

WAR IN CHINA.

OFFICIAL Despatches from Admiral ELLIOT and Sir J. J. GORDON BREMER, have appeared in the London Gazette. The details differ, in no material respect, from the accounts previously published. We make the following extracts:

Wellesley, Chusan, July 6, 1840.

Sir:—My last letter, of the 22nd ult., No. 38, will have acquainted the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of my arrival in Macao Roads, in her Majesty's ship Wellesley, bearing my broad pendant, on the 21st of that month, and of my having established a blockade of the river and port of Canton, and I have now the honour to apprise you, for their lordships' information, that on the 24th of June, I sailed from Macao Roads, accompanied by her Majesty's schooner Young Hebe, and four transports, and on the 1st instant reached the anchorage under the Buffalo's Nose, where I found the Conway and other ships of war and transports which I had directed Capt. Bethune to conduct to that place, having been joined by the Atalanta and Queen, war-steamer, on my way thither.

The next day, the fleet proceeded to an anchorage off the great island of Chusan, and I dispatched Captain Bethune, of the Conway, accompanied by the master of the Wellesley, in the Atalanta steam-sloop, to reconnoitre the harbour and sound the passage, and having so done, they returned in the evening; and on the following day (the 24th inst.) I went on in the Wellesley in tow of the Atalanta, followed by the whole fleet.

On the flood tide making, I anchored in the Wellesley abreast of the town; the Conway and Alligator took up positions in front and flank of a rugged hill, surmounted by a temple, and which is a very strong position. In the course of the afternoon the Rattlesnake and several of the transports anchored, and the rest were visible from the hills above the town. Twelve Chinese war-junks had followed us from the lower anchorage, and eleven others were in the port, and had anchored in a sort of line of battle, and the Chinese troops were busily employed in placing guns on the different quays along shore.

I entertained the strongest hope that the display of a force so overwhelming as ours, would have induced submission, and I therefore issued the summons of which a copy is inclosed.

The Chinese Vice Admiral, who is Commander-in-Chief of all the forces and garrisons in the district, was present in his junk, and the summons was conveyed to him by Commander John Vernon Fletcher, of the Wellesley, and Lord Viscount Jocelyn, (who has done me the honour of attaching himself to my personal staff,) attended by the Rev. M. Gutzlaff, the first Chinese interpreter to her Majesty's Superintendents of Trade. They returned at the expiration of about an hour, accompanied by the Vice Admiral, the Flag or Port Captain, several other naval and military persons of rank, the chief civil magistrate, and others of the authorities. A conference of some length ensued. I endeavoured, through Mr. Gutzlaff, to make them clearly understand that insult and aggression, on the part of their officers, to an extent no longer bearable, had obliged her Britannic Majesty to seek redress; that my orders were to take military possession of this island and its dependencies, and that as the force I had with me precluded all possible chance of their successful resistance, I earnestly entreated them to spare the great effusion of blood and yield at once. They departed about 8 p. m., with the fullest understanding of the terms, and said "the fault would be theirs, if delay in returning an answer should be productive of hostilities." No answer was given during the night, and the sounds of gongs and other warlike demonstrations, were audible throughout.

As the day dawned on Sunday the 5th inst., I found the quays and shore lined with troops in considerable force, while from the mast head, numbers were seen on the plain between the suburbs, and on the city walls, situated about 1400 yards in the valley. They had placed a body of troops on the Temple Hill, together with three guns in position; 21 guns were in line on the different wharfs, and on a round tower of solid masonry, they had five guns. The war-junks were hauled on shore in line, with the rudders unhung, and presented 34 guns, and 45 large gingsals. A quantity of arms of all kinds were collected, which the mandarins were employed the whole morning in distributing to the troops and others; in fact, the waving of their flags and every other demonstration evinced a determined spirit of hostility.

The flood tide at noon brought the mass of transports in, and I still entertained a hope that when the Chinese saw the troops preparing to land in full force, they would negotiate; but having waited till 2½ p. m., I judged that further forbearance would be useless, and therefore, at that moment a single shot was fired from the Wellesley at the round tower, falling, as I had intended, at the foot of it, without doing the slightest injury. This shot was instantly answered by the whole line of the Chinese feeble defences, and caused a return from the squadron, the whole of which were now present, as noted in the margin,* the Cruiser, Algerine, and Queen, steamer, having just anchored.

The cannonade lasted only seven or eight minutes. The Chinese troops had fled; their battery on the Custom House Wharf was destroyed, four junks shot to pieces, and not one person remained visible in the town.

The right wing of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, under the command of Major Adams, and the Royal Marines of the squadron, under the command of Capt. Ellis, of the Wellesley, forming the advance, then landed, and were immediately followed by detachments of her Majesty's 26th and 49th Regiments, the Madras Artillery, and Sappers and Miners, and the Bengal volunteer corps, and the residue of the troops; and at 50 minutes after 2 p. m., I had the satisfaction of seeing her Majesty's colours hoisted on the first military position in the Chinese empire conquered by her Majesty's forces.

The mandarins, and the whole of the Chinese troops, had now retired within the city in the rear of the suburbs, from the walls of which they kept up an occasional fire when any of our force appeared on the plain.

By four o'clock p. m., two nine-pounders were landed, and in position within 400 yards of the wall; and in the course of the night six other nine-pounders, and two howitzers, were in battery, together with two mortars.

From the display of flags, the beating of gongs, and the fire kept up by the troops in the city, a vigorous resistance seemed to be threatened, and myself and Brigadier Burrell anticipated that their folly would force on us the dreadful necessity of a breach and escalade; fortunately for humanity this was not the case; for as this morning dawned, the reconnoitering officer discovered that the bridges were destroyed, and that the city had been evacuated. In the night a temporary bridge was thrown over the canal, and the southern and the principal gate

* Wellesley, Conway, Alligator, Cruiser, Algerine, Rattlesnake, Young Hebe, and the Atalanta and Queen, steamers.

forced, by which her Majesty's 49th regiment marched in, and her Majesty's colours were soon after displayed on the walls of Chusan.

In so dense a population, it is almost impossible to form an estimate of the number of actual soldiers; but I am inclined to think that from 500 to 600 were in the suburbs, on the hill, and in the rear of it, in reserve; whilst probably as many more were in the city, the walls of which were lined on the whole extent of their southern face.

It is a source of great gratification to me, to think that so few lives have been lost on this occasion. I believe that 25 may be the extreme number, and these were all soldiers. This may be ascribed to the fire of the ships being directed solely to the junks and batteries.

The only casualty in the squadron consists of one seaman wounded on board the Conway. The ships were struck repeatedly, but no damage was done to them of the slightest consequence.

Respecting the proceedings at Amoy, Admiral Elliot says:—

In passing Amoy, on the 2nd inst., I stood into the mouth of that port, and sent Capt. Bouchier, in her Majesty's ship Blonde, in with a letter from Lord Viscount Palmerston, for the Chinese Minister of Peking, to be delivered to the Chinese authorities of the place. For a detail of Capt. Bouchier's proceeding, I would refer you to the accompanying copy of his letter, under date of the 4th inst., by which it appears that officer had no chance left but that of returning the wanton attack on an unarmed boat, with only four boys, and Mr. Thorn the interpreter (who had a very narrow escape), in her, and on his ship; and I am happy to add, that the situation permitted him utterly to destroy every gun and fortification without injury to the city or its inhabitants.

On the same affair, Capt. Bouchier says:—

I now made another attempt to communicate through Mr. Thorn, the gentleman attached to this ship as interpreter (who very handsomely volunteered his services at great personal risk), in the jolly-boat, unarmed, and bearing a flag of truce, but the troops were brought to the beach, and he was repulsed with abusive language and threats, and, contrary to all usage, a fire commenced upon his boat, the batteries opening at the same moment her Majesty's ship. I instantly hauled the flag of truce down, and returned the fire; our first broadside dismounted the greater part of the guns in the eastern battery, and the second silenced both, putting to flight the troops formed in the neighbourhood. I then confined the fire of this ship entirely to the fort and armed junks, and continued till the former was in ruins, and the latter had disappeared, excepting one, whose crew having abandoned her, I sent an officer to throw her armament into the sea, and set her on fire. During this affair the neighbouring hills were crowded with spectators, and the inner harbour with trading vessels, both of which might with equal facility have been destroyed; but I considered that in confining the chastisement to those who had insulted her Majesty's flag, and outraged a law acknowledged by all civilized nations, I should best follow out your views. I am happy to say, this service was performed without the loss of a man on board her Majesty's ship; but that of the enemy must have been severe, as the dead were strewn upon the beach in numbers, where encamped.

EFFECTS OF TEMPERANCE.—We entered one day a cottage in a suburb of Cork; a woman was knitting stockings at the door; it was as neat and comfortable as any in the most prosperous district of England. We tell her brief history in her own words, as nearly as we can recall them. "My husband is a wheelwright, and always earned his guinea a week; he was a good workman, and neither a bad man nor a bad husband, but the love for the drink was strong in him, and it wasn't often he brought me home more than five shillings out of his one pound one on a Saturday night; and it broke my heart to see the poor children too ragged to send to school, to say nothing of the starved look they had out of the little I could give them. Well, God be praised, he took the pledge; and the next Saturday he laid twenty-one shillings upon the chair you sit upon. Oh! didn't I give thanks upon my bended knees that night? Still, I was fearful it wouldn't last, and I spent no more than the five shillings I was used to, saying to myself, maybe the money will be more wanted than it is now. Well, the next week he brought me the same, and the next, and the next, until eight weeks passed; and glory be to God! there was no change for the bad in my husband; and all the while he never asked me why there was nothing better for him out of his hard earnings; so I felt there was no fear for him; and the ninth week, when he came home to me, I had this table bought, and these six chairs, one for himself, four for the children, and one for myself. And I was dressed in a new gown, and the children all had new clothes, and shoes and stockings, and upon his own chair I put a bran new suit; and upon his plate I put the bill and resate for them all—just the eight sixteen shillings they cost that I'd saved out of his wages, not knowing what might happen, and that always before went for drink. And he cried, good lady and good gentleman, he cried like a baby—but 'twas with thanks to God; and now where's the healthier man than my husband in the county Cork, or a happier wife than myself, or dancier or better fed children than our own four?" It is most unlikely that such a family will again sink into poverty and wretchedness. We might add largely to these cases, not only from what we have heard, but what we have seen.—Hall's Ireland.

SINGULAR ORIGIN OF A NEW SORT OF POTATO.—The Maine Cultivator gives an account of a new kind of potato, which is apparently a chance production of nature, not springing from seed or tubers, but growing on an excrescence from another plant. The origin of the potato now in general use, and a most important addition to the food of man, is involved in doubt, but that production is believed to have been originally an excrescence growing upon a plant in South America. The attention of scientific minds to this new production might settle the question. The following is its history as given in the paper referred to.

"Can any of our naturalist contemporaries inform us whether the potato is an original tuber, or whether it is the production of a freak of nature? We are led to the foregoing enquiry from the following fact, which is before us, and which we venture to communicate to the public.

"Year before last, Mr. John Smiley, a farmer in the northern part of Augusta, noticed upon some of the stalks of the gilliflowers, which the female members of his family had cultivated in a flower pot, some protuberances, or excrescences like warts, about the size of peas. They appeared perfectly formed and living substances, resembling the seeds that project from the stalk of that bulbous flower, known as the tiger lily.—Every one is

acquainted with the gilliflower, as a very common annual plant resembling the pink in size and flower. Curiosity led him to preserve these excrescences—they were not the natural seeds—and plant them the following spring. One of the neighbours also took a portion of them and did the same. Two or three of them came up and attained maturity. The product was over half a peck of good sized and very handsome potatoes! These were preserved and planted the last spring. They grew vigorously, and the result was about 3 bushels of a new sort of real potatoes. The potato is of oblong form, smooth face, mostly white, mixed occasionally with purple. Mr. Hutchings of the Augusta House, has cooked one, and pronounces them superior. They may be some of them, and worth cultivating. But the mystery in our mind is, that they should have been the product of the gilliflower. Was that the way potatoes first came?"

The following singular narrative is given in the Demerara papers. "A few years ago, a party of persons who had been slaves, but had purchased or otherwise obtained their freedom, left Demerara in a vessel chartered, we believe, by themselves, to return to Africa, for the enjoyment of the not inconsiderable gains which, by the honest industry at various avocations, they had amassed in the land of their servitude. They reached the river in the land of safety; and for some time lived well enough in one of its numerous towns, until severe sickness broke out, and evidently the climate being now new to them, one at least of their number, the well known Friday Van Berckel, died. The survivors alarmed, employed an American skipper to transport them to Sierra Leone. The American, probably a slave-dealer, carried them only about half the way, and ran them into the Rio Grande; where they passed into the hands of some African slave-dealers, who carried them into the interior, into the Foulah kingdom. The Foulahs, since the time of Captain Park, have been as distinguished for their polished and hospitable manners as for the extraordinary antiquity of their nation. The King immediately released the poor people, (who, however, lost all their little property,) and summarily cut off the heads of seven of their captors. After some trouble, they all found their way to Sierra Leone, with the exception of Friday's widow, who, somehow or other, had been lost sight of or detained. Catherine Timmerman, with her two children, made her way, by the assistance of a benevolent and honest gentleman, lately deceased, from Sierra Leone to St. Thomas, and thence to Barbadoes and Demerara. When we saw Miss or Mrs. Timmerman, she had a difficulty in expressing herself in the English tongue, but was evidently very happy at the thought of having got back to the haunts of civilized men; a proof of the protection afforded her in which, was exhibited in her setting her signature to a power of attorney for the recovery of a certain amount of money under a British statute."

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1841

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

TUESDAY, 26th January, 1841.

At about 3 o'clock this day, the Legislative Assembly was opened by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor with the following Speech to both Houses:—

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; In meeting you, assembled in your Legislative capacity, I have the highest satisfaction in being enabled to congratulate you, and Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this Island, on the birth of an Heiress Presumptive to the Throne. This auspicious event, both in its immediate and prospective advantages, is so fraught with importance to the best and dearest interests of every British subject, that I am convinced it will call forth your warmest sentiments of devotion and loyalty towards our most gracious Sovereign, and of attachment towards Her Majesty's Royal Consort.

I avail myself of this opportunity, to remind you that the School Act will expire with the present Session. The advantages of a good education must be obvious to every reflecting mind; for it is a well established fact, that wherever the means of education are most widely diffused, and made accessible to all classes, the community is invariably found to be the most industrious, thriving, orderly and obedient to the laws. The provision hitherto made by the Legislature of this Island has been so liberal and praiseworthy, that I cannot entertain a doubt that you will see the propriety of still encouraging this great object, by the renewal of the present Act, or, if practicable, by some more efficient measure.

The interests of Agriculture are so intimately and inseparably connected with the future destinies of this Colony, and the welfare of the great majority of its inhabitants, whose labours Divine Providence has again been pleased to bless with a most abundant harvest, that I deem it my duty to point out the great benefit which may be derived from aiding the development of the resources of the soil by such Legislative assistance as it may be in your power to afford. I am gratified in being enabled to inform you, that notwithstanding the unprecedented increase of the Revenue which I had the pleasure of announcing to you at the commencement of last Session—an increase of nearly one-half upon the receipts of any former year—the Revenue for the past year exhibits an almost equally flattering prospect.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; I shall direct the Public Accounts, together with the Estimates for the current year, to be laid before you, in the confidence that you will vote such supplies as will enable me to carry on the Government.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly; I regret that the Bill for erecting a Lunatic Asylum has not received the Royal Assent. This Bill has been suspended until certain alterations are made in it, as specified in a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, which I shall take an early opportunity of submitting to you. The necessity of establishing a place of public refuge for those of our fellow creatures to whom, in his inscrutable wisdom, the Almighty, by depriving them of reason, has given peculiar claims to our care, is so apparent that I feel satisfied you will cheerfully accede to the alterations proposed, and that I shall thus be enabled to carry into effect the liberal and benevolent intentions of Her Majesty's Government, by entering at once into contracts for the erection of the requisite buildings.

There are other subjects and Despatches which I shall bring under your consideration, by Message, in the usual manner; and I rely upon your framing such measures during the present Session as will be conducive to the general prosperity of the Island.

In the House of Assembly, Mr. McLean, the newly elected Member for the Third District of Queen's County, took the usual oaths and his seat.

The following Committees were then appointed:— To draft an Answer to the Speech—Messrs. Rae, D. Macdonald, Fraser, Le Lacheur, Longworth. Engrossed Bills—Messrs. D. Macdonald, Gorman, McLean. Public Accounts—Messrs. Lengworth, Thomson, Palmer, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Clark, Gorman, McIntosh. To revise the Journals—Messrs. Palmer, Thomson, Montgomery.

Expiring Laws—Messrs. Le Lacheur, Palmer, McLean. Good Correspondence—Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Messrs. Rae, D. Macdonald, Clark, Yeo. Private Bills—Messrs. Rae, Fraser, McIntosh, Clark, Thomson.

WEDNESDAY, 27th January.

Mr. Le Lacheur this morning reported from the Committee on Expiring Laws—upon which, the House went into Committee of the whole, and after some time spent there, the Chairman reported the following Resolutions, which were agreed to, and obtained leave to sit again:—

1. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that it is expedient that the Act, 7 Will. 4th, entitled "An Act for the encouragement and support of District and County Schools, and to repeal the Act formerly passed for that purpose," be amended and continued.

2. Resolved, That it be recommended to the House to appoint a Special Committee, to acquire information as to whether any or what Contracts or Agreements have been entered into in conformity with the Resolutions adopted by the House of Assembly on the 18th April, 1840, in regard to Steam Navigation, and, if necessary, to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, for that purpose.

Messrs. Rae, Fraser, Hudson, Clark, W. Dingwell, Dalziel, Le Lacheur, Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Mr. Gorman, and then appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in conformity with the first of the above reported Resolutions.

Mr. Longworth, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Messrs. McLean, Macdonald and Mr. Palmer were also appointed a Committee for the purpose contained in the second of the above Resolutions.

It was then Resolved, that no Petition, praying aid for Roads and Bridges, or for any object of a local or private nature, be received after the 15th February next, and that public notice thereof be given in the public papers. A Message was received from Her Majesty, congratulating Her Majesty on the auspicious event of the Birth of an Heiress Presumptive to the Crown of these Realms—to which proposition the House agreed, and thereupon appointed a Committee to join the Committee of the Council in preparing an Address.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1841.

Mr. Le Lacheur rose in his place, and moved, that an entry in the Journals of this House, of the 16th and 18th ult.—namely, that certain words spoken by Edward Palmer Esq., be taken down—and which words, by order of the House, were taken down, and are as follow:—

"John Windsor Le Lacheur, Esquire, and Joseph Dingle Esquire, Members of this House, aided and abetted those who obstructed the Sheriff in the execution of that same writ, and be now read; and the said entry having been read—

Mr. Clark moved, that this House do, on Wednesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of Privileges, to take a subject into consideration.

Mr. Rae moved, by way of amendment to Mr. Clark's motion—

"That as the hon. members have denied the accusation, the House believes that the hon. member who made the accusation has been misled by erroneous evidence—and it therefore that the House does not consider it necessary to enter further on the matter."

After some discussion, Mr. Rae moved for leave to withdraw the proposed amendment, which proposal was negatived—Yeas, 7; Nays, 11.

The question being then put on the said amendment, was carried in the affirmative, on the following division:— Yeas—Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Messrs. Thomson, Forbes, Beck, Macfarlane, Dalziel, Yeo, McLean, Hudson, Montgomery, Gorman—11.

Nays—Messrs. Rae, Macintosh, W. Dingwell, D. Macdonald, Fraser, McNeill, Clark—7.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.

At half-past one, this day, the Legislative Council waited upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the following Address, in answer to His Excellency's Speech:—

Your To His Excellency Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy, Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency;

We the Members of Her Majesty's Legislative Council, in General Assembly convened, tender our thanks to your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the present Session. We heartily join with your Excellency in your congratulations on the birth of an Heiress Presumptive to the British Throne—an event which has filled all hearts throughout every portion of Her Majesty's Dominions, with confidence and joy, and called forth feelings of the warmest and most devoted loyalty to Her Majesty, and attachment to her Royal Consort, and which has tended to alleviate the anxious solicitude of Her Majesty's devoted people, and afforded them a well-grounded hope of the continuation of those advantages which have ever been enjoyed by the whole Empire, under the rule of that illustrious family, from which our most gracious Queen is descended.

We fully concur with your Excellency in the paramount importance of Education, founded on a sound and progressive basis, and that in whatever community such a system prevails, the result is always visible in the industry, order, obedience to the laws, which that community invariably exhibits. We beg to assure your Excellency, that this important question shall receive our fullest consideration; and that we will readily unite in giving our support to such measures as may be deemed best calculated to advance the cause of Education in the Colony.

The interests of Agriculture (as so justly observed by your Excellency) are intimately and inseparably connected with the future destinies of the Colony, and the welfare of the great majority of its inhabitants; and as Legislative aid may be most beneficially applied in the development of the resources of the soil, we will cordially co-operate in the measure towards the attainment of that most desirable object; at the same time, we recognise with gratitude the blessing which Divine Providence has again been pleased to vouchsafe to the labours of the Agricultural inhabitants of this fertile Island, in the late abundant harvest.

It is with peculiar satisfaction we learn from your Excellency, that the Revenue still continues to exhibit such flattering prospects, notwithstanding the extraordinary increase of the preceding year.

It is a subject of regret with us, as well as with your Excellency, that the Bill for the erection of a Lunatic Asylum was so framed last Session as to preclude the Royal Assent being given to it; we nevertheless trust that it will be amended by the Legislature this Session, in accordance with the Despatch which your Excellency informs us has been received on the subject, so as to enable your Excellency to carry out the benevolent and liberal views of Her Majesty's Government, by entering into Contracts for the erection of the requisite buildings, which humanity and the public welfare imperatively demand.

Your Excellency may rely on our best attention being given to such other matters as your Excellency may be pleased to lay before us, and on the adoption of every measure conducive to the general interests of this Island.

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following Reply:—

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

I thank you for this Address, and for the assurance of your hearty co-operation in such measures as may tend to promote the happiness and prosperity of this thriving Colony.

Address of the House of Assembly, in reply to His Excellency's opening Speech:—

To His Excellency Sir C. A. FITZ ROY, K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the territories thereto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY; We the Representatives of the people of Prince Edward Island, in General Assembly convened, respectfully offer