

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 15th March.

CHINA.

THE WAR WITH CHINA.—The Overland China Mail thus remarks on the posture of affairs on the 15th Jan:—We have nothing to record that contains promise of a speedy termination of our troubles at Canton. The burning of the foreign factories on the 24th of December has been followed up by various acts and demonstrations all showing that the quarrel gains both in depth and breadth the longer it endures. The capture of the little steamer *Thistle*, and the murder of all on board, the placards and proclamations of the neighbouring districts, the pursuit of the steamer *Fei-Ma*, and the formidable attack of a large junk fleet upon the powerful steaming squadron before Canton, all prove the increasing hardness of the enemy, and induce the conclusion that if our present means are thoroughly equal to the maintenance of our present position at Canton, they are at least, insufficient to the attainment of the end originally proposed.—Nothing can be clearer at the same time than that to halt now would be to jeopardise not only our own interests in the south, but the interests of every country trading with China at every point to which we have access. In the course of three months the local government has been able to stimulate the anti-barbarian prejudices of the population around us, that the intercourse between the mainland and this colony may be said to be all but suspended, while a number of respectable Chinese, directly and indirectly dependent upon us, have been scared from home, lest their apparent attachment to the foreigner should involve their friends and relations; such implication being in China the most common consequence of disaffection, established or suspected.

We have received a proclamation issued by Haou, acting magistrate of Heang-shun, in which that official informs his people that the English having attacked the chief city of the province, and enjoins them therefore to have no commercial intercourse with Hong Kong as it is necessary to stop all communication and trade. All persons engaged in such traffic, or employed in barbarian vessels, are to return to their homes. Goods are also forbidden to be taken to Macao, lest from that place Hong-Kong should get her supplies. Therefore all vessels that proceed to Macao, Tunchai, and Hong-Kong, are ordered to stop from going.—This matter has been insisted on in the districts of Tungkwan and Sin-gan. Supplies are cut off in those districts. A furious and infuriating address has been circulating among the Chinese both at Hong Kong and Macao. It purports to have been issued by Commissioner Yeh, and calls upon the celestial people to unite for a war of extermination. The Friend of China expresses (Jan. 15) its conviction that Yeh is not the man to put forth such a document. It states also that several attempts had been made during the first week of the new year to set Macao on fire.

The Singapore Straits Times of January 22 makes the following announcement:—On the morning of the 15th of January—the Madras mail steamer left at two p. m.—the greater part of the European residents at Hong Kong were attempted to be barbarously murdered by arsenic put into bread, but happily the ill-judged quantity caused its rejection by the stomach; but the effects of vomiting were widely and severely felt, and some patients were in a delicate state when the mail left. Hong Kong was literally under martial law. Whampoa had been abandoned by all foreign shipping.

The overland China mail of the 15th says:—The *Fei Ma* has arrived, with intelligence of the admiral having lauded a body of men and fired the suburbs, and that a great portion of them, estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 houses, had been destroyed—that the rebel fleet at Whampoa had joined the imperialists, and that the admiral had withdrawn the *Sybil* from Whampoa. All the chops including that of the British vice-consul, left that place this morning for Hong Kong, and the Spanish steamer *Jorge Juan*, in tow of the *Scipion*, for Macao; so that there is now not a single foreign vessel of any description at Whampoa.

Attempt of Chinese to retake a Fort.—The Friend of China published the following intelligence on the 7th of January:—Her Majesty's steam-ship *Coromandel*, Lieutenant Douglas, R. N., Commanding, arrived about half-past ten o'clock last night from Canton, bringing the following exciting information:—The *Coromandel* was lying with the *Niger* and *Encounter* off the Factory ruins, Canton, when, at twenty minutes past one p. m. on Sunday last, a boat arrived from the Macao Passage fort advising the admiral of the approach below the fort of a large number of Chinese war junks. Steam was got up immediately, and, with all the available boats in company, the *Coromandel* proceeded to a reconnaissance, the *Encounter* being directed to follow as soon as possible. By the time the *Coromandel* got down to the fort, the Chinese had ranged that portion of their squadron, some sixty vessels, that had come down in the Fatshan creek, in a line between Marines Island and Barrow's Island, about midway between the Macao Passage (*Teatotum*) fort and the stations of the *Hornet* and *Comus* off the barrier—say a mile and a quarter from the fort, a mile and a half from the barriers, and were exchanging shots. The time chosen for this approach had

been well considered; it was a dead low neap tide, consequently a vessel of the *Hornet's* draft of water was unable to get up the passage, the *Encounter* being similarly disabled from getting down. But just as the *Encounter* was under weigh some twenty or thirty vessels were seen coming into Starling beach, and, instead of proceeding directly, it was deemed best to send a few shots into them.—The *Niger*, and the make-shift gunboat at the boom, too, took up the fire, and continued it till they retired. The *Encounter* then attempted to get down the Macao passage, but unfortunately grounded somewhere off Bird's Nest fort, and was unable to get to the assistance of the others engaged. The accident being observed from the *Coromandel*—Sir Michael Seymour did not deem it prudent to do more with the *Coromandel* than stand on the defensive, accordingly dropped back with the tide, still firing from the bow-gun, and sent the boats' crews into the fort. The Chinese, of course, construed the movement to irresolution, and came on bravely to within four hundred yards of the fort, when, from the minies and marines and small arms men, till then under cover, they received repeated volleys, which must have committed frightful execution. It was about half-past two that a twenty pound shot from the Chinese struck down Mr Pearn, master's assistant of H. M. S. *Calcutta*, in charge of one of the cutters of his ship—a wound in the breast proving mortal. The cutter was immediately sent to the *Encounter* that he might have surgical attention, but he only lingered till sun-down, sensible, and speaking of his family to the last moment. This gallant young fellow had been in charge of the same boat throughout all the previous operations, and was an officer of high promise. It was about four, or a little after, that the Chinese, finding they had again met more than their match, and knowing that as the tide made they could not show fight a minute, gave signs of an intention to return the way they came, to freshen-which movement the *Coromandel* and boats stirred up their wake, firing shots, shell, and rocket as fast as they could be poured in, and as the Chinese boats were crowded with men, the havoc among them cannot have been trifling. At all events, they were too busily engaged in escaping to answer the fire. By five o'clock they were out of reach, in water too shallow for our approach.

The *Comus* and *Hornet* all this time were hard at work too, the former, sprung broadside to Hamilton creek, pouring the contents of her guns into another division of Chinese junks that had made their appearance in that direction—the *Hornet's* long sixty-eight into the rear of the division that had gone towards the fort committing terrible execution, while the boom-boats, headed by Captain Forsyth in his cutter, did their best in an unsuccessful attempt to cut off some of the stragglers in their retreat. Just as the engagement was well over, and the *Coromandel* returning to her old berth off the Factory ruins, the *Encounter* came down, anchored for a short time off *Teatotum* fort, and then returned to *Shameon*.

In addition to the lamentable casualty mentioned, six men were wounded in the boats, and one boy of the first class severely burned on board the *Coromandel*, whilst in the act of screwing in a rocket staff which had accidentally ignited either from the friction of screwing, or the back fire of a previous discharge. It is supposed that not less than seven thousand Chinese, in altogether some hundred and fifty boats, were engaged in this the most plucky action on their part that has ever been witnessed by English naval officers. As the *Coromandel* passed down yesterday, they were again observed with their sails at their mast heads and flags flying, as though they intended trying another attack. Nothing else of importance has occurred during the past few days—and there is no further word of the absent Mr Cowper, sen. Her Majesty's steam-ship *Barracouta*, was passed at the Bogue taking in guns from the *Calcutta* for the Macao Passage fort.

Of course no one can feel astonishment at the Chinese doing their best while they have opportunity; for but little will remain for them in this way directly our gunboats arrive. Only one of the Chinese junks was sunk, perhaps by themselves intentionally, in the air way off Sixty-sixth point, Barrow's Island. The intention of the Chinese, it would appear, was to retake *Teatotum* fort; and had they been a little smarter, and kept back our reinforcements they might have succeeded.

Massacre of the *Thistle* crew and Passengers.—The postal steamer *Thistle* not having made her appearance on Tuesday last, the 30th ult. fears began to be entertained of her safety.—All doubt on the point was set at rest on the arrival of the *Shamrock* on Wednesday afternoon, with the news that she had been captured and burnt by a party of Chinese on board. As far as we have been able to learn, the particulars are as follows:—The *Thistle* left Whampoa at eight a. m., on Tuesday, having on board a private belonging to the royal artillery as deck passenger, and Mr Dias, of Macao, as cabin passenger; Captain Weislen; the mate; Mr Peterson, the chief engineer; Mr Abraham, the second engineer; Mr. —; with four Manilla men as a crew in addition to the pilot and stokers. At Whampoa, several men came on board without luggage, besides whom there were several other Chinese passengers, including a respectably dressed small footed woman, who came on board at Canton with a box. About noon, while near Second Bar the passengers who had come on board at Whampoa, having been furnished

with arms from the box of the above mentioned woman, attacked the royal artilleryman, who was standing in the starboard fore gangway, and killed him. Captain Weislen, who was at that time looking down into the engine-room alarmed the first engineer, and on his going on deck, he was also slain; Mr Dias was then killed. The mate, seeing the attack, ran into the after cabin, bolted the door and commenced firing on his assailants, who threw a stinkpot into the cabin, which compelled him to jump overboard; not being able to swim, he was drowned. They then killed the chief engineer, the four Manilla men, and the Chinese servant, as he seemed to show some concern for the fate of his master. After having finished this massacre, they compelled the stokers to keep up steam and the pilot to steer the boat up to the Chow-mee creek. On arriving near the village of Lamkong-tow they let go the anchor, and permitted the Chinese passengers to take their baggage on shore, and the fireman and pilot to leave the vessel; then cutting off the heads of their unfortunate victims, they put the heads into a sack, set fire to the vessel, and left her, taking none of the cargo out of her. The people belonging to the village, opposite to which the steamer lay at anchor, seem to have succeeded in extinguishing the flames before the vessel was totally consumed, after which they plundered the wreck, taking away all the brass work of the engine; then, fearful of having their village burnt should the steamer be found near it, they slipped the cable and towed the vessel into the river, where she was found floating about by her Majesty's steamer *Barracouta*, which brought the wreck to Whampoa, and delivered it to the Captain of the *Rose*, to be towed to Hong Kong. When the vessel was examined on reaching Hong Kong, the body of the second engineer was discovered in one of the coal bunkers, where he must have crept for safety and been overlooked, as his head was not cut off.—*Hong Kong Register*, January 6.

The Insurgents at Nankin.—Of the rebellion we hear but little. The strife among the insurgents themselves is evidently on the increase. We some time ago reported the death of the eastern king at the hands of the northern king, who on his part has received his death blow from the assistant king. The North China Herald says:—The death of both the eastern and Northern kings is now very generally reported and believed by those who come into Shanghai from Nankin or its vicinity.—One of these reports run thus: the assistant king, Shih Tabkai, returning from Kiangsi with an army of 40,000 strong, seized the northern king, Wei Changhwei, and put him to death, because the northern king had put to death the eastern king, Yang Siutsing. All this is probable enough; yet, until confirmed by some more direct and reliable testimony, it cannot be received as a 'fixed fact.'—*China Mail*, January 1.

NAPLES.—A letter from Palermo gives the following details of the state of Italy:—The partial insurrections are at present completely put down. A last batch of the unsubmitted bands, composed of some individuals of Cefalu have just fallen into the hands of the Government, with the chief Spinuzza. The Sicilian insurgents, pursued on all sides, and abandoned by the people, have made their submission to the authorities. A band of twenty five political prisoners has been embarked at Messina on board the Neapolitan vessel *Miseno*, and conveyed to an island on the west of Praoani.

FRANCE.—*Paris.*—The Conference for the settlement of the Neuchatel question did not meet on Tuesday, and it is stated that the issue of the second sitting was not so satisfactory as might have been desired. It is even roundly asserted that Prussia has not renounced the hope of bringing the matter before the Frankfort Diet, in which case the question, already sufficiently entangled, would receive fresh complications.

AUSTRIA.—*The Principalities.*—The Austrian Government has signified to the Powers identified with the treaty of Paris that the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities is proceeding as rapidly as possible, and will be completed by the date fixed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Colony of Prince Edward Island, and the Legislature thereof, have been lately agitated in the same manner as Nova Scotia, by politico-religious questions.—The Stowe system of education, which introduces religious teaching into the common Schools, had been adopted and acted upon with the sanction of the Government. The Roman Catholics opposed this system, their Bishop making himself conspicuous against it. Protestant Meetings have been held in Charlotte Town and other places in its favor. A motion of want of confidence has been introduced into the Legislature, and the Government has been sustained by a majority of six. They have since notified the Inspector of Schools and Superintendent of Norman Schools, that his salary is to be reduced to £100—which amounts to his dismissal. This gentleman (a Mr Stark) is the introducer of the Stowe system. It is asserted also that orders have been given not to insist on the Bible as a reading book, and to discontinue the prayers, with which as part of the system, the Schools was opened.—*Halifax Church Times*.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Steamer *Admiral.*—This favorite boat will leave Boston on her first trip this season on Thursday next, 29 April, and St. John, on

Monday the 6th. We will then have communication by steam to Boston twice a week—the *Adelaide* leaving here as usual on Thursdays, and Boston on Mondays. These steamers are both good vessels, with masters who are competent men, and we wish them a profitable year's business. George Thomas, Esq., 82 Water-street, has been appointed agent for both boats.

Trade.—Exports.—The total value of Exports from the Province of New Brunswick during 1856 was £1,073,351 sterling, of this amount 713,262 was the value of goods exported from St. John. The quantity of flour exported from the Province was 11,492 barrels; the value of fish exported was £64,311; Grindstones 3094; Haberdashery, £26,174; Sheepskins, £6863; Boards and Scantling, 32,655,500 feet; Clap-boards, 2,214,000; Deals and Deal Ends, 279,291,031 feet; Ship's Knees, 16,575; Laths, 25,966,800; Lathwood, 2,665 cords; Pickets, 6,767,600; Shooks, 92,510; Staves, 69,800; Shingles, 127,967,000; Spars, 9,331; Timber—Birch, Hackmatack, Spruce, and Cedar, 16,243 tons; Pine, 103,852 tons.

The above is supplementary of the returns we published last week.—*Courier*.

The Canadian papers give full accounts of the burial of the dead, and the solemn manner in which Sunday was kept in Hamilton and Toronto, as a day of fasting and prayer.—The Churches were crowded, and every token of outward sorrow was exhibited on this sad occasion. Large numbers attended the funerals of those who perished by this disaster, and Mr Zimmerman's funeral, which took place on Monday, at Clifton, was attended by the whole country, in the vicinity, numbering not less than a multitude of ten thousand.

The Hamilton Spectator proposes that a monument should be raised by public subscription to the victims of the disaster.

The delegates from Newfoundland, who were deputed to visit these Colonies for the purpose of exciting public attention relative to the injurious policy adopted by the Imperial authorities in granting extraordinary privileges to French fishermen on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, have arrived in this City, and intend calling a public meeting for the purpose of explaining the nature of the concessions thus made.—*New Brunswicker*.

New Advertisements.

Gleaner Establishment

FOR SALE.

The Subscribers wish to dispose of this Establishment. Any person acquainted with Printing or desirous of entering into the Publishing Business, will find it a Profitable Speculation. The Terms, and all other information relating to the Office, and its Stock of Materials, will be communicated to any person making personal application, or by letter, post-paid. The Purchaser can obtain the Establishment at an early day.

JAMES A. PIERCE & SON.

Chatham, April 3, 1857.

House in Bathurst for Sale.

THE HOUSE and PREMISES owned and occupied by ALEX. CANTLY, at the Village end of the Bathurst Bridge. It is in all respects well adapted for a HOTEL and BOARDING HOUSE. Also, a FIVE Acre FIELD under Cultivation, having a BUCK running past it. For Terms and Particulars apply to the Subscriber.

ALEXANDER CANTLY.

April 4, 1857.

To the Freeholders of the County of Gloucester.

GENTLEMEN—

You will soon have an opportunity of doing your duty as Freeholders, by choosing men to Represent your interests, and guard your constitutional rights in the General Assembly of this Province.

I beg thus early and most respectfully to offer myself for your favourable consideration, of serving you; that, should I have the honour of your confidence, I shall endeavour to serve the County as I ever have done, with a just appreciation of its true interests, and the happiness and prosperity of its inhabitants.

The last Election, and the proceedings of the Serjeants Committee connected with it, have taught two lessons:—The Freeholders of Gloucester have learned the value of ONE VOTE, and the Public at large have had a proof of the wisdom of Party Spirit, before whose baneful influence, Truth, Law, Justice, and even the obligations of an Oath, are withered into insignificance.

My principles are known to you all—twenty six years ago my political life began. "Equal rights to all" was our motto. We nailed it to the mast, and although my friends, the *Mad-Bead* may be a little whitened by time, believe me, the Flag with its motto float as proudly as ever.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM END.

March 27, 1857.

NOTICE.

CHATHAM GAS LIGHT COMPANY.

At a Meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 18th inst, it was Resolved that a second instalment of ten per cent of the Capital Stock of the said Company be called in payable to the Treasurer on the 20th April next.

By Order of the Board,

W. M. S. EVENS, Treasurer.

FASHIONS. FASHIONS.

WINTER FASHIONS just received. New and beautiful Style of OVER COATS, &c., &c., call and see.

GEO. A. BLAIR.

(Opposite Brewer's Hotel.)

Chatham, Nov. 31, 1856