

THE North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XII, No. 364.

SHANGHAI, APRIL 25, 1874.

PRICE, Tls. 12 3/4 AN.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Mar. 6	Hankow	Apr. 22
San Francisco	Mar. 2	Yokohama	" 12
Hongkong	Apr. 20	Nagasaki	" 20
Tientsin	" 19	Foochow	" 15

Latest Mail dates in England, from China.
 Hongkong, Jan. 22 } Received 2nd Mar.
 Shanghai, " 16 }

BIRTHS.

At residence, Bubbling Well Road, on the morning of the 24th instant, the wife of Capt. HOOPER, S. S. Taku, of a daughter.
 On the 2nd March, at Meadow Croft, Lower Sydenham, the wife of J. HOWARD GWYTHER, of a daughter.
 On the 5th March, at Kolomsoo House, Portobello, N.B., the wife of JAMES TAIT, of a daughter.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.—Per str. Ningpo, from Hongkong—28 Chinese. Per str. Nanking, from Hankow—Bishop Williams and Mr. Smith. Per P. & O. str. Travancore, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, 2 infants and European female servant, Messrs. Wells, Foll, Henson, Maclean, McNabb and 100 Chinese. Per

Helena, from Sydney—Mrs. Snow. Per str. China, from Ningpo—Messrs. Hall, Hortell and 60 Chinese. Per str. Sin Nanzing, from Tientsin—Mr. Garland, and 51 Chinese. Per str. Glenyle, from Hankow—Messrs. Ballance (2). Per str. Laptek, from Nagasaki—Mr. Dillon and 1 Chinese. Per str. Shantung, from Tientsin—Messrs. Coryell, Courtis, Pickering and Derrick. Per str. Leeyuen, from Tientsin—40 Chinese. Per str. Fusiyama, from Chinkiang—Mr. Bean. Per P. M. str. Costa Rica—Mr. and Mrs. Whittall, child and servants, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Paymaster U. S. N., 2 children and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Hartmann, 2 children and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Burkill, child and servant, Messrs. Bessier, J. Powrie and servant, H. Vomstock, W. Renton and servant, R. D. Mehta and servant, L. B. Knitzky. In Steerage—3 Europeans, 4 Japanese, and 10 Chinese. Per str. Haining, from Tientsin—Mrs. Bartwhistle and Master Hart, and 9 Chinese. Per str. Tunsin, from Hankow—Mr. Lyons and 1 European. Per str. Lord of the Isles, from London—Mr. W. Poignaud. Per str. Plymouth Rock, from River Ports—Mr. and Mrs. Medhurst, Mrs. and Miss Ballance, and Mr. Bryson.
 LEAVING.—Per Hoogly, for Hongkong—Messrs. F. W. Mitchell, H. A. Mylne, H. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Whittall and child, Mr. W. Smith; for Marseilles, Mr. A. J. Lines, Mr. O. R. Keele, Mr. and Mrs. Hartmann and 2 children, Mr. Bessier.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		Thermometer in shade.		Ozonometer.	Initials.	Hours of Rain during 24 hours.	WIND.
	A.M.	Atmos.	Max.	Min.				
Apr. 18	30.350	59.0	64.5	52.5	7	o	0	E. S. E.
19	30.350	60.0	65.0	43.5	6	o	0	S. E.
20	30.250	59.5	65.5	51.0	7	o	0	S. E. by E.
21	30.050	65.0	68.0	58.0	8	o	10	S. S. E.
22	30.000	66.0	70.0	62.0	8	o	8	N. W.
23	30.200	61.0	68.0	58.0	7	o	0	Z.
24	30.204	58.5	62.0	53.0	7	m	3	S. S. E.

EXPLANATION.
 Ozonometer from 1 to 10—Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12 estimated.

CHINA: 1868 to 1872.

A RETROSPECT OF POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN CHINA during the Five Years 1868 to 1872.

For sale at office of "North-China Herald," and at Messrs. KELLY & Co.'s 1A Canton Road. Price—\$2.50.
 tf 3052 Shanghai, 29th Sept., 1873.

NOW READY,

A TRANSLATION OF THE "PEKING GAZETTE" for 1873; 8vo. cloth. Price—\$2.
 For Sale, at the North-China Herald Office, and at Messrs. KELLY & Co.'s, No. 1A Canton Road.

ALSO,

A TRANSLATION of the GAZETTE for 1872. Price—\$2. Reprinted from the N.-C. Herald & S. C. & C. Gazette: tf 666 no-a-w Shanghai, 4th March, 1874.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Tals 12; Six Months, Tals 6.50; Three Months, 3.50;—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum. Subscriptions will be considered as renewed, unless notice to the contrary be given, before the expiry of the current term.

THE publication of the North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette commenced at 2 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, SATURDAY, APR. 25, 1874.

ALL Peking has been intent, of late, on the Emperor's visit to the Tombs of his ancestors. For weeks, the Peking Gazette and our correspondent's letters have been full of references to the arrangements for this excursion. If His Majesty had been going to England, instead of eighty miles only from his Capital, the fuss could hardly have been greater. The Empresses Dowager memorialise that the visit would be a becoming one, and the Emperor formally accepts the programme. Orders are issued, weeks beforehand, to have the roads and bridges repaired for the imperial cortège; high officers are given charge of great seals, and told to be present at the Palace daily to transact business; other high officers are told to accompany the Emperor on his journey, to look after the transport, see to the posting of guards, and attend generally to minute details of the journey. The Viceroy of the Province is called away from his duties, in order personally to inspect the route, and even accompany His Majesty on the journey. Altogether, half the notables of Peking, and a great part of the Imperial family seem included in the pic-nic—each of course with appropriate retinues, swelling the cortège to several thousand souls. Yet the whole journey is not much greater than one of the Queen's trips to Windsor; and fancy the whole business of State being disturbed, and the Government Gazette filled with notifications, touching such a trifle!

The Western Tombs, which are the object of His Majesty's pilgrimage, are situated in the district of Echow, about 80 miles from Peking, near the Summer Palace of Zehol. There lie the remains of his ancestors for many generations, beyond even the commencement of his dynasty; and thither, according to the Chinese custom, he goes to offer sacrifice and petition to the manes of his predecessors. We need not go again over the ground which has been so often trodden, to argue either for or against the worship of ancestors. The practice is a touching one, and the most deep-seated probably of Chinese cults. It is implicitly obeyed by all classes of the people, and it is fitting that the Emperor should comply with the traditional usage. What is remarkable is, not the proceeding, nor even the importance which is attached to the performance, by the highest person in the land, of the holiest duty recognised among his subjects. It is the tremendous fuss, difficulty, and pre-arrangement about a journey of eighty miles from the capital. Fancy, to recur to our previous simile, a general repair of roads and bridges, and a consequent remission of taxes being necessary, because the Queen of England wished to go from Buckingham Palace to Windsor. Fancy the Duke of Cambridge being ordered to provide guards, and the Earl of Derby to control the transport; and Mr. Gathorne Hardy and other High Officers of State told off to attend daily at the Palace, and Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Bourke, the Lord Chancellor and others ordered to attend her Majesty, during a seven days journey from London. It would appear truly that the repair of roads which had been allowed to get so bad was not a small advantage, in the present instance, from the trip.

Of the cortège itself, our correspondent gives an interesting description in his letter of the 11th April. The Chinese have not yet learned the advantage of converting day into night, and are early in their habits. His Majesty was two miles on his journey by half-past six. When well outside the city he stopped for refreshments, and thence continued the journey on horseback; the Empresses Dowager and the ladies of their retinue also changing from sedans to the covered cart habitually used for travel in the North. The Court was escorted by a large retinue, and soldiers with drawn swords were placed at intervals of about 30 yards all along the

route. The Emperor himself was closely attended by four trusted guards, and is described as looking weary and listless. The people were allowed to approach within ten or twelve yards, and to kneel by the roadside and gaze as he passed; but he apparently took neither notice nor interest. This may, of course, have been the studied Mandarin indifference which enabled Yeh to pretend carelessness on nearing Calcutta, and which earned for Chung How a reputation for stupidity in every arsenal and factory he visited in Europe; but our correspondent seems to think it betrayed the genuine feeling; and if so we cannot but pity the premature weariness of a weakly lad tired out by study and state routine. His Majesty was to return to Peking on the 16th, after only seven days absence, and—strange treat—was to have an informal interview with his relations at the city gate.

Summary of News.

The English mail of the 6th March arrived on the 19th.

A homeward mail leaves to-morrow by the M. M. str. *Hoogly*.

The following telegrams have been received during the week:—

The Budget revenue is 78 millions. Expenditure 72½ millions.

The Sugar Duties are abolished, Income Tax reduced by a penny, one million contributed to Local Taxation, and a reduction of the National Debt proposed by terminable annuities.

The Tea Duties are untouched.

The Porte has authorised the Khedive to work the Canal in the event of Lesseps executing his threat to dismiss the pilots and extinguish the lighthouse.

France and Russia have counselled Lesseps to accept the Rules of the Tonnage Commission.

Serrano, in conjunction with Concha, is operating on the Carlist flank.

The Emperor of Austria, answering the Pope, respectfully explains that duty compels his sanctioning the Ecclesiastical Bills. The Papal Envoy has conciliatory instructions.

At the Agricultural Lock-out, the farmers refused arbitration. The labourers are emigrating from Somersetshire. The North of England disputes are compromised. South Staffordshire still unsettled.

The Budget Revenue of 1873 is 77½ millions, and the Expenditure 76½ millions, including the Geneva Award and the Ashantee expenses, a reduction of the debt by terminable annuities for 450,000, expiring 1885, and Local Taxation relieved. The Surplus remaining is 472,000. By adding to the Revenue the interest on Government Loans to Local Bodies, the surplus is six millions. The amount will be transformed into Terminable Annuities. The Horse Duties are abolished. The Budget is generally approved of.

Holker has been appointed Solicitor-General.

This is always a dull season in Shanghai, as regards business. All the tea and silk is sold, and a month has to elapse before looking for new supplies; all the public Companies have held their annual meetings; and people take the opportunity of going in for amusement.

The S. V. C. Spring Rifle Meeting has extended over four days of the week, and has produced some good shooting under varied circumstances of wind and weather. A full report of each day's shooting will be found elsewhere. The International Match was won after a good contest, by the Scottish team, who scored 179 points against the English 161.

The Meeting is the most successful one that has been held in Shanghai; and we are sure that we only express the feeling of the whole Volunteer Corps in congratulating Lieut. Sim, the Musketry Instructor, on its success; for there can be no question that this is very greatly due to the energy with which he has worked out the arrangements.

The first Yacht Race of the season was held on Saturday, in weather which was simply perfect for the occasion—a fresh breeze and bright sun; and a large number of spectators availed themselves of invitations to follow it. The race for the Challenge Cup was one of the closest ever run here, the *Nimrod* coming in barely 3 minutes ahead of the *Phantom*, but losing to the latter by ½ minute owing to the time concession she had to make on account of her longer water line. The Houseboat race was won by the *Widgeon*.

Next week will be fully occupied by the Races, and then will succeed the Spring Regatta, the entries for which we gave last week.

There has been little local news of interest during the week.

Judgment was given in H. M. Supreme Court on Saturday, in the cases lately tried there relating to the *Alhambra*. The Captain's claim for a balance of account is allowed. Cheap Jack & Co.'s claim for provisions supplied is allowed, but that for advances disallowed.

A commemorative service was held at Saint Joseph's church, at 10 o'clock on Monday, for the souls of the crew and passengers of the *Ni*. It was numerously attended.

We understand that, after very deliberate consideration of the designs sent in for the proposed new Municipal buildings, the Council have decided that in their opinion the one submitted by Mr. W. Kidner is the most suitable. Plans were prepared by five competitors, to whom, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Ratepayers' meeting, the Council award £1s. 200 each. All the designs were based upon the principle of allowing the work to be proceeded with and become available sectionally, but the one to which the Council have given preference is, we learn, more especially characterised by this prudential consideration. It is, we believe, intended to submit the designs for public inspection, at the Municipal offices, for a week before the forthcoming Ratepayers' meeting.

We publish, elsewhere, a reply which has been addressed by the Council to the Rate

payers who addressed them in December last, regarding the extension of Seward Road and the Bunding of the Soochow Creek. The Council agree that the sum (Tls. 2,000) for which the memorialists consider the former work can be done, is cheap; but decline to enter upon it themselves, promising to make a special appropriation in the forthcoming budget. The reference to the state of the roads in the Settlements is somewhat disconnected as it stands, but might be an argument for delay if active work for their repair were going on. But we do not see that this is the case; and as it is, we can only hope that the cost of making so fine a thoroughfare will not be increased through the delay. It is rumoured that the balance sheet will show a large surplus, which the Council consider themselves debarred from spending because it represents excess over the estimate, and they were bound not to exceed the outlay proposed in the last budget. We fancy, however, that the Ratepayers' meaning was that no fresh deficit should be incurred, rather than a restriction to the actual figures; and that the community would have preferred to have the surplus expended in carrying out urgent works, rather than to receive it in the shape of cash.

The natural result of the opposition to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Wharf having been allowed to drop, is that other encroachments will follow. We notice a beginning on the English Bund; Nearly at the narrowest point of the River, Messrs. Fogg & Co. are bunding out. Is this also to be allowed?

The fact that some crows are building their nest on the top of the P. & O. flag-staff, just under the steamer weather-vane, attracted no little attention yesterday—particularly from Chinese, who regard the circumstance as of good omen to the Company. The confidence of the crows, sheltering themselves under the eaves of the gilded steamer anchored at the masthead, they regard as promising favouring gales and good-luck to the Company's fleet. But apart from this happy augury, the position the crows have taken up may be looked on as not inappropriate, when we remember how their harsh cawing is in itself sometimes credited as a weather forecast:—

"If the old shower-foretelling crow
Croak not her hoarse note in vain,
To-morrow's eastern storm shall strew
The woods with leaves, with weeds the main."

But there is a complication; three crows are concerned in the building. The inference is that the third is a chum lending a helping hand; still his presence complicates matters, and is a puzzle which we have not heard satisfactorily explained.

Now that the weather is becoming warm, we would suggest that the terminus to the pleasant walk by the Hwangpoo as far as the Yangtsepoo Creek, which has already been neatly laid out and planted, should be rendered still more attractive by the addition of a couple of seats, such as are provided at Bubbling Well. The situation invites the fatigued pedestrian to rest and enjoy the cool breeze coming off the river; but at present the rails of the creek bridge form the only available seat, and they

do not appear to have been designed for sedentary purposes.

The absence of any advice of the arrival of the American barque *Scotland*, 441 tons, which left Shanghai for Swatow on the 14th March, with a cargo of bean-cake, leads to some apprehensiveness regarding her safety. From the date of her departure, it is probable that she would have encountered the gale of the 16-17th March, which caused the loss of the steamer *Manchu*. It is hoped, however, that she may only have been driven far to the south, when, supposing her rigging had suffered damage, she might be a long time in working back to her destination.

We have received the "Report of the Medical Missionary Society in China for 1873"—published at Hongkong. The report contains much interesting information, furnished by the Medical Officers in charge of the Hospital at Canton and the dispensaries at Fumun, Pokio, and Sainam—which however we have not at present time to analyse. The accounts show a favourable state of the finances.

We have received the twelfth Annual Report of the Peking Hospital, for 1873; by Dr. Dudgeon. The income during that period was Tls. 547, and the expenditure only Tls. 380. Yet we are glad to learn that the record is one of continued success. There has been no great variation in the number of patients prescribed for, but the influence of the Hospital is said to be yearly extending. Its connexion with the higher and official classes has been year by year steadily increasing, and in no year have more officials been attended, or more grave cases treated, than in the one under review.

Our PEKING correspondent seems to have been fortunate in getting a glimpse of the Emperor on his way to the Western tombs; at any rate he gives minute and interesting details of the procession. His Majesty started on the 10th and is expected back on the 16th. Before entering the West-Gate of the city, the Empresses-dowager and the Empress-Consort halt at a temple where their respective relatives will be admitted to interviews with them on a family footing. This is an occurrence of extreme rarity. The annual interviews at the Palace are confined to a rigid form of ceremonial.—His Majesty's absence is the signal for a holiday in the diplomatic world. The Peruvian Minister and suite have gone to the Great Wall, as have also two Foreign gentlemen who are trying to move the Woosung bar.—The weather has become warm, and everyone is putting on thinner clothing.—It is expected that the Russian Minister will ask for an audience when the Emperor returns from his excursion.

A NINGPO correspondent writes:—Mr. Beebe goes away by to-day's steamer, with the good wishes of the whole community; and I write to let you know the fact, in order that the records of Ningpo to be found in *extenso* in your columns, may not fail mention of the most gratifying fact to be found therein—that although we are a small community, of different nationalities and conflicting interests, one man at least has managed to live among us twelve months without a quarrel, and can go away leaving regrets alone behind him.—As you

have no doubt heard, we gave him a public dinner a week or so ago, at which his praises were sung and resung to every tune save that of Apollo's instrument; and I only regret that I cannot reproduce the speeches in which his merits in every possible capacity were enlarged on.

Our HANKOW correspondent writes:—We had a most successful Spring Meeting last week. The weather was everything that could have been desired, excepting a heavy thunder shower on the afternoon of the second day. There were no serious accidents, and no disputes whatever.—The Race Ball came off on the 14th, and was well attended and much enjoyed.—I learn that we are to have a Bowling Match between our Club and your Senior Alley, on Tuesday the 21st inst.—Business in imports is improving, and shipments of copper cash and sycee up country lead us to look forward to another Tea Season. It is thought that the Crop will be late this year. Preparations for the coming season have been commenced, and 237 Hong have been engaged to date, in the various districts, against 262 at same time in 1873. The falling off in numbers, as compared with last year, is chiefly owing to the absence of Cantonese, which is not to be regretted. The weather up-country is said to be favourable, but further than this we are without any information as to the prospects for the leaf.

H. M. S. *Dwarf* left NAGASAKI to search for the missing boat of the schooner *City of Niagara*, on the afternoon of the 11th. The heavy sea, owing to the high winds blowing, and the thick mist which at times totally obscured the mountains, prevented her from starting sooner. She returned to port on the 16th, after an unsuccessful search. Several islands were visited, but no information could be obtained, nor were any traces found at them, so it is to be feared that those on board have been lost.—A Regatta is to come off on the 8th May.—A third telegraphic wire is to be laid between Nagasaki and Tokio.—The *Iron Duke* is expected shortly from the South.—The Formosa Expeditionary Force was expected daily. The P. M. S. steamer *New York* had been chartered for the conveyance of troops.

Three fires occurred in HIogo on Good Friday, and at each the foreign brigades did good service. At one, in which forty houses were destroyed, a Japanese lost his life, and several other natives were injured.—The Osaka correspondent of the *News* reports that the s.s. *Hoyen*, which left there on the 7th with a number of passengers and a valuable cargo—\$5,000 or \$6,000 worth of silk, amongst the rest—had run upon a native four-fluked anchor, ripped up her bottom and sunk. Fortunately it was not possible for her to sink many inches in the shallow river, so that there was no difficulty in landing her passengers and cargo in safety.—Good Friday was observed as a holiday by the Japanese.

From HONGKONG we learn that Admiral Shadwell has returned from a visit to Canton, in the gunboat *Frolic*. The *Iron Duke* was to leave on the 19th, for Amoy, where, the *Hongkong Times* says, Admiral Shadwell will transfer his flag to the *Cadmus* and proceed therein, on a tour of inspection, while the *Iron Duke* is being docked at Yokoska.

Editorial Selections.

JAPAN AND FORMOSA.

THE latest political excitement is the Japanese expedition to Formosa. The character of the expedition was absurdly exaggerated when the name of "war" was applied to the first rumour of the incident. Japan might declare war against China or against Corea; but the phrase is slightly resonant as touching a savage tribe on a remote point of a small island. England would hardly declare war against Chusan, though she might undertake to punish a pirate village. And this seems all that Japan is ostensibly undertaking in the present instance. The object is to punish the aborigines on the south-east coast of Formosa, for cruelties they have been guilty of towards the crews of Liuchuan junks. The special case gone upon, happened in the end of 1871, when a junk was wrecked on the eastern side of Formosa and most of those on board were slaughtered by the savages. The Liuchiuan, who have long been feudal dependents of Satsuma, sent envoys to Japan to state their grievance; and the complaint formed one subject of negotiation during Soyeshima's mission last year, to Peking. But it is said the Chinese Government disclaimed all authority over, or responsibility for, the Eastern half of the Island; and told him if Japan wanted the outrage punished, she had better herself undertake the task. Soyeshima was not disinclined to follow this advice, and to go beyond it somewhat farther than Peking might perhaps have approved. He is credited, at any rate, with a wish to make the case a pretext for gaining a footing in Formosa, and gradually bringing at least the Eastern half under Japanese rule. The project seems to have dropped for a time, on his secession from office, together with the Korean war which he also favoured. But it has now been taken up again, with an energy that seems disproportioned to the event, and an Expedition is undoubtedly on the point of starting for the scene of action.

The Japan papers criticise the step more severely than we are disposed to do. It will be expensive no doubt, and the preparations seem excessive for the end; but it may probably be classed, on a smaller scale, with the political wars of Napoleon. When France became troublesome at home, Napoleon turned her attention abroad. And it is quite possible the Mikado has thought it wise to find some outlet for the pent-up excitement of the samurai class in Japan. It has been evidently almost beyond the power of the Government, lately, to repress them. It narrowly escaped a serious insurrection, in the effort to avoid war with Corea; and it has probably sanctioned the lesser of the two expeditions on which the Satsuma clan especially were bent, as a compro-

mise with the war party. This surmise would account for the extensive nature of the preparations for a comparatively small effort. The difficulty to be encountered is not one that calls for a large force; it is geographical rather than military. The puzzle is to get at the culprits, not to beat them when reached; and we fancy, if England were concerned, the *Cadmus* would quite well do the work if this could be solved. Even allowing for the inferior prowess of the Japanese, 3 men-of-war and 1,000 men can hardly find occupation against a savage tribe. But the purpose would not be served if the expedition were on too small a scale. The problem was to afford a sufficient outlet for military enthusiasm, at a moderate expense; and we do not think it has been badly solved.

It remains to be seen whether the report is true, of a design to occupy permanently the South point of Formosa; and how China will like to see a rival power established in an island she undoubtedly considers her own. It may perfectly suit her apathetic temper to disclaim responsibility for, and let Japan punish, the misdeeds of a few savages: we have had enough experience on the China coast, of her indifference to the duties of a Government. But it is another thing to acquiesce in an assumption of Sovereignty by a Foreign power. If England had humbly asked whether she might establish herself in Formosa, we may be quite sure she would have been snubbed, and our Legation would have apologised for the assumption. But we have almost as great faith in the dislike of the Chinese to resist, as we have in their unbounded faculty for refusing, innovation. It is quite likely the Japanese may be allowed to establish themselves quietly; though it is also probable that collision will arise hereafter.

OPIUM.

As might have been anticipated, Mr. Gubbay's report on Opium Cultivation in China, transmitted through Mr. Medhurst to the Government of India, has attracted a considerable amount of attention in that country. So large a portion of the Indian revenue depends on the one article of opium, that Indian statesmen, whatever their views, cannot afford to leave it out of their calculations; while the cultivation occupies so much of the soil, and utilizes so much labour, that any serious interference with the outturn of the crop would affect large and varied interests. As more especially connected with the import of the drug into China, Mr. Gubbay's views may be guessed at. They cannot however be classed as extreme. He does not put in the claim for beneficial effects from opium which has brought ridicule on some arguments in favour of the trade, nor does he attempt to state the amount of injury inflicted by the use of the pipe. "The peculiar circumstances of the Chinese people, probably the nature of the cli-

mate, certainly the listless and hopeless manner in which the system of Government forces them to pass their lives, have caused the use of the opium pipe to become a matter of necessity to a large portion of the nation." Some cause certainly influences the Chinese in their strange devotion to opium, and its result is that, assisted by the vacillating policy of the Government, there is stated to be grown in more than one province in China, an amount rivalling the crop of the whole of British India; and the assertion is ventured that, if the whole supply from British India were cut off, "there would not be one smoker the less in China." Under the circumstances, it is urged that the moral question has merged in the economic. We are powerless to help the one, but we can to a certain degree affect the other. In fact, the moral aspect of the opium question has assumed much the same aspect as have similar points in other countries. Bass, Allsopp and Guinness sit in the British House of Commons as respected members, yet malt liquor is susceptible of abuse. Great Britain, from fiscal as well as moral reasons, forbids the growth of tobacco in the Three Kingdoms, yet the importer of the "weed" is not handed over to public detestation. In fact the same difficulty arises over and over again as to the point where repression ceases to be useful or advisable. Vices there are, the forcible repression of which would be far more disastrous than their acknowledgement and regulation; and it is an open question how far opium has entered into this category.

That Mr. Gubbay should place the matter in a favourable light, is only what might be anticipated from the antecedents of the house which he represents; and though our own ideas may differ from his, we are by no means prepared to accept the views of Sir Wilfred Lawson, and his school of forcible repressionists. The report urges that the greatest amount of harm possible has already been inflicted, and that this greatest amount has been inflicted is in a large measure due to the policy, or want of policy, of the Chinese Government. Every step taken by that astute body to interfere with the import or use of opium by its subjects, has had the effect of directly encouraging its growth in China; so that now, far from being a luxury to be purchased at a high price, the poppy is one of the ordinary crops of the northern provinces of China, as well as Mongolia and Manchuria. We fear there is too much truth in this statement of the case. With the one hand the Chinese Government has occupied itself writing moral diatribes against the vice of opium smoking, and drawing up elaborate proclamations against poppy cultivation, while the other has been more constantly occupied in receiving bribes to permit the infraction of both. "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth" is a good scriptural admonition, but we doubt if it ever