



THE HONGKONG Government Gazette.

Published by Authority.

No. 7.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1878.

VOL. XXIV.

THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL, HONGKONG.

The following account of His Excellency The Governor's Visit to the Tung Wah Hospital on the 8th February, 1878, is extracted from the report of the *China Mail*, for general information.

THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL.

His Excellency Governor POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G., paid a ceremonial visit to the Tung Wah Hospital on the 8th of February at 3 o'clock. Early in the afternoon, the crowded streets leading to the Hospital were kept clear by a detachment of Police, composed of Europeans, Sikhs and Chinese, and the full force of the District Watchmen for this District. It was no easy matter to clear the way, as at the time of the Chinese New Year festivities the streets are unusually crowded, and the three Chinese Theatres, all in this locality, were in full swing. About 2.30 P.M. a guard of honour from the 74th Regiment, with the Regimental Band, arrived, and lined the road leading up to the Hospital. Shortly after 3 P.M., His Excellency arrived, accompanied by Mr. CREAGH, acting A.D.C., and Private Secretary NORTHCOTE; and Admiral HILLYAR, accompanied by Secretary PARISH and Flag-Lieutenant WILLOUGHBY, preceded a few minutes before by Dr. MOWLL, formerly of H. M. S. *Vigilant*. Among the foreign visitors present to witness the ceremony, were Mr. HAYLLAR, Q.C., Rev. Dr. E. J. EITEL, Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, and Mr. D'ALMADA. The Chinese community was very fully represented, there being present nearly 300 influential native residents from all classes of the community; and of those present some 50 or 60 were in their Mandarin costumes, some with blue buttons, some with crystal, and some with gold buttons; while a few had the additional honour of wearing the peacock's feather. Among those in uniform, we observed: Messrs. LEONG ON, CHUN TING CHEE, KWOK ACHEONG, CHEANG SING YEONG, LING HO WOON, WONG YIK PAN, WAI AKWONG, NG CHOY, CHUN AYIN, FUNG MING SHAN, WONG KWAN TONG, NG SANG, WONG SHING, NG CHEUK CHEE, and others. On the arrival of His Excellency and party, the Band of H.M. 74th Regiment struck up a familiar strain; while as the Governor and party entered, a salute of three guns was fired and some Chinese music was performed. Those of the Chinese who were in uniform then placed themselves in two lines from the door up to the Hall, and saluted the Governor and Admiral in proper Chinese style. His Excellency was then conducted to the top of an oblong table, with Admiral HILLYAR on his right and Dr. MOWLL on his left. After all were seated, tea, and refreshments in the shape of confectionery were brought in. This over, the Governor and party were conducted through the patients' wards, and then back to the Hall.

Mr. NG CHOY, then rose and said:—YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—I have been asked to be spokesman on this occasion, and I have accepted that honour with very great pleasure, though I think there may be more competent persons present to undertake the task. In the first place I have been requested to thank Your Excellency, for your kind visit here to-day, on behalf of the Chinese community of Hongkong. We are here to receive and welcome Your Excellency in this hall. I may be permitted to say that we have represented every class of the Chinese community. The gentlemen here represent the Committee of this Hospital, Merchants, Compradores, Shopkeepers, and, in fact, every trade and profession in this Colony. We have thought it advisable to commit what we have to say on this occasion to writing, and to consider it well before doing so. That being the case, Your Excellency may take this address, which we shall have the honour to present to you, as expressing not only our own views, who are here, but the unanimous sentiment of the Chinese community. This address is in two parts; one part is in Chinese and the other part is in English. The latter is a free translation of the first, and, with Your Excellency's permission, we shall read the Chinese part first, and then I shall follow by reading the English part. I will now call upon my Chinese friend, to read the Chinese part.

Mr. WONG KWAN TONG then read the address in Chinese.

Mr. NG CHOY then read the English translation, which is as follows:—

“To His Excellency JOHN POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G., Governor, and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We on behalf of the Chinese Community of Hongkong are grateful to Your Excellency for the honour you have done us by paying a visit here on this occasion. The Colony has been established now for about 36 years, and this Hospital for 9 years, but we believe it is the first instance in the history of Hongkong of a Governor making a formal call on the Chinese on the occasion of their New Year.

“Your Excellency’s liberal policy of treating and respecting all classes of people alike over whom you govern, without distinction of race, is well known and appreciated by us all, and if an illustration is needed, this visit is another instance of it. Your Excellency has not been long with us, but we feel certain in this, that in Your Excellency we have a just, impartial, and humane Governor. The active steps taken by Your Excellency to relieve the sufferings of the wounded persons occasioned by the sad catastrophe of the *Yesso* are beyond all praise and fully confirm our opinion. Your Excellency took a deep interest in their unfortunate case and personally visited them both in Gaol and in this Hospital, and when some of the prisoners in the Gaol had attended on them, Your Excellency, as an approval of their conduct, considerably pardoned them according to the degrees of offences of which they have been convicted.

“We may, therefore, safely conclude that from Your Excellency we need fear no harsh measures or class enactments which may press hardly on us, but that whatever measures enacted during the tenure of your high office will, we may be sure, tend to increase the prosperity of the Colony and to promote the welfare of all the inhabitants, natives as well as foreigners. In conclusion we beg again to thank Your Excellency for your kind visit to-day: we heartily wish Your Excellency and Mrs. HENNESSY happiness and prosperity, and trust that Your Excellency may long remain as Governor of this Colony.”

His Excellency then said:—Mr. LEONG-ON, and Members of the Committee of this Hospital,—I receive with the greatest satisfaction the address that has now been presented to me. In that address you say that it is my policy to make no distinction between any class, or creed, or nationality; but, in truth, that is not my policy alone, it is the policy of the Sovereign I have the honour to represent. When we remember that England is the greatest colonial empire on the face of the globe, the reason is that that policy of perfect fair play and justice to all is the Colonial policy of the British Government; and I say this in the presence of my gallant friend, Admiral HILLYAR, who in all quarters of the globe has seen that policy carried out by himself and everyone who represents the Queen of England. It is the fixed policy of England. The result certainly is gratifying to all of us, and must be gratifying to Her Majesty’s Government. Here in this Colony, established six and thirty years, what do we find to-day? We find that Hongkong in its commercial movement exceeds, far exceeds, the whole of the West Indian Islands. We know also that in the value of its shipping and commerce it exceeds the flourishing colonies in Australia. The value of this commerce is immense and it is of great advantage to England. Well, in developing that commerce no doubt England sent to this Colony and still sends here commercial men well fitted for the task, but these men are assisted by those I see round me to-day. Is there nothing that we Europeans can learn from the Chinese community of Hongkong? What causes commercial greatness?—Industry, temperance, probity in commercial dealings. All these are characteristics of the Chinese that I am now addressing; and I say there is no country in Europe that may not learn an example in commercial probity, in the strict payment of debts, in industry, from the Chinese community of Hongkong.

You have touched in your address upon that sad calamity which occurred not long ago in this Colony by which nearly a hundred persons were killed. Even from such an event we may take some useful lessons, and in connection with it there is something which we ought to be proud of. These are critical times; and that terrible event showed that in the Harbour of Hongkong we had an adequate representative of the British Navy, for with promptitude the signal was made by Admiral HILLYAR, and from every one of Her Majesty’s ships in the Harbour there went instantly a medical officer to attend upon the wounded. It is public spirit of that kind; that zeal, promptitude, and readiness for duty which has always distinguished the British Navy, that has made it successful in the past, and which at this very moment, perhaps while I am speaking, may be again demanded on the part of ships in Her Majesty’s service to maintain the honour of our flag. Therefore, I say that from what then occurred, we ourselves can learn a useful lesson. I rejoice to know that amongst the naval officers present to-day is the medical attendant in the Admiral’s own ship, who, I understand, is about to receive from you some testimony of the appreciation, the just and proper appreciation, that you entertain of the devotion with which that gentleman discharged the duties he then undertook.

This institution has done an immense amount of good. That there should be benevolent institutions wherever there is a Chinese community, we all know. We know that in all the great cities of China, there are institutions where the aged and destitute are cared for; and why should there not be such institutions in Hongkong? The whole expenses of this institution are defrayed by the voluntary contributions of the Chinese community, and I am happy to remind you that the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, while he was Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, conveyed to my predecessor, Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY, the sense of Her Majesty’s Government of the admirable example that the Chinese community had set in establishing this institution; and I shall now be able, from the visit I have paid to-day,

and from the minute inspection that the Admiral and myself have made of this Hospital, to do that which my predecessors have done,—bear testimony to the admirable way in which it has been conducted. It has been my duty to visit many hospitals; men in my position must do so; but I am bound to say that I have never gone through the wards of any hospital in any country in which I found better ventilation, and less of that hospital character, that we so often see, and unfortunately so often experience, than in this building. I see that in this institution you understand the great value of cleanliness and fresh air. One of my predecessors, Sir RICHARD MACDONNELL, speaking at this table perhaps, and referring to his visit, made a similar observation, adding that it would be a fortunate thing for the Colony, if our own Civil Hospital had been so well built, and if the windows, doors and other means of ventilation were as adequately constructed as you have them here. Now, gentlemen, I do not on this occasion desire to sit down without bearing my testimony also, as Governor of this Colony, to what has been, from time to time, done by the Committee of this Hospital on other subjects of public importance. Many years ago, the attention of the Government was directed to a scandal, which also attracted the notice of my gallant friend, Admiral HILLYAR, the evils of the coolie trade, and one of my predecessors called the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that the communications from the Tung Wah Hospital were those which gave him the first intimation of the evils perpetrated in that trade. While the Government of that day had to thank the Committee of the Tung Wah Hospital, it is my duty now publicly to do the same. It is not many weeks since you drew the attention of the Government to that which undoubtedly was a grave abuse. You brought to my notice the fact that it was the practice to issue tickets to Chinese Emigrants in this Colony for a certain sum of money; the tickets purported that that sum was paid in full, whereas, as you pointed out, in reality but a very small sum was paid, and the emigrant was expected to bind himself for so long a period as two years, to work off his passage, in the sugar plantations of the Sandwich Islands. That was an infraction of our law. It was you who drew our attention to it, and it is my public duty to thank you, as I now do, for the valuable information you thus conveyed to the Government.

I am sure I only express the sentiments of the European gentlemen that I see around me, and of my gallant friend, Admiral HILLYAR, and of his Officers, in cordially wishing you a happy New Year, and long continued prosperity; and I need hardly add that if I can in any way promote that prosperity, it will afford me indeed great satisfaction when the time comes, and I make up my own accounts, on leaving this Colony.

Mr. NG CHOY then interpreted the substance of His Excellency's speech to the Chinese present, a great majority of whom did not understand English.

Mr. WAI AKWONG then rose to present a silver cup to Dr. MOWLL, for the services he rendered to the sufferers by the explosion of the *S. S. Yesso*. The cup is very handsomely chased in Chinese style, and is a piece of exquisite workmanship from Canton. It stands on a nicely carved black-wood pedestal, and bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Rd. W. MOWLL, Esq., M.D., R.N., by the Chinese Community of Hongkong, as an expression of their high estimation of his medical abilities, and gratitude for his kind attention as displayed towards the sufferers from the accident on board the *S. S. Yesso*, 22nd November, 1877, Hongkong." In presenting it to Dr. MOWLL, Mr. WAI AKWONG said it was a small token of their esteem and gratitude, and he begged the doctor to accept it.

Dr. MOWLL replied in a few appropriate words, and said no one deplored the sad accident more than he did, and that in attending on the sufferers, he was only doing his duty for the cause of humanity. He thanked the Chinese for their kind gift, and said he would ever prize it.

Tea was again brought in, and after sipping it, His Excellency rose to depart. The Chinese Band again struck up, and a salute of three salvos was fired.

No. 29.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

FAMINE.—NORTH-CHINA.

The following Papers in reference thereto, are published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th February, 1878.

CHINESE FAMINE RELIEF FUND,

SHANGHAI, 29th January, 1878.

SIR,—In name of the Chinese Famine Relief Committee, we take the liberty of addressing you on the subject of the Famine now raging in the North of China. The accounts that have reached the Committee are most distressing and there is occasion for immediate action in the matter. These accounts have been published in the local papers here, and we beg to refer you to them for information.

It will be seen that the Famine extends over at least four provinces, Shensi, Shansi, Chilli and Honan, and is far more terrible than it was last year in Shantung. It includes a population of nine millions, thousands of whom are dying daily from sheer starvation. Not only are women and children being freely sold for a mere pittance, but human flesh is resorted to as a means of subsistence in many instances.