

The  
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 3, 1880.

## NOTICES

LOCAL POST OFFICE.—Open daily from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. Sundays, 9 to 6 P.M., and 3 to 4 P.M. A delivery takes place every hour. Pillar Letter Boxes in Hongkow (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.

A gun will be fired on board the *Sequoia* 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, 81. min. 55. 6s.

The London Mail of the 5th Nov., is due in Hongkow on the 12th Dec., and here on the 17th Dec.—The 7th of Nov. Mail arrived last year on the 19th Dec., per *Kaiser-i-Hind*.

The next French Mail of 29th Oct., is due in Hongkow on the 7th Dec., and here on the 13th Dec.

Latest mail advices received in London from Shanghai ..... Sept. 8th.

## PASSENGERS BOOKED FOR SHANGHAI.

Per P. & O. str. *Tanjore*, from Venice, 22nd Oct.—Mr. M. Sayle.

Per P. & O. str. *Australia*, from Southampton, 27th Oct.—Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Drage, three children and governess, Dr. Williamson, Messrs. W. D. Little, A. J. Bury and John D. Mackenzie.

Per M. M. str. *Oxus*, from Marseilles, 31st Oct.—Mr. and Miss Jamieson, Messrs. R. H. Artindale and G. W. Wolff.

Per M. M. str. *Anday*, from Marseilles, 14th Nov.—Mr. De Noidans and family.

Per s.s. *Ulysses*, from London, 8th Oct.—Mr. Jeffrey.

The publication of the *North-China Daily News* commenced at 5h. 15m. A.M.

For SHIPPING REPORTS and COMMERCIAL NEWS see fourth page.

We have already commented upon many of the features presented by the volume of 1879 *Trade Reports* recently issued by the Statistical Department of the Customs. Regarding the book now as a whole, we notice in the first place its external appearance, which in point of type, paper and binding leaves nothing to be desired, and its internal arrangement, including its wealth of perfectly printed tables, which renders it as easy of reference as it is valuable when referred to. A work of reference pure and simple it must be considered, and as such it will be used as the basis for Consular and private trade reports, and for calculations as to the prospects of trade for coming years. It is not a book to sit down by the fire and amuse oneself with, although in places the austerity of official commentary on the dry bones of statistics appears to be varied by a humorous allusion or lighted up by references to the partners of the writers' unoccupied hours—the poets or philosophers in whose silent company the most solitary hermit may find all the charms of society. The year was a good one. Tea paid, for a wonder, and we, as well as the recluses of Wenchow, were glad to hear it. If possible, it pleases us more to think that anything occurred to gladden that official and missionary-ridden community, which though counting but twelve persons in all, "two of whom are females" comprises within that select number five Customs officers, three missionaries and (we believe) two Consular officers. The balance just accounts for the "two females." We should have thought that publicity was of all possible evils exactly that one which would the least be experienced at Wenchow. But we are mistaken. The Assistant in charge of the Customs finds that, as he says himself, he is living "in that fierce light which beats upon a throne," and we thereupon most heartily condole with him. For the most part, a chaste severity pervades the reports before us. Neither from the North, nor from the river, nor yet from the Coast does a sound of jesting, even the most subdued, reach us, unless perhaps a joke is intended by Mr. Noetzi when he hangs himself upon the increasing desire among the Chinese to take advantage of Western arts and sciences, and prophesies "abundant fruit" from the establishment of Legations and Consulates abroad. And we fear, too, that Mr. Piry draws too deeply upon the *perfidum ingenium Gallorum*, when he describes Pakhoi as a place perfect in itself and requiring only a few residents to make it not only cool and healthy, but pleasant. The Chin-kiang Commissioner indulges in a good-natured gibe at the expense of the energy and quick perception which in a manner quite exceptional characterise the Chinkiang merchants. But even this is given with the same sobriety, not to say sadness, of tone wherewith Mr. Lay chronicles the disastrous results of a free fight between opium-pipe and opium-pill in the person of a mandarin, who in 1878 brought himself to an end by impartially patronising the bane and the antidote, offering his unlucky interior as a battle-field for the two. We should probably have received an ode from Kiungchow, but that the Assistant in charge at that place is the only writer who is not hopeful about the prospects of his port. For it will be observed that it is only at the places where there is little or nothing

to do that graces stolen from a muse of poetry are employed to set out the grec simplicity of the muse of history. Mr. Hannen's luminous description of the vicissitudes of the Foochow tea trade stands quite unadorned, and Mr. Simpson runs in a minor key over the little tale of foreign discomfiture at Kiukiang in an attempt to meet native combination on its own ground and to fight it with its own weapons. Such an incident as a combination among foreigners was unusual enough to justify an epic, but the chance is lost. And so Mr. White falls into no transport over the reformation which has "relieved foreign goods of all burdens and restrictions," and abolished "delays and obstructions." It is perhaps a fact that Mr. Hughes seeks to be pathetic in his description of the plentiful scarcity of roads and rivers in Shantung, but the prevailing genius of the volume is too strong for him, and he succeeds only in being strictly statistical. Each and all of these reports are we need not say how valuable, but for our private delectation in reading command us to the contribution from Wenchow, to which we are, as will have been noticed, again and again attracted back. Here we have a kaleidoscopic arrangement of poetry, philosophy, statistics, the drama, meteorology, metaphors, and holy Scripture, which, to a mind fatigued by the arid study of statistics and prognostics is indescribably agreeable. Nor is this all, for we learn, somewhat to our dismay it is confessed, that Wallace and Darwin, Huxley and Herbert Spencer have all been anticipated by Confucius, and that if twenty years ago we had only read understanding mind the *Doctrine of the Mean*, we might have taken all the wind out of the sails of these plagiarising adventurers. But let it not be thought that there is nothing but what charms the imagination by one of the new officers (Mr. Page) of one of the Chinese revenue cruisers of a Chinaman who was making off with some balls of opium from one of the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamers some time ago; we mentioned the case at the time. The Chinese authorities, in whose service he had been, exonerated him entirely; but the British Consul, considering that a British subject had been guilty of homicide, culpable or otherwise, held that the case was one which should be enquired into, and he accordingly held a formal investigation with the natural result, the Consul not having the power to deal with such cases himself—that the accused was committed for trial. The case will be tried either at Shanghai or before the Supreme Court here, probably before the latter, which would be much more convenient than the other. The interesting point in the case will be, that here we have a British subject, engaged legally according to treaty in the service of a foreign Government, shooting a subject of that foreign Government, acquitted honourably by that Government, and now being tried by his own countrymen.

LOCAL.  
The M. M. Co.'s steamer *Amazone* goes into the New Dock to-day.

The O. & O. s.s. *Gaelic*, with the incoming American mails, arrived at Yokohama on Monday morning.

The s.s. *Craiglands*, which arrived yesterday from Nagasaki, reports passing "the Japanese mail" at 1.40 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

The Spanish band played in the Public Garden yesterday afternoon. The weather, though bright, was somewhat cold, but the number of visitors was fairly good.

Among the passengers leaving to-day by the M. M. Co.'s steamer *Diemnah* for Marseilles is Chevalier C. de Boleslawski, Consul for Austro-Hungary at Shanghai.

The P. and O. steamer *Kashgar*, with English dates to the 22nd October, passed Gutztaff at 8.20 a.m. yesterday. Her mails were received at the British Post Office at 1.42 p.m., and the delivery commenced at 1.55 p.m.

The wreck of the American ship *Gold Hunter*, now lying in the Bay of Balabac, was sold at Manila on the 18th ult., Messrs. Olano, Larringe & Co. being the purchasers for \$125 for the ship, and \$180 for the 1,700 tons of coal on board.

A special telegram to the St. James's *Gazette* dated Berlin, 9th October, says:—The Chinese Legation have for some time been busily occupied with the elaboration of plans for the reorganisation of the Chinese army on the Prussian system.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government has despatched instructions to Admiral Lessofsky to effect a survey of the entire coast of Corea with as little delay as possible. The instructions suggest that the corvettes *Rasbovnik* and *Nayezdnik* should be despatched on this duty, but the Admiral is allowed full liberty of action.

About half-past four yesterday afternoon fire was discovered in a Chinese house in an alley off the Hupeh road. An alarm was given, and the Police extinguish wagon was speedily on the spot. The fire-engines turned out with alacrity, but their services were not required, the flames having been extinguished in a few minutes by the Police with the assistance of Chinese.

The doubt created by Reuter's telegram announcing the loss of a "Messageries steamer" with 250 lives has now been removed. We mentioned at the time we published the telegram that the M. M. Co. had no steamer bearing the name of *Spezzia*, the one given by Reuter; and we are now informed by Mr. Falcon de Cimier, the agent of the Company here, that he has received a telegram from the head office stating that the lost steamer is not one of their fleet.

Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., the agents here of the China Fire Insurance Company, inform us that they have received a telegram from the head office at Hongkong, stating that the Company they represent is "not interested" with regard to a "great fire" that has taken place at Yokohama. This fact will doubtless be gratifying to shareholders here.—We are informed that the fire referred to has occurred in Main Street, and that several large establishments have been destroyed.

The *Straits Times* of the 16th ultimo contains the following paragraph:—"We have been requested by Signor A. Ferrari to state that Signora Carlotta Patti, owing to a telegram received from Calcutta, will leave Batavia for Singapore on the 18th inst., and as she does not leave Singapore till the next B. I. S. N. Co.'s steamer, it is her intention to give a farewell concert in the Town Hall here, on the 23rd or 24th instant." From this it would seem probable that the celebrated artist will come on to Hongkong and Shanghai, but is bound for India.

Mr. Tong Ying-sing, managing director of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, says the *Ocean Mail*, lately passed through New York. He goes to Cuba to confer with the Captain-General about establishing a line of Chinese steamers between China and Cuba by way of Suez. They would probably touch at Marseilles, Barcelona, or Gibraltar. After conferring with the Captain-General, Mr. Tong Ying-sing will return to China by way of Europe, passing from Cuba to Southampton or Liverpool, and thence by land to Brindisi.

The Marine Court of Enquiry appointed by Government to enquire into the conduct of the officers of the steamers *Braemar Castle* and *Breconshire*, on the occasion of the sinking of the former vessel at Penang owing to her being run into by the latter, has concluded its investigation. The certificates of the officers of both vessels were returned, and the Court held that the collision was entirely due to the steamer *Breconshire* not answering her helm owing to the combined effects of an eddy which caught her on the starboard bow, and a squall which took her ast and prevented her answering her helm as she ought to have. The captain of the *Breconshire* was, however, "censured" for not having anchored as soon as he found his vessel was not answering her helm; but the Court took the opportunity of expressing its high opinion of the professional qualities of the other officers of the vessel.

The *China Mail* says:—An interesting point arises in connection with the shooting by one of the new officers (Mr. Page) of one of the Chinese revenue cruisers of a Chinaman who was making off with some balls of opium from one of the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamers some time ago; we mentioned the case at the time. The Chinese authorities, in whose service he had been, exonerated him entirely; but the British Consul, considering that a British subject had been guilty of homicide, culpable or otherwise, held that the case was one which should be enquired into, and he accordingly held a formal investigation with the natural result, the Consul not having the power to deal with such cases himself—that the accused was committed for trial. The case will be tried either at Shanghai or before the Supreme Court here, probably before the latter, which would be much more convenient than the other. The interesting point in the case will be, that here we have a British subject, engaged legally according to treaty in the service of a foreign Government, shooting a subject of that foreign Government, acquitted honourably by that Government, and now being tried by his own countrymen.

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