew, who were taken and handed over by the gun-boat to the Native Authorities at Hoochow, pretended to have been themselves prisoners to the pirates, no account could be obtained from them regarding the above-mentioned Articles or their owners, and I have thought that the publication of the list of the former—which will be disposed of as you may desire—might lead to desirable information.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

M. S. NOLLOTH,
*Captain and Senior Officer.*HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, &c., &c., &c.,
Hongkong.