

CHINA.

The following account comes from an Officer in the East India Company's service, who was at Canton during the time of Lord Macartney's visit to Pekin, &c.

LORD MACARTNEY, with his fleet, in number the Lion, 64, the Hindolan, and three small vessels, arrived at the mouth of the river leading up to Pekin, in July last, where the ships anchored, though a very great distance from the land; the small vessels could almost get to the mouth of the river, where he found in waiting to receive him many boats, and two Mandarins of great rank with the shore lined on all sides with thousands of people; he was attended by Sir G. Staunton and all his retinue.

On his arrival at Pekin, the Emperor ordered a large house, with every kind of accommodation, provisions, &c. to be procured him, his retinue, and ships, at the expense of government. The ships were ordered to a port called Tex Chew, about four days sail to the southward, where Lord Macartney left them to wait further orders, and where every accommodation, and in fact every thing they wanted for, was allowed them gratis. The ships were permitted to go to any harbour or river on the coast without molestation. As an instance how delicate and extended was their protection, a Mandarin of some rank had insulted one of the Midshipmen of the Lion; a complaint was lodged, and the offender was degraded by the ornament of his button and cap being taken from him, and he was bamboozed or flogged severely. Several instances of this kind had happened, and the greatest attention was paid to any complaints against the Chinese.

Lord Macartney and suite left Pekin the beginning of September for Gehol, the country residence of the Emperor, about 150 miles distant, and on the 14th he was introduced. The ceremony used on this occasion was exactly similar to that observed on the introduction of the Dutch embassy in 1618. On the 20th they set out on their route to Pekin, where they arrived on the 26th, and on the 30th left that city on their route to Canton, attended by a large guard, and supplied with carriages, &c. in abundance. The Emperor took much notice of Sir G. Staunton's son, who spoke a little Chinese to him; he appeared sensible and inquisitive; he was 85 years of age on the 17th of September, but had every appearance of health and vigour: he was dressed in yellow, with a profusion of embroidery.

On Lord Macartney's quitting Pekin the Emperor ordered three Mandarins of the first rank to attend him, and to see that nothing which might tend to his accommodation should be wanting; and what is very uncommon, he gave him permission to visit any city or province throughout China.

The following, which is a literal translation of the Pekin Gazette, will inform you of the particulars of his reception, &c. It may be necessary to observe that the left side of the Emperor, as it is termed, the West Side, is the place of honour. In respect to the presents, I must remark, that it is the custom in China that every Ambassador yearly makes some presents to the Emperor, which are specified in the Gazette.

PEKIN GAZETTE.

On the eighth day of the seventh moon, July, the Hoc Sue, a very great Mandarin named Ho Cune, informed the Emperor a very great Mandarin had arrived at Pekin at nine o'clock, and that he was at the Emperor's palace; that the King of England had sent him as his Ambassador to the Court of Pekin, and his Lordship wished to be admitted to the Emperor's presence. The Emperor immediately ordered all his Court and relations to put on their best apparel, to be in readiness to receive his Lordship, and to wait till the Emperor was ready. The Emperor soon arrived and being seated in his state chair ordered the Hoc Sue to desire the great English Mandarin, Lord Macartney, to

forth his credentials to deliver to the Emperor. The Emperor desired a very elderly Mandarin of his Court, named Hockchongin, to receive the paper of his Lordship, and read it. He then read to him that the King of England had sent 19 different articles, the ornaments of England, and present to him the Emperor of China. His Lordship then addressed the Emperor by prostrating himself nine times with his head to the floor, according to the Chinese custom, and the Emperor ordered him a chair on his left hand, the greatest honour he could pay him in the Court of Pekin, ordered him a cup of tea, and took one with him. After some time the Emperor retired to his dinner, and ordered four of his greatest Mandarins to dine with his Lordship. After dinner the Emperor returned. His Lordship, with the four great Mandarins, also returned, and his Lordship returned the Emperor thanks for his repast: the Emperor then begged him to be seated as before, and spoke to his Lordship as follows:

"The King of England has sent you with 19 different articles as presents to me; I beg that your Lordship will send them to my palace." He then retired.

The following is the account:

First, an orrery.
One pair of globes.
One thermometer.
One pair of Merlin chairs.
Two large brass guns.
One bottle of phosphorus.
A view of Windsor.
A carpet made of gold thread.
Two large handsome woollen carpets.
One pair of gold embroidered saddles.
One summer coach.
One winter ditto.
Ten broad swords.
One pair of elegant chandeliers.
A model of a hundred gun ship richly ornamented.
One bale containing very fine cloths, cambrics, &c. &c.

A Country called Simlo.

One pair of elephants.
One owl, which eats daily 50lb. of grain.
One piece of cloth which, when dirty and put into the fire is burnt and cleaned.

BENGAL.

Four very handsome dogs.
A bird.
Three horses which can go through water, Arabians.
One pair of large looking-glasses.
Twenty very fine English knives.

COCHIN CHINA.

Twelve China Josses, or the images they worship, made of sandal wood.
A very elegant bedstead.
One pair of very handsome litters.
A very small elephant, 14 inches high.
Two hundred pieces of coarse cloth.

Small Portuguese, Uppole Goa.

One very handsome musical clock.
Two hundred figures, small, of clock work.
One large marble slab, very handsome.
One pair of beautiful birds.

JAPAN.

Twelve very handsome women, virgins.
Three very handsome horses.
One large coral bead.
One piece of brach coral.

PORTUGAL.

One handsome Chinese belt-buckle.
One pair of pearls, not very large.
One feather Chinese jacket.
Ten large lances.

FOYEE COUNTRY.

One man. } Dwarf.
One woman, }
One tiger with wings.
One female Joss or God.
One pair of pearls.
A box of medicine to cure the blind.

Lord Macartney's arrival at Canton.

About the 10th of November last Lord Macartney and his retinue arrived at Canton, by water; it was not a little surprising to see the great preparations that were making for his reception, many works previous to his arrival; the troops, such as they are, were exercising continually; one of the most superb boules I ever saw in China was by order of the Emperor fitted up for him, in a style truly elegant, and to their credit I say so, without the least idea of the expense; the ornaments of the Chinese and English fashion; the rooms all in the English style; the grounds in the Chinese; and such an abundance of provisions of all kinds collected for the occasion that it was impossible to consume them while they remained in Canton. His Lordship was attended by the principal people in the country; the shores were lined on all sides with troops; and the river with their men of war boats, who all went through their evolutions on his appearance in sight. A Chinese camp was pitched in the way to his house and the whole of the passage was covered and lined with silks and cloths of different kinds, in the Chinese style; and lest he should find a difficulty in landing they erected a bridge out into the river for a hundred yards, and decorated in a grand style, to prevent that inconvenience. On the first day of his arrival a grand dinner was provided by the Emperor; on the 2d, the Viceroy of Canton and all the great Officers of State gave him one, and also dined with him; but to give you an idea of what they expected to see on his Lordship's arrival, the Viceroy, and the greatest men of state, were practising for a week before to make use of a knife, fork and spoon according to his own custom. On the 3d day the Security Merchants of Canton gave him another great dinner, at which, however, none of them were present; I believe his Lordship had hinted he would not allow it.

On Christmas day he dined at the Company's factory, where most of the India Company's Officers were invited; he was in good health, but did not express himself by any means pleased with the result of his embassy; in fact he has not done any thing material to the interests of Great Britain or the Company at Pekin; the only object he accomplished was to induce an order from the Emperor that all officers under government should wear woollen cloth three months in the year. I must say so far from this embassy having been of service the time I was there, it was much on the contrary as I never saw such a stagnation in trade in China during the many years that I have been engaged in the service; not an European article would sell for its original cost, and money was so scarce, that it almost put a stop to all commerce.

I understand all the presents were accepted but one, and an immense quantity returned to go to Europe from the Emperor. So much respect did they pay to the English, that not even one man belonging to the ships returned without receiving some present. I was informed by the Security Merchants, when I observed the great expense of the embassy to the King of England, that the expense of it to the Emperor of China would amount to one million of dollars.

LONDON.

LAW REPORT.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, JUNE 30.

JOHNSTON AND PAUL, v. CATEAU.

THIS action was brought in order to recover the amount of a policy of insurance, which the Defendant undertook to effect for the Plaintiffs, but which he neglected to do, in consequence of which the Plaintiffs had sustained a loss.

Mr. ERKINS said, the Plaintiffs were interested in a vessel called the *Delight*, that had sailed on a voyage from Aberdeen to London, and apprehensions being entertained that she was lost, the Plaintiffs wrote to the Defendant, and ordered him to get an insurance for 200l. as the amount of their interest in her. The Defendant afterwards

answered their letter, in which he stated the difficulties he had in effecting the insurance, and said he had just succeeded in it, and had paid 20 guineas per cent. premium. He told them he should not have thought of giving such a premium, but many of the underwriters thought the *Delight* was lost. In fact, it turned out that the ship was lost, in consequence of which the Defendant was applied to for the 200l. the amount of the policy, when he admitted that he had made no insurance, but had flood his own insurer, and therefore it was contended he himself was bound to pay. He had made the Plaintiffs believe that all was safe, and that he had a policy for them.

The learned Counsel said he did not know which to admire most, the integrity and honour, or the law of the Defendant, by which he meant his rascality and ignorance.

After the Defendant had been applied to for the amount of the policy, he wrote to the Plaintiffs for answer, that he had effected no policy, but had flood the risk himself; and that they must be sensible it was contrary to all law and reason, that they should recover any property, unless the premium had been remitted at the time, or the post afterwards, &c.

The facts of this opening appeared in evidence, and also that the value of the ship was 500l. in which the Plaintiffs had 1-8th each. It also appeared that the Plaintiffs were partners in the shipping line.

Mr. MINGAY, as Counsel for the Defendant, admitted his Client was extremely ignorant and absurd; but submitted this action was not maintainable. He never recollected such an action being brought. This was a joint action brought by the Plaintiffs to recover 200l. though they had no joint interest in the vessel, each of them having only 1-8th. If this action could be brought, two Underwriters might be made the Defendants in one action.

His Lordship said, he did not wish to say any thing then on that point, but had no objection to resume it for the consideration of the Court.

The learned Counsel submitted there was no evidence the vessel was lost.

The Lord Chief Justice thought there was sufficient evidence of that fact. The ship had sailed from Aberdeen to London, in the year 1792, and had never been heard of since, and, therefore he thought the Gentlemen of the Jury would have no difficulty in presuming she was lost.

Mr. Mingay contended, that the Plaintiffs having a quarter of the vessel, which was valued at 500l. they had only a right to a verdict for 125l. minus 40 guineas, the amount of the premium.

The Lord Chief Justice said, the Plaintiffs had a right to insure up to the amount of the risk and premium, and that therefore there must be a verdict for Plaintiffs for 125l.

Verdict for Plaintiffs, 125l.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

DEVERELL v. HILL'S.

THIS was an action to recover from the Defendant a satisfaction in damages for a breach of promise of Marriage.

The Counsel for the Plaintiff stated, that his Client was a young woman of distinguished good sense, virtue, and prudence; and that by her own industry in the business of a mantua-maker, she supported herself and her aged parents.

The Defendant was a Master Taylor, in good business, and paid his addresses to the Plaintiff for upwards of two years, during which time he made her repeated promises of Marriage. These promises were made in the most solemn manner; notwithstanding which he married another Lady, and left the deluded Plaintiff to lament her credulity and his infidelity.

Three witnesses proved the facts stated by the Plaintiff's Counsel.

The Counsel for the Defendant said, that his Client was considerably involved in debt at the time he paid his addresses to the Plaintiff, who therefore, according to the ordinary sense in which matrimony is now considered, would have had a *bad bargain*, if she had married him.

The Jury found a verdict for the Plaintiff—Damages 30l.