NOTICES.

The London Mail of the 14th Dec., is due in Hongkong on the 20th Jan., and here on the 25th Jan.—The 15th of Dec. Mail arrived last year on the 27th January, per *Ganges*.

The next French Mail of 23rd Dec., is due in Hongkong on the 29th Jan., and here on the 4th February.

Latest mail advices received in London from Shanghai .....December 5th.

THE publication of the *North-China Daily News* commenced at 5h. 30m. A.M.

TO-DAY'S DOINGS.

POLL for Election of Councillors, at the Board Room of Municipal Council..... } 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

S.V.C.—M.H.L. Squad Drill ... 9.00 p.m

Zi-ka-wei Observatory.

19TH JANUARY, 1884.

WEATHER.	Previous day 4 P.M.	Previous day 10 P.M.	On date 4 A.M.	On date 10 A.M.
BAROMETER at 32°	30.353	30.354	30.328	30.410
Variation for 24 hours.	—.102	—.168	—.163	—.063
Variation for 12 hours.	—.111	—.119	—.025	+.056
WIND { Direction	E.	E.S.E.	E.	E.N.E.
WIND { Miles per hour.	3.5	8.3	7.5	8.7
TEMPERATURE	40.1	33.4	35.8	43.5
HUMIDITY: %	34	68	71	67
NEBULOSITY: 0-10	0	0	0	0
RAINFALL	dust.	dust.	dust.	dust.

PREVIOUS DAY—18TH JANUARY, 1884.

WEATHER.	Mean.	Variation for 24 hours.	Normal mean 10 years.
BAROMETER: 4 obs.	30.411	—0.023	30.377
TEMPERATURE { Minimum 24.8 / Maximum 41.6 }	33.2	—5.2	35.8

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, JANUARY 21, 1884.

WHEN, some years ago, the then Municipal Council offered the post of Secretary to the late Mr. W. F. Mayers, it was generally felt that they were aiming at high game. The negotiations unfortunately fell through, but the Council nevertheless reaped great *kudos* for the proof they had given of their far-sightedness, good judgment, and sagacity. Mr. Mayers was a fine Chinese scholar, an excellent man of business, an indefatigably hard worker, and a most skilful diplomatist. It is true that, in his capacity as Secretary of the Municipal Council, he would probably not have held direct official intercourse with the local Chinese authorities. Yet we believe we are correct in saying that one of the considerations which weighed with the Council in offering the position for his acceptance was a hope that existing arrangements might have been so far modified as to dispense in a very great measure with the services of an intermediary; and there is no doubt that, could this have been brought about, it would have facilitated business to a very considerable extent. Apart, however, from the difficulty of acquiring the Chinese consent to such a scheme, and the perhaps no smaller difficulty of obtaining the support of the Consuls, it must be obvious that the advantages proposed would depend almost entirely upon the personal character of the Secretary. As long as Mr. Mayers could have remained with us in that capacity, all no doubt would have gone well. Circumlocution, that bane of public business, would have been greatly curtailed, and we should have felt that our interests were safe in the hands of a man who had already made his name properly respected in far higher circles of Chinese mandarindom than he would have been called upon to deal with here. But in looking forward to the certain uncertainties of human life, we should, by adopting the measure then proposed, have laid ourselves open to the gravest possibilities in the future. It would have been out of all human probability that we should have been blessed with a succession of Municipal Secretaries of the scholarship, the energy, the firmness, and the enlightened views which distinguished the late Mr. Mayers. And, on taking a backward glance, we may, upon the whole, congratulate ourselves that the proposed modification was not carried out, and that under the present system we stand a good chance of the Senior Consul, through whom communications with the Chinese authorities are conveyed, being a trustworthy and able man. At the same time it would be a mistake to conclude that the personal idiosyncracies of a Secretary have no bearing upon the public welfare. It is not only in writing despatches to an impertinent and obstructive Tao-t'ai that the high qualities of such an officer are called into play. It might happen that the Secretary was an obstructive man himself, in which case the despatches would perhaps never get written at all; for it is a curious fact that obstructiveness in a foreigner generally shows itself in directions which lead to the advantage of the Chinese rather than to that of foreign residents, and a man who from long residence in China falls into this conservative habit of mind is apt to become more Chinese even than the Chinese themselves. It is a misfortune accruing to our position here that in a multiplicity of instances we are forced to assume an attitude more or less hostile to the native authorities; not an aggressive attitude, but one of firm resistance to the difficulties and obstructions placed in our way by them whenever an opportunity of doing so occurs. When, then, the mouthpiece of the Council is a man inclined by habit and disposition to favour an obstructive policy, it follows that the disadvantage at which we stand is proportionately increased. And not only so: the same infirmity of mind is likely to show itself in matters pertaining to interests purely foreign, on which the native mandarins need not be consulted at all. When proposals for the reform or removal of long-standing abuses are systematically opposed on *primâ facie* grounds; when vested interests are upheld to the grave prejudice, perhaps, of the entire community; when Chinese objections to improvement in locomotion or sanitary matters are welcomed and endorsed; when schemes of public benefit are received coldly, if not discountenanced,—then it becomes the duty of Councillors to consider the position in which they themselves stand towards the ratepayers, and the danger of permitting the growth of an influence at variance with the general weal. In the first case that we are supposing, it would be wise for Councillors to place themselves with confidence in the hands of their Secretary to an extent scarcely warranted, perhaps, by the legal and formal responsibilities devolving upon them as independent representatives of the community; in the second case their care should be to confine the functions of the Secretary to work of the most purely clerical nature. This, however, may occasionally prove a task of some difficulty. The experience of past years has shown that grave disservice to the community may result from the personal participation of officers, occupying such a position, in transactions in real estate. Illustrations are not wanting of the fact that the exercise of personal influence, coloured pretty strongly by personal prejudices and predilections, is as difficult to avoid as it is injurious in its effects. The duties of a Municipal Secretary are such as require experience of business, knowledge of the Settlement, and individual energy of character. When these are present, it is unnecessary to permit the play of private idiosyncracies unless these are exercised in cordial and unmistakeable harmony with the requirements of the moment and the best interests of the Municipality. Should, however, any such characteristics be allowed to obstruct the advance of Shanghai in matters which are essential to its public and social well-being, in whatever department of life, it is the duty of those in power to nip the mischief in the bud with a strong hand, even at the risk of incurring animosity on the part of private individuals; and it consequently behoves ratepayers to abstain from strengthening the hands of an inert and obstructive Secretary by electing, as members of the executive, men who are known to be protectors of vested interests, enemies of progress, and advocates of that do-nothing and illiberal policy which gives us so much trouble in our dealings with the Chinese.

THERE is no question now before the community of sufficient interest to lend excitement to the election which take place to-day and to-morrow. In one way and another people have had enough of "burning" questions during the current year, and desire, above all things, that the new Council may be a quiet-going body, composed of business men acquainted with our affairs. It is hoped that by the election of such a Council ordinary commonplace matters may receive that attention which they demand, but which there is a strong belief has not been paid to them in recent times. It is possible that the course of events during the coming year may require the adoption of extraordinary measures. If so, we feel sure that our interests and our safety will be as carefully protected by common every-day men as by those who are always for sounding the alarm-bell. The intercourse with the Chinese authorities, conducted through the Municipal Council, must be carried on firmly and courteously. The position of foreigners within the Settlement must be maintained at all points against the mandarins. The repetition of such scandalous mismanagement as every one indignantly witnessed last year in the case of the detective, can best be provided against by sending calm, energetic men of business to the Council Board. And the general interests of all will be safe in the hands of men possessing these qualities.

Looking at the names of those ratepayers who have been nominated and will be voted for to-day and to-morrow, we should say that the following gentlemen would form a Council possessing the qualities which would give confidence to the community:—

Ph. Arnhold.	T. W. Kingsmill.
A. Burman.	R. Mackenzie.
J. M. Cory.	E. Major.
C. J. Holliday.	E. G. Vouillemont.
J. J. Keswick.	

The first named gentleman stands as the representative of the interests of Germans and others. Mr. Cory and Mr. Kingsmill have a thorough acquaintance with all the matters that come within the scope of the Engineers' department, and this will be very useful, while both are thoroughly independent of little cóteries and cliques. Of Mr. Keswick nothing more need be said than that the wish is very general that he should become not only a Councillor but the head of the Council. Mr. Mackenzie has served two terms already with acceptance. M. Vouillemont will we believe make an excellent Councillor, and his independence when the Consul-General of France interfered with the Conseil Municipale last year will be no slight recommendation of him to the electors of these Settlements. The experience he gained on the Conseil Municipale will be of service at our Board. Mr. Major's knowledge of Chinese and acquaintance with native feeling and ways will be useful to his colleagues. The community are so much indebted to Mr. Holliday's energy and to his labours in preparing the new police scheme last year that it is almost ungracious to say anything severe of him. But he himself must know that very many people view his way of going about things with considerable distrust, and it is only because there are arrangements yet to be perfected in the police force, which he can probably determine better than a new Councillor could, that we have placed his name in the list. Of those new candidates whose names we have omitted we shall only notice Mr. Francis, as his election would be received with regret by very many people, who believe that he would prove obstructive and crotchetty at the Board. Nor is this the time to return Councillors who would generally be found among the upholders of vested interests, however opposed these might be to the public weal. The name of the present Chairman has been omitted because there is a pretty general desire that some one else should fill that place with more power of resisting the pressure of energetic colleagues.

The *Eldorado* left Amoy on Friday for Shanghai.

The *Kowshing* left Hongkong on Saturday for Shanghai.

The *Benalder* left Singapore on the 13th instant for Hongkong.

The German gunboat *Iltis* returned to Shanghai yesterday from Hongkong.

Sir Richard T. Rennie returned to Shanghai from the River Ports by the *Ngankin* yesterday.

The Mih-ho-loongs are commencing to drill again, though they are not required to do so till 1st March.

Voting for Municipal Councillors commences to-day and will be continued up till 3 p.m. to-morrow.

The first three prizes in the Manila Lottery this month have fallen to numbers 24,299; 19,798; and 14,539.

We acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet entitled 'Le Conflit entre la France et la Chine,' by M. Henri Cordier.

We learn that Mr. F. A. Kofod takes the place of Mr. Anderson, as M.M. Co.'s pilot, during the latter's absence on leave.

Mr. Tong King-sing, Mr. Butler, and Captain Bolton, all of the C.M.S.N. Co., returned to Shanghai by the *Oxus* on Saturday.

Mr. Martins, Consul-General for the Brazils, arrived at Shanghai by the *Oxus* on Saturday. He was accompanied by Senhor Pontes and Commander Martins.

The half yearly general meeting of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society will be held at 9 p.m. on the 24th instant at the Royal Asiatic Society's Library.

We are compelled by stress of matter to hold over some interesting proclamations bearing on Chinese preparations for war, and referred to in our leader of Saturday.

We learn that the *Monocacy* Minstrels intend giving an entertainment on shore shortly. The Minstrels are now busily engaged rehearsing during their spare time.

The Municipal Council have taken prompt action with reference to the "ring and pin" gambling establishments, and consequently all these places in the English and American Settlements are now closed.

The M.M. Co.'s steamer *Oxus* with the incoming mails of 7th December passed Gutzlaff at 0.05 p.m. on Saturday. Her mails were received at the British Post-office at 6.35 p.m. and the delivery was begun at 6.50 p.m.

The Chinese contractors, having completed piling the Hongkew foreshore above the Garden Bridge, have returned to the lower portion and are now busily engaged completing the work they stopped at, a short time ago.

The *Taisang*, the new steamer for the Indo-China Steam Ship Company, will return to Hongkong where she will be put on the Hongkong-Calcutta line. The *Wingsang*, sister ship to the *Taisang*, is already on that line.

A paper entitled "A Buddhist Sheet Tract, containing an Apologue of Human Life" with notes by the Right Rev. Bishop Moule, will be read before the China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society tomorrow evening at 9 o'clock.

On Saturday afternoon, a tussle occurred on the Bund between some policemen and men-of-war sailors. The latter were absentees, and two of them tried to escape. The police, however, were too strong for them and took them on board the *Champion* where they belonged.

We learn that the next parade of the United States war vessels' crews will be a full dress one, the officers wearing cocked hats and epaulettes. The parade which was to have been held last week was postponed owing to Courts-martial which were being held on board the *Monocacy*.

Although the new policemen receive such small pay, one of them on Saturday warned two men-of-war's men that rewards were out for their arrest as deserters, and advised them to go on board the *Champion*. By this kindness the policeman lost the reward of £2 and the sailors saved an equal amount, as they took the advice given them and went on board.

A man named Joseph Holmes, who has been keeping the Hongkew Hotel lately, was required to attend at the Police Court on Saturday to answer a charge of using violent language, but did not appear. Seeing that this man has been several times before the Police Magistrate and was but recently bound over to keep the peace, it seems strange that the Municipal Council granted him a licence to carry on the hotel business.

The Hongkong Correspondent of the *New York Herald* telegraphed this important piece of information, on the 29th Nov., to his paper:—"Important news just received by me from Tonquin goes far to confirm my previous information that the Chinese had evacuated Sontay and Bac-ninh. One of my correspondents sends word that the Chinese troops fled from Bac-ninh, being terrified by the appearance of the Turcos from Algeria, whom they took to be demons. No soldiers remain to hold the fortress except a few genuine Black Flags."

A number of men-of-war's men were on shore on leave on Friday, and some of them having obtained possession of fowling pieces went out to the Bubbling Well Road where they committed considerable havoc among tame ducks belonging to the villagers. They then returned to the Settlement with their spoil, the villagers following them in force and trying to obtain compensation, but the Jacks refused to satisfy their demands. At the Horse Bazaar bridge, the villagers were afraid to enter the Settlement and returned home, leaving the sailors in quiet possession of their bag.

An accident happened on Saturday in Hongkew at the foot of the Garden Bridge. A carriage containing two ladies was about to go over the Bridge, when a jinricsha containing a gentlemen was going down the slope, and as is usually the case, the jinricsha coolie ran down the incline at the top of his speed and lost all control over his vehicle. The result was that the jinricsha crashed into the carriage, the foreigner being thrown out and one of his feet badly hurt. Fortunately for the ladies in the carriage, P.C. 48 was close at hand, and he promptly caught hold of the frightened ponies and prevented their bolting. The gentleman who was hurt was sent to the Hospital.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED SOLELY TO "N.-C. DAILY NEWS." (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

London, 18th January.

The Governor-General of the Soudan has telegraphed to headquarters that the insurgents have cut off the retreat of the Garrisons in the province of Sennaar and rendered the Nile impassable a little below Duam.

19th January.

General "Chinese" Gordon has started for Egypt on a special mission.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions or assertions of Correspondents; nor can he undertake to return unused MS.

THE SILK CROPS.

To the Editor of the NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

MONSIEUR,—Sans vouloir entrer dans une polémique au sujet des deux opinions que la diminution des récoltes en Chine tient, soit au mauvais temps, soit au développement de la maladie, je me permettrai de relever quelques faits énoncés dans votre article d'hier qui me puraissent discutables.

Vous paraissez supposer que la méthode de M. Pasteur consiste à examiner toutes les graines à l'aide du microscope, et à séparer les bonnes des mauvaises. Ce procédé n'est pas pratique, parce que pour trouver les corpuscules dans l'œuf, il faut écraser d'abord celui-ci, et qu'il se trouve par ce fait hors d'état de donner naissance à un ver. Quand bien même, on pourrait découvrir les corpuscules sans ouvrer l'œuf, le procédé serait encore impraticable par la raison qu'une once de graine comprend de 35,000 à 53,000 œufs suivant les races, ce qui rend un travail de sélection de cette sorte à peu près impossible dans la pratique.

Avant les études de M. Pasteur, les savants Italiens, et en particulier Vittadini et Cornalia, recommandaient d'examiner à l'aide du microscope un certain nombre d'œufs parmi les lots de graines qu'on avait à sa disposition et de rejeter les lots où la proportion des œufs corpusculeux était plus ou moins considérable. Mais ce procédé ne présentait qu'une garantie insuffisante, parce que les corpuscules sont toujours en très petit nombre dans l'œuf surtout dans les temps les plus raprochés de la ponte, et ne se développent dans celui-ci qu'au moment de sa mise en incubation.

De plus d'après les êtudes subséquentes de M. Pasteur, il a été prouvé que la présence *d'un seul corpuscule* dans un œuf suffit pour que le ver qui en naitra ne puisse arriver à faire son cocon. Or il est à peu près matériellement impossible de découvrir *un seul* corpuscule isolé dans un œuf. Le procédé n'est donc valable que pour les lots de graines très malades, et où les œufs sont déjà très corpusculeux et on lui a toujours préféré le système des educations précoces, consistant à faire éclore artificiellement, et à élever à l'aide de feuilles de mûrier récoltée dans des serres, en Janvier ou Février, de petits echantillons des lots de graines que l'on voulait essayer.

Le procédé de M. Pasteur généralement adopté aujourd-hui consiste à rechercher la maladie dans les papillons producteurs.

Le plus grande partie des éducateurs en France et en Italie font aujourd'hui eux-mêmes leur provision de graines par ce procédé, qui, bien que demandant certaines précautions, est en réalité d'un execution assez facile dans la pratique.

Quant à l'opinion généralement admise par les Chinois que l'état climatérique doit être rendu responsable des mauvaises recoltes, je la crois au moins exagerée et trop exclusive. Il est certain que le mauvais temps nuit aux recoltes, mais je pense qu'il faut chercher ailleurs pour trouver la raison de la progression si rapidement decroissante des récoltes dans les dernières années, et mon opinion est que la vraie cause est dans le développement des maladies, à la suite de l'augmentation croissante des éducations. Cela ne veut pas dire que toutes les graines aient été absolument mauvaises. Certains lots de graines choisies, envoyés en Europe peuvent avoir donné de bons résultats partiels, et le fait même que de bon résultats partiels ont eté obtenues cette année dernière en Chine prouverait que le mauvais temps n'a pas été seul à blâmer, et que les éducations qui ont déchoué ont souffert par d'autres causes. It est avéré, non seulement par les chiffres de l'exportation, mais par les plaintes des sériciculteurs Chinois, que les récoltes vont en décroissant, malgré le développement des plantations de mûriers, malgré l'augmentation des quantités de graines mises à l'éclosion.

Les cocons récoltés sont en général de moins en moins bons, et donnent de moins bons rendements en soie. Ce qui n'empêche pas, encore une fois, qu'on peut constater au milieu de tous ces mauvais résultats, comme cela a été du reste le cas en Europe dans les plus mauvaises années—d'excellentes réussite partielles; et un acheteur entelligent et avisé peut réussir à faire un bon choix de cocons. L'exception ne prouve rieu quant au résultat général. Le mauvais reudement des cocons a été constaté déjà en Europe pour les cocons percés de Chine qui donnaient il y a trois ans un rendement de 82 à 84 %; qui n'ont donné que 72 à 76 en 1882, et 62 à 64 % en 1883.

On ne peut pas admettre non plus que la diminution de la quantité de soie arrivant sur le marché de Shanghay sont due à la faiblesse des prix actuels. Les cours ont été à Shanghay dans ces dernières années, largement à la hauteur de la moyenne des dix dernières années (en exceptant bien entendue l'échauffourée de 1876 qui n'a pas en de durée.)

En 1876 on avait vu les Elephant Bleu à 305, ce qui n'empêcha par les Chinois d'être en mesure cette année là de nous donner 80,000 balles.

Au printemps de 1879 les prix des 4es Tsatlée étaient de 360 à 370; la récolte de 1879 donnait 70,000 balles. En Juin 1879, les prix débutaient il est vrai à 445 (cela ne pouvait influer sur le chiffre de la récolte qui était déja acquis) mais retombaient bien vite à 400, et 380, et la saison finissait au printemps 1880 à 365/370.

Cependant la récolte de 1880 nous donnait plus de 85,000 balles la plus graude récolte de Chine, et les cours débutaient à 357½ pour descendre en Novembre à 327½, et remonter à la fin de la saison à 370.

La saison 1881/1882 à donné 61,000 balles (dont 52,000 balles exportées), et les prix variaient de 370 à 420.

La saison 1882/1883 a donné 54,000 balles (avec une exportation de 57,000 balles grâce au stock restant de la saison précédente), et les prix ont varié entre 370 et 395 pour 4es Tsatlees.

La saison présente nous donnera à peine 32,000 balles (en déduisant bien entendu les 15,000 balles de vieux stock) et nos prix ont débuté à 410 et ont atteint même 455. Ils sont encore aujourd'hui à 385/390.

Ces prix contrastent singulièrement avec ceux de 300/305 en 1876 et 327½/330 en 1880.

Il est hors de doute que les éducateurs Chinois font leurs efforts pour nous fournir la plus grande quantité possible de soies, et cela est prouvé non seulement par le développement croissant des plantations de mûriers, mais aussi par les quantités de graines mises à l'éclosion, qui ont été telles dans ces dernières années, qu'à plusieurs reprises on nous a predit à Shanghay au commencement des éducations des récoltes considerables mais ces prévisions ont été malheureusement démenties par les faits. Ces déceptions ont été attribuées au mauvais temps, mais mon opinion, basée sur des observation attentives, et sur les études sérieuses que j'ai faites de la question, me portent à admettre que le mal vient surtout du développement des maladies, qui, de même qu'en Europe, sont multiples, et ne se réduisent pas simplement à la Pébrine. Les éducations en Chine, souffrent aussi dans une grande mesure de la Flacherie et de la Muscardine, et je crois que c'est en combattant intelligemment ces maladies qu'on arrivera à relever l'importance des récoltes, plutôt qu'en se confiant nonchalamment aux influences atmosphériques.

Il est possible qu'avec certaines précautions, les éducateurs Chinois aient réussi jusqu'ici à combattre dans une certaine mesure l'influence néfaste de ces maladies, mais je ne crois pas que les moyens qu'ils aient employés, soient suffisants pour les écarter complétement, et je crois aussi que c'est plutôt à la multiplication des éducations qu'il faut attribuer l'abondance relative des récoltes précédentes, qu'aux soins plus ou moins bien entendus des Educateurs.

Recevez, Monsieur l'Editeur,

l'assurance de mes sentiments distingués,

PAUL BRUNAT.

Shanghai, 18 Janvier, 1884.

SATURDAY'S PAPER HUNT.

The start was from near the Two-mile Bridge. The paper which was supposed to be laid by the Foxes, Messrs. Wintle and Arbuthnot, was conspicuous by its absence, and we had a rare good hunt for it for the space of an hour and a quarter; the *wind*, I am told by an eye-witness, took possession of it; as far as I can judge however, the course given, was followed by the hunt. Crossing the back Bubbling Well Road, we, after considerable delay, landed, on the Island, where we did a little mudlarking; leaving this, Mr. Little on *Dalwhynnie* took the jump in the corner, euphoniously termed the Major's leap, in sensational style, the remainder of the riders *got through* to the best of their ability. Ample time for rest was given ere we were able to find our way on to Jessfield Road. From this point we gradually got to the Tunsin, then to the Fah-wah line, and both being well-known were quickly covered. Across the Sicawei Road and over the Chasm we went next; seven ponies cleared this latter impediment almost simultaneously, in capital form. We then turned the corner to the right and shortly afterwards the once leading seven changed places with seven others, perhaps "slightly worse than the first." Mr. Perrott on *Kavacorum* led over the last jump, *(Black Auster's)*, Mr. Taumeyer on *Picador* second, Mr. Harry (Maitland) on *Bones*, carrying off in great triumph the heavy weight prize, his stable companion close up.

One advantage therefore has accrued to the hunt; we shall, in all probability, have two additional scarlet coats.

LYNX.

CANTON.

The news of a possible French occupation of Hainan Island, with its wealth of copper and iron, its agricultural and productive capabilities and other great natural resources, caused a considerable stir in native official and other circles here. With that excitability and precipitancy, which in the hour of danger is so marked a characteristic of low forms of civilization, all available troops were hastily got together and a considerable number actually despatched to the threatened scene of action; cooler and more mature counsels, however, seem to have prevailed since, and I understand that the soldiers who have not yet actually left will have their orders to proceed to Hainan countermanded, and the men who have already left will reinforce the troops on the Tonquin border instead of remaining in Hainan as at first intended. The effective strength of the Canton garrison will not therefore now be weakened by the despatch of troops to a scene of operations, where, cut off by the superior power of the French fleet from their base of operations, the Chinese troops could render but a feeble opposition to the threatened French occupation; while the sending away of a large number of men would seriously weaken the Canton garrison.

Although extensive preparations against possible contingencies are actively going on and many torpedoes have been prepared as also several large caisson-shaped odd-looking craft laden with stones have been towed down the river, I am assured that nothing has yet been actually done towards blocking up the river with stones, torpedoes, &c., &c., as I have seen elsewhere reported; and I now have it, on the best authority, that an ample passage both in depth and breadth will be left for the largest of our river steamers, even in the event of hostilities actually breaking out. H. E. Wan, the Arsenal superintendent here, is reported to be very busily engaged in the manufacture of torpedoes and electrical apparatus for firing them. I have seen some accumulators, insulated wire, electric bells, &c., &c, made by this gentleman, which are fully equal, both in practical use and also external appearance, to the best foreign workmanship. H. E. Wan has also turned out some hundreds of boilers and engines both small and large, and has both built and engined many vessels, some of them carrying heavy guns, rendering them really most formidable craft. When it is remembered that not a single boiler accident or serious break-down of any kind has occurred on board any one of these vessels, and that all this has been done by a man unable to speak a single word of English or any other foreign language, it will be seen that very great credit is due to so energetic and intelligent an official. Wan, it may be remarked, is one of the very few red buttoned mandarins willing to put their own hands to any really practical or useful labour.

I observe that the intelligence which I communicated to you some few weeks ago relative to the steps taken to form a local militia is confirmed by the translation of Peng Yü-lin's memorial, which you published yesterday; the accuracy of my information was at the time called in question by a correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* who will now probably admit the correctness of my observations. The French gunboat *Lutin* left here last night and will probably have arrived in Hongkong before this reaches you.

The following is a translation of the circular despatch sent by the Viceroy of the Two Kwang to the foreign Consuls at Canton:—

Kwangsu 9th year, 12th month, 11th day.

I have the honour to inform you that I have received from the Board of Provincial Administration a report running as follows:—

"We humbly beg to bring to your notice that two camps have been established on the Canton river in the neighbourhood of Pai-tu-kang, and that consequently measures must be taken, for the sake of easy communication between the two banks, to bridge this waterway.

"Furthermore it will be necessary to close the Whampoa waterway, as a torpedo station has been established there, and continual torpedo exercise is going on; this in order to avoid that ships trading there do not come in contact with the water mines.

"In concurrence with General Wu, who commands the troops coming from Huai-an-fu (in the province of Kiangsu), we have decided to bridge the river Hsi-kang in the neighbourhood of Pai-tu-kang with a wooden structure, thus making a direct communication with the place Sha-lu and making intercourse between the two banks of the river easy for the troops. As, however, ships are continually passing at this point, and the steamers of all nations use this waterway when going up to Canton, it will be necessary to leave an opening in the middle of the bridge and at the deepest point of the water, of about 6 to 7 *ch'ang*, thus allowing the ships traffic.

"As foreign built ships of large size do not frequent the Whampoa waterway, and as torpedo practice is taking place there at present, a closing of the same is unavoidable, so that by no mischance ships might be injured.

"We have therefore agreed with Major Huang Ting-yao, who commands the Government junks, to close the river near the islands Yü-chu and Ten-sha, and to put up the necessary obstructions to stop the passage of ships, thus avoiding their destruction by the mines. Having given the necessary written instructions to this effect, we will not fail to bring the above to your Excellency's notice, asking at the same time to give all naval and military garrisons the necessary instructions

"We furthermore beg of your Excellency to give due intimation to the Consuls of all the Treaty Powers, so that they may instruct all steamers that, in navigating the Canton river they have to make use of the waterway passing by Sha-lu, and to take care not to damage the wooden bridge, and that they may not use the waterway passing by Yü-shu in order to avoid collision with the obstructions placed there and the consequent destruction. We beg to enclose a plan showing all details."

I, the Governor-General, have thereupon given you the necessary notification and ask you to give all steamers flying the flag of your country the necessary instructions, so that they may carry out and comply with the measures taken Enclosed is a plan showing all the details. I have the honour to be

(Card of the Viceroy).

CHANG SHU-SHENG.

Notes by trans.—Kai Tu-kang is marked on the Chart as Dane's Island—6 to 7 Ch'ang are equal to 60 to 70 Chinese feet or 70 to 80 English feet. Yü-chu is called Louisa Island, and Tonsha, Flat Island on the Chart.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

6th December.

In his second speech in Lancashire, Lord Hartington made a statement of which, singularly enough, very little notice has been taken. "In proof," he said, "of the cordiality and friendliness of our relations with Germany, I may tell you what I think will be satisfactory to many of you, that within a very few days we have received from the German Government an intimation that they are willing to cooperate with us for the protection of our and their subjects and our and their interests in China—that is in the event of our countrymen or our interests being brought into peril by the state of relations between France and China." Although the statement has failed to attract notice here, it has not escaped attention in Paris, and it is said there that the co-operation spoken of by the war secretary, will be contributed also by Russia, France and the United States. We are further informed that the object of the understanding is to protest the lives and property of foreigners in China. This may be true as regards the United States, but it is doubtful with respect to Russia, whose subjects in the Chinese ports are very few indeed. Lord Hartington abstained from defining the cooperation to which he alluded. It might mean much or it might mean little. Perhaps it may mean that what has taken place in the ports of Madagascar will not be tolerated in the ports of China. But "our and their interests in China" may mean a great deal more than this. It may mean national interests in the broadest sense. It may mean that the great European trade with China must be neither suspended nor interrupted; that the Treaty Ports must not be interfered with. If it mean this, it means that France will only have the Red River to convey troops into the interior. If so, France would be terribly crippled in her operations. Those who believe the report that the Egyptian Government, at the instance of this country, have determined to abandon the Soudan, leaving the territory to take care of itself, to be consistant, must believe in two other things. They must believe that Great Britain is the real sovereign of Egypt, for none but a Sovereign Power could so order it that a country should part with an integral portion of itself. Again, they must believe that the slave traffic ought to be allowed to assume its former dimensions, because the annexation of the Soudan was encouraged by England as the only possible way of putting an end to the trade in human beings. There is a good deal of gossip in reference to the Speakership, which has been refused by Mr. Goschen on the well founded plea of impaired vision. The appointment has been offered to Mr. Arthur Peel, the member for Warwick and second son of the famous minister. His health, however, is not strong, and the speaker, in view more particularly of obstruction, must be a strong man. His office, henceforth is to be very different to what it has hitherto been, and the Speaker is to be a very different man from Sir Henry Brand—a rougher speaker in fact and more prompt so put down the irreconcilables. Parliamentary procedure, in so far as the intentions of the Government are concerned, is to undergo a great change, and in future we are likely to hear a good deal more than we did last session, of the expedients for forcing through Government business which were so cleverly forged last year. Another Parliamentary vacancy has been caused by the death of Mr. Thomas Knowles, who sat for Wigan in the Conservative interest. As the balance of parties is very close, there is certain to be a contest. At Ipswich, too, the struggle promises to be a close one between Sir William Charley (C.) and Mr. West, Q.C. (L.) Mr. Tennyson is to be made a peer, and will probably take the title of Baron Tennyson. A fine poet, the Laureate no doubt, but I have the bad taste and ill-judgment, I confess it with shame, to prefer Longfellow. *Chacun à son gout.* The Managers of the defence fund raised for O'Donnell appear to have dispensed their wealth with a liberal hand. If ever legal talent could have saved a man's life it would have been his. General Pryor is said to have received the munificent retainer of $12,000, something like £3,000. Mr. Charles Russell, whose brilliant, though shadowy defence, is one that will go down in the annals of the Bar, received a retainer of 700 guineas, which, with the modest refresher on the second day, consultations, conferences, and other little matters which necessitate a fee, will probably bring up his share to not far short of £1,000. What was Mr. Sullivan's fee I do not know, but comparing the amount paid to General Pryor and that paid to Mr. Russell, it must be recollected that the American lawyer had to leave his business, and it is one of the largest in New York, for at least a month, and to pay his own expenses, while Mr. Russell only gave up the major portion of two days, and a few fitful intervals at other periods. The line of defence adopted by the latter has been strongly censured, and has led to a correspondence between the Lord Chief Justice and the Attorney General. The complaint against Mr. Russell is that he set forth an account of the circumstances in which James Cary was shot, avowedly coming from O'Donnell himself, and unsustained by a particle of evidence. Sir Henry James asked Mr. Justice Denman to declare this line of defence inadmissible, but the Judge, after some hesitation, ruled that he could not debar Mr. Russell from repeating the version of the prisoner without granting a case for the consideration of the Court for Crown cases reserved. Although the general opinion is against me, I do not think O'Donnell will be hanged. Certainly he had no right to take the law in his own hands, but Carey was an infamous wretch. The Counsels' fees in the London Financial Association case amount to 2,500 guine as on the brief, of which Mr. Horace Davey gets 800 guineas. The British Steamship Owners have come to a compromise with M. F. de Lesseps on the subject of the Suez Canal. It is far from satisfactory, yet a great improvement on the terms accepted by the British Government some months since. It is probable that the Canal will be enlarged, instead of a second one being made. The following deaths have to be noted:—Alderman T. J. Finnis, the senior member of the Court of Alderman; his brother, Colonel Finnis, fell in the Indian Mutiny—General W. G. Brown, late 24th and 83rd regiments—Lieut. General J. T. Shakespear, well-known for his services in India—Lieut. General J. W. Domville, late R. A.—Admiral G. S. Hand, C.B., and Lord Howard of Glossor, who was connected with many Roman Catholic families.

NEWS RECEIVED BY THE FRENCH MAIL.

(L. & C. Express.)

We take the following items from the *London and China Express* of the 7th ultimo:—

Mr. Egmont Hake's "Story of Chinese Gordon" will be published early this month. Besides maps, it will contain two portraits, one of the "Ever Victorious General," the other of the "Little Khedive." The work, which will include much that is new concerning China, the Soudan, and Basutoland, is based on a mass of unpublished documents and letters communicated by the Gordon family.

The rumours concerning the resignation of Herr von Brandt, of his post of German Minister at Peking are, we are able to state, entirely without foundation, as H.E. will return to China on the expiration of his leave, as we announced some time since. We are also pleased to be able to add the information, which we feel sure will be welcome to many of our readers, that Herr von Brandt's health, which was indifferent when he arrived home, has been greatly improving lately.

The latest mail advices received home were:—Manila October 22nd, Yokohama, *viâ* San Francisco, 23rd, Foochow 23rd Shanghai 25th, Saigon 27th, Batavia 29th, Hongkong 30th, Singapore November 6th. The P. and O. mail, *viâ* Venice, with the advices dated as above, from China and the Straits Settlements, was delivered in London this morning, two days late. The advices from Japan were received, *viâ* San Francisco, on the 27th ultimo. The next inward mail, per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Anadyr*, from Shanghai, Nov. 1st, was despatched one day in advance of its due date.

In view of the complications which may arise involving the rights of American citizens at the Chinese ports, efforts, probably more effective than those of last winter, will be made in Congress at its next Session to establish a complete code of civil and criminal law for the government of citizens of the United States in Eastern countries. A Bill embodying such a code was reported on favourably by the Committee of Foreign Relations. Further, it is widely felt that owing to the extraordinary judicial powers, involving not only the property but the life and liberty of citizens of the United States possessed by U. S. Consuls and Commercial Agents in China, only officials should be appointed who are qualified to exercise judicial powers. Flagrant abuses have arisen from incompetence.

The *Gazette* contains the subjoined notification:—"The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the Hon. Thomas George Grosvenor, C.B., now Secretary to Her Majesty's Legation at Peking, to be Secretary to Her Majesty's Legation at Brussels."

Captain C. E. Domville has been selected for the command of the *Temeraire*, one of