THE CIVIL WAR IN CHINA.

Hong Kong, Dec. 27.—Since our last, of the 11th instant, we are in receipt of dates from Shanghai to the 17th instant, and from Woosung to the 18th. The grand combined attack upon the city by the land and sea forces, which we mentioned was expected, was made on the 7th instant. The Imperialists were repulsed with great loss, and two of their war junks destroyed by the rebels, who showed great coolness and good management during the fight. On the Imperialists, who did not, or could not, bring their whole fleet into action. Being unsuccessful in their attack, they most wantonly set fire to and destroyed the suburbs from Pootung to the city wall, causing great distress, much loss of life, and immense destruction to property in the large native bungs. Cannonading is continually going on, but without any result; the rebels seem to keep the waterside open, which enables them to get supplies.

The news of the northern insurgents is of increasing interest. *Pekin Gazette* reports down to the 17th of November, and the accounts show the wonderfully rapid progress of the insurgents through the Peichili provinces, as, notwithstanding their reported defeats, they were both north and south of the important city of Tien-tsin, the port of Pekin, and about sixty miles from it, situated on the Peiho, at the junction of the grand canal. The Chinese assert that the insurgents had possession of the place, and the same is reported at Canton, received by an express on the 14th instant in thirteen days from Pekin, and also that two of the Emperor's uncles were at the head of 40,000 Tartars, on their way to meet the rebel army.

At Pekin the strictest measures were being taken in the way of searching for insurgent emissaries, who were numerous in the capital, and no doubt the insurgents will meet with powerful resistance before reaching the capital, and the severe cold season may retard their advance.

At Ningpo there had been discovered and an extensive conspiracy of the Triad Society discovered. Several executions had taken place which had the effect of quelling the outbreak. Considerable alarm was felt, but all was quiet at the last date, the 13th inst.

From Foochoo our dates are to the 16th instant. There was continued fighting at Hing-wa-foo, and troops had been sent down from the city. Her majesty's brig Bittern was at anchor off Pagoda island. The Foam had sailed for Liverpool on the 13th, and the Swedish brig Walter on the 15th for London, laden with tea. The Foochoo was nearly ready. Now that some trade has been going forward at the port, the native merchants were attempting to establish a Hong monopoly, which the Plenipotentiary will no doubt prevent; and we hear that the acting Consul has already reported it to the Chinese authorities as being contrary to treaty.

We have advices from Amoy to the 23rd instant, by the Cornwall, from New Zealand, calling there. All was quiet, but numerous executions continued to take place. Trade was rather more active, and a public notification has been issued that the Custom house was re-established on the 15th instant.

Our local papers give full details of the successful expedition of Her Majesty's steamer Hornet against the Coolies, and a very spirited account of Captain Fishbourne, who arrived at Hong Kong on the 25th instant. It is feared a sad catastrophe has happened in the loss of five of the Hornet crew by her launch being lost in attempting to regain the steamer from a prize junk. The pirates are in formidable force all along the coast, from Chusan down to Hong Kong.

At Canton the expedition was quiet, but the news from the north has produced some sensation and an uneasy feeling, as it is generally supposed there is a strong party in the city in favour of Teaping-wang. It is feared if Pekin falls there will be a serious outbreak.

The news by the Great Britain and other vessels from Australia is of a very satisfactory nature, and the supply of gold continues on an extensive scale.

The Oaths Bill.—The Oaths Bill, brought in by Lord J. Russell, has been printed. It provides that the following oath shall be taken hereafter instead of the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, where these are now by law required to be taken:—"I, A B, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and will defend her to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever which shall be made against her person, crown, or dignity; and I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which may be formed against her, or them; and I do faithfully promise to maintain, support, and defend to the utmost of my power, the succession of the Crown, which succession, by an act entitled 'An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown, and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject,' is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants, hereby utterly renouncing and abjuring any obedience or allegiance unto any other persons claiming or pretending a right to the crown of this realm; and I do declare that no foreign prince, prelate, person, state, or potentate, hath or ought to have any temporal or civil jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, directly or indirectly, within this realm—so help me God."

The cholera has broken out again in Persia at Tabris, and in a few weeks has daily carried off numbers.

The following are the latest "American novelties" The *Boston Post* calls November and December the *embers* of the dying year. And the *American Courier* is guilty of the following story: "A bundle of *Harper's Magazine* being thrown from an express-train on the Hudson River Railroad, was caught in the running gear, and dragged for half a mile along the track, until the wheels of the engine, tender, and carriages, were literally *fired* with reading."

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Monday, February 13.

House in Committee on the Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session—Mr. Wightman in the Chair.

In the course of this Debate, Mr. Douse accused Mr. Davies of having taken advantage of his (Mr. Douse's) absence from the Island to create a bad feeling between him and the Tenants on the Estates under his management; and also of having deluded them, by a promise of *Free Lands*. In the Report of the Debate as published in *Hazard's Gazette* No. 18, it is stated "that at this period (Mr. Mr. Davies) then proceeded to notice the charges preferred against him by Mr. Douse, and declared them to be totally without foundation in fact."

Mr. Davies, in preferring the charge, it is held to be due to Mr. Davies that his reply to the charges so preferred against him, should have been given at length. In justice to Mr. Davies, his reply therefore, which was nearly as follows, is now given.

The other newspaper publishers, in whose papers Mr. Davies's *defective* reply has appeared, as originally reported, will, it is hoped, in justice to that gentleman, supply the defect.

"I know that simply because I represented to the Assembly the impositions played off upon a considerable portion of my constituents, who had the misfortune to be under the jurisdiction over which my colleague presides as manager, he has vented against me the spleen and vindictiveness with which he is usually surcharged. I hope that his immoderate feeling be relieved by his delivery; and I trust the time I have allowed to transpire without replying since he spoke has been sufficiently long to allow him to regain the equilibrium of his ordinary temper. As there are many hon. members present in this House who have never before sat here, I shall take the trouble to inform the Assembly of the cause of the hon. member's uneasyness. Some time during the month of 1852, a deputation waited upon my colleague and myself, presenting a Petition from the Tenantry on Townships No. 57 and 59, addressed to the Proprietor of these Townships, praying for some little consideration the hardships under which they laboured. The grievances complained of were short leases, a high rate of rent, with the usual privations common to early settlers in a forest country; praying also that longer leases might be granted, and that they might be relieved from the arrears of rent. Mr. Douse, as the Agent of the Earl of Selkirk, took possession of the Petition, and assured the delegates he would, with pleasure, forward the same to His Lordship, and, at the same time, recommend a compliance with the prayer thereof; but, I regret to say, no reply has been made thereto; and, in my opinion, it has never been forwarded. Twelve months elapsed, a part of which my colleague spent in England. Another session came on; and, with it, brought a duplicate of the Petition of which I have just spoken, accompanied by one of the notorious leases mentioned in my colleague's speech, and asking to lay the Petition before the Assembly, and asking their intercession between them and their landlord. For my having presented that document to the Assembly, the hon. gentleman allows his impotent wrath to govern his reason, and acts in a manner quite inconsistent with the duties of a representative to his constituents. The hon. gentleman, was the course which I took on the occasion to which I alude? Did I flinch from the discharge of the duty which I owed to the people? No: that is what annoys my hon. colleague. I exposed the "* * * \