

The North-China Daily News.

SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 10, 1879.

NOTICES.

LOCAL POST OFFICE.—Open daily from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. Sundays, 9 to 10 A.M.; and 3 to 4 P.M. A delivery takes place every 4 hours. Pillar Letter Boxes in Hongkong (5) and Bubbling Well Road (4). The former cleared five times a day on week-days, and once on Sundays. The latter cleared three times a day on week-days, and once on Sundays.

NOTICE.—A gun will be fired on board the Senior Officer's Ship on Mondays and Fridays at Noon (mean time), precisely. A red and white triangular flag will be hoisted five minutes before the gun is fired. Long, 8h. 5m. 55. 6s.

The London Mail of the 3rd Jan., is due in Hongkong on the 13th Feb., and here on the 19th Feb.—The 4th of Jan. Mail arrived last year on the 13th Feb., per Lombardy.

The next French Mail, of 27th Dec., is due in Hongkong on the 7th Feb., and here on the 13th February.

Left Hongkong, at 10 A.M., 9th inst., per Aro.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The publication of the North-China Daily News commenced at 6h. 40m. A.M.

For SHIPPING REPORTS and COMMERCIAL NEWS see fourth page.

BIRTH.

At Hongkong, on the 9th inst., the wife of Captain W. BECKETT, s.s. *Europe*, of a son.

UNDER the title of *La Puissance Paternelle en Chine*, Mr. Scherzer, lately of the French Legation at Peking, has published a little pamphlet dealing with patriarchal despotism as developed in China. The material has been mostly drawn from the Penal Code in the form of translations of the sections bearing upon the subject. A few parallels are instituted between the Chinese enactments and corresponding portions of Roman law affecting the *Patria Potestas*, and judicious if somewhat obvious reflections are here and there interspersed. Many years ago, in the now long-deceased *Cycle*, a series of articles on the tenure and transfer of land appeared from the pen of an able Chinese scholar, expounding the principles of the native land law and the mode in which they are applied. The publication of those articles while supplying a want, revealed the existence of one more comprehensive still, and we have always hoped that he or some one equally competent would take up in turn other portions of native law, and do for them what he did for the law of landed property. Though Mr. Scherzer's attempt to make a beginning in the way of meeting this requirement is, as we shall show, of the slightest possible character and cannot be placed anywhere in the same line with the work that we have just mentioned, it is a distinct gain to have a compact view placed before us of any portion of the laws and edicts affecting the Chinese people in any important group of their mutual relations. At some future time the compiler will, we trust, adventure something more ambitious and more valuable. What we especially desire is completeness, but we ought also to have an exposition of the working of the written regulations; for it is obvious that, in the case of many of them, practice makes the law as it stands a dead letter. The rigour of the patriarchal relation must generally be an article of faith rather than a guide to practice; for, even in China, national affection as well as the common feelings and opinions of society are in advance of any code, and cannot fail often to reduce its apparent immutability to a fiction.

The more the Chinese are studied, the more clearly does the human nature in them come out—that is to say, the more completely do their supposed singularities disappear. The striking differences between their institutions and those of other nations are either superficial or are survivals from a time lost, so far as the most highly civilised countries are concerned, in the mists of legend. Patriarchal despotism here presents itself to us as a curious thing; but in fact primeval societies were all constructed on this capricious plan. The unit was the family, not, as with us, the individual. A supernatural sovereignty consecrated the institution, and by standing in a patriarchal relation to the highest visible earthly power enforced the doctrine of reciprocal obligations. Hence all ancient codes contain a mixture of civil, moral and religious ordinances, all equally binding, and expressing not only what the law ought to be, but what the law actually is. The confusion between what is lawful and what is moral, needs to be disentangled before much progress can be made. But in China, as among other eastern nations, the inflexibility of a frozen code, by limiting or altogether checking the natural development of civilisation, has prevented the gradual introduction of remedial modifications and expansions of legal principles. Considerations of this kind render intelligible the proposition wherewith Mr. Scherzer starts, namely that the organisation of the empire was based by the sages on that of the family, and that this principle is

carried out through all the grades of the mandarin. Nothing therefore can be more profitable than an examination of the rules which govern the mutual relations of the head of a family and his descendants. Amongst other things it serves to show how readily reasonable usages generate others that are unreasonable.

At a very early period of his studies, the reader of the sections of the Chinese code, with which Mr. Scherzer deals, is forcibly impressed by their oneness in detail. All the provisions are in favour of the father. The keynote of the whole is struck by the horribly barbarous enactment that in case of high treason every male relative of the offender between the ages of sixteen and sixty, is beheaded, no matter how completely innocent he may be. Here we see the working of the principle of the corporate character of crime. The father is the owner of his family (*familia* in the pre-classical sense) including all its property, no matter how or by whom acquired. In ancient times, as in Rome up to the imperial period, he had absolute power of life and death over his children whether legitimate, illegitimate or adopted. He may to the present day correct a child to such an extent as to cause its death, the law intervening with a trifling penalty only when it can be proved that the fatal result was brought about intentionally. The code, it is true, prescribes sixty blows and one year's banishment as the punishment for infanticide; but it is desire for posterity and not terror of the law that prevents this crime when it is prevented. The father may sell his children without their consent if he has fallen into misery, and with their consent he may do so at any time. Daughters-in-law are, however, protected. No evidence is demanded in support of a criminal charge brought by a parent against his child, nor does the law punish false accusation. But, except in the instance of political offences, it punishes a child for making even a just charge against its parents, and inflicts death if a false or over-coloured accusation is brought. Strangulation is the penalty for scolding parents, decaipitation for using personal violence towards them, or for killing by accident. Slicing to death is ordained for parricides. Disobedience or desertion is severely visited, and criminals guilty of certain lighter offences are pardoned if it is shown that they are the only present support of their parents. The seller of his family burial place incurs death by beheading, and slavery or banishment if he only sells the wood growing thereon. Various severe penalties are affixed to the neglect or premature interruption of mourning or of funeral rites (the Roman *sacra*), and to the disposal of a parent's body otherwise than by sepulture even at the express desire of the defunct. When a parent forces his child to commit a crime, and then through remorse kills himself, three years' banishment is added to the ordinary penalty for the offence; but should the parent's suicide be prompted by a crime which he did not instigate, the offender's punishment is death. Unpremeditated homicides and assaults committed in defence of a parent are treated leniently, as indeed are all deeds arising out of filial revenge. There is thus ample evidence that the protection of parents is the guiding principle of the code, little or no regard being had to children. The only exception we can find is that theft from parents is regarded rather as wantonness than as crime. This may be explained upon the principle that the parent's possessions are held in a representative or administrative rather than in a proprietary character, the capacity for the same sort of proprietorship lying latent in the child. We must also notice that relatives living together may with impunity shield one another's crimes, and may follow one another into exile, where means are supposed to be granted them for forming a new establishment.

We have throughout spoken of parents, but these include grandparents on the father's side, but generally not on the mother's. This and the fact that when the father dies the relatives on the maternal side have no control over the family, point to the early recognition of the child as belonging to the father's family and not to the mother's. Legal relationship and *Patria Potestas* would seem therefore to be in China, as in ancient Rome, contemporaneous, but here Mr. Scherzer fails us. The distinction, if any, between agnate and cognate relationship might have furnished material for a most valuable chapter, but he does not so much as glance at the subject. So, the regulations which subordinate women to their male relations, with the exceptions, including the claims of an Empress-mother to the regency during the infancy of the Emperor, are left untouched. Yet, whether the tutelage of women, which in other countries is one of the most interesting extensions of the patriarchal system, exists or does not exist in China, the point itself is in either case equally worthy of attention. The rules governing adoption and the making of wills, though also intimately connected with the *puissance paternelle* which Mr. Scherzer writes about, are strangely neglected, and we are left to guess at the solution found when the *Patria Potestas* conflicts with the *Jus Publicum*, when, for instance, a magistrate may be called upon to punish offences committed by his father, or to enforce contracts into which he has entered.

While therefore, it cannot be denied that Mr. Scherzer has made a beginning, the things that we look in vain for in his little book are more conspicuous by their absence than the facts he actually gives us by their presence.

The M.M. steamer *Aro*, bringing the next French mail, left Hongkong at 10 a.m. yesterday.—She also brings 270 chests of opium.

A reference to our report of the Hankow Landrenters' Meeting, given in another column, will show that the Municipal Council of that port are making enquiries with the view of introducing the electric light into Hankow, if the replies prove favourable.

We are requested to state that the M.B. steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, will be despatched for ports in Japan, in connection with the P.M.S. Co. steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco, at 12 o'clock, noon, on Saturday, 22nd instant, instead of at two o'clock a.m. on Sunday, the 23rd instant.

The Chinese Religious Tract Society appears to be already doing good work and making strong headway towards permanent success. We are informed that it is intended to offer a prize of \$25 to Chinese, for the best written tract from 50 to 100 pages, in the Chinese language, directed against the baneful notions of "Fung Shui." A stipulation is that there shall be 200 characters on each page. It is well known how firmly the Chinese are bound hand and foot by this superstition, and how greatly it interferes with the material progress of the country and the advancement of foreign enterprise. It is to be hoped that a powerful tract will be written on the subject, and circulated far and wide throughout the land. The manuscript is to be sent to Dr. Suvoong, one of the corresponding secretaries of the Society.

The following notice to mariners, with reference to the Wosung Inner Bar signals, has been issued by the Acting Engineer-in-Chief:—Notice is hereby given that on and after the 31st March, 1879, Geometrical Signals will be substituted for the flags now in use at the Wosung Inner Bar Station, showing the depth of water on the Bar during the day. An explanatory diagram, showing the signals which indicate the depth of water from 10 feet to 24 feet and which will show the same in approaching the signal station both from Shanghai and from seaward, is added to the notice. To indicate a rising tide a ball will be hoisted at the mast head. In case of there being greater or less depths of water than here given, the number of feet will be signalled by the "Universal Code of Signals" at the mast-head, and the half feet by a red and white flag at the yard-arm.

The financial reforms now being carried out by Mr. Tong King-sing in connection with the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, are, we hear, already beginning to bear fruit. A considerable number of employees at the Outports, &c., have been dismissed, and arrangements made for carrying on the business in a more satisfactory and less wasteful and extravagant manner. We are credibly informed that the sums in salaries and other expenses already lopped off, amount to about £70,000 per annum, and that further savings are in prospect. Mr. Tong King-sing seems determined to apply the broom with no sparing hand, and, according to all account, not before it was time, for peculation was found to be rife in many quarters. The work of thorough reorganisation will occupy some time longer, for it is intended to place the Company on a much firmer footing than that on which it has hitherto stood. The agency of the Company is, we hear, to be confided to Mr. G. A. Butler, who will be assisted by three native gentlemen of well-known ability, who have held confidential positions in the Company's Office at this port.

Mr. H. Vernon's Opera Company gave their third performance in the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday evening. The opera performed was Leococ's well-known and popular composition *La Fille de Madame Angot*; and Mr. Vernon, utilising his experiences of the taste of Shanghai audiences, achieved another success by the creditable manner in which it was presented. The same opera has been twice, if not thrice, given at the Lyceum within a comparatively short period; sufficiently short, at all events, to render it unnecessary for us to recapitulate the plot, the many emotional and telling incidents of which were not lost in the cast on Saturday evening, but were each brought forward with an effect which evinced careful preparation and union among the players. Miss Clara Stanley, in the leading role of *Clairiette*, the daughter of the historical *Madame Angot*, appeared to more advantage than in her impersonation of the *Grand Duchess*, and Miss F. Howe, gave her old character of *Mlle. Lange* with that determination and zeal which characterises all her performances. They sang and acted well together, particularly in the Garden scene, eliciting loud applause and creating much merriment. As *Ange Pitou*, Mr. Vernon had an opportunity of displaying his splendid voice, and imparted that vigour of expression to his singing which is so necessary to a successful rendering of this character. Mr. M. Hageman made his first appearance in Shanghai as *Larivaudiere* and *Trenis* and acted remarkably well, but, suffering from a severe cold, was unable to sing; while Mr. J. Rollings, as *Pomponnet*, the barber and disappointed lover of *Clairiette*, and Miss B. Hoctor, as *Amaranthe*, the market woman, each played and sang with care and precision. The other characters were carefully represented, and the opera ran smoothly throughout. The house was fairly well filled in every part, and the audience were loud in their appreciation of the performance.—The next performance will take place on Wednesday evening, when the *Life of Killarney* will be presented for the first time in Shanghai.

A very large audience assembled in the General Office of the Custom House, (by kind permission of the Commissioner, Mr. E. B. Drew,) on the evening of Friday last, the 7th inst., to witness the third entertainment provided by the Committee of the Ningpo Book Club during the present season. As usual, readings and music formed the staple of the programme, which comprised twelve items, including Dickens's trial from "Pickwick," Aldrich's "Young Desperado," Max Adelaar's "Young Chubb," &c. The principal songs were "The Arethusa," "Celia," "The Warrior Bold," "My native land," (by a lady), and Leperillo's song from "Don Giovanni." Several instrumental pieces were also given with good effect and the entertainment was brought to a lively conclusion by an admirable representation of George Grosz's operatic sketch, for two characters, called "Cups and Saucers." Great applause greeted the two very clever amateurs who personated the "Old Chinaman" in so humorous and entertaining a manner. Mrs. Worcester's song "My little Saucer," and the General's "Foo-choo-choo," were capitally given, while the "Farewell" song and the comical finale, "Old China," caused immense merriment. The general feeling was that the Book Club had seldom provided so excellent a programme and the pleased audience dispersed, humming Mr. Grossmith's catching refrain—

"We'll marry as soon as we possibly can, We'll give up Old China and live in Japan."

CHEFBOO.

Our correspondent writes that a German vessel, the *Fidellio*, while on passage from Swatow, was wrecked somewhere on the S.E. Promontory during a snowstorm on Christmas day. It was said the ship had been boarded by natives and plundered, the crew being driven off. Further enquiry, however, shows that only a few private effects of the Captain and one or two trifling articles were stolen, and those have since been restored. The Captain complains that the natives did not give him all the assistance they might have done, but beyond this nothing appears to have happened.

We have had a fearfully rough and cold month, and in about a week no less than three wrecks were reported round about here. Chinese New Year's day, the 22nd ult., was so rough that almost every ship in harbour had hard times to hold their own, and there was a scramble between two or three as to which should hit the shore first. Fortunately the only ship that parted her cable was the German brig *Rebecca*, and she "fetched up," just under Tower Hill, a little westward of the house that may be known as the Chefbo Convention house, i.e., the one occupied by Sir T. Wade in 1876. She was nearly loaded with beancake for Amoy. The men were got on shore slung on ropes leading from the masts. Some other vessels, though they dragged their anchors more or less, met with no serious accident. The wreck of the *Rebecca* was sold for about \$1,600, and the cargo for a similar sum; and the spars, &c. separately realized a very fair amount.

Then we heard of the wrecks of the German brig *Condor*, about 15 miles to the west, in the bay into which the Fushan river flows; and the German barque *Rosa Böttcher*, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Promontory.

The *Condor* realized at auction some 5,000 odd dollars for ship and cargo, and the *Rosa Böttcher* was sold for some \$3,000 odd, with cargo.

The *Condor's* men suffered terribly, all being more or less frostbitten. One poor fellow, the second mate, jumped overboard to get on shore, after the ship grounded; but was a corpse when he came to the surface of the water. The others eventually reached the beach by boat, and took possession of a hut they found unoccupied, close by. A Japanese boy was frozen to death while lying down to sleep there. The Chinese in the neighbourhood are said to have treated them kindly. The Captain has died since he was brought into the Settlement, and the rest of the crew are in hospital.

We were enabled this winter, by taking a little trouble in the matter, to obtain a sheet of ice near the Settlement suitable for skating, and many of the residents have made the most of the opportunity to indulge in this pleasant exercise.

As usual at this time of the year, everything is quiet with the exception of crackers, dragons, gongs, cymbals, and other native musical instruments.

The Customs' Courier Service between you and this can scarcely be considered a success, judging from this season's experience. Some of our friends in the Custom house had the pleasure of waiting about a fortnight for their mails, &c.; after the majority of the residents had received theirs by the *Ping On*, on a trip near X'mastime. Even now there are letters, &c., expected which are supposed to have started from Shanghai some three weeks or more ago.

The *Haviah* arrived yesterday, after a rather long passage of thirteen days. Would not this be a better way, in the absence of steamers, of sending letters, than overland?

4th Feb.

Another correspondent says:—The northern coast of Shanghai was visited with a severe storm on the night of the 22nd January, which proved fatal to several vessels bound to Chefoo from Southern ports. The wind had been from the South the previous afternoon, but towards evening it veered round to the Eastward, with much snow; it increased in violence towards the North-east, finally blowing furiously from the North, bringing clouds of dust that formed quite a layer of dark color on the surface of the snow which had previously fallen. The cold was intense, so much so that the crews of the vessels on whom the storm fell were rendered incapable of working them, and several persons were severely frostbitten on board. The German brig *Rebecca* drove from her anchor in Chefoo harbour, was cast on the rocks at the foot of Yantai hill, and was soon disabled. The German brig *Condor* was blown past Chefoo, and driven ashore in an unmanageable state, some twenty miles to the westward. The second mate of this vessel tried to reach the land, but was frozen in the water immediately. Several of the sailors were frostbitten and are now in hospital under treatment. The Captain was severely frostbitten and has since died. The *Rosa Böttcher* also got ashore near Wei-hai-wei, and has since become a total wreck. The crew, however, were all saved, and were brought here by the Chinese gunboat on the station, which went and rendered every assistance possible to the shipwrecked mariners.

HONGKONG.

From the *Daily Press* we learn that the Hon. George Philip, Attorney-General, left Hongkong by the P. and O. mail steamer *Pekin*. We trust that the change will have the desired effect in restoring the learned gentleman to health. Before the rising of the Supreme Court on the 31st ult., the Chief Justice said—"I am very sorry, Mr. Attorney, for the cause which necessitates your leaving us, and I am also very sorry personally that you are leaving us. We have had our little difficulties, but we cannot do our duty if we do not sometimes do it rather warmly. I feel we are losing in your going away." The Attorney-General replied—"I am very much obliged to your Lordship."—The schedule of the annual flower show of the Hongkong Horticultural Exhibition Society has been issued, and contains altogether seventy-seven prizes which will include six prizes in which Government gardeners may compete, and two silver cups for the best collection of plants and flowers and the best exhibit of vegetables. Intending exhibitors are to send their plants in pots not later than five p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th inst., and the show will be held on the two following days.—Mr. L. O. Hall, who was arrested a short time ago on his arrival at Hongkong from America, on a warrant for a large sum of money, was released some days ago and left for Southampton by the mail on Saturday.

CANTON.

Last night our Dramatic Amateurs gave a most successful performance in the Concordia Hall before a highly appreciative audience. The pieces placed on the boards were Buckstone's comic drama, "A Rough Diamond," and a French burlesque entitled "Le Passage de Venus," both of which were effectively played, and the actors were vigorously applauded. Great credit is due to the Amateurs for the trouble they take to get up these entertainments, which are a real relief to the monotony of life in Shanghai.

The gentry and other inhabitants of Kienchow, in Hainan, have petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor to take immediate steps to suppress the Hakka rising in the island, and to that end they ask that reinforcements may be despatched without delay to assist the troops there in their operations against the rioters. The petition has been granted, and a Brigadier-General has been ordered to start with a body of soldiers for Hoihow. Two hundred troops stationed in the Western Suburb have been selected amongst others for this service. The people of Kienchow have been told, at the same time, that they must do something towards their own defence by getting up volunteers to co-operate with the Imperial troops. It is evident that the Canton authorities have not many soldiers to spare, and they no doubt will have enough to do to find men and munitions to cope with Li Hung-chang.

The various Government offices, which were closed at the end of Chinese year, will be opened again on the 10th February when the official duties will recommence.—*Daily Press* Cor.

29th Jan.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Kumamoto Shimbun* contains the following account of the recent plot of the *Ko-shinto* party (or *Ara-gami-to*, i.e., rude god's party)—"We are unable to obtain full particulars about the arrest of the members of the *Kyushu Shokoku*, or 'Quebec Society,' but according to street rumours it was a very serious affair. They formed a conspiracy, and were to break out about New Year's Day, old style (the 22nd January), and were to attack a bank at Kawara-machi, from which they were to take the money, and afterwards to attack the Garrison, the *Kencho*, the Saitanjo, &c., and set fire to all buildings constructed in European style, and then collecting all the rascals together, they were to carry out their great object. Eleven men and one woman have been arrested, of whom Irako Jimuro was the ringleader. In his house were found two standards and two signal flags, besides a quantity of armour and upwards of a hundred distinguishing badges. The coat of arms of the above-mentioned rude god was embroidered on the flags. There was also found a very beautifully made cushion. About this latter there are several rumours current, but as there may be danger in mentioning them, we refrain from doing so. Of the others who have been arrested, one is a *heimen*, named Kiokukaji, and it is reported that the *Aragami* (rude god) of the village of Kokenbu, in the district of Tokuma, has entered into him, and that he is now 'possessed.' Another, the *Yasakuni* is originally from Yashiro, but has been living together with Kiokukaji. He is now under arrest, but is so obstinate that he will not confess anything at all. Eto is a man who joined himself to the *Kumamoto* rebellion of 1876 (not Saigo's one), and was at the time sentenced to life imprisonment, but has recently returned to his home after his parents. The woman is the wife of Hatake-naka, and is a native of the village of Zeho. She had presented a piece of cotton cloth to the 'rude god.' In the said god's temple were concealed a quantity of swords and spears. The number of the conspirators is said to be about 600 men. The above are the most trustworthy of the many street rumours which are current. Six of those who were at first arrested, have since been liberated.

The *Osaka Nippo* contains the following respecting the plot of the conspirators, quite different from those who were formerly known as the *Yimpo*. These are called the *Ko-shinto* or *Aragami-to*, but we are unable to learn what their secret plot was. They worshipped a certain *Inari* or 'god of rice,' and asked for his sacred will in the proceedings. Then they were told by divining rods that they should carry out their plot on New Year's eve of the old calendar.

HANKOW LAND-RENTERS' MEETING. This meeting was held on the 17th January, at the British Consulate, Hankow, for the purpose of passing accounts, electing a Council, &c. The chair was occupied by P. J. Hughes, Esq. H.M.'s Consul, and there were present:—Messrs. White, Ramsay, Walter, Fisher, Marsh, Graves, Grant, Hummel, Woodward, Ponomareff, Brondsted, Péro Angelo Vandagna, &c., &c. The proceedings were commenced by the Chairman reading the notice calling the meeting.

Mr. RAMSAY, Chairman of the Municipal Council, then read the Annual Report, and placed upon the table an account of receipts and expenditure:—

REPORT.

Accounts Income.—The House Tax shows a falling off of Tls. 181, caused by the reduction from 14 to 15 on assessed rental. Imports are less by Tls. 60, but Exports will be about the same when the few outstanding are paid. There is an increase in Bund Frontage of Tls. 470, in payment for use of Hulk Tls. 600, and by sale of the Hulk of Tls. 713, making a total income of Tls. 1,627 more than were received last year.

Expenditure.—Shows an increase under the headings of Police Tls. 180, Roads Tls. 440, Lighting Tls. 125, and grant to Recreation Club to improve the road Tls. 250. Tls. 950 less have been spent on the Bund, but contracts have been entered into to repair the Bund and Jetty for Tls. 1,120. A roller has been ordered from inland to cost about Tls. 450, and two more carts are being built in Shanghai to cost Tls. 200, which will bring the expenditure on account of this year to Tls. 1,750 more than last year.

A general meeting of Land-Renters held the 18th October, 1878, it was the general wish that the centre and cross roads should be raised as funds permitted, and the work has been proceeded with.

Public Cemetery.—The second gatekeeper's house were destroyed by the flood, and have been rebuilt. There has been no interment during the year.

Lighting.—Enquiries have been instituted with the view of saving the Electric Light if the replies prove favorable.

Local Post.—Continues to be available of and to give satisfaction.

Police.—Under this heading must be noticed the increase of thieving in cargo boats, which has this year inflicted serious loss on many shippers of Tea; and Sergeant Blackett recommends the employment of a steam launch and two Manilla men during the season. All cargo boats ought also to be registered.

Bund Frontage.—The right of using steamers' pontoons, &c., opposite Lots 1 & 4 has been let to Mr. Geo. McLean for a period of three years from 15th November, at a yearly rental of Tls. 1,110, and application having been made for similar rights opposite Lots 6 & 9, tenders were invited for a three years' lease from 1st February next. Only one offer has been received, namely, from Messrs. Robt. Anderson & Co. at a yearly rental of Tls. 1,200, and the offer the Council recommend for the Land Renters' acceptance.

HUGH F. RAMSAY, Chairman.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS.

Continuation of 1877.

	Ts.	Ts.
To Balance as published	6,967.54	
Import Duties	37.82	
Export Duties	13.83	
Local Post Office	20.00	
		Tls. 7,118.99
By Local Post Office	15.00	
Printing	32.00	
		Ts. 48.00
Balance at Credit of 1877	7,170.99	

1878.

INCOME.

To Balance from 1877	7,070.99
Land Tax	197.51
House Tax	181.00
Import Duties	37.82
Export Duties	13.83
Police	180.00
Hulk-Earnings	600.00
Less-Expenses	306.78
	7,118.99
Sale of Hulk	713.00
Interest on Deposits	300.00
	7,210.00
	Tls. 14,281.00

EXPENDITURE.

By Police	1,083.58
Bund	112.00
Roads	1,650.74
Lighting	125.00
Cemetery	120.12
Local Post Office	20.00
Sundries	16.23
Race Club	250.00
Gardens	31.50
Secretary	300.00
Auditor	28.00
Balance—On Deposit	6,000.00
In Current account	2,927.78
	8,927.78
	Tls. 14,281.00

Audited by W. WALTER.

Hankow, 9th January, 1879.

Mr. RAMSAY gave explanations respecting certain subjects referred to in the Report.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it had been formerly the custom to attach to the Municipal Report an estimate of the probable expenditure for the current year, and observed that such a custom was in many respects convenient and desirable.

Mr. RAMSAY stated that in the absence of his colleagues, who the Report was written he did not feel justified in drawing up an estimate.

Mr. BRONSTED proposed that the Report be accepted and the Accounts passed. This was seconded by Mr. Woodward and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Messrs. Ramsay, Harkness, Walter and Grant, had been duly proposed and seconded as Members of the Municipal Council for the current year, and there being no other candidates he declared them duly elected in accordance with the Regulations.

Mr. E. FISHER, Secretary of the Municipal Council, then read the only tender which had been received in answer to the Council's advertisement respecting the leasing of the Bund frontage. It was from Messrs. Robt. Anderson & Co.

Mr. RAMSAY proposed that this tender be accepted.

Seconded by Mr. Walter and carried.

The CHAIRMAN then laid before the meeting a letter which he had received from Dr. Reid upon the sanitary condition of the settlement:—

January 14th, 1879.

P. J. HUGHES, Esq., H.M.'s Consul.

Sir,—I beg to draw your attention, and that of the land-renters of Hankow, to the disgraceful want of drainage in a Settlement now occupied for eighteen years. Many of the cross roads and the whole length of the back road, are devoid of either deep or surface drains. No attempt has been made by draining them into the drains of the roads where such exist. The consequence of this is the continuance of a malarious atmosphere within the Settlement. It is needless for me to enter into particulars of the injurious effects on the public health from this neglect of drainage, or the difficulty experienced in throwing off a malarious fever while living in a malarious atmosphere. Malaria is under human control, and by drainage has been banished from Settlements in all quarters of the globe.

I would also like to draw your attention to the neighbourhood of the vegetable gardens, and the necessity of banishing them to a distance. It is disagreeable enough to be compelled to swallow an amount of floating faeces every time one walks beyond the Settlement, but there is a risk also in this disgusting process. Cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and types of diarrhoea are known to be spread by the faeces of the diseased, and in the event of Asiatic Cholera being introduced into a Native City the vegetable gardens would become a source of great danger to those residing in the North end of the Settlement, and the North end is a frequent direction for the wind to come from, and it would carry the germs of disease from the gardens to the Consession.

I remain, your obedient servant.

ANTHONY G. REID.

The CHAIRMAN had no doubt that the Municipal Council would give their best attention to the question of improving the drains.

Mr. RAMSAY objected to Dr. Reid's statement that there were many roads in the Settlement which had no drains, and said that only three such existed, and only upon one of them was there a dwelling house.

Mr. WHITE remarked upon the disagreeable state of the vegetable gardens leased by the Municipal Council near the Race Course, and asked the Chairman of the Council if anything had been done to abate the nuisance during the year.