

second part, namely English-Chinese, which we understand is in a state of considerable forwardness, and which all acknowledge to be a great desideratum. Hoping that the Great Head of the church will long spare so useful a life as that of our friend, we have much pleasure in commending his dictionary to the patronage of sinologues.

ART. IX. *Journal of Occurrences: trade at Canton; death of Howqua; memorial of H. E. Liang regarding the affair on Formosa; American commissioner to China; French minister to China: interview of the French consul with Kiyng; typhoon at Chusan and vicinity.*

TRADE at Canton under the new system does not, at its commencement work quite so smoothly as when Chinese officials of every grade and name were allowed to extort from it all they wished. The late hong-merchants have been called upon to give their rulers a *benevolence*, as Henry VII. of England would call it, of upwards of five millions, which they declare they are now unable to pay, inasmuch as their monopoly has been taken from them. They have therefore concluded to withdraw from business as long as this demand hangs over them, and have taken down the lanterns over the hong doors. The linguists too find that they were not included in the new arrangements, and are clamorous for a return of the good old times, and wish to have a stated sum given them for every lighter to and from Whampoa, somewhat as in former days. Some of the demands and the wants of the linguists, and what the duties and work are for which they require payment, are set forth in a statement, under date of Aug. 20th; they require for their trouble as custom-house clerks, \$12 for every chopboat with imports, and \$10 for exports, and give a schedule of the size of a chopboat-load. A committee of foreign merchants has been appointed to examine into, and arrange this matter with the linguists, but it has not hitherto been definitely settled. A class of persons answering to the former linguists under the hong monopoly seem indispensable, and will no doubt be required in all the ports, to act for the foreign merchant in his transactions with the custom-house officers; and the only question is to know what is a fair compensation for their services. It would, it seems to us, be a good mode to have these duties discharged by Chinese clerks in the employ of the foreign merchants.

Howqua—in Chinese Wú Tunyuen—the great hong-merchant died on the 4th inst., at the age of 75. A petition of his presented to H. E. the governor a few months since, and published in the Hongkong Register, contains a few particulars of his family and affairs, which were introduced into the paper for the purpose of showing the falsity of the representations of one Fan, who had accused him to the governor of embezzling the consou fund.

The memorial of Liang, governor-general of Fukien and Chekiang, which we extract from the Hongkong Gazette, is a document of some interest; it shows not only the disposition of the Chinese government to do something

in accordance with the request of H. M.'s plenipotentiary to punish the lying perpetrators of a most atrocious act, and thus far is well; but it shows too how little authority the imperial government has over this distant part of its dominions. These two officers would not, it is probable, have dared to execute the shipwrecked sufferers anywhere on the main, and took advantage of their distance from the capital to get themselves advanced by reporting a victory. We are not, however, well informed as to how far the laws of other nations generally visit the judicial murders of tyrannous officers upon themselves, except by civil punishment, degradation, dismissal, &c. H. E. Liang disclaimed all sympathy with the act of the officers on Formosa, and in making his report has done, we think, quite as much as could be expected from a Chinese officer.

"Liang, governor-general of Fukien and Chekiang, lays before the throne this humble report of his proceedings, when, in obedience to the imperial commands, he passed over to Formosa, minutely to investigate, and ascertain the real facts (of Tahunga's conduct).

"When his majesty's slave received the command to cross over to Formosa, he then made a report of the general circumstances of his having given over the seals of office, having started on his journey, and having appointed officers to officiate as general of division and intendant of circuit of the island. After arriving in Formosa, his majesty's slave made inquiries in the course of his journey, and also received from Wu Panfung, lieut.-col., and She Meih, magistrate expectant, on their return to Kiai, the verbal report of their inquiries among the people of the northern parts. This report agreed in every particular with the substance of the answer given by all the officers who were examined, all uniting with one voice in the statement, that, of the two foreign ships destroyed, one went to pieces from bad weather encountered, and the other was driven ashore and foundered; that there was no meeting in battle, or enticing them in, as had been stated in the report made by the intendant of circuit.

"It seems that, on the—day of September 1841, a three masted foreign vessel reached the offing of Kilung, and there anchored. On the third day after, she passed by way of Wanjintui, to the back of the island of Tawulun, where from stress of weather she ran upon a reef and went to pieces. With the exception of some of the crew who got into a boat, set sail and escaped, all the rest landed in confused groups, asking the people for food, and were immediately seized by the villagers. When the local officers heard thereof, they proceeded to the spot, and, after giving the villagers the rewards promised by proclamation, took into their own hands the captives from the foreign vessel, and conveyed them to the chief town of Taiwan. These facts were ascertained, and are entirely inconsistent with the statements of the original memorial.

"Again on the 10th of March 1842, there was a foreign vessel stranded from bad weather, in the roads, of Tootekung at Taan, where she went to pieces. With the exception of such as were drowned at the time, the crew all landed and ran into concealment, but were taken and bound by the people of the neighborhood, and kept by them in their houses. On the third day after, the civil and military officers arrived, gave rewards as before, and carried the foreign prisoners away to the authorities. This account also is not in unison with that in the original report.

"But the statement that from the ship lost at Taan, the guns, and other weapons, dress, and official documents, were from the cities of Chinhai and Ningpo, is perfectly true; and those articles were deposited at the time by the general of division and the intendant of circuit, in the arsenal, where they now remain. Now as these circumstances happened prior to the pacification, when each looked to do the utmost that his strength could accomplish, had the general and intendant simply acted with a burning hatred of their country's foe, their spirit fortified by the justness of their cause, although they might have acted somewhat in excess of their duty, yet it would then have been attributable to the excitement of a righteous indignation. But, when it is seen that their sole object was to make up a tale, and find some pretence for gaining and exercising patronage, their offense is, indeed, one that calls for punishment; nor is any excuse to be found for it. His majesty's slave, therefore, personally interrogated Tahunga and Yau Yung regarding all the above detailed facts, how they could so falsely have represented them. At first they obstinately persisted in the declaration that the circumstances were really as they had then reported. But when he further interrogated them regarding the words of which he had heard in the course of his investigation, they said nothing more, but immediately presented their personal statement, and begged that they might be laid before the throne, and the punishment of their crime solicited.

"With regard to the question of a connection with traitorous people in an internal rebellion, although there are on record the depositions taken by the general and inten-

dant during their conduct of affairs and trial of this question; yet Denham and the other foreigners and traitorous people taken, (with the exception of those who had already suffered death,) having in obedience to the imperial will, been liberated, there are no means of obtaining the evidence of undoubted deposition; nor can this question (if proved) be set up as a plea to screen the fault committed in the two false reports. And moreover, if such high officers as a general and an intendant cannot stand upon the simple statement of actual facts, they show themselves indeed ungrateful for the imperial favor, and utterly unworthy of the offices they hold. His majesty's slave, therefore, respectfully transmits their personal statements for the imperial perusal, and at the same time forwards his own statement of the actual facts as ascertained by his investigation. Whether the Board shall be commanded to punish them severely; or whether they shall be handed over to the Board for new trial; his majesty's slave, meanwhile, has brought Tahunga and Yau Yung back with him to the main, there respectfully to await the announcement of the imperial pleasure.

"His majesty's slave has received deep and abundant favors which have entered into the very marrow and life of his being. With humility he has read the words of the imperial rescript. 'If Iliang in the slightest degree practice concealment, and will not cast aside every consideration of regard for the parties concerned, so that we shall be made to award reward and punishment, mistakenly and unjustly, and that injury shall be occasioned to the grand measure of pacification now pending, hereafter when we shall from some other source become aware of this, what, let Iliang ask himself, will be the punishment due to him? Let him well and tremblingly consider this. And let a copy of Kiyiing's representation be forwarded to him.' Luminous and bright indeed are these divine commands; brilliant as emanations from the heavenly lights themselves. And who and what is the emperor's slave, that he should dare to cherish the least thoughts of deceit and falsehood! Moreover, Le Tingyu and Su Tingyuh could tell Kiyiing of what they had heard, and should his majesty's slave not truly and completely report the facts, how will he yet be able to prevent persons from telling of them.

"With respect to the rewards and distinctions granted to the volunteer militia, on the two occasions, at Taan and at Kilung, for their exertions, these should be left untouched, for the people of those parts are of an unsteady mind, and these will serve to stir them up with a grateful sense of the imperial benevolence, and to dispose them to ready effort in any emergency. But as regards the civil and military officers, there has been so much and such great deceit, that it becomes necessary to ask that the Board may be commanded to annul all the grants of honor and distinction to any officers engaged on the two occasions, when the foreigners were taken prisoners. All the circumstances of his visit to Formosa and of the secret investigation carried on by him, he thus respectfully reports, praying his august sovereign's sacred perusal thereof.

P. S. "The length of time that will be taken in conveying a dispatch over from Formosa is very uncertain, and the instances of loss not unfrequent; and this memorial has therefore been delayed till after the memorialist's return over to the main. Iliu having vacated his earthly appointments, a communication of this memorial will be made by express to the governor-general of the Two Kiang, Kiyiing. It is thought right to add these particulars, which are with great respect reported."

The imperial reply.

"On the 24th of April the following imperial commands were received.

"In consequence of Tahunga and Yau Yung having reported that during the month of September, 1841, an English vessel had suddenly approached the coast of Formosa, when the said general of division, intendant of circuit, and others, led on the troops and militia to the attack and sunk the vessel: that, again in the month of March last year, a foreign vessel suddenly entered the harbor, when the local officers and troops enticed her on to a shoal, and that they had on these occasions, successively caught and killed many of the foreigners, and captured sundry Chinese military weapons, flags, banners, and other things: Our imperial pleasure was therefore, on each of these occasions, declared, graciously commending and rewarding the general, intendant, and all other person who exerted themselves in the several affairs.

"But afterwards the foreigners, after their pacification, presented a document stating that Tahunga and others had treacherously massacred some shipwrecked foreigners, and that framing a story of having taken them in arms as prisoners of war, they had thus falsely represented it to us; and this statement of the foreigners having been by Iliang and Kiyiing successively reported to us, our commands were then given to Iliang, to pass to Formosa, and examine into and adjudicate the matter.

"It now appears from his report, upon examination and inquiry among the officers and common people, that, of the two foreign vessels destroyed, one went to pieces from the bad weather encountered, and the other was driven ashore by stress of weather; that in neither case was there any meeting in battle, or enticing into danger. On being examined into, Tahunga and Yau Yung themselves have confessed, that their report was a pre-arranged and made-up one, and that their crime is wholly undeniable, and have

presented to Hiang their own depositions requesting him to report clearly to Us that they may meet due punishment.

"This affair having originally happened previously to the pacification of the foreigners, at that time, when under the impulse of a just indignation,—had the general and intendant reported according to the truth, We should surely ourselves have known how to act. But thus to deceive and falsify, in order to obtain merit, is conduct exceedingly hateful to us. In the one case they stated that they had met in battle, and in the other, that they had enticed in, the enemy. Not until Hiang had passed over to Formosa, and examined in the matter, did they at all present their true personal statements, and confess their guilt. Thus flagrantly have they shown ingratitude for our gracious favors, and involved themselves in the bitter consequences of crime.

"Let Tahunga and Yau Yung be deprived of their rank, and handed over to the Board of Punishments, and let the ministers of the Grand Council be sent to join with the Board, in judging them, reporting fully to us the decision come to, and let all the officers and others who were recommended as having exerted themselves at Taiwan, Kilung, and Taan (excluding only the militia and other private individuals), and all the civil and military functionaries who have been promoted and commended for their diligence, be deprived of all the honors they have thus obtained.

"In cherishing Chinese and foreigners, we look upon each with the same equal benevolence. And, the general and intendant aforesaid, having become amenable by their crime to punishment, we will not allow, that because the representation came from outside foreigners, it should be carelessly cast aside without investigation. Our own subjects and foreigners, ministers and people, should all alike understand, that it is our high desire to act with even handed and perfect justice. Respect this."

A commissioner, to China, from the government of the United States of America, has been appointed. The commissioner, Mr. Caleb Cushing, was expected to embark at Boston in June or July, and from thence proceed to London and Paris—to obtain all possible information at those courts, touching the plans and purposes of the British and French governments in their intercourse with China. From Paris he will proceed to Bombay, via Suez, and there embark in one of the vessels of the squadron destined for the Chinese waters. Mr. Cushing may be expected in China at the close of this, or early next year in the frigate Brandywine, commodore Parker.

A French minister M. Lagrenée, has also been appointed by the French government to come to this country; it is said he will be accompanied by an admiral at the head of a squadron.

An interview between H. E. Kiyng and the French consul, count de Rattimenton, took place at Canton, the account of which we extract from the Canton Press. The Chinese high officers have been taught many a lesson in their treatment of foreign functionaries since the time when governor Lú in 1834, told lord Napier, "that the great ministers of the celestial empire, unless with regard to affairs of going to court and carrying tribute, or in consequence of imperial commands, are not permitted to have interviews with outside barbarians." See Chi. Rep. vol. III., p. 287.

"This ceremony, which was preceded by several visits to the French consul and capt. Firmin Duplan from the Kwangchau fu and a delegate from the imperial commissioner, may be considered another progressive step in the events which have lately taken place. Towards 8 o'clock of the morning of the 6th inst., two boats belonging to the French corvette *Alemene* left Canton for the place of meeting. They contained the French consul, captain Duplan, the chancelier du consulat, eight officers of the corvette, an interpreter and several private gentlemen, and reached the house of Pwankequa after an hour's pull. There the commandant and consul were shown into the large hall, and a delegate of the imperial commissioner, the Kwangchau fu and several other officers paid their respects to them. At near the hour fixed upon, an officer wearing a crystal button announced that the imperial commissioner was prepared for the interview, when the consul and captain Duplan with the others before mentioned, descended to the reception-room, and there found the high Chinese officers and a number of other functionaries wearing white and blue buttons.

"Some compliments having passed, the French consul presented his credentials from the minister of foreign affairs, to the gov.-general, who handed them to the imperial commissioner, and the latter took note of and returned them to him. After this many questions were put, concerning his majesty the king of the French, about France, and her ministers generally, and more particularly M. Guizot became the subject of conversa-