

(To the Editor of the Friend of China.)

SIMONIA, 24 August, 1818.

Sir—Best thanks for your candid comments on the international intermeddling and political P.R. of the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce on the questionable evidence of four Chinamen. But we refer to another paragraph, and the letter of "Young Shanghai."

It is rumored that the Ningpo Tautie will be appointed to the same office in Shanghai. A change which will be agreeable to the foreign residents at the latter port. He is a liberal intelligent man; and it is thought he will extend the limits of excursions, and sanction the erection of a Bungalow at the Hills where there is good shooting.

A correspondent favours us with some remarks on the tea market; he thinks the people in the South are over sanguine in their expectations of large profits on their tea shipments.

We in Shanghai are more cautious than you are in the South and look with great alarm at the high rates and heavy shipments going forward at Canton. With a stock of some of \$14 millions against a delivery of \$18, including the export, we cannot look forward to the decrease in last season's supply of Tea affording much relief, and therefore the rub for the market will only result in disappointment and loss; and we may again call on a restoration of the same insanity which has characterized the trade here for the past few seasons leading to continued depression in the home market.

Verily the iron rule of Marvez at Madrid, so much bewailed by the foreign Secretary, is a very light yoke to that inflicted on his countrymen by means of his Consul's unjust powers.

What is there in the conduct and character of British residents in China that they should be treated worse than felons? And that our Consuls should be armed with powers not given to the Governor of a Convent district? Powers not possessed by the Governor of Hongkong nor by the Queen of Great Britain herself.

Remonstrance and representations failing, it behoves every British subject to avoid having sight to do with our Consular establishments.

Happily the (impending) removal of the navigation Laws will enable them to do this with but a small sacrifice.

When the new act is in operation all our merchants must decline employing British ships. They must make our Consul officers through sinecurists. Let the Consular Ports be designated by the right of a British agent, and the land elements of our ruined Ship-owners at home will unpleasantly attract the attention of our Foreign Secretary to the Consular nuisance and reform must follow.

It is much to be hoped that British merchants may not be coerced into the adoption of such a disastrous policy, and that our purchase be averted by the vigorous interposition of the Press at Hongkong, and in an especial degree to your energetic domination of Consular abuses.

One might tolerate an abrogation of all our rights in this foreign exile, but to be insulted with supercilious demeanour and the infliction of positive personal degradation at the caprice of a Consul, who is neither by birth character, or education, superior, mayhap not equal to the majority of his resident countrymen, is wholly intolerable.

I have said enough to evoke your vigilance on our behalf, and should this meet the eye of our intriguing Foreign Secretary, I would pray him to bestow a glance towards the archives of his office here, and would he so and examine the evidence, more than enough to at once relieve the ignorance of an Emerald, the pompous folly of a Layton, the pert prigdom of a Sullivan, and the pedantic stolidity of an Alick—I remain, your obedient servant.

YOUNG SHANGHAI.

BIRTH.

At Victoria, on the 20th instant, Mrs. E. S. S. of a Daughter. At Manila, on the 1st August, the Lady of T. CASWELL, Esq., of a daughter.

NOTICE

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

LATEST DATES.

Table with columns for destination (England, United States, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras) and dates for Sydney, Singapore, and Shanghai.

THE FRIEND OF CHINA AND HONGKONG GAZETTE.

VICTORIA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25th, 1846.

NOTICE—District Surveys will for the present be discontinued in the building adjoining the Post-Office and opposite to the Club-House, on Tuesdays at 4 P.M., at 11 A.M., and on Thursdays at 7 P.M.

VINCENT STANTON, Colonial Chaplain.

NOTICE—The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices in the Colony, and who are to be sworn in on the 1st of September next.

SHANGHAI.

Our letters are to the 5th, they comment upon Mr Alock's severity in imprisoning the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce on the questionable evidence of four Chinamen. But we refer to another paragraph, and the letter of "Young Shanghai."

It is rumored that the Ningpo Tautie will be appointed to the same office in Shanghai. A change which will be agreeable to the foreign residents at the latter port. He is a liberal intelligent man; and it is thought he will extend the limits of excursions, and sanction the erection of a Bungalow at the Hills where there is good shooting.

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The following observations on the English silk market from the pen of a merchant long in the trade (at present in London) may be acceptable to some of our readers.

"My firm conviction is that no longer as you said in 20 to 21,000 lbs raw Silk per annum no good will be done at late quotations. The supply is far too great for the consumption of this country and the demand for it is largely in season 1848-9 as in 1847-8 look out for lower rates ruling here. I see nothing to prevent China silk going lower in this market, if you go on sending so enormously as you have of late. We can do with more than 2,500 lbs Taysam and 9 to 10,000 lbs Taitale at present quotations."

It is very generally known that the gentleman imprisoned at Shanghai by Mr Consul Alock is Mr James MacDonald, Secretary to the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce; but as there are various reports of the circumstance connected with this arbitrary stretch of Consular authority, we lay the particulars before the public.

In the month of June Mr MacDonald and two friends hired a couple of Chinese boats on purpose to make a tour in the Silk growing districts with a view to obtain authentic information regarding the crop, of which contradictory reports were circulated by the Chinese. In their excursion they went beyond the limits permitted to foreigners and were absent for several days. For this breach of the regulations they were amenable to Consular law, and it was expected that Mr Alock would inflict such a fine as the ordinances provide for. One of the party was summoned to attend at the Consulate, but the case was dismissed, and to all appearance the offence was overlooked. The boatmen, however, were seized by order of Samqua and treated with severity; but at the request of Mr Alock they were liberated, their Jailors having extorted all they were possessed of. The Registrar, or overseer of boats, kept possession of one of the boats which he refused to give up unless the owners paid him a sum of money. The boatman applied to Mr MacDonald, assuring him that the boat was detained unlawfully, and that the Authorities did not know of it, nor had they any further charge or claim against her. Mr MacDonald was naturally anxious to get the men out of their trouble, for which he and his friends were in a manner responsible. He therefore sent the head boatman to the Registrar to ascertain on what terms he would release the boat. A hundred dollars was at first demanded, but after two weeks negotiation it was lowered to thirty-five dollars. This Mr MacDonald was willing to pay, but as a guarantee against deception, he requested the boatman to get a paper from the Registrar, saying he would release the boat on payment of the money. The Registrar replied he would not give the paper, as he was apprehensive of an information being lodged against him for extortion. This answer vexed many doubts which existed as to the boat's being detained illegally; and the following day Mr MacDonald went with the owner to see the Registrar, and if possible induce him to give her up. He first went on board and ascertained that no prohibitory stop was affixed in the vessel, the rudder of which had been removed. On enquiring for the Registrar, it was said he was from home; but an old man presented himself saying that he belonged to the establishment. Mr MacDonald

informed him that he was convinced the boat was unlawfully detained, and asked whether he would liberate her. He said he had got no order from the Authorities. Mr MacDonald replied that he knew this was a mere subterfuge, and that if he did not comply with his request, he would lay the matter before the Consul, adding that the man might accompany him to the Consulate if he choose. This idea he did not appear to relish; and after a few minutes conversation with another person, orders were given to return, the boat's gear and freer her. Mr MacDonald was asked to sit down while the rudder, &c. were being put in the boat, previous to which, however, in the course of conversation with the old man, he had remarked "that he ought to be ashamed for trying to extort money from poor people like the boatmen who had been ill treated enough already; adding in joke, that the high Chinese Authorities would cut off the heads of such people if they found them out playing such tricks." The things were put quietly on board, with the exception of a roll of bedding which could not be found, and the wind being fair, Mr MacDonald returned by water in preference to going through the crowded streets in a chair. This took place about 17th of July. Mr MacDonald was entirely alone, and at a considerable distance from the quarter allotted to foreigners; while there were numerous police present to protect the Registrar, or his assistants, had there been an attempt to take forcible possession of the boat.

On the 25th July Mr MacDonald received a summons to attend next day at the Consulate to answer a charge preferred against him by the Chinese Authorities (Samqua) of having on the 17th carried off a boat by force from the messengers of the Authorities, and for having unlawfully released the same. The charge Mr MacDonald looked upon as frivolous in the extreme; and at the hour named he went to the Consulate alone, under the impression that Mr Alock would dismiss the case on hearing his explanation. On arrival he found the Jailor in attendance, at which he felt rather alarmed and apprehensive that the case had been prejudged.

The proceedings commenced with reading Samqua's letter, in which reference was made to the tour inland; it further charged Mr MacDonald with having gone to the Registrar's and forcibly released the boat in the Consul's name; it went on to state that witnesses were sent to give evidence; and demanded that Mr MacDonald be punished. The witnesses were then sworn. The old man declared that Mr MacDonald had said he came to release the boat by the Consul's orders. When asked what language was used by the accused, he replied that he used the expression, "You have your Authorities and we have ours." He added that the accused had threatened to cut off his head. Three more witnesses were examined, and each gave evidence to the same effect.

To this evidence Mr MacDonald gave a flat contradiction, showing how improbable it was that he would go alone half a mile from any foreign residence and take forcible possession of a boat; or that he would use the Consul's name, it being notorious that he did not belong to the Consular establishment, and such service being invariably performed by the Gentlemen in the Consular office. He also expressed his regret for having transgressed the regulations in going into the interior; but as this did not form part of the charge, such expression of regret was immaterial.

Mr Alock laid much stress upon the similarity of the evidence given by the Chinese witnesses; and after indulging in some rather insulting references to an old grievance of nearly two years standing, he sentenced Mr MacDonald to one week's imprisonment, to pay a fine of \$50, and to find sureties for good behaviour for 12 months. The prisoner then asked if the week's imprisonment could be commuted into a fine. Mr Alock answered in an angry tone, that he knew it was not in his power to inflict a fine Mr MacDonald would feel, and that he was determined to punish him in a way he should feel as a warning to others.

In looking at the case as it is now given from good sources, it would appear that Mr MacDonald was indeed victimised; but how far the Consul was influenced by personal dislike, if influenced at all, we will not take it upon us to say, though it is alleged that he did bear Mr MacDonald a grudge. The unsupported evidence of the Chinese witnesses is nearly worthless when opposed to reason and common sense. The probability is that they were conscious of guilt; and afraid that a complaint would be made they gave up the boat. The matter began to be talked about; and the story of pretending to have Consular orders was concocted and laid before Samqua. That worthy has no good will to foreigners as is well known; the peculiarities of his own people were overlooked and a formal complaint laid before the Consul; his previous complaint against the party who had gone into the interior having been disregarded for reasons best known to the Consul himself.

Some days after being confined, one of the Clerks of the Consulate called on the prisoner and read his sentence, to which an addition had been made after

he was given in charge, holding him responsible for the value of the boat, if not recovered by the police. On the 2nd instant Mr MacDonald was released, and at noon went to the Consulate with his securities, along to his and their astonishment the sentence had again been altered. In the revised reading, the fine of \$50 was struck out, and the responsibility for the boat inserted. Such gross irregularity and inattention to the established forms of judicial proceedings is unpardonable. If sentences, depositions, and documents are to be changed, enlarged, or vitiated, after cases are adjudged, to suit the views of the Magistrate, any act of injustice may be perpetrated. The Shanghai Consular Court has long been a reproach to the Supreme Court of Hongkong, of which it is a branch, and it daily getting worse. We are not sufficiently acquainted with law to say, whether there is now an appeal to the Supreme Court from its unjust decisions, though we know Sir John Davis endeavoured to hedge in its inquiries with several Consular ordinances; but if there is no appeal, we predict that Mr MacDonald will not be the only victim offered up before the shrine of material ignorance and incapacity.

(From the Singapore Free Press August 3.)

Java.—By H. N. M. steamer Etna, we have received Java Courants to the 24th ultimo, from which we translate the following:—

The following is communicated from Macassar:

"In the evening of the 16th May last, about 10 o'clock, irregular sounds sometimes following each other, were heard to seaward at Macassar having much resemblance to cannon fired in a brisk engagement. The general opinion at first attributed them to the presence of pirates near the island of Sperindus.

"The pharus sent out to enquire regarding it returned with the intelligence that the same sounds, coming from about the West, were also heard at the Islands, and as far as Kappoonan lying about 20 English miles W. by N. from Macassar, without being able to trace out or find the origin or cause of it.

"Further accounts from Bonhian (to the south) and from Paré Paré (to the north) give the like observations made at the same time. These reports being taken in conjunction, with the distance at which the farthest lying of these places (Bonhian and Paré Paré) are situated from each other, by which the supposition that these noises could be cannon shots is rendered impossible, has given rise to a general opinion that they have been caused by the eruption of a volcano.

Similar intelligence has been received here from Benjamenas in Borneo, and is considered to be believed that the violent eruption of the volcano Kher lying on the borders of the residences of Kasan and Kediri, which took place on the evening of the 16th May last, was the origin of the sounds heard on Celebes and Borneo.

According to the constitutions of a council of war, in conjunction with political events, and on account of the decline of the year, which makes the landing on some places to difficult, the Major General, provincial Commandant of the India army, and Commander of the expedition against Bally, has judged it advisable to dissolve the expedition and to send back the troops of all arms to their garrisons, where they have already arrived.

According to accounts obtained at Badong by the Commissioner for Bally De Kook, the Gassie, Djonkeng, and the Raja of Blodong, by autographic letters, had communicated to the Dutch Army of Hongkong, and the last to the Raja of Gjangra, that at Djagaraga were slain: three Bontor or high priests, five and forty Hades, eighty Gualtes, and similar chiefs, eighty three Dembele and lesser chiefs, the number of the common people killed was not reckoned, but it was estimated at more than two thousand. The shells, thrown into the heavens, had done murderous execution, and three high priests next Gassie, Djonkeng, were killed by the explosion of a shell. The trouble and fear was general, because they expected the Netherlands troops at other places, while Biling and Karanggum called for help from Klongkong and other countries. It was the opinion all over Bally that Biling in the encounter at Djagaraga was beaten and exhausted, and that the departure of the Netherlands troops from Bally was only a temporary retreat for the purpose of renewing the war with greater force.

In the mean time in expectation of other dispositions, means are being taken for continuing the defence of the island of Bally; E. M. Frigata de Alkye steamer Samarra and other vessels of small burthen will be appointed to that service.

(From the Straits Times, July 29.)

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—By the arrival of the Bernice we have been favoured with Cape Journals to June 3rd. H. M. S. Hercules (74 guns) Captain Fyler, arrived at the Cape May 21st and was 10 days in a few days to Bangoon. H. M. S. Argus, Captain Bingham, left on the same day for England. H. M. Steamer Achernar, Captain Stokes, was at Simon's Bay and was in leave June 10th, for New Zealand to supply the place of the Inflexible proceeded to Bombay for repairs. The bark Steamer, Bunt, sailed out of Table Bay June 2nd for Penang.

At the Cape, influenza had become settled, but owing to the depressing influence of the late rains, with the Colony would be popularly believed to be in former prosperity. The amount of revenue is set down at £2,500, it was thought that there would be a temporary falling off of £2,000 in consequence of the uniform heavy postage imposed to be introduced. In 1844, the same sum was paid on a letter was reduced from one shilling to four pence, to the great advantage of the revenue. The celebration of New Year at Natal was progressing

SHIPPING IN CHINA.—Continued.

hibition was made of the sewing machine invented by...

Table with columns: Date, Ship Name, Origin, Destination. Includes entries like '22, Lady Denison, Murray, Whampoa' and '20, Diana, Gilsou, London'.

SHIPPING IN CHINA.

VESSELS OF WAR.

Table listing military vessels with columns: Ship Name, Port, Armament. Includes 'H.M. Ship Cambrian', 'Big Marine', 'Sloop Scout'.

MERCHANT VESSELS.

Table listing merchant vessels with columns: Ship Name, Port, Tonnage, Masters, Consignees. Includes 'Adeleide, barque', 'Ariel, barque', 'Amin, barque'.

A Parrot's Fate.—In May last Mr Henry Barns of...

Baby's Amour.—Among the domestic inventions of the...

Volunteers.—A number of gentlemen in London have...

Chloroform.—Among the poisons lately obtained in France...

A Power.—As a teacher of the "young idea" was...

Lovers of Bawse.—When it was understood, a fortnight...

Large shipping table with columns: Ship, Port, Tonnage, Masters, Consignees. Includes 'HAMBURG, Sphylide, schooner', 'Juliens, schooner', 'Carl Jobor, barque'.

VESSELS LOADING.

Table listing vessels loading with columns: Port, Ship, Consignees, Intended Destination. Includes 'London, Whampoa, Brahmin', 'Liverpool, Whampoa, Victoria'.

VESSELS EXPECTED.

Table listing vessels expected with columns: Date, Ship, Consignees, Intended Destination. Includes 'February 2, Emma Eugenia, 333, Culverwell, Hongkong'.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.

- Aug. AT HONGKONG. 18, Hemes, Corkhill, from Liverpool 20th April. 18, Nerubida, Crawford, from London 19th April.

DEPARTURES.

- Aug. AT MACAO. 17, Borras (Dutch), Messen, from Batavia 18th June. Aug. AT AMOY. 4, Vieleds (Dutch), Schmidt, from Macao.

Table listing arrivals and departures with columns: Ship Name, Port, Date, Consignees. Includes 'Amoy Packet, schooner', 'Ariel, schooner', 'Bleng, barque'.

Table listing arrivals and departures with columns: Date, Ship, Consignees, Intended Destination. Includes 'February 11, Nautins, 240, Manlay, Shanghai'.

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