

THE FRIEND OF CHINA

AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

VOL. VII. No. 45.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, 1848.

PRICE \$12 per annum

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE, per Annum, 12 Dollars. Six Months, 7 Dollars. Three Months, 4 Dollars; all paid in advance. Credit sent to the Office for papers are requested to pay cash.
TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Ten lines and under, 1 Dollar; additional, 10 Cents per line. Repetitions one-third of the first insertion. Ships.—First insertion, 2 Dollars; subsequent insertions 43 cents. Advertisements to have written on the face of them, the number of times they are required to appear, otherwise they will be published until countermanded. In all instances, those who are not Subscribers, require to pay in advance.

For ENGLAND, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, BOMBAY Also, on route to the above.
SINGAPORE, PENANG, GALLE, MANILA, SUVA, AUCKLAND, COLONBO, COCHIN, CALCUTTA, CANNANORE, MANGALORE, GOA, VIRGOLOA.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY'S Steam Ship BRAGANZA will leave this for the above places on Saturday the 24th of June.
Cargoes will be received on board until Noon, and Spectators until 4 P. M. of the 23rd.

For further particulars regarding FREIGHT and Passages apply at the P. & O. S. N. Company's Office, Hongkong.
J. A. OLDING, Agent.
Hongkong, 25th May 1848.

NOTICE.
UNTIL further Notice the PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamers from CHINA will discontinue running to BOMBAY, and proceed as formerly to POINT DE GALLE only.
J. A. OLDING, Agent.
P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, 26th May, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S, will from this date undertake the conveyance of Specie from China, and the Straits, to Southampton, under the conditions specified in their customary Bill of Lading, at 2 1/2 per cent for Silver Bullion, and 3 per cent for Gold.
J. A. OLDING, Agent.
P. & O. S. N. Company's Office
Victoria, 13th May, 1848.

FOR SALE.
MARINE LOT No. 12, situated on the Queen's Road, Victoria, with the right of way, and present in possession of the late Mr. G. H. B. ...
allotment of Land, and Buildings at ...
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.
Canton, 2nd February, 1848.

TO LET.
THE BUNGALOW situated immediately behind the Malacca College, at present occupied by Captain Younge. Apply to,
LINDSAY & Co.
Victoria, 29th May, 1848.

TO LET.
THE HOUSE on the Queen's Road, adjoining the Oriental Bank. Possession can be given immediately. Apply to,
BELL & Co.
Victoria, 30th May, 1848.

TO LET.
SPACIOUS Godowns and dwelling house, built of Granite and lately occupied by Messrs THOS. RUSSELL & Co. The property is situated near the centre of the Town, (Victoria, Hongkong), and has a water frontage. Apply on the Premises, to,
SYME, MUIR & Co.
or to THOMAS RIPLEY & Co.,
Shanghai.

TO LET.
THE Building on the Queen's Road, known as the Keying House. Also a Bungalow in Aberdeen Street. Apply to,
BUSH & Co.
Hongkong, 21st January, 1847.

PROPERTY IN SHANGHAI.
FOR SALE.—The allotment of Land with erected Godowns and Dwelling House situated thereon, at present in possession of the Underigned, for further particulars apply to Messrs RAWLSE, DUKE & Co., Hongkong; or,
PLATT, HARGREAVES & Co.,
Shanghai.
4th March, 1848.

FOR SALE.
A BUILDING Allotment on the Queen's Road. Apply at this office.
Office "Friend of China,"
26th May, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE Office of Secretary to the Canton BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE being now vacant, applications for the same will please address their applications with testimonials to the Chairman, DAVID JARDINE, Esq., on or before the 5th June next.
Canton, 15th May, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE Business hitherto conducted in China under the Firm of VAN DERKAMPEN ROBINSON & Co. is this day dissolved.
Messrs REYNWAAN & Co. are authorized to sign for the liquidation.
Canton, 1st February, 1848.

NOTICE.
I hereby given that the Copartnership for some time past existing between the undersigned as ATTORNEYS SOLICITORS AND PROCURERS under the Firm of "COLEY & GASKELL," was this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Mr GASKELL will discharge and settle all debts due to and owing by the said Copartnership concern, and by whom the Business will in future be carried on at the premises in Queen's Road.
Dated at Victoria, Hongkong, this 20th day of May, 1848.
[Signed] RICHARD COLEY.
WILLIAM GASKELL.

NOTICE.
MR. AUGUSTUS THORNE, is authorised to sign our Firm by Procuration.
HENDERSON, WATSON & Co.
Canton, 6th May, 1848.

NOTICE.
MR. MARTIN WILHELMY, is authorised to sign our Firm by Procuration.
BOUSTEAD & Co.
Canton, 20th May, 1848.

NOTICE.
MR. FREDERICK H. BLOCK is authorized to sign our Firm in China by Procuration.
BURD, LANGE & Co.
Hongkong, 23rd May, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE partnership heretofore existing under the style of TIENS, BOURNE & Co., expired this day by limitation; and the affairs of the house will be wound up by ROBERT P. DE SILVER.
ROBERT P. DE SILVER.
H. F. BOURNE.
Surviving Partners
Canton, 1st September, 1847

NOTICE.
MR. SPENCER COMPTON is authorized to sign our Firm by Procuration.
CHIA SP. COMPTON & Co.
Hongkong, 28th February, 1848.

NOTICE.
MR. JAMES WITHINGTON, is authorized to sign our firm in China by procuration.
REISS & Co.
Canton, 24th March, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE Copartnership heretofore existing between the Subscribers, under the style of DRINKER, HEYL & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.
S. DRINKER is authorized to settle all Accounts of the Firm.

SANDWITH DRINKER.
WILLIAM S. HEYL.
Hongkong, 1st April, 1848.

NOTICE.
THE Underigned will continue the AGENCY and GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS, under the style of DRINKER, & Co., at the place of Business lately occupied by DRINKER, HEYL & Co. Goods taken on Storage at reasonable charges, landed and transhipped on account of parties absent.

SANDWITH DRINKER.
Hongkong, 1st April, 1848.

THE HONGKONG AND CANTON STEAM PACKET COMPANY.
PERSONS desirous of holding SHARES in the Company are requested to apply without delay either to Mr CAMPBELL in Hongkong, or to Mr D. JARDINE in Canton.
Hongkong, 8th April, 1848.

NOTICE.
SHOULD this meet the eye of A. R. JONES, a native of Calcutta, who came to China about four years ago, he is requested to write his Mother who is much distressed at not hearing from him.

FOR SALE.
SHEATHING COPPER. Apply to,
GIBB, LIVINGTON & Co.
Hongkong, 7th May, 1847.

FOR SALE.
BANCA TIN. Apply to,
OLYPHANT & Co.,
Canton.
14th August, 1847.

GRAM.
JUST landed a few Bags of fine Besag Gram and Java Coffee.
FRANKLYN & MILNE.
Victoria, 5th May, 1848.

JUST LANDED.
CHEESES; fresh Pine Apple Jelly; and Indian Arrowroot, in tins of 10 lbs, and in bulk.
ALSO,
FINE new Hny.
FRANKLYN & MILNE.
Victoria, 30th May, 1848.

PUBLIC AUCTION.
AT Messrs BUSH and Co.'s Godowns, on Monday next, 5th instant, at 11 o'clock A. M., for the benefit of the concerned.
A quantity of Old Copper,
ALSO,
50 Kegs Mackerell,
50 do Salmon.
FRANKLYN & MILNE,
Auctioneers.
Victoria, 2nd June, 1848.

FOR SALE.
A NEW English House Water Closet complete with force Pump. Price moderate. Apply to,
C. MARKWICK,
Auctioneer.
Victoria, 1st June, 1848.

PUBLIC AUCTION.
C. MARKWICK, will sell by Public Auction, on this day, Saturday the 3rd June, 1848, at 11 o'clock A. M., at his Sale Rooms, Queen's Road, —A quantity of White Blankets, more or less damaged by sea water; second-hand Wearing Apparel; Patent Laver Hunting Watches, by JUST & SON, London; Trunks; Chests; Boxes; Writing-Desks; Cutlery; Tables; Bedsteads; Washstand; Lamps; Saddles and Bridles; New Checked Shirts; New Back Silk Handkerchiefs in Pieces; Jinks in small Bottles; Nail Brushes; Suspenders; Injecting Apparatus; Poniards; Spy-Glass Walking Sticks; Cut-Glass Silver-Plated Table Cruets; Stands with 2 Bottles; a few Tins of American Butter Crackers; Cheeses; Clarified Wine; Chili Vinegar; Curry Powder; Port Wine in Bottle; Dark Brandy; Blacking in Tins; Crockery and Glassware; Cans; and a variety of other Articles. Terms of Sale:—Cash before delivery; all Lots to be cleared before Two O'clock on Monday.
Victoria, 3rd June, 1848.

ADVERTISEMENT.
FOR SALE at Mr RUTHERFURD'S—
THE HONGKONG ALMANACK AND DIRECTORY FOR 1848; with PLAN of and INDEX to the Town of VICTORIA, &c.
Price \$24.
Victoria, 3rd March, 1848.

SHIP CHANDLERS STORES.
And supplies of every description required for Ships use, on sale by the undersigned.
SAILS Made and Repaired.
JUST RECEIVED.
A large Assortment of Canvas, Bleached and Unbleached.
ALSO,
Real Edinburgh Ale, East India Pale Ale, &c. &c.
Good dry STONAX with water frontage.

CHARLES BUCKTON,
Shipping and Commission Agent,
Queen's Road, Victoria, 25th Jan, 1848.

FOR SALE.
DULTON Market Beef, in 4 Barrels; Columbia River Salmon, in 4 and 2 Casks; Columbia Beef, in 4 Barrels, all suitable for families. Fresh Sardines in Oil and Butter; Bologna Sausages; Vegetables in Tins, such as Asparagus, Kidney Beans, Green Peas, &c; &c.
ALSO,
Very Superior Hock, of different Brands; Sicilian, Claret, and other Light Wines, at moderate prices.
SMITH & BRIMELOW,
No. 1 & 2 Woosnam's Buildings,
Victoria, 23rd April, 1848.

SMITH & BRIMELOW have received a large supply of Dutch and American Hutter, in 16 lbs. Kegs, of superior quality, and which they can highly recommend.
No. 1 & 2 Woosnam's Buildings,
Victoria, 23rd April, 1848.

FOR SALE.
PRIME Columbia River Beef in Casks, and Columbia River Salmon, ex Trossa.
ALSO,
Paint Oil in Demijohns.
SMITH & BRIMELOW.
No. 1, Woosnam's Buildings,
Victoria, 23rd February, 1848.

HOCK and SELTZER WATER
BY a late arrival the undersigned have received from Germany a consignment of Hock (1832) in 1 and 4 dozen Cases. Also, Seltzer water in Baskets of 2 dozen glass-stone bottles. Prices moderate.
RAWLSE, DUUS & Co.
Victoria, 4th April, 1848.

FOR SALE.
SALT Provisions, Flour, Rum, Arrack, and Brandy in Wood; Whisky, Cognac, and all kinds of Wines in Bottle.
RAWLSE, DUUS & Co.
4th November 1846.

FOR SALE.
DOMAN Cement, and Window Glass of all sizes. Apply to,
RAWLSE, DUUS & Co.
Victoria, 3rd August, 1847.

NOTICE.
ICE will not be delivered from the Ice House in less quantities than 5 lbs. Parties who take less than 100 lbs. per Month, will be charged at the rate of 4 Cents per lb.
DRINKER & Co.
Victoria, June 2nd, 1848.

NOTICE.
AN Invoice of Claret Wines of superior quality; A and Champagne, "Epernay" brand, just received and for sale by,
DRINKER & Co.
Victoria, 1st June, 1848.

RESPECTABLE BOARD and LODGING.
GENTLEMEN and other parties of respectable rank seeking the comforts of a House may meet with superior accommodation, conducted in a respectable manner; terms according to the Bedroom selected. For cards of address apply to,
Messrs SMITH & BRIMELOW,
or Mr R. RUTHERFURD, Queen's Road, Gage Street, 3rd June, 1848.

NOTICE.
FARRIERY corner of Wellington and Wyndham Street, Victoria.
MR. DUDDLE begs to inform the community of Hongkong, that he has engaged an English Horse Shoer, and will open a Ferriery in all its branches on the above premises on the 1st of May next; and is confident that the moderate charge of \$15 per Horse together with attention and despatch, will procure him a share of public Patronage.
Victoria, 26th April, 1848.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
POTTINGER STREET.
SODA WATER and LEMONADE of superior Quality.
MACAO, at HINNAM'S, China Shopkeeper.
Victoria, 11th June, 1847.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Queen's Road, Victoria.
SODA WATER, AERATED LEMONADE, SELTZER WATER, direct from HAMBURG.
AGENT at CANTON,
ACHOOK, —Commodore, No. 3, Imperial H ng Hongkong, 4th November, 1847.

BILLS OF LADING FOR THE OVERLAND ROUTE.
FOR sale at this office, four forms of bills of lading for goods or specie shipped by the P. & O. Company's Steam packets. 1st form goods deliverable at London; 2nd for goods deliverable at Southampton; 3rd for goods deliverable at Stuez; 4th for goods deliverable at intermediate ports. They are printed after the Company's forms on Bank post.
Office "Friend of China,"
6th October, 1845.

SHIPPING ARTICLES, according to the receipt (Victoria 7 & 8) for sale at this Office.
Office "Friend of China,"
Victoria, 11th October, 1845.

FOR SALE.—At the Office of this paper, Compravese cheque books, Ships Articles, with an abstract of the merchant-ment's act endorsed on the back, Powers of Attorney, after forms by Claitor, Chartrparties, after forms by Claitor, Bills of Lading, Cheques, Tolls of Imports and Exports for counting houses.

INGUITS REPORT on NAVY BILLS for sale at this Office.
Office "Friend of China,"
Canton, 2nd October, 1845.

NOTICE

Non-Advertisements will be received until 4 O'Clock on the evening previous to publication, viz: Tuesdays and Fridays.

Table with 4 columns: Location, Date, Name, and another date. Locations include England, United States, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, JUNE 26th, 1848.

NOTICE.—Disease Service will for the present be conducted in the building adjoining the Post-Office and opposite to the China House—on Sundays at 11 past 6 A. M., and at 2 P. M., and on Thursdays at 2 P. M.

VINCENT STANTON, Colonial Clinician. Victoria, 26th April, 1848.

NOTICE.—FRENCHMAN'S CHURCH. This congregation, conducted for the present by the Rev. W. C. Rippey, will meet every Sabbath in the Bungalow immediately behind the CAVE HOUSE.

The hours of Disease Service will be 11 a. m., and 1 past 2 P. M. Victoria, 26th December, 1847.

THE Government Notification of the 20th ultimo will probably puzzle others as well as ourselves. It evidently has an object in view, but what that object is, is left to imagination. We have not heard of any illegal acts committed by the Masters of British vessels engaged in granting convey to Chinese trading vessels; and if they should in the performance of an important service violate the laws they are amenable to Justice without the promulgation of an obscurely worded Notification.

Last winter a suspicious case was heard before the Supreme Court of Hongkong. A west coast fishing boat was taken possession of near Chusan by Captain McQuhose of H.M.S. Dardale; she was quite unfit to carry cargo; was heavily armed; had a large crew on board, and was capable of doing much mischief among the native traders. Under the ridiculous registration act by which any man asking for a license procures one on paying the fee, she was duly registered in Hongkong as a trading Junk, and carried British colours. It was proved on evidence that she was not a trading Junk; that her armament and crew were larger than stated in the license; and that when taken possession of she had pistol boarding parties on board, her crew being armed with various missiles. The crew were acquitted; no overt act of piracy being proved; but that she was fitted out in Hongkong for piratical purposes is just as certain as that the boats which cut out the Caroline and Omega were fitted out in the same quarter. Too much caution cannot be exercised in granting licenses to such craft; but we submit that a duly registered British vessel engaged in this convey service should not be interfered with, or annoyed by ambiguous proclamations. Policy and humanity alike require that they should be encouraged; from granting convey, they may gradually be engaged to carry cargo, and in the course of years a large portion of the coasting trade of China be carried in foreign bottoms. By the latest accounts from Shanghai, a fleet of 700 Junks was blockaded by pirates; and the atrocities committed almost daily were harrowing to hear of; surely if this evil can be even partially removed by the employment of foreign vessels, it is impolitic and ungenerous in a government to interfere.

The Notification is so very vague that it cannot be said that the colonial government positively objects to British vessels being there employed; but it is desirable that they were more explicitly and that the acts of questionable legality were pointed out. In short, if any crimes can be substantiated, have the parties

brought to trial; if they are not susceptible of proof, we would question the propriety of giving official notoriety to the representations of some unknown party or parties.

It is certainly much to be desired that no illegal acts disgrace the British or any other foreign flag on the coast of China, or if they do, that the guilty be punished; but we apprehend there is less danger from those engaged in protecting the legal trade of China, than from others differently employed.

Diplomatic Department.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Whereas the situation of His Excellency, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c., &c., has been called to the fact that British Vessels have heretofore been employed in conveying Chinese Junks on voyages along the Coast of China, and inasmuch as it has been represented that such voyages questionable legality have taken place while such voyages were to employ His Excellency deems it right to direct the attention of the Masters of such Vessels to the serious risk and grave responsibilities to which they subject themselves while engaged in the service of their own authority, and to remind them that they undoubtedly render themselves liable to actions both of a Civil and Criminal nature for any illegal acts that they may commit, as well as for all consequences that may arise therefrom.

By Order,

A. R. JOHNSON.

Victoria, Hongkong, 26th May, 1848.

In a local contemporary we observe Lord Palmerston's reply to the Memorial from the British residents of Canton; also a copy of the Memorial itself, which for some cause or other was not sent to either of the China papers, though distributed in a printed form far and wide to the press and to people of influence. The reply to the Memorial we publish to-day with such observations as it suggests; the Memorial and Appendix will appear in a supplement next week in order to keep up the record of documents connected with the Hwang-chu-kee murders, omitting, however, the interpolations, italics, and numbers to the paragraphs with which the Editor of the China Mail has industriously garnished the original.

Mr Addington, the Under Secretary, in his reply by direction of Viscount Palmerston, errs in two most important particulars.

First; "he does not see how that event (the Hwang-chu-kee murders) could have been prevented by the presence of a Steam-vessel opposite the Factories." When a steam-vessel is at Canton, she does not usually anchor opposite the factories, but off the Macao passage, within a mile and a half of the village where the crime was committed. Had the Pluta been there in December (as she now is) it is to be presumed that the victims of Chinese treachery would not have been molested at all; or had an affray taken place, no farther injury would have been done than the infliction of wounds in the melee. On Sunday the foreigners were assailed and captured; and it is beyond any reasonable doubt that they were butchered in cold blood on Tuesday morning. On Monday application was made to Keying for their release; but the either had not the power or the inclination to send them back. On Monday also the residents of the factories were in great alarm for the safety of their friends, and would have endeavoured to deliver them by force of arms, but for the stern injunctions of the Consul. But supposing the Pluta had been at her proper station, in a very few minutes she could have brought the village under command of her guns, and the relations of the deceased would not now be mourning their dreadful fate. The Pluta was withdrawn in opposition to the wishes of the Canton community; and with Sir John Davis rests the responsibility; and the blood of these young men will stain him with an imperishable notoriety.

Second; Lord Palmerston censures the merchants for not having restrained the young men attached to their establishments "from excursions which were known to be attended with so much risk." This censure is uncalled for and unfair. The Gentlemen murdered were all able to judge for themselves as to the danger incurred in availing themselves of a privilege secured by treaty. They had the oft repeated assurance of the Plenipotentiary that the Chinese villagers were inoffensive and that outrage was not to be apprehended; they read in the official paper most anxiously asserting that with ordinary prudence the worst of the towns and villages would be entered. How far these statements influenced them cannot now be ascertained, but assuredly when they went on the field excursion, from which none came back alive, they did not apprehend any great danger.

Lord Palmerston gave too much credence to the misstatements of the Plenipotentiary; his mind was poisoned by assertions penned with the intention of blasting the reputation of the British in China; and of bolstering up the wretched diplomacy of a weak but vicious man

who should never have been received into the public service. To ask a Minister of the Crown publicly to recant an expressed opinion would be unreasonable; but we expect that Viscount Palmerston will reconsider the despatches, public and private, of Sir John Davis, and that he will test their truthfulness with facts but too clearly established, drawing such conclusions as may be dictated by a clear unbiased judgment. If his Lordship is satisfied, that in December 1847, Englishmen "incurred considerable danger of insult and attack by entering Chinese villages," then he will admit that Sir John Davis's assertions to the contrary were a deception, and that in depriving the community of the presence of a national vessel for their protection he committed a grave political offence.

Mr Addington's letter is dated 24th February, when the result of Sir John Davis's negotiation with the Chinese government was not known, and of course no reply could be expected to that part of the Memorial which relates to the future. Long ere this the Foreign Secretary has been acquainted with the result of these negotiations, and it would be an insult to his judgment to believe that he is satisfied that redress has been obtained for the past or security for the future. The political state of Europe, the desirability of having the opinion of the present Plenipotentiary, and other causes only known to those in office, may defer, but can only defer the settlement of our difficulties with China, and the adoption of such measures as may be required for the protection of the life and property of British subjects.

REPLY OF VISCOUNT PALMERSTON TO THE MEMORIAL FROM CANTON.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 26th Feb., 1848.

GENTLEMEN.—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial from the British residents of Canton, which you addressed to His Lordship on the 20th of December, respecting the lamentable calamity which had then recently occurred in the neighbourhood of Canton, and which involved the death of British subjects by the hands of the Chinese inhabitants of some of the villages situated near that capital.

As the communication between Sir John Davis and the Chinese Government on this matter was still going on at the date of the last advice received from China, Viscount Palmerston has been unwilling to give in reply to your Memorial which relates to the future; but His Lordship cannot refrain from expressing his regret that when, as it seems by your Memorial, that the British subjects were there that they incurred considerable danger of insult and attack by entering Chinese villages, the leading members of the mercantile body did not see their own interests with respect to the establishments to induce them to desert, at least for a time, from excursions which were known to be attended with so much risk. I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant.

H. U. ADDINGTON.

The last issue of the Friend of China contains a long article on the Transit Duties. It is attempted, with writing as successfully to prove that by treaty the inland and export duties are beyond the control of the Chinese. This is said in reference to, to the tariff about which there was a question, but the transit duties are the result of the policy which prevails the article throughout, that the transit duties on Exports, the produce of China, are regulated by Treaty. Such is not the case. The agreement comes exclusively to Foreign Imports, upon which the transit duties are not to exceed the moderate scale then existing. Even the transit duties on Exports, upon which the transit duties are regulated by Treaty, are not to exceed the moderate scale then existing. Even the transit duties on Exports, upon which the transit duties are regulated by Treaty, are not to exceed the moderate scale then existing.

The article in the Friend of China seems intended as a reply to one which recently appeared in this Journal upon the same subject, but throughout its five columns we can perceive nothing that calls for remark except the points already briefly alluded to, and an error on our part, pointed out and expressly dwelt upon by the writer. In a note we stated that the Plenipotentiary at Canton had complained that the transit charges on Opium amounted to 12 per cent. The mistake is more easily accounted for than excused. In the hurry of putting down the figures they were written 113 instead of 11.3. A further error was committed in the statement against a Tariff Duty of 12-1/2 cents on 100 pounds; in other words, 11 1/2 cents on 100 pounds; or 1 1/2 cents, 3 cents per picul. The error would probably have been soon corrected, if most of our readers, but for the identical one into which it unfortunately fell ourselves, in stating the duties complained of in 1844 to have been upwards of twenty times greater than they are at present. We ought to have said upwards of twice, the real rate of the same being that whereas formerly the transit duty on Opium was 11 1/2 cents a hundred pounds, it is now 5 cents or 44 per cent of the former amount. The error was also committed in the publication being the result of the error introduced by Keying, approved by Sir John Davis, and now complained of by the Friend and his friends, to whom, however, we are indebted for the notice we are obliged for it, but we have the opportunity of explaining a simple but important mistake.

Thus above is a critique on an article on the Transit Duties which appeared in our columns on Wednesday, and an apology for certain ridiculous credulities published in the China Mail of the 18th May, and repeated in the Overland edition of the 24th of that month. With an industry worthy of a better cause, the Mail labours hard to injure British commercial interests; and without for one moment

wishing to infringe upon that freedom of opinion which is the privilege of the press, we cannot refrain from expressing regret that private pique, or the prejudices of party, should so warp the judgment of any writer for a commercial periodical.

The Editor of the Mail denies "that the transit duties on Exports, the produce of China, are regulated by treaty," though he admits the establishment of a tariff for Exports as well as Imports. It is extremely improbable that Sir Henry Pottinger would take the trouble of negotiating a tariff for Exports, leaving it to the Chinese to increase that tariff to any amount they pleased by levying fresh duties at the inland Customs-houses through one or more of which nearly every article of produce must pass. The Government Notification of the 20th February, 1844, with the transit duties at the three principal inland Customs (republished on Wednesday) shows, that the British Plenipotentiary understood the "moderate scale" to refer to imports and exports; the words are explicit, "Transit duties paid at the Custom-house of Kan, Taeping, and Pishin, on GOODS THAT ARE COMING DOWN TO CANTON, or from thence transported to the Northern Provinces." The 10th article of the treaty says "a fair and regular tariff of export and import customs and other dues," and the expression is again repeated in the endorsement on the treaty.

Whatever construction the Chinese may choose to put upon the 10th article, there is no reason to question its application to inland duties on exports in the opinion of Sir Henry Pottinger, and had he remained in China it is not probable that a doubt would ever have been expressed. But setting the 10th article aside for the present, we refer to the 5th, bearing upon the monopoly of exports by the abolished system of licenses. The 5th article reads,—

"The government of China having compelled British merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese merchants, called hong-mechanics (so-called) who had been licensed by the Chinese government for that purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to establish that practice in future at all the ports where British merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transactions with any other persons they may please."

This appears sufficiently clear; yet in direct opposition, the Chinese government has returned to the old system of monopoly. Licenses are granted to certain parties, and then the exclusive privilege of dealing in certain articles of produce; and British merchants are compelled to deal with these licensed monopolists; and are not permitted "to carry on their mercantile transactions with whatever person they please." This is a violation of treaty; in corroboration of which we refer to an article in the China Mail of the 18th May, quoted in our paper on the Transit Duties on the 31st. When the Mail reconciles "the system introduced by Keying, approved by Sir John Davis and now complained of by the Friend and his friends" to the treaty of Nanking, we will have something more to say on a subject, which we close with the declaration signed by the respective Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and China on the ratification of the said treaty,—

"Whereas by the Tenth Article of the Treaty between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Her Majesty the Emperor of China, concluded and signed on board His Britannic Majesty's ship Cornwallis, at Nanking, on the 26th day of August, 1842, corresponding with the Chinese date 24th day of the 7th month of the 22nd year of Tsin-king, it is stipulated and agreed that His Majesty the Emperor of China shall establish at all the ports which, by the Second Article of the said Treaty, are to be thrown open for the resort of British merchants, a fair and regular tariff of export and import customs and other dues, which tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information; and further, that whereas British merchants shall have once paid, at any of the said ports, the regulated customs and dues, agreeably to the tariff to be hereafter fixed, such merchandise may be conveyed by Chinese merchants to any province or city of the interior of the Empire of China, on paying a further amount of duty to be so levied on a further amount of duty as transit duty."

"And whereas the rate of transit duty to be so levied was not fixed by the said Treaty;

"Now therefore, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of Her Britannic Majesty, and of His Majesty the Emperor of China, do hereby, on proceeding to the exchange of the Ratifications of the said Treaty, agree and declare, that the further amount of duty to be so levied on British merchandise, as transit duty, shall not exceed the present rate, which are upon a moderate scale; and the Ratifications of the said Treaty are exchanged subject to the express declaration and stipulation herein contained.

"In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Declaration, and have affixed thereto their respective seals, and the said Treaty is done in duplicate at Hongkong, the 30th day of June, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, corresponding with the Chinese date, Tsin-king twenty-third year, 11th month, and twenty-third day of the said year."

(SIGNED) "HENRY POTTINGER."

FRENCH STATESMEN.

(From the British Quarterly Review) M. EXETER. A man even better known than M. Guizot, though not so much in the eyes of the public, is M. Thiers. More than a quarter of a century ago, this successful writer and politician distinguished himself by rigour of thought by the purity and pungency of his style, and by a liveliness and a dramatic power, and became early known to the leading men of

BUILT AND NAPLES.

(From the Malta Times, March 21)

We understand that at Palermo atrocities were discovered to have been committed by the naval police which provoked if they did not justify the indignation and the well known popularity of the deceased chamberlain, were found containing the desecrated remains of human bodies, mutilated and buried, and so forth.

A process verbal of the horrid details of the prison was forwarded by the provisional committee to Admiral Sir William Parker, who had been so justly indignant at the brutalities of the mob, that he would perhaps have refused his interference had not the prohibition been explained.

The following proposition has been made to the provisional government by Lord Minto for the Neapolitan case for the pacification of Sicily—how far his Lordship has succeeded with the Provisional Government is yet to be learnt.

Art. 1. The King consents to grant a separate parliament composed of a Chamber of Peers for life, and an elective Chamber with the same powers as those fixed by the Neapolitan Constitution.

NAPLES, 15th March, 1848.

(From a Correspondent.)

The fleet left in this way with Lord Minto for Palermo, he had full powers from the committee to meet with this Government and having obtained every thing they asked for, they will not now listen to or accept any other subject of the part and will use the power of disposing of the public force in any manner it may consider conducive to the independence and security of the territory.

STRANGE CUSTOM.—The Egyptians had a funeral tribunal, by which the dead were tried before they could be buried. After death, every Egyptian was brought before this tribunal, and if convicted of having in his life acted unworthily, he was denied a place in the burialplace of his ancestors.

THE NEW STEAM-SHIP "AMERICA."—On Sunday morning, a little before nine o'clock, the steam ship America, the first completed of the four new steamships for the British and North American Royal Mail Steamships Company, arrived at this port.

ISRAELIAN CHIEFS.—One day, near the Serra de Araripe, I passed an encampment of gipsies consisting of about a dozen men, women, and children; they were not uncommon in the interior of Brazil, for I either met them or heard of them in almost every town I visited.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.

- May, AT HONGKONG. 30, Andaz, Sullivan, from Cansuango. 31, Corsair (steamer), Soames, from Canton. 31, Rob Roy, Francis, from Macao. 31, Island Queen, Macfarlane, from Amoy 21st May.

DEPARTURES.

- May, FROM HONGKONG. 31, Will O' the Wisp, McKnight, Bombay. June, 1, Andaz, Sullivan, East Coast. 1, Rob Roy, Francis, Whampoa. 1, Corsair (steamer), Soames, Macao.

PASSENGERS. Per Mor, for Penang, Madras, and Calcutta.—Mr Murdoch Bruce.

SHIPPING IN CHINA.

VESSELS OF WAR.

Table with columns: U. M. Ship, Hongkong, At, Tons, Masters, Consignees. Includes ships like U. M. Ship Melampus, Big Columbus, Canton, etc.

MERCHANT VESSELS.

Table with columns: Ship, At, Tons, Masters, Consignees. Includes ships like Amelin, schooner, Canton, Amoy, Whampoa, etc.

Main shipping table with columns: Ship, At, Tons, Masters, Consignees. Includes ships like Clarkston, Eastbrook, Amoy, etc.

VESSELS LOADING.

Table with columns: For, At, Ships, Consignees. Includes destinations like London, Liverpool, Holland, etc.

VESSELS EXPECTED.

Table with columns: Date, Ship, From, Consignees. Includes dates like January 3, February 11, etc.

Printed and Published by JOHN CARR, At the Friends of China and Hongkong Gazette, Printing Office, Cross Street, YACOWATA, HONGKONG, 1848.