

same satisfactory basis as I have seen it in other Colonies. These are facts, ladies and gentlemen, which it is desirable for us to remember. It is by knowing them and by co-operating together that we can secure in this Colony that proper quantity and quality of public instruction which a Government ought to provide. And I may say this is especially our duty here upon the confines of China, for speaking in the presence of perhaps one of the most distinguished scholars of China and Chinese—my friend Dr. EITEL—he will bear me out in saying the instruction of the people, no matter how rude and elementary, is carried out in that great Empire, and has been for centuries carried out in a mode which should set us an example. In the Chinese villages at the other side of the water, you see all or nearly all the little boys attending school. It may be that they learn, from our point of view, very little. They get off by heart a few moral and ethical precepts, but such as they are, there they are kept repeating them. They are kept at school away from the streets, and whatever the educational result may be, it is manifest that the peace and good order, speaking generally, of that vast Empire, is in no small degree dependent on the vast network of public instruction there is over the whole of China.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, this I think is a fitting opportunity for me, in again congratulating Mr. STEWART and congratulating the pupils who have obtained these prizes to-day, to say that whatever discussions there may have been in this Colony, and they have raged pretty warmly now for a good many years, I believe we all unite in an earnest desire to promote the public instruction of the people, and I believe when we come to examine what are called the differences that exist, it will be found they are not very deep and that they should not keep us apart. On a recent occasion, during the absence of my Right Revd. friend Bishop BURDON, I had the pleasure of distributing the prizes at St. Paul's College. What I then said I now repeat, that the Government of this Colony is above the quarrels, discussions, and controversies of the educationists; the only desire of the Government is to do full justice and give fair play to all parties, and it is not because the Government gives assistance one day to one particular party that it is to be debarred the next day from as heartily and equally assisting another party. As long as we can promote public instruction so long, I believe, you will all co-operate with me in carrying out that policy of perfect fairness to all. In doing that, not only will we educate the people, but we will also—what is perhaps a secondary consideration but not unimportant—restore a little more harmony into our educational polemics. (Applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY again rose and said:—I think, gentlemen, I may, imitating the example of my worthy predecessor, SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY, ask Dr. EITEL if he will favour us with a few remarks on a subject on which there is no better authority than himself—the great subject of public instruction.

The Revd. Dr. EITEL:—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I feel very much at a loss as to what I can possibly say after the very admirable remarks that have already fallen from His Excellency, which have touched a responsive chord in all our hearts, as they ought to do, for we all have at heart the education of our fellow creatures. Only one thing I notice not specially mentioned in His Excellency's speech, but which no doubt is included in His Excellency's programme, and that is, the education of girls. A great deal has indeed already been done in this Colony for the education of boys, but very little for the education of female children, and I hope His Excellency, in his scheme for the future education of this Colony, will make special provision by the institution of girls' schools. (Applause). I have no doubt I am expressing the feelings of all present when I say the education of the Colony is in excellent hands. (Applause).

Mr. STEWART:—I have to thank Your Excellency, and the ladies and gentlemen who have favoured us with their presence to-day, for your attendance and for the presents which have been given as prizes. If your Excellency will now dismiss us for our holidays until the 1st March we shall be very glad.

HIS EXCELLENCY then announced the holidays and the proceedings terminated.

No. 17.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Despatch, No. 159 of the 7th December, 1877, from the Colonial Office, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 21st January, 1878.

HONGKONG.

No. 159.

DOWNING STREET,

7th December, 1877.

SIR,—With reference to your Telegram of 3rd August, and your Despatch No. 86 of the same date, respecting the selection of trained Officers in England for service in the Victoria Gaol, Hongkong, I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information, copies of correspondence between this Department and the Home Office, from which, you will learn that GEORGE HAYWARD has been selected for the Office of Warden, and THOMAS COLE for that of Head Turnkey.

The Crown Agents have been instructed to provide passages for these Officers and their families at an early date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT G. W. HERBERT,
(for the EARL OF CARNARVON.)

Governor HENNESSY, C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 18.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Notice is hereby given, that His Excellency J. POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G., has been pleased to recognize TOBIAS PIM, Esquire, provisionally and until Her Majesty's pleasure may be known, as Vice-Consul for Peru.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 21st January, 1878.

No. 19.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Notice is hereby given, that Saturday, the 2nd February, being the Chinese New Year's Day, will be observed as a Holiday throughout the Government Departments.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1878.

No. 20.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Account, duly certified, of the Average Amount of BANK NOTES in Circulation in Hongkong, during the Month ending 31st December, 1877, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1878.

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
	\$	\$
Oriental Bank Corporation,	373,016	200,000
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China,.....	407,298	150,000
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	544,670	200,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	1,516,781	600,000
TOTAL,.....\$	2,841,765	1,150,000

No. 21.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Tenders will be received at this Office, up to the 15th February next, for the construction of a High Pressure Boiler, to be built of the best Lowmoor Plate Iron for No. 1 Government Steam Fire Engine, similar in plan to that now fitted to No. 2 Engine, which can be seen at No. 1 Fire Brigade Station, Cross Roads, and for the thorough overhaul and needful repairs, if any, of the said Engine.

Tubes for the said Boiler to be obtained from England by the Contractor, being telegraphed for. Plan and Specification to accompany each Tender.

The entire work to be completed on or before the 31st May, 1878.

Further information can be obtained upon application to the Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th January, 1878.