

which it is always disposed to do. But the cumulative acts of inefficiency of Lieut. Bird make it necessary that some measure should take place. Depend upon it the Court will not permit private accusations: profits are demanded in all instances, and in case the Court overlooked those demands of justice, there are many members of the Court who would not be so easily disposed to the Court dismissing with impunity a criminally opposing in innocent cases."

There are several points here furnishing subject for animadversion. The first is the legal flaw in the articles of War. We know not whether this is technical or actual—whether it refers to a mere misreading of the articles in question, or to more specialties omitted to be provided for—to any thing in short, the code makers themselves could have remedied, or whether the powers required to be exercised were such as an Act of Parliament alone could have conferred. In the first case, the remedy might have been obtained by return of post from London, the code being as easily amended as amended in the second the loss time or amount of trouble incurred would have been of account considerable—the legislature being at all times most ready to interpose its authority when this is required for the advance of the real interests of any department of the service of the State. Parliament had set to work to it, when the Commodore of the Indian, and Captain of the Royal Navy, might have been made Lord High Admiral of the Eastern Seas, vested with power of pit and gallows, or any little gentle acts which might have been supposed congenial to his mild and merciful disposition. Parliament is omnipotent, and a representation of the case as it actually stands would have furnished a picture to repugnant to the feelings of British, mild, and educated English gentlemen to permit it to remain unaltered. There was no such monstrous luxury: the Indian Navy had even managed to rub on for some twelvemonth without its Superintendent: the imbrication of an useless Lieutenant could not within a similar lapse of time have proved very disastrous. Lieutenant Bird was in no appointment from which mischief could arise from incompetency. He was absent on such leave as he might have remained until the law was passed. There was no fear of any objection being taken, even had this been the fact that the law might have been *ex post facto*—referring to offences committed before it came into force. All that was desired was trial of any kind on any law—the production of charges and of evidence, no matter about forms of procedure. The hot haste with which summary dismissal was resorted to, will connect with other circumstances, he regarded the world as a proof that the Marine Articles were conscious no conviction could have been had any regular method of enquiry been resorted to, and that Lieut. Bird was dismissed pending the completion of the code, because if tried by the code on the eve of coming into operation he might have been acquitted. This so far from mending matters, makes them worse than they were before, and marks an act of monstrous despotism with the stain of cowardice added to that of tyranny.

But the Court, it seems, were averse to remove any man without trial: we have no doubt of it when we believe the desire to oppose to be confined to Bombay. Had any heed in this case been paid to the wishes of the Court, a virtual trial could have been obtained for Lieut. Bird without any law being requisite about the matter. He had to be made aware that the Court proposed removing him from the service in consequence of the representations as to his inefficiency as an officer being sent in to them; he might have been furnished with the charges at length, and the evidence regarding them, with permission to make any remarks thereon in the most candid and expedient manner. The statements of the various witnesses could have been set forth along with the evidence the logs or other papers supplied, and the grounds on which the Superintendent came to the conclusions arrived at would have appeared along with the conclusions themselves. This would have been quite satisfactory—always supposing there was such an emergency that the ratification of the Marine Articles of War could not have been waited for. It may be thought the community are confident that it is not necessary to justify the course that has been pursued; as if it were taken on themselves the duty of sponsors to the acts of the Commodore, have placed themselves in the position of having accepted and acted on evidence based on the surmises of the suspicious—the slander of the tale-bearer—the exaggerations and tattle of those delirious of winning favour by ministering to the prejudices of the passionate. The wriest of the language which we have quoted; is mistaken in opinion; that such things as these ever come before the Court in form, or need to consist in any part of the proceedings, need not be shown by Government. If the papers and other documents on which the papers themselves were constructed was not removed, as we believed, of such rubbish as we have indicated, the public impression is most extraordinarily erroneous. Government have not shown in taking the field against the Middle, that it is no point of dignity which prevents them coming into the arena of discussion: let us see the charges of the Superintendent against Lieut. Bird, and evidence on which they are founded—the portion of Government in public opinion can hardly be more than this—their defence scarcely more lame than their former

Turning again to another view of the question, and abandoning for the present the individual cases of Mr Bird altogether: supposing the secret system in reference to him to have taken its course—the belief to be a mass of surmises and fictions, to have been allowed of satisfactory, and the removal which followed just and expedient—we come now to the great Government machinery, in which all the rhetoric and logic of the Castle were promulgated on the heads of the memorializing missionaries. If Government were in possession of a set of marine articles of war which were only inoperative because of some flaw in their construction, or aware that such things were on their way—and in one or other position they must have been—why resort to a long Old Bailey pleading in defence of themselves? why bring the Commodore under a difficulty by hair-splitting technicalities, or attempt to convict the memorialists of a combination which they must have well known to have had no existence? The straightforward and manly course to have pursued would have been in the first place for the Superintendent, instead of using remonstrances, entreaties, and warnings, to nip the memorialists in the bud, to have told the memorialists at once that memorial was superfluous—that articles of war were in process of compilation, and that before any other case of delinquency like that of Lieutenant Bird could occur, regulations would be in force to prevent the necessity of summary dismissal. If the Commodore conceived it incompatible with his dignity, or irreconcilable with his character, to resort to such a course, how much more dignified and open would it have been for Government to have pursued some such line as that suggested than to have followed that they chose to adopt, when the memorialists were assured that there should be no alteration in the system of which they complained—that they were very well off as they were, and had no just cause of complaint? They might have said that the case of Lieutenant Bird was decided, and could now no longer be entertained—he was not tried by court-martial because of a flaw in the marine code which rendered such trial impossible, but that the evidence produced against him was such as had satisfied the authority that he was allowed to possess; that no apprehension need be entertained of any such case hereafter occurring.—Government and the Court of Directors having long been of the same opinion as the memorialists, that dismissal without an open trial was most inexpedient, and that a marine code such as would, it was hoped, be most satisfactory to all parties, was in process of compilation: that the evils that had occurred would make the marine legislators anxious to accelerate arrangements; and that in these assurances the memorialists might rest satisfied and might, if they so desired, withdraw their memorials, the prayer of which had been voluntarily granted by anticipation, its reasonableness having been allowed.

As matters now stand, Government have told us that memorial was uncalculated—matters have always been most admirably managed, and no alteration in them will be allowed; being, at the time of giving vent to these expressions, aware that the Court of Directors themselves, considering the concession asked for indispensable, had actually made it before it was that the alteration declared necessary and inadmissible had in reality been made.

Our correspondent speaks of the accumulated evidences against Mr Bird: these evidences, as we have repeatedly stated, are universally believed pure imaginations of the marine office. But opposite to be as substantial as they are the opposite, it will surely be allowed that there ought not to be one law for Snooks and another for Smith—that if Jenkins is to be victimised, Tomkins ought not to escape for similar or for greater errors. The local press has in this matter expressed an amount of indignation and burning desire of forbearance, else the exposures they could have made would have been fearful. Had we chosen to descend to personalities, how many members of the marine staff besides the Assistant Superintendent would have remained around the Commodore? The wise selection of ministers has universally been allowed the best evidence of the wisdom of a ruler, as the choice of foolish subordinates is the surest proof of incompetency at the head of affairs. How would Government like to see the members of the Commodore's staff in this way? or to have those who have been promoted and petted, pitched against those who have been persecuted by him, that the world might decide on the amount of discernment and impartiality exercised?

That the Indian Navy should have remained till this time of day without articles of war and a code of regulations, is not more a disgrace to its present head than to those who have preceded him—or more correctly speaking, to the Government who hold themselves responsible for its administration.

Sir R. Oliver had not completed the second year of his administration when complaints were made by Government to the Court, and by them resented, of laxity of discipline, and Government were told that they were possessed of sufficient authority to enable them through the Superintendent to frame and to enforce the necessary regulations, in the judicious exercise of which they might ever depend on the support of the home authorities. The laxity then declared to be but recent in its commencement, it would appear, been ever since on the increase: the Government possessed of authority to form rules for its extinction know best how the power has been exercised. The fact that regulations have been sent from home, and on their arrival virtually suppressed, is a sufficient comment on the whole.

Discord is harmony not understood: extreme eccentricity of manners is often a cunning device to conceal an imbecility of mind. Men who just know no more than to be aware that they cannot be so far wrong, ordinary standards without being formed by the eyes of the world, are the usual tests—the unreflecting believing them to be above the rules by which they decline to be guided, the more discerning more wisely adopting a precisely opposite view of the case. The portion of the Commodore's official conduct most easily brought within rules is that referring to the composition of general orders and to the supply of cables: were the rest subjected to a similar regulated scheme of reference, there would, we expect, be no want of harmony amongst the results.—Beady 7522.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF THE PORT OF CANTON. PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTIONS OF THE CANTON BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

EXPORT OF TEA TO AUSTRALIA FROM 1st JULY 1847 TO DATE.

	Total 1st July 1847 to 31st Dec.	Kingston to Sydney 15th Jan'y.	Total from 1st July 1847 to date	Total same period last year.
Congou	541,768	40,800	582,068	682,636
Caper	23,918		23,918	17,938
Souchong	21,570	2,700	24,270	
Hyson Skin	1,760,059	288,200	2,009,259	2,217,361
Hyson	8,918		8,918	26,450
Young Hyson	2,000		2,000	
Wookay	59,855		59,855	
Imperial	2,005	800	2,005	2,964
Gunpowder	17,292	2,000	17,292	11,928
Total	2,456,267	335,000	2,719,267	3,189,892

ABSTRACT STATEMENT OF MANIFESTS OF VESSELS BAILED FROM ENGLAND TO CHINA NOT YET ARRIVED.

	June Previous August 2	July Present October 11	Months October 16	John Cooper/John O'Shannon November 18	November 18	December 18	December 18	December 18	Total in 4 ships.
Plain Cotton yards.	2,297,300		1,173,424	1,206,070	82	1,500	921	2,529,500	7,552,880
Yarn		5,500	600	1,200	600				82
Long Ella pieces				400	850				8,900
Spa stripes do.				200					2,677
Camlets do.									400
Lainings do.									
Woolens do.	946					776			775
Iron-Bar tons.		465	47						47
Hoop do.			9						9
Red do.			40						40
Pig do.									
Wire do.									

EXPORT OF SUNDRIES TO THE UNITED STATES FROM CANTON AND SHANGHAI FROM 1st JULY 1847 TO DATE &c.

ARTICLES.	Total from 1st July to 20th Jan'y.	Shanghai to New York	Amoy to New York	Swatow to New York	Sumat' to New York	Total from 1st July to date	Total in same period last year.
Pungent	51,719	550				52,269	26,221
Handkerchiefs	27,333					27,333	15,150
Sarsons	8,723	325				9,048	4,827
Senshaw	6,655					6,655	2,967
Camlets	600					600	
Lustre	824					824	354
Satin	458					458	642
Danacos	459					459	545
Levanines	166					166	628
Crapes	60					60	233
Crape shawls and wools	73,065	40				73,105	43
Raw Silk	2,431					2,431	36,501
Nankens	1,574					1,574	62
Grass cloth	1,574	562				2,136	80
Camlets	1,574		100	140		1,814	659
Mattings	149					149	4,416
Gambroes	692					692	14,499
Star Amiesed	2,417					2,417	363
Vermilion	79					79	1,315
Pearl Buttons	167	48				215	124
China wares	23,654	375				24,029	66
Fine Crackers	179	15				194	97
Oil of Anised	39	15				54	12,765
Oil of Cassia	299	161				460	55
Gambro	692					692	189
Pans and fire screens	418	136				554	841
Lacquered ware	692	30				722	431
Danicos	110					110	214
Seawing Silks	45					45	
Cassia Buds	20					20	46
Floss Silk	1,850					1,850	2,378

EXPORTS.	Scale	Imports.
Indigo	2 pgs.	Christobel from Liverpool; arrived 24th January.
Mattings	92 "	Grey Shirtings . 10,000 pieces
Grasscloth	1 "	Woolens . 31,075
Bamboo-ware	1 "	Long Ella . 600 pieces
Ivory-ware	3 "	Iron-ware . 5 tons
Sugar	100 "	Iron bars . 50 "
Refuse silk	154 "	Duke of Cornwall from London; arrived 31st January.
Silk & cotton mixture	8 "	Iron . 60 tons
Kittools	96 "	Long Ella . 2,550 pieces
Looking glass	3 "	Grey Shirtings 1,000 "
Sugar candy	2 "	White do. 1,000 "
Paper flowers	2 "	Colored Cottons 12 cases
Umbrellas	3 "	Cobuear . 20 cases
Rob Roy to Calcutta 3rd Feb.		Spanish Stripes 50 boxes
Cassia . 486 piculs		Cotton Yarn . 40 "
Aniseed oil . 6 "		Woolens . 4 "
Tea . 200 piculs		William Gillies from Bombay; arrived 24th January.
Silk piece goods . 18 cases		Cotton . 2,116 bales
Ink . 3 "		Do. . 67 hb. do.
Lacquered ware . 20 "		Elephant's teeth 10 hb. do.
China-ware . 12 "		Thomas Henry from Bombay; arrived 26th January.
Silver-ware . 1 "		Cotton . 1,398 bales
Ivory-ware . 2 "		Do. . 84 hb. do.
Fans . 2 "		Good Success from Bombay.
Grasscloth . 2 "		Cotton . 2,550 bales
Glass beads . 8 "		Rob Roy from Calcutta; arrived 23rd January.
Pictures . 1 "		Cotton . 518 bales
Copper-ware . 1 "		Rattans . 50 piculs
Preserves . 8 "		Torrington from Shanghai 1st February.
Marble Slabs . 208 "		Silk . 6 bales
Glass ware . 13 "		Silk piece goods . 76 cases
Sundries . 13 "		Tea . 721 piculs
General Von der Boach to Rotterdam 14th January.		Small Craft from Hongkong from 20th Jan. to 20th February.
Cassia . 1,775 piculs		Grey Shirtings . 13,000 pieces
Ginger . 600 "		White do . 4,860
Rhubarb . 25 "		Bonnie's hat . 183 bags
Sundries . 63 "		Mattings . 874 piculs
Chiefains to Amoy 31st Jan.		Nankens . 47 piculs
Cotton . 1,840 bales		Cassia . 12 cases
White Shirtings . 1,800 pieces		Congou Tea . 74 piculs
Cotton Yarn . 290 bales		Long Ella . 20 piculs
Small Crafts from Hongkong from 20th January to 20th February.		Red Lead . 30 "
Tea . 854 boxes		Prussian Blue . 14 "
Silk piece goods . 109 "		Straw . 4 "
Gold-ware . 1 "		White Shirtings . 750 pieces
Mattings . 96 rolls		
Aniseed . 103 cases		
Nankens . 19 "		
Tobacco . 25 "		
Red Lead . 30 "		
Prussian Blue . 14 "		
Straw . 4 "		
White Shirtings . 750 pieces		

