

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.

Happily the Chinese Government and private individuals are exerting themselves in the matter, and large contributions have been raised and forwarded both in money and food to the Famine stricken districts.

But the whole is of course utterly inadequate to meet the wants of the case, and Missionaries alike Catholic and Protestant, are engaged to the utmost of their ability in the work of distribution and more are ready to enter on it, if means are provided for the purpose. Urgent appeals are to hand for aid, and the Relief Committee here have resolved on adopting the same line of action that was pursued last year, namely, canvassing the foreign settlements at this place, writing to the outports, including Hongkong and Japan, and, in addition to telegraph to England and America.

Last year the Colony of Hongkong responded liberally to the appeals that were made for Shantung, and the necessities of the case compel us to renew our appeals this year, also in the hope that they will be as effective as they were then.

We have been appointed to write your Excellency for this purpose, and to lay the matter before you, requesting that such means may be carried out at Hongkong, as may be thought most suitable. Your kind attention to this will be the occasion of much thankfulness to the members of our Relief Committee and it is desired that any monies contributed for the object may be sent to the Treasurer of the Fund, F. W. LEMARCHAND, Esq., Agra Bank, Shanghai.

We have, &c.

WM. MUIRHEAD,  
*Hon. Sec., China Famine Relief Fund.*

E. REEVES PALMER,  
*Minister of Union Church, Shanghai.*

His Excellency

The Governor of Hongkong,  
&c., &c., &c.

R. C. MISSION HOUSE,  
HONGKONG, 7th February, 1878.

EXCELLENCY,—The appalling news of the horrors of famine, which I almost daily receive from the North of China, compels me to recur to the generosity of the heart of Your Excellency, craving for a relief for so many famine-stricken fellow-creatures. As Procurator of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, I continually receive letters from the heads of the Italian Missions, that is the Provinces of Shen-Shi, Shan-Shi and Honan, the Provinces most suffering from famine. My great friend the Right Reverend Bishop VOLONTERI, Vicar Apostolic of Honan, well known here in Hongkong (where he worked as Missionary for 10 years and who made the so widely spread chart of the San-on district) writes me in date of 12th January, that the horrors of famine are so great, that fathers are seen eating the corpse of their children, and children assisting at the death of their fathers, eating them immediately as they have expired. Indeed the local Mandarins do something, but quite powerless for so many dying people in those huts where at times some 5 or 6 thousand people collected receive a daily soup by the Government, some 60 or 100 corpses are extracted every day.

After such terrible description of the horrors of famine, the Right Reverend Bishop VOLONTERI, and the Right Reverend Bishop LING, Vicar Apostolic of Shan-Shi pray me to do all that lay in my power to find some relief for so many poor creatures, whom they are condemned to see dying every hour around them, unable as they are through poverty to stretch forth their hands to help them. I urged by such pitiful motives take courage to put my humble petition for some relief in the hands of Your Excellency, knowing the sincere feelings of charity which animates your heart, and hoping that the Colonial Government, which was so liberal last year for the poor people of Shantung Province will also come to the help of those of Shan-Shi and Honan.

I have, &c.,

G. BURGHIGNOLI,  
*Procurator of Pro.*

His Excellency

JOHN POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G.,  
*Governor of Hongkong,*  
&c., &c., &c.

No. 30.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following letter from His Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, dated Government House, Madras, 11th January, 1878, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

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