

NOTICES.

The London Mail of the 20th Oct., is due in Hongkong on the 26th Nov., and here on the 1st Dec.—The last of Oct. Mail arrived last year on the 28th Nov., per Verona.

The next French Mail of 29th Oct., is due in Hongkong on the 5th Dec., and here on the 11th Dec.

Latest mail advices received in London from Shanghai September 30th.

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

TO-DAY'S DOINGS.

S.V.C.—Autumn Rifle Competition 7.00 a.m.
MASONIC—Meeting of the Lodge of Assiduity, at the Masonic Hall 5.15 p.m.
S.V.C.—Squad Drill for No. 3 Company, at the Main Guard 9.00 p.m.
ITALIAN OPERA at the Lyceum Theatre 9.00 p.m.

Zi-ka-wei Observatory.

29TH NOVEMBER 1882.

WEATHER.	Previous day	On date
	4 P.M. 10 P.M. A.M. 10 A.M.	
BAROMETER at 23°	30.300	30.418
Variation for 24 hours.	+164	+236
Wind 1 direction.	+149	+133
WIND 5 Miles per hour.	5.9	45.3
Humidity: 2	73	80
Humidity: 3	10	10
Humidity: 4	3	9
Humidity: 5	65	65
Humidity: 6	9	9
RAINFALL

PREVIOUS DAY—24TH NOVEMBER, 1882.

WEATHER.	Mean	Var. Normal
	24 hours	24 hours
BAROMETER: 4 obs.	30.271	+0.001 30.257
TEMPERATURE: 1 Maximum 49.2 51.7	+0.1	49.3

The
North-China Daily News
IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 27, 1882.

The latest contribution to the Opium controversy, published in our issue of the 23rd inst., from a Correspondent signing himself 'Mi Po U', has at least the merit of originality. Hitherto the strongest supporters of the foreign opium-trade have not ventured further than the assertion that opium smoking is not the terrible vice and evil its opponents affirm it to be, and that in some cases it may even have a slightly indulged in by dwellers in a malarious climate who make no use of alcoholic stimulants. Controversialists of this class, too, contemplate with tolerable equanimity the eventual, though gradual, annihilation of the trade in Indian opium by means of the increasing cultivation of the native drug; at any rate, none, whether disturbed or encouraged by the prospect, have denied that the contingency is one which will have to be faced some day. But this new champion takes up an entirely new method of defense. In his view, Indian opium is not merely not so bad as it is made out to be; it is a positive benefit to China. So far from being a hindrance to the progress of Christianity, it has been an important factor in its introduction. Instead of working against missionaries, it is a missionary agent itself, partly by supporting the introduction of Christian rule, as in India, and partly by freeing the soil from the incubus of a harmful growth, as in China, "wresting the land from opium-cultivation and freeing an ever-increasing acreage for the growth of other crops." Here at any rate we have a new light thrown upon the question, a new interest infused into the well-worn controversy. Our Correspondent characterizes his theory as the possible solution of a difficult problem, and no one will deny that the boldness of his contention and the very striking way in which he advances and supports it render it at any rate worth retort. We will content ourselves with very briefly indicating the lines on which, as we think, 'Mi Po U' has laid himself open to attack. He seems to take for granted that China has been an opium-growing and opium-smoking country for centuries. Is this, in the fullest sense, a fact? Granting his contention that the pleasures of opium were celebrated by Chinese poets in ancient times; does it follow that the introduction of Indian opium has not very largely fostered an already existing vice? Indian opium, we are told, is setting free ground originally devoted to growing the drug, and so encouraging the cultivation of more useful crops. Is this really so? It is a clever argument; but is it not a little empirical? Do we not hear from all quarters of the increase of the native growth, and is not this increase defended by Chinese statesmen as being the only means in their power of freeing their country from the Indian importation? The Governor of Shansi, apparently, views matters in a very different light from our able Correspondent. There is hardly a district in the province, says Chang Tsai-jen, which does not grow opium, more or less. In the cities, the proportion of smokers is eighty per cent, and in the country sixty. Critics who say that the cultivation should not be interfered with are in the Governor's opinion men of little experience. This does not look like a falling-off in the native growth. It seems rather as though the importation had not kept pace with the requirements of the people, and the consumers of the drug had consequently resorted to the expedient of growing it for themselves. Looking back upon what we and others wrote upon this subject eight or ten years ago, we find that the native cultivation has increased instead of diminished. "In the north," says one authority, writing early in the last decade, "acres upon acres, which till recently were clothed in the soft green of the springing corn and rice-plaute, are now all ablaze with millions

of the poppy-flowers." Barou von Richthofen is our authority for saying that in Yunnan and Shensi the poppy has ousted the crops of wheat, beans, and rape. Dr. Legge offers similar testimony as regards other places; while Mr. Ney Elias reported as early as six years previously—say in 1867—that the cultivation of opium along the line of the old Yellow River in Honan is steadily increasing, wheat and opium being in fact the only winter crops to be noticed in the districts of Kuei-tien Fu and Sui-chou. Mr. Spence, a recent and high authority on the subject, speaks of the "increased production" of native opium in Yunnan, supporting his statements by figures which are startling in their significance. "When Richter wrote," says Mr. Spence elsewhere, "opium was apparently cultivated on poor land only, getting little cultivation and no manure; but now—days it is grown on good land carefully manured, and under such conditions it produces, as far as I could ascertain, an average amount only a little less than Mr. Barber's estimate"—which was over 400 ounces per acre. Now whatever may be the value of these accounts, they certainly do not point in the direction indicated by our Correspondent. We see little chance at present, at any rate, of Indian opium driving the native out of the fields of China. That there is a struggle going on between the two is clear enough, and it seems that, if anything, Indian opium is losing ground while native opium is gaining rapidly; in what sense, then, can the former be regarded as a "fierce antidote killing the deadly poison?" But supposing even that it were so; that by the importation of Indian opium the soil of China were being actually freed, year by year, from the baneful native crop; supposing that not another poppy-plant grew in the Eighteen Provinces; what then? Would not Indian opium, in exterminating its native rival, have succeeded by virtue of that very process in creating such an enormous trade that the difficulties of its suppression would be a hundredfold greater than they are now? On this point our Correspondent is silent. He prophesies in a vague and transcendental style that when the Indian drug has accomplished its missionary work of freeing the soil of China from the poppy-plant, it in its turn, will disappear before something nobler—even the moral regeneration of the millions of China and of England too. Well, it may be. The prophecy—or others like it—has been made before, and is obscure enough for safety. We have heard of the future moral regeneration of the world for many years, but the sound of its approaching chariot-wheels still tarries. Perhaps if Prince Kung and the Empress Rgent were to abjure the insidious pipe, their high example would have a morally-regenerative influence upon the millions of humbler smokers over whom they rule; but who is to morally-regenerate the Prince and Empress? We can only suppose that everything will come in time. Let the Indian importation pursue its Christian career unhindered, and let England and the opium-merchants of Bombay reap a rich harvest meanwhile. Godliness as we all know is profitable not only for the life that is to come but also for that which now is. It is a blessed thing to be able to fill our pockets and do good by the same process, feeling that to flood the Chinese Empire with a noxious but auriferous drug is the real and only way to free the people from its tyranny. Missionaries will now, no doubt, welcome opium as their best ally, and deplore the shortsightedness which has led them hitherto to regard it as a formidable and insidious foe.

The Royal Italian Opera Company announce the opera of 'Ernani' for this evening.

The Catholic Circle give a musical and literary entertainment this evening, commencing at half-past eight.

The steamer *Wenchow* from Newchwang reports having passed a heavy field of ice coming down the river on an ebb tide.

We hope the Customs will revise their winter postal tariff and lessen the charges for conveying mail matter to the North, where people find them to be very excessive.

Telegrams were received here yesterday from certain firms in New York reporting large failures in the tea-trade, and the market in a very depressed condition. The messages were dated Friday, the 24th inst. This is bad news for houses interested in the trade here.

Our Peking Correspondent gives an interesting item of intelligence in the letter we publish this morning. An underling in the Board of Revenue has turned 'Queen's evidence'—or its Manchu equivalent—and drawn up a schedule of the bribes received by the high officials, among whom the Prince of Kung figures as the recipient of Tls. 40,000. His Imperial Highness is also said to practise usury on a large scale.

We translate from our contemporary the *Yu Wei Lu* an interesting document from Li Hung-chang, inviting fresh candidates to come forward for the Naval School. By a strange oversight, however, no date is attached to it, and we are therefore left in uncertainty as to when it was issued. As the writer speaks of himself as Viceroy of Chihli, and only Acting Superintendent of Trade for the Northern Ports, it is fair to conclude that the paper was compiled some time last year.

A Decree has been issued by the Emperor which is of interest to us in Shanghai. We find it in yesterday morning's *Shen Pao*. Tso Tsung-tang has memorialized the Throne to the effect that he is very ill, and remedies have failed to restore him to health. As, therefore, he feels himself to be totally unfit for work, he begs the permission of His Majesty to resign his post and retire from the public service. The Emperor now replies, granting the Viceroy leave of absence for the space of three months.—Private advices that we have received inform us that His Excellency's condition is still far from satisfactory. He has intervals of comparative strength, during which he is able to visit visitors and attend to business; at other times, however, he is almost in a state of collapse.

According to the Reuter we publish elsewhere this morning. Sir Thomas Wade denied the statement that he does not intend to return to China. The telegram which contained the assertion thus contradicted stated also that Sir Pope Hennessy did intend to return, and many of our readers no doubt will look anxiously to see whether this is to be contradicted too. It is not asserted, however, that Sir Pope is coming out in his former capacity. That we have solid grounds for believing to be impossible. But that he has for some time intended to pay another visit to Japan is true enough, and the telegram may possibly refer to this. It is said that Sir Pope Hennessy is desirous of obtaining some post of influence in connection with the Government of either Japan or China.

A Correspondent writes to us from Tien-tsin:—"The Corean Ambassadors are still here. Li Hung-chang has carried his point with respect to establishing a Customs service in Corea. The cotton-mill licence is only granted to P'ang by Li, and has not been approved at Peking. Tao is aware of this, and took advantage of the opportunity to bring it to the notice of the Central authorities to the prejudice of Messrs. Frazee & Co., thereby dealing an indirect blow to Li Hung-chang. It follows from this that the licence granted to P'ang is legally null and void.—The Censors are running a tilt against Ma Kien-chung, charging him with having imitated Chung Hou in exceeding his instructions. Their contention is that both were guilty of the same fault, but one is rewarded and the other still lying in disgrace."

Captain William John Gill, whose fate has now been ascertained, was an officer of some distinction in the Engineers, in which corps he became a lieutenant in 1864 and received his captaincy in December 1877. He had been for some time before his death attached to the intelligence department at the Horse Guards, and his knowledge of many countries, acquired by extensive travel, had doubtless his services of great value. He resided in Shanghai for some months before starting on the journey which he described in 'The River of Golden Sand,' published a few years ago. Since then Captain Gill has travelled, we believe, in out of the way and little known districts in Persia, the results of which he contributed in some papers read before the Royal Geographical Society. In 1874 he was a candidate for the parliamentary representation of Hackney, and in 1880 he stood for Nottingham, being unsuccessful on both occasions; although he was very popular and made a most favourable impression on the electors.

We have been favoured by Captain Donaldson of the s.s. *Glenowen* with the following report:—Left Gravesend at 4 a.m. on the 5th October, Malta at 5 p.m. on the 14th, and arrived at Port Said at 11 a.m. on the 18th, left Suez at noon on the 20th, arrived at Singapore at 8 a.m. on the 9th November, left at 4 p.m. on 10th, arrived at Hongkong at 4 p.m. on the 17th and left at 2.30 p.m. on the 20th. Experienced strong monsoon and sea up the coast, at 3 a.m. on the 24th passed Video Island, strong northerly gale and thick weather with heavy rain, at 5.30 p.m. same day anchored with Gutzuil bearing south fourteen miles distant, strong N.E. wind and heavy sea, ship rolling heavily. At 2 a.m. on the 25th weighed anchor proceeded, at 4.30 a.m. passed Tungsha Light-vessel, at 6.30 anchored with Kintao Light-vessel bearing N.W. 5 W. at 7.30 a.m. received pilot on board and proceeded, at 10.20 anchored off the Red Buoy, Woosung, at 11.30 weighed anchor and proceeded over the Bar, at 1 p.m. anchored in Powder Lunt to discharge cartridges, at 7.30 a.m. on the 26th made fast alongside Hongkong Wharf.

We hear that Mr. Tong King-sing has gone to Tientsin with two Coreans on business connected with mining enterprise in the Peninsula. Moreover the rumour is that something serious has gone wrong with the Kaiping mines; that either the engineers have become convinced that the coal is of too inferior quality to be profitably worked, or the expense of opening new means of communication with consuming places would be too great to be undertaken. Whatever may be the truth it appears that there is a widespread belief among foreigners in the north that the prospects of the Kaiping mines are now at a lower pass than they have ever been before. It is said that Mr. Tong King-sing is to prospect for various metallic and mineral in Corea, gold being of course one of the former, and with the discoveries he hopes to make the purses of Li Hung-chang and the shareholders in the coal mines are to be replenished. We give these rumours for what they are worth. If they are true we shall regret what is likely to lead to the abandonment of an enterprise for the development of the mineral wealth of the country. However rich the Corean mines may prove the benefit which Chinese will receive from working them will be small compared to what much lesser results at Kaiping would have conferred on the students; I have therefore altered the re-

gulation of granting a monthly allowance of Tls. 1.00 for each scholar, to Tls. 4 per month. This sum will be sufficient to afford sustenance for a moderate sized family. In the naval school at Foochow scions of respectable families studied there, and on the completion of their course were promoted to captaincies of ships of war. Some of these have now attained to the second and third ranks, some even have had bestowals of reward for bravery. Now, as regards these candidates for the Tientsin school, if such among them also complete their course, I have also decided to memorialize the Throne to bestow marks of honour on them. The principal regulations are as follows:—All students, members of respectable families, below the ages of 16 and 17 years, without distinction of province, capable of writing an ordinary composition or half a thesis, who wish to be candidates, are required to write down their ages commencing from next year, and also the names of their great grandfathers, grandfathers and fathers, and go to the Naval School and have them recorded. The Superintendent of that establishment will then examine the said candidates and class them according to their examination papers. Now the scholars of the present hour are the future bulwarks of the Empire, and they will be rewarded according to their several abilities. The following are the regulations for admittance of the candidates:

1.—Candidates who are admitted, are required to produce a written document from parents or guardians stating that they are willing to follow the rules and regulations of the school; they are also required to produce a bond from some of the gentry of Tien-tsin.

2.—Scholars are put on probation for the first three months, board and lodging free, at the expiration of which time, those that are retained will obtain an allowance of Tls. 4 per month.

3.—Scholars are to stay in school for five years, during which time they are not allowed to marry or to go to the literary examinations, for fear these might obstruct their proper studies. This regulation must be put in the bond.

4.—Scholars in the Naval school will study in order that at some future day they may command ships. Those of the engineering school will study how to take care of the machinery of the vessels. After a time they will all be required to put into practice their several branches.

5.—Scholars of the Naval school, in every seven days are required to study two days Chinese under Chinese teachers. In the evening the English teachers will take them out and exercise them in Naval drilling.

6.—In the spring, summer and winter terms, deputed examiners will go to the school and examine the scholars, while at the Autumn term I will proceed myself to the engineering school will study how to take care of the machinery of the vessels. After a time they will all be required to put into practice their several branches.

7.—Scholars of the Naval school have one day's holiday every 15th day of the month. Scholars of the engineering school have one day's holiday every first Sunday of the month, during which day, the parents and brothers of the scholars will be admitted to see them. Three days holiday are given on the 5th day of the 6th month, and on the 15th day of the 8th month. Fifteen days are allowed for the new years holidays. Fifty days are allowed for leave on account of the death of parents. At their burial, six days. No leave of absence is allowed at the death of a scholar's grandparents, uncles, or brothers.

8.— Sick leave will be granted only in extreme cases, moderate illness being treated in the school; and such things as medical attendance and medicines will be provided by the school.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Via Suez.)

London, 24th November.

Sir Thomas Wade denies the statement

that he will not return to China.

The French Chamber of Deputies has

passed the Bill for the ratification of the Treaty for acquiring territory in the Congo River.

Twelve per cent. of the British troops in Egypt are sick.

PROCLAMATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY LI HUNG-CHANG.

A proclamation issued by Earl Li, Viceroy of Chihli, Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, High Commissioner of Coast Defence for the Northern Seas, and Acting Superintendent of Trade, calling for a competitive examination of candidates. Inasmuch as formerly a want has been felt for the two branches of Naval and Engineering schools, I did establish on the 7th moon of the 6th year of Kuang Hsu a Naval School in Tientsin for Northern students only. This establishment has existed now for a year and more, and some progress has also been made, but it has never arrived at the full complement required owing either to the dull abilities of the scholars or to their being too old for the purpose. This arises perhaps on the score that too small an allowance has been made for the students; I have therefore altered the re-

gulation of granting a monthly allowance of Tls. 1.00 for each scholar, to Tls. 4 per month. This sum will be sufficient to afford sustenance for a moderate sized family. In the naval school at Foochow scions of respectable families studied there, and on the completion of their course were promoted to captaincies of ships of war. Some of these have now attained to the second and third ranks, some even have had bestowals of reward for bravery. Now, as regards these candidates for the Tientsin school, if such among them also complete their course, I have also decided to memorialize the Throne to bestow marks of honour on them. The principal regulations are as follows:—All students, members of respectable families, below the ages of 16 and 17 years, without distinction of province, capable of writing an ordinary composition or half a thesis, who wish to be candidates, are required to write down their ages commencing from next year, and also the names of their great grandfathers, grandfathers and fathers, and go to the Naval School and have them recorded. The Superintendent of that establishment will then examine the said candidates and class them according to their examination papers. Now the scholars of the present hour are the future bulwarks of the Empire, and they will be rewarded according to their several abilities. The following are the regulations for admittance of the candidates:

Nothing short of a synopsis of each act will obviate this defect. The orchestra was represented by the celebrated Signor Alfredo Gore upon the piano, and Messrs. Egard and Bernard upon the 1st violin and 1st basso respectively. Why the two latter instruments should have been called "first" was not very clear, as there were no others to occupy the subordinate positions. The celebrated Signor Alfredo Gore's performance would have been better had it been less conspicuous. Not content with drowning the voices of the singers by the energy of his instrumentation, the celebrated Signor Gore kept up an accompaniment of snapping his finger and thumb which could be heard all over the house, and impressed us with the belief that he was trying to supplement his efforts on the piano with an imitation of the bones or castanets. The effect produced by this was not very successful, and we hope that in future Signor Gore will find some other and less noisy means of beating time. He is evidently a very clever pianist, and