

REPORT.

THE accounts of the "Shanghai Cemetery" and the "Shanghai Seamen's Cemetery" are published for general information.

Shanghai, 10th January, 1860.

JOHN HOBSON, Treasurer.

SHANGHAI CEMETERY in Account Current with the Rev. JOHN HOBSON, the Treasurer.

Table with columns for Date, Description, and Amount (Tls. m. c.). Rows include 1859 April 28, August 10, December 31, 1860 January 16, April 12, August 14, and 1861 January 1.

Table with columns for Date, Description, and Amount (Tls. m. c.). Rows include 1859 April 20, June 22, August 22, 1860 October 13, January 10, July 14, December 31, and 1861 January 1.

Audited and found Correct, 11th January, 1861.

JAMES L. MAN.

CIRCULAR. SHANGHAI CEMETERY.

The Treasurer's accounts with the Shanghai Cemetery from August 1856 to April 1859 are herewith circulated for public inspection.

The Trustees of the Cemetery are unavoidably compelled to appeal to the community for aid. It is generally felt that the Cemetery is not in that state of good order which ought to mark the resting place of the dead.

Shanghai, 1st June, 1859.

JOHN HOBSON, Treasurer. H. M. M. GRAY.

SUBSCRIPTION.

Edward Webb, Taels 100, Russell & Co. 50, W. R. Adamson & Co. 50, Augustine Heard & Co. 50, Gibb, Livingston & Co. 50, J. Whittall 50, Olyphant & Co. 50, Isaac M. Bull & Co. 25, Shaw, Bland & Co. 25, Richard Newby 25, V. P. Jordan 25, Gilman & Co. 25, Geo. Barnes & Co. 25, Lindsay & Co. 50, Reiss & Co. 25, Fletcher & Co. 25, G. W. Counts 25, Wm. Pustau & Co. 25, Birley, Worthington & Co. 25, Holliday Wise & Co. 25, Thorne Brothers & Co. 25, Harkort & Co. 25, Siemssen & Co. 25, Wetmore, Williams & Co. 25, H. N. Lay 25, Smith, Kennedy & Co. 25, Turner & Co. 25, Bower, Hanbury & Co. 25, J. Mackellar, 25, William Hargreaves 25—Total, Taels 1,000.

SEAMEN'S CEMETERY SHANGHAI, in Account Current with the Rev. JOHN HOBSON, the Treasurer.

Table with columns for Date, Description, and Amount (Tls. m. c.). Rows include 1858 December 31, 1859 Jan. to Dec., 1860 Jan. to Dec., April 12, and 1861 December 31.

Audited and found Correct, 11th January, 1861.

JAMES L. MAN.

MINUTES of a Public Meeting of Foreign Renters of Land within the limits, held at H. B. M.'s Consulate at Shanghai, on the 2d day of February, 1861.

Present.—T. Meadows, Esq., H. B. M.'s Consul; Messrs. Hamilton and Whitlow, (Municipal Councilors); Messrs. Howard, Murray, Brand, Duncanson, Pickwood, Tate, Ashton, Mackellar, Cunningham, Hanbury, Wilson, Reid, Trautmann, Antrabus, Francis, Man, Compton, Cus-huy, and Di Bridgman.

REPORT.

The Municipal Council for 1860 have the honor to submit to the Land Renters their report for the past year. They have had to contend with many unusual and unexpected difficulties and to introduce some important changes.

was appointed Secretary to the Council, and permanent ex officio member of it. His Testimonials are laid upon the Table for the information of those who may not already have seen them.

Roads.—Early last year the Barrier Road, Temple Road, North Gate Street, and part of the Consulate Road and Church Street were metalled. The Council have also laid out the extension westward of Kirk's Avenue to the Barrier Road and of North Gate Street and Rope Walk Road to the Shaloo. They have also availed themselves of the clearance made by the fire in the Maloo to secure space for a 30 foot road from the Maloo to Custom House Road, making a concession in the width of a street of half the length running only to Rope Walk Road thus securing another, though unavoidably crooked, line west of the Temple Road.

has actually been commenced on these roads and the Municipal Council avail themselves of this opportunity publicly to express their thanks for the kind assistance they have from time to time received from the military authorities.

In negotiating for land the Council have steadily kept in mind the principle so strongly urged by some Land Renters on the 23d June viz. That the owners of property should contribute the space required for such purposes.

Long continued rains—the unusual quantity of building going on—and lastly the frosts, have very much broken up the roads. Hard metal has also become extremely scarce and dear.

The great extension of the mileage of roads, and the necessity of constant watchfulness to prevent encroachments have induced the Council to appoint Mr. Waters, who has for a long time borne a high character in the Police, to the office of Inspector of Roads—at a Salary of Tls. 90 per month.

Taxes.—The Chinese houses in the settlement have been reassessed by Mr. Pickwood showing an increase of over 20 per cent on that made by Mr. Clifton early in the year. The Council have strong reason for believing that a tax on the full amount of rental was generally collected by the former Chinese Interpreter by a system of altering receipts: so that the enhanced assessment will impose no additional burden on the Chinese house holders though the revenue will be largely increased from the many houses of a good class now in course of construction.

Police.—The Council have devoted much anxious care to this important branch. The flustering and conveying to which the disorders in the country have given rise have had the worst effect on the class from which Police Constables have usually been drawn.

Licensing.—This scheme remains in abeyance, in the hands of H. B. M. Consul. This Council can only most strongly urge on their successors to carry out the proposed measure, as soon as the necessary powers can be obtained, as they believe it to be one most essential for the preservation of regularity and good order in the settlement.

Wharfage dues, show a satisfactory increase, keeping pace with the growing importance of the settlement.

Drainage.—This matter has also received careful consideration and the Municipal Council have come to the conclusion that the work presents no great difficulties, but that it will be necessary to secure the services of a surveyor used to such work to superintend it in detail. It is evident that in a flat like this, the levels must be very carefully laid out to prevent disappointment arising from errors, or false work in this respect, the undivided attention of a competent person is essential. A steady assistant from a Civil Engineer's office would be able to do the work required, and the succeeding Council are recommended to take steps to secure the services of such a person as soon as possible.

Lighting.—A scheme for lighting the settlement with gas has already been brought before the public and will doubtless shortly assume a more definite form, and private enterprise will aid in this great improvement.

The Band.—It is proposed to divide the Band into two parts with an iron post and rail. Metalting the inner part for carriages, and preserving the outer as a promenade, which can be carried out in the course of the year if approved, as the new earth work has now pretty well settled.

Arrests.—The return of prisoners for the past year is laid before you. The large increase of cases, chiefly of drunkenness, is fully accounted for by circumstances which is needless to explain.

Barracks.—The Police Barracks will be barely sufficient for the full number of Police and it would be very desirable if arrangements could be made for the Secretary to reside on the premises. There is space sufficient in the compound for all the enlargement that could be required, but as all building materials have been and still are at most exorbitant prices, this question is left for future consideration.

Finance.—The financial position of the public funds is very satisfactory. The Cash Balance actually in hand is only Tls. 1,779.53 against

Tls. 3,589.64, but it will be seen that there are Tls. 13,200 of the taxes of the last half year, which, owing to the press of work arising from the reassessment of Chinese houses, have still to be collected. The estimated income for 1861, which is probably decidedly less than the amount which will be realised, is amply sufficient to meet the increasing current expenditure, including that

required for the projected roads, and to pay off the second instalment of the Bund Loan, but special provision would have to be made for any further expenditure.

FOWLDER HAMILTON, Chairman. JAMES WHITLOW, Treasurer. R. R. TYKERS.

Shanghai, 1st February, 1861.

ESTIMATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1861.

Table with columns for Category, Income (Tls. dec.), and Expenditure (Tls. dec.). Rows include House and Land Taxes, Wharfage dues, Police Force, and various other expenses.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SHANGHAI.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE from 1st January to 31st December, 1860.

Table with columns for Category, Receipts (Tls. dec.), and Expenditure (Tls. dec.). Rows include Cash—From former Council, House and Land Taxes, Wharfage Dues, Police Reward Fund, and various other items.

EXPENDITURE.

Table with columns for Category, Receipts (Tls. dec.), and Expenditure (Tls. dec.). Rows include Police Force, Police Barracks, Roads and Jetties, Petty Expenses, and various other items.

Shanghai, January 31st 1861. E. & O. E. JAMES WHITLOW, Treasurer of Municipal Council.

Audited and found correct, ROBT. REID.

BUND EXTENSION ACCOUNT.

Table with columns for Category, Receipts (Tls. dec.), and Expenditure (Tls. dec.). Rows include Paid Wuyongchong on account of his contract, Received per H. B. M. Consul, and Balance charged in Current Account.

Shanghai, January 31st, 1861. E. & O. E. JAMES WHITLOW, Treasurer of Municipal Council.

Audited and found correct, ROBT. REID.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Table with columns for Category, Assets (Tls. dec.), and Liabilities (Tls. dec.). Rows include Cash Balance, House and Land Taxes, Wharfage dues, Police Buildings, Loans on security of Police Buildings, and Estimated Value of property and funds.

Shanghai, January 31st, 1861. E. & O. E. JAMES WHITLOW, Treasurer of Municipal Council.

(To be continued in our next.)



NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

WE the undersigned have this day established ourselves at this port, as Merchants and General Agents under the Firm of BRADWELL, BLOOR & Co.

JACOB BRADWELL, FREDERICK BLOOR. Shanghai, 16th February, 1861.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE undersigned is instructed to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on Wednesday, the 20th of March next, if not previously disposed of by private contract.

The following valuable property belonging to ANDREW CONOLLY, Esq., viz:— The lot of Land situated on the French Bund, bounded on the South by the French Consulate and on the North by Messrs. Rémi, Schmidt & Cie.'s premises, with the substantial, well built House situated thereon, and easily divided into two residences, each supplied with all suitable offices; the whole of the Rooms face the South and are sheltered on the North by Messrs. Rémi, Schmidt & Cie.'s Godowns; also 2 large, well built lofty Godowns paved with stone, the Door and Window frames being of Granite, extensive Comprador's rooms, Kitchens, &c., with Stabling and large Coach House.

For further particulars, apply to BARNES DALLAS, 16ma Shanghai, 14th February, 1861.

THE North-China Herald.

SHANGHAI, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1861.

DIED.

At Shanghai, on the 10th inst., HELEN MARY, youngest daughter of P. F. RICHARDS Esq., Age 7 years.

COMPARISON OF OBSERVATIONS.

A SELF REGISTERING THERMOMETER in the open air, in a shaded situation, at Shanghai,—the Maximum by day, and the Minimum at night.

Table with 2 columns: Reading 15th Feb. 1861, Ending 15th Feb. 1860. Rows show temperature ranges for various times of day.

QUOTATIONS.

EXCHANGE, No quotations. OPIUM, do.

LATEST SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED.—Feb. 15th, Havoc, (H. M. G B 60 HP), Poole, from Yang-tze-kiang; Onward, (Am. bq.), Emery, from San Francisco. DEPARTED.—Feb. 15th, Maria, (Dan. bq.), Ingemann, for Ningpo.

THE NORTH-CHINA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Tuesday next, the 19th inst., at 8 o'clock P.M. in the Rooms of the Shanghai Library, among two Papers will be read: 1st.—Notices of the East coast of Corea and of its inhabitants, both native and Japanese. 2nd.—Narrative of a recent tour from Shanghai through the rebel territory to Nanking and back, by a Chinese. J. HENDERSON, Recording Secretary.

THE next Inward mail from London 26th December, was due in Hongkong on the 10th, and should be here on the 19th inst., by the P. & O. Steamer.

THE P. & O. Steamer with the next outward mail for Europe will leave here on the 21st instant.

THE long talked of expedition under Sir James Hope to open up the Yang-tze-kiang, left Woosung on Tuesday morning last. It consisted of H. M. Ships Centaur, Coromandel, Cooper, Atalante, Waterman, Bantener, Bouncer and Havoc. The expedition was accompanied by Lieut. Col. Wolsey, who proceeds on a military survey, Capt. Ward and several officers from H. M. S. Acteon for hydrographical purposes, Mr. P. J. Hughes, Consul for Kiu-kiang, and Mr. Phillips, assistant, a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce consisting of Messrs. Hamilton, Michie and Ballance with a view of ascertaining in some measure the commercial capabilities of the hitherto un-frequented portions of the country they will visit in their progress, Messrs. Wilson, Lewin, Thorne, Drysdale and Féaron, Lieut. Birch, 11th P. N. I. on leave, and lastly though not by any means the least interesting party, the gallant little band of adventurers consisting of Major Sarel, Capt. Blackiston, Dr. Barton, and Mr. Scherschewsky with their attendant Sikhs and Coolies, who purpose making their way to India after proceeding as far as practicable in one of the vessels of the fleet.

It is a matter of congratulation that this expedition is commanded by Sir James Hope in person, for the importance of the object in view, the not only possibility, but the great probability of meeting with diplomatic as well as geographical difficulties, calls for the presence of the best talent in every department engaged. For surmounting the latter we believe the expedition to be furnished with able men who will do every justice to the subject to which their immediate attention will be called, but the difficulties which we apprehend or at least for which we think they should be better prepared, are those which may arise when they become placed in communication with either the Rebels or the Chinese Authorities at the new treaty ports about to

be opened to British commerce, both of whom will naturally view with a jealous eye the presence of an armed force among them.

It is to be regretted that a man of so much practical experience in Chinese matters as Mr. Parkes should not be with them at the present moment in fact with his known tact and capability of negotiating with the natives, the expedition can hardly be called complete without him, and we only hope that he will arrive by this mail in time to avail himself of the vessel which is placed at his disposal to carry him to the scene of action, and we shall look with infinitely more satisfaction on any negotiations which may be concluded through his instrumentality, than through the less experienced though able interpreters at present with the Admiral.

The first intelligence of the expedition since its departure, reached us on Friday afternoon by the gun-boat Havoc. The vessels left Woosung at 10 A.M. on Tuesday last, the Coromandel, Havoc, Cooper and Bantener leading, the Bouncer, Centaur with Waterman in tow, and the Atalante bringing up the rear. They proceeded under easy steam until 2.30 P.M., when the Coromandel which was ahead finding shoal water, made a signal of danger, and took a course more into mid-channel followed by the other vessels, but the Centaur having the Waterman in tow did not answer her helm so readily, and consequently grounded in 15 feet water, on a shoal near the South Bank, about 30 miles above Woosung and 2 miles due north of the spot marked Great Bush on the charts, Plover Point about 4 miles distant.

The advanced boats returned to her assistance and lightened her to some extent, but did not succeed in floating her off, the difficulty being increased by banks forming round her, but as the Chesapeake is ordered to proceed at once to her assistance she will be able to take out a sufficient quantity of her stores to release her from her present situation. Such contretemps are disagreeable, but are not without their good effect as they serve to render the examination of difficult parts of the river more complete. It appears that the banks and channels have altered materially since the last survey, and bid fair to exhibit such difficulties of navigation as to almost preclude the idea of vessels of heavy draught ever proceeding beyond Woosung for commercial purposes.

Besides the several parties before mentioned as accompanying the expedition we have since heard of two other travellers M. Simon and M. Dupins who proceeded to Han-kow there to remain for a time, from that point they proceeded up the river and through Tibet, overland to Peking, and from thence they propose making the journey overland to Shanghai and Canton.

It is gratifying to observe the eagerness with which the facilities for research afforded by this expedition have been grasped at. It augurs well for the future and shews that as soon as protection can be afforded to those traversing the Great River, the opening up of China will commence in real earnest by those enterprising spirits which exist amongst us, only waiting the opportunity to be called into active and energetic operation.

H. M. Dispatch boat Roebuck which was originally intended to form part of the expedition up the Yang-tze-kiang was suddenly ordered off to Kanagawa, on Saturday last in consequence of the unfavorable intelligence from that quarter brought by the Prussian Transport Elbé.

RETROSPECT OF THE TENTH YEAR OF HIENFUNG.

The curtain has dropped upon another act of the great drama now being enacted in China. While waiting for it to rise again, upon new scenes ere long to be opened before us, we may do well to look back upon those we have just witnessed, and draw from them some hints in reference to our own connection with those which are yet to come.

The tenth year of Hienfung is now numbered with the past. Its history is already written upon the tablets of time, and will be read with intense interest by generations yet unborn. The memory of its events will be graven very deeply upon the heart of the Chinese nation, and most especially upon that of the man who rules it. The year dawned upon us in the midst of the din of busy preparation for a conflict. Hienfung looked abroad from his dragon throne over the wide expanse of his vast dominions with a troubled spirit. Grasping with enfeebled hand the helm of state he looked up at the threatening clouds, and quailed before the gathering storm, which had begun to lower upon the face of the troubled waters around him. Now the fury of the storm has passed away, and his vessel yet rides above the surging waves—not a little damaged, and by no means out of danger—yet with a chance of reaching port in safety.

Whatever may have been the fears of Hienfung as he looked forward to the attack which he expected from those formidable foes before whom he had already been more than once compelled to succumb, he must also have had high hopes that the courage of his Tartar troops, and the skill of his Tartar general, would suffice to drive them back, or at least to keep them at a respectful distance from his capital, and protect him from personal danger. They had never yet trusted themselves far from their ships. Could they be so formidable if they should have the hardihood to leave the seaboard, and attempt to carry on an inland warfare? This question must have been often present to the mind of the Emperor and

his ministers, during the early part of the year. They resolved to run all risks, and put to the test the ability of their foes to cope with the northern legions whom they had called to support the tottering throne of the "Great Pure" dynasty.

Nor was it Hienfung alone to whom this question caused anxiety. Victoria too, and her ministers, had some serious thoughts on the subject, and they also determined to accept all risks. To them, the danger of defeat and failure was not the only one to be guarded against. They had to meet also the dangers of success. They had a difficult problem to solve, and a delicate operation to perform. A blow was to be aimed at the head in such a way as not to injure the body. A dangerous dose was to be administered to the "sick man," in sufficient quantity to bring him to his senses, but at the risk of bringing on immediate dissolution. In aiming their guns against the walls of Peking, it was necessary to guard against producing disagreeable sensations among the magnates of Manchester. In compelling the goose to swallow the pills which were to produce the golden eggs, it was necessary to guard against strangling her.

How far the problem has been successfully solved remains to be seen; but so far as powder and shot were concerned, the expedition of the Allies must be pronounced eminently successful. Hienfung, to his dismay, saw his strong forts quickly fall into the hands of his enemies, and his boasted armies again and again defeated. He turned once more from his generals to his cabinet ministers—from his dismounted cannon, to diplomatic craft and cunning. That was a field in which the Chinese had always been the victors. But even this could not avail him. He saw the barbarian armies before the walls of the sacred capital, and his own favorite palace given to the flames; while he himself was compelled to flee in haste, and leave his treasures behind him.

The horrible cruelty to unfortunate prisoners, which called for this severe retribution is a sad episode in the history of this memorable expedition. The flames of that burning palace will not soon be quenched. Hatred of the foreigners who perpetrated the deed, and dared thus to insult the Son of Heaven, will rankle in the Imperial breast, it may be for generations to come, if the present dynasty should prolong its reign so long. This conflagration was no doubt a punishment most richly merited, but it is to be regretted that it was necessary for the Allies to leave behind them this rankling wound, which may prove to be the seed which will produce bitter fruit in time to come, and lead to further and more formidable expeditions.

We have learned to look upon these warlike expeditions with dread. Formidable as they are to the Chinese, they have also come to be regarded as rather formidable also to the English people. We have discovered that however easy a thing it may be to utter threats, and however light a matter it may be to meet a Tartar army in the field, when once a well appointed European army, with all the advantages of modern improvements, have been brought within reach, yet it is not so trifling an affair, after all. It costs money, and it has been found that good-natured John Bull must put his hand in his pocket, and foot the bills. This is decidedly an unpleasant, and unpoetical view of the subject, but it is one which future British ministers would do well to keep in view. He who next plunges the country into a Chinese war, without first making every admissible effort to avert it, will find it easier to face a Tartar army than an indignant British public. England will not long endure the perpetual recurrence of these Chinese wars; and it will, in every point of view, be a wise policy, on the part of those who have the management of English interests in China, to concede something at the same time to public opinion at home, and to Chinese feeling here, by trying the effect of an equally firm, though more conciliatory policy, than that heretofore pursued.

Why not, for example, while insisting on the residence of a British minister at Peking, forego the empty ceremony of a presentation to the Emperor; and thus avoid the quarrel which it must unavoidably occasion, if peremptorily demanded? It is equally difficult for the foreigner and the Chinese to yield the point of etiquette involved in it. If it is a humiliation for a British minister to kneel before the Emperor, it should be remembered that it is also a humiliation to the Emperor, both in his own estimation, and that of his subjects, to allow any man to enter his presence without this tribute of respect. Nor is his feeling on the subject a mere childish prejudice, any more than ours. With him the yielding of this point involves a real degradation in the eyes of the nation, especially when thus forced from him at the cannon's mouth. At the same time, we can hardly expect him to be able to understand how British obstinacy on this point can be any thing more than a prejudice or a whim, if indeed he can be supposed to have his views sufficiently enlarged not to regard it as a studied insult. How is he to know that it is not so intended?

On the other hand what is to be gained by such an interview? Just nothing. It has nothing to do with the business of the legation, and could not promote it. On the contrary it would tend to retard it, by producing constant irritation. England is now victorious, and the Emperor has been sufficiently humbled. It would be a courteous and a graceful act to spare him this further humiliation. England can well afford to waive this ceremony. She cannot afford to fight for it.

What may eventually be the results of the Allied operations before Peking, it would require the eye of a prophet to foresee. That there is a sincere desire on the part of the Emperor, or his ministers, to carry out the stipulations of the treaty, it would be absurd to suppose. Hienfung cannot but feel himself very much in the situation of a man whose purse is demanded with a pistol at his head; and no doubt he would be glad to drive every foreigner from his dominions to-morrow, if he could do so. The treaty has been exacted by force, and will have to be maintained by force, or by the fear of it. All that can be done is to endeavour to reconcile the celestial to the new state of things, by avoiding, as much as possible, every thing offensive in the mode of carrying it out. It is to be expected that, for some time to come, whenever an opportunity occurs of throwing obstructions in the way of carrying out the treaty in its integrity, it will be eagerly embraced by the Chinese officials.

We look with intense interest for the result of the Yang-tze expedition, which has just left us. What will be accomplished by it? Doubtless the representative of Victoria will everywhere be received with all due deference. Wine, and sweet meats, and fair speeches, will be provided in abundance. Consuls will be received with all the forms of politeness, and soon be settled in their new homes. No open or formal opposition will be made to the provisions of the treaty, and in all probability we shall ere long have steamers plowing the waters of the great river, bearing our cottons many hundred miles nearer to the great body of the consumers, and enabling the merchant to purchase his silks and teas nearer the place of production, and the missionary to carry the word of life to places not yet reached by the light of the gospel. We may reasonably hope

for these advantages, to some extent at least, and whatever official obstructions may hereafter be thrown in the way of obtaining them to their full extent, we trust the Yang-tze will be so effectually opened, that all the petty shifts of petty mandarins will not avail to shut it.

But here we meet with another power, and shall have to deal with other influences than those which flow from Peking. The Allied expedition was designed to open the two-leaved gates which had been shut so long; but while it opened one leaf it shut the other more closely than before. This has been brought about by the vain attempt to keep the throne of Hienfung unscathed while battering it with Armstrong guns and rifled cannon—to take away the supports behind, and yet keep it strong and firm in front. The Chinese, bleary eyed as they are, see some things very much as other people do. The Rebels, shut up in Nanking, could see, as well as we, that an army on the Peiho, could be of little avail on the Yang-tze. They knew what was going on at Peking, and rejoiced to see the armies gathering for the battle in the north. Imprisoned for the time in their own capital—their provisions and ammunition almost exhausted—they were quick to scent the prey which promised them relief. Despair lent courage to their hearts, and vigour to their arms. They rushed from their lair, and fell furiously upon the beleaguering Imperialists. It was not long before Hienfung heard, with amazement, that his brave legions were fleeing pell-mell, in all directions, before the hated Rebels.

The Insurgents followed up their victory by a well devised attack on Hang-chau and that great city had nearly fallen into their hands. For six days a fearful struggle was maintained in its thickly peopled streets. Blood flowed like water. Crowds of miserable people found themselves suddenly shut up as in a furnace of fire, from which they could not escape. Thousands fell by the balls of the besieged and the besiegers; of friend and foe; and thousands too, of helpless women and terror stricken men, sought refuge from that terrible storm, in voluntary death. The ponds, and canals, and wells of the city, became putrid with the bodies of these self-slaughtered victims of the siege. A truthful record of that frightful scene of blood and slaughter, would furnish, we believe, one of the bloodiest pages in the whole range of modern history. When the Rebels had retreated, the history of the siege was found recorded in vivid characters, in the smouldering ruins, and ghastly corpses, which every where met the eye. We are told that the number of dead was from fifty to eighty thousand, but the processes by which they died—the agonies—the terrors—the cruelties—through which they reached the gates of death, have not been told us, and never can be. The destruction of life was at least twofold that which occurred on the great battle-field of Solferino.

Having failed at Hang-chau, the Rebels next turned their attention to Su-chau. Here they were more successful. That great city—the Chinaman's paradise—fell an easy victim to the craft, rather than the courage, of the Rebels. Betrayed by those who should have defended it, it was handed over to its new rulers without a battle. It was fortunate perhaps for the people that it was so. Otherwise the fearful scenes of Hang-chau might have been reenacted in the streets of Su-chau. As it was, the loss of life was very great. Thousands perished by their own act; and weeks afterwards, canals literally blocked up with putrid corpses bore testimony to the havoc that had been made. It is of evil omen for the revolution, that a city which thus with so little need of fighting, fell into the hands of the Rebels, and such a city, should now be well nigh destitute of inhabitants. And it is thus with all the cities, it seems, of which they get possession. They use them merely as forts. It is not the people they want—but it is the material wealth of the place, and the means of defence, that they appropriate. They do not consider that to one who aspires to the throne, cities without inhabitants are of little value.

So it appears that in order to reap the full benefit of our new treaties, something yet remains to be done. What that something shall be is a question of no small interest to every foreign resident in China. Some recent indications would seem to intimate that the old plan of peremptory demands, and violent coercion, may be tried with the Rebels, as it has been with the present occupant of the throne. But whatever may be done, would it not be quite as wise to conciliate the friendship of these men, as to provoke their hostility? When a few months ago they attempted to open a friendly communication with the foreign authorities, their advances were received in such a way as to provoke them to the absurd blunder of marching upon Shanghai. A simple recognition of their existence—a firm but courteous declaration of a determination to hold Shanghai, as necessary to the security of the foreign settlement, would no doubt have satisfied them, and prevented that foolish step, so dangerous both to them and to us. There needed not a word of sympathy with their cause, nor any recognition of their authority as legitimate, but a simple courteous reception of their communication, and an explanation of the policy of foreign nations in the existing posture of affairs. This would have been entirely in harmony with the course of foreign ministers, in repeated instances, on previous occasions.

But it will be said, perhaps, that the Rebels are mere banditti, and ought to be exterminated. We have not one word to say in extenuation of their course in depopulating cities, and burning unoffending villages; although we believe they contain within them, vile as they are, the germ which will yet develop itself in the renovation of China. But be that as it may, they wield just now a tremendous power, which they may employ for us or against us; and it certainly would not be wise wantonly to provoke their hostility. They have now every disposition to cultivate friendly relations with us. Their feelings and their interests, alike prompt them to this. Should we not encourage them in these dispositions?

If the rebellion could be crushed to-day, by a simple proclamation from Queen Victoria, we doubt much if she would act wisely in issuing it. But supposing that the interests of foreigners did seem to require that the rebellion should be put down, how and by whom could it be done? Would it not require an immense army, and an overwhelming expenditure of treasure, if not of life, to accomplish it? And is the desirableness of the end to be attained so self-evident, that the English people would quietly submit to furnish the means of carrying on such a war? But this undertaking would probably be found rather more serious than that of marching to Peking. The Rebels might be driven indeed from Nanking and Su-chau, but this would not be enough. They would have to be pursued no one knows whither, and the pursuing army, always outstripped, would find no enemy to fight, while the rebellion would, in all probability, be continually breaking out in remote and unexpected quarters. The result would be simply to arouse a feeling of hostility to foreigners, which would be disastrous alike to the merchant and the missionary, and which would be shared by any new dynasty which might eventually come to the throne. No. Despair

and dislike this rebellion as we may, it is a fact and we cannot make it otherwise. Let us justly accept it, and make the best of it.

It is gratifying to know that the present policy of Lord Elgin is that of non-intervention, and we presume his policy will shape that of those whom he leaves in charge of English interests in China. The expedition up the Yang-tze could not be better hands than those of Admiral Hope, and we doubt not he will, in dealing with the Rebels, try the effect of conciliatory measures, and make every effort to avoid any collision. We hope he will go further, and enter into some definite arrangements with them. The present position of things is most unsatisfactory, and calculated to lead to acts which may provoke hostility, and lead to serious consequences. If they were a mere band of robbers we might at least treat with them as such, and make arrangements for securing our own interests. They are however a de facto power, controlling the channels of trade leading to Shanghai, and especially the great River itself, which cannot be opened without coming to some understanding with them. We trust something will be done which will relieve the trade of Shanghai, and promote the highest interests of China.

THE following has been unavoidably postponed until now.

To the Editor of the NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

Sir,—In the letter of your correspondent T, which appeared in last Saturday's edition of your valuable paper, there were some remarks respecting the habits of the Shanghai Equestrians which I think are rather unbecoming. I cannot say I am of "tender years," but freely acknowledge myself of "unskilful equitation," and that fact prevents my riding at the "quick and dangerous pace" the nervous T complains of.

T perhaps forgets that the Race Course is private property, and can only be made use of upon paying a heavy subscription, to say nothing of its only being fit to ride on about once a week, the rest of the time it more resembles a marsh than a Race Course.

T, to judge from the ill-natured tone of his remarks, such as ordering us off by the Police, &c., evidently suffers from bile and indigestion; let me recommend him a nice little trotting pony, the finest exercise in the world for indigestion, and I doubt not, that an hour's such exercise a day would set him up, and cure that "Dog in the manger" tone of his.

Shanghai, 1st February, 1861.

MINUTES of a Public Meeting of Foreign Renters of Land within the limits, held at H. B. M.'s Consulate at Shanghai, on the 2d day of February, 1861.

(Continued from No. 550.)

Mr. Reid proposed that the accounts for the past year should be passed, no remarks were needed after the report just read by Mr. Hamilton. Resolution 1.—Proposed by R. Reid seconded by J. L. Man. That the accounts of the Treasurer and Council be passed and the report be adopted. Unanimously passed.

H. M. Consul here stated that he had a few remarks to make on a portion of the report just read.—He had not done so before putting it to the vote as he had nothing to say in opposition to it, but merely differed from the Council with reference to the best mode of getting good men to join the Police force. The only way to get good men to join was to pay a high monthly salary. The prospect of gaining promotion and increase of pay a year, or even a few months hence was not sufficient. It was a subject on which the new Municipal Councillors would have to judge, but after an unfortunately rather large experience with this kind of work recently, he was convinced that a high monthly salary was the only inducement which would, in this country, bring good men to serve. It was a subject of much importance to residents in their quality of merchants as well as in other respects; the deterioration of the police force, consequent on the late filibustering, having permitted of Chinese in the employ of foreign firms being illegally dragged away from the settlement, and having prevented his carrying out, as he could have wished, certain measures for the protection of trade.

Mr. Hamilton replied that after much consideration the Council had come to the conclusion that there was no good in offering higher pay to men who offered themselves, these were chiefly seamen, and it was doubtful if there was much advantage in giving them more pay than they were accustomed to. The best plan was to try and raise the standard of the force, however that was a question for the Council now about to be elected, several soldiers were expected to join, and it was to be hoped that the proposed increase would be sufficient to induce others to join.

Mr. Antroub stated that he believed at the last meeting of Land Renters, it was settled that H. M. Consul should see the French Consul on the subject of the Licensing scheme, he hoped that some arrangement had been come to in this matter.

H. M. Consul replied that he had spoken to Mr. Edan, the French Consul, who stated that, in consequence of Baron Gros not having come to this place since the Peking Convention had been concluded, nothing had been done. He was not sure that he would himself be able to write to Mr. Bruce on the subject; as the English Consulate had, for the last eight months, been undermanned and the work had very much increased. In fact, though the work now in the Consulate was double what it was in the time of Mr. Alcock, the number of officers had been reduced, and arrears had unavoidably accumulated. Still if he could find time to write, he would; otherwise the matter must be left for his successor to deal with.

H. M. Consul went on to observe that the meeting could now proceed to balloting for the three new members for the coming year. The Ballot having been taken the following gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year, Messrs. J. P. Tate, Wm. Howard, and W. S. Wetmore. H. M. Consul, stated that the only other routine duty now to be performed was the pleasing one of proposing a vote of thanks to the retiring Council.

Resolution 2.—Proposed by C. S. Compton, seconded by A. Cusiny. That a vote of thanks be given to the retiring Municipal Council for their valuable services during the past year unanimously passed.

Mr. Antroub wished to ask the Chairman whether the new Council could write to the French Minister with reference to the Licensing system, and request him to remove the difficulties now in the way of the Municipal Council in consequence of the inability of the French Consul to act in the affairs of the Municipal Council or to relinquish his right to do so and whether a letter to the same effect could not be written to the English Minister, so that they could act in concert.

H. M. Consul saw no objection to such a movement; but suggested that the application to the French Minister should be made through the English Minister. He recommended Mr. Antroub to put his proposal in the form of a resolution.