

TRANSLATION
OF
THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1879.

SHANGHAI:
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PREFACE.

THE collection of summaries of the documents that have appeared in the *Peking Gazette* during the year 1879 will, it is hoped, sustain the interest of the series, though the volume does not, happily, continue the tale of misery and suffering that the issue of the previous year had to record. This terrible disaster may be said to have run its course, although a long period must elapse before the effects of the famine can be obliterated, and the years 1877 and 1878 must ever stand prominent in the annals of this Empire as a period of unprecedented misfortune.

The close of the year brings with it the announcement of the conclusion of the little rebellion that centred in Annam, and at one time, doubtless, was the cause of considerable disquietude to the Chinese Government.

The decree announcing the abolition of the purchase system, a measure that has been a source of unmixed evil to the internal administration of the Empire, seemed, at the time of its issue, to indicate a genuine desire on the part of the Central Government to enter on the path of those reforms that have so long been urgently called for. The temporary suspension of the execution of this change, however, in several quarters justifies a suspicion that it is not likely to be rigidly insisted upon, and is merely a concession to the demand of a faction of reformers, whose views are occasionally given to the public in the memorials and decrees on administrative reform.

The obituary list contains the name of more than one eminent statesman, prominent amongst which stands that of Shên Pao-chêng, late Governor-General at Nanking.

The Grand Canal and Yellow River continue to occupy much attention, and the outspoken views of the late Governor-General Shên on the value of the former as a commercial highway are well worthy of notice.

With the permission of the compiler, an historical table of the high officials, composing the Central and Provincial Governments is added to the present volume. It is hoped that this appendix, which has been revised to date, will enhance its usefulness as a work of reference.

SHANGHAI, 1880.

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TO THE
PEKING GAZETTE
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1879.

* * For purposes of classification, with a view to ready reference, the contents of the *Peking Gazette*, as translated in this volume, have been indexed under six principal headings, viz :—Court Affairs, Judicial and Revenue Administration, Civil and Military Administration, Instruction, Worship and Usages, External Relations, and the Provinces. Under each of these main divisions, the subjects are still further arranged in appropriate categories.

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Do. Vice-President Board of Revenue ...	Feb. 17.
Wang Yü-ts'ao, Grain Intendant, Soochow, &c.....	Nov. 6.
Wei Ch'ing, Assistant Resident, Thibet	Dec. 13.
Wen Ch'êng, Vice-President Board of Works	Jan. 19.
Wên Hsing, Reader, Grand Secretariat.....	July 24.
Wên Hui, Director Court of Imperial Entertainment.	April 29.
Wên Ko, Imperial Agent, Kurun (cancelled 9th July)	June 1.
Wên Kwei, Superintendent Imperial Manufactory, Hangchow.....	March 12.
Wên Pao, Censor Board of Works	April 5.
Wên P'ei, Intendant Yung-ting River	May 31.
Wên Yü, President Board of Punishments	Jan. 19.
Wéng T'ung-ho, President Board of Punishments	Feb. 17.
Do. do. Works	June 18.
Wu La-pu, Reader, Han-lin.....	April 5.
Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-ah, Vice-President Board of Civil Office	Sept. 29.
Wu Yü-lan, Taotai at Tientsin	Nov. 10.
Yang Ch'ang-chün, Financial Commissioner, Kansu ...	Oct. 15.
Yao T'ien, Supt. of Customs at Shanhai Kwan	Dec. 31.
Ying Hsü, Deputy-Supervisor of Instruction	March 25.
Ying Yao-chung, Vice-President Board of Ceremonies	Feb. 14.
Yü Kw'an, Governor of Kwangtung	Feb. 15.
Yü Shau, Judge of Honan	Sept. 16.
Yü Shang-lua, Censor, Board of Revenue,	March 11.

Yün Tsu-yi, Grain Taotai, Chékiang.....	Nov. 21.
Yung Hwui, Reader, Grand Secretariat	March 25.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

Chi Ho, Governor of Uliastai.....	Dec. 31.
Ch'i Yuan, Governor of Shéngking.....	Dec. 30.
Chih Ho, Deputy Lieutenant-General	Aug. 22.
Ch'ing Fêng, Governor of Ch'ahar	Aug. 4.
Do. Tartar General at Ching-chow.....	Dec. 30.
Ch'ung Ch'i, Governor of Jéh-hoh	July 9.
Ch'ung Fu, second in command, Jéh-hoh.....	June 18.
Fêng Shên, Tartar General at Sui-yuan.....	Dec. 30.
Hsi Chên, Deputy Lieutenant-General	Aug. 22.
Hsi Yuan, Governor of Heh-lung-kiang.....	Dec. 30.
Hsiang Hêng, Governor of Ch'ahar	Dec. 30.
Huang Wu-hsien, Lin-yuan Brigade, Yünnan.....	July 5.
Jui Lien, Tartar General at Hangchow	Dec. 30.
Kung T'ang, Governor of Urumtsi.....	Dec. 13.
Kuo Sung-lin, Commauder-in-chief, Hupeh	Aug. 27.
Kwang Shou, Inspector of Forces	Jan. 19.
Li Ch'ang-lo, Commander-in-chief, Hunan	Aug. 27.
Li Yang-shêng, Brigadier-General, Namoa	Jan. 4.
Lin Shu, Senior Police Provost, Peking.....	Sept. 29.
Ming An, General-in-chief, Kirin	July 18.
Mu Lung-ah, Deputy Lieutenant-General	Sept. 29.
Mu T'u-shan, Tartar General, Foochow	Aug. 4.
Sa Léung-ah, Commandant of Forces, Urumtsi.....	Dec. 14.
To Lun-pu, Deputy Lieutenant-General, Foochow.....	March 20.
T'ò-k'ò-t'uan, Deputy Lieutenant-General, Ch'eng-tu....	Dec. 13.
Tsai Kwo-siang, Brigadier, Têngchow	Jan. 13.
Tun-chu-to-pu-chieh, Commandant, Ulterior, Thibet...	Aug. 20.
Tung Sé-léung, Assistant Resident, Thibet	March 20.
Wei Ch'ing, Deputy Lieutenant-General, Szechuen ...	March 21.
Wên Chéng, Deputy Lieutenant-General, <i>Hanchün</i> Banner Corps	March 21.
Wên Hsü, Deputy Lieutenant-General	Aug. 22.
Wên Yü, President Board of Punishments	Jan. 19.
Wu Ch'i-hsien, Brigadier, Hai-tan, Foochow	Jan. 13.
Yi Jung, Imperial Agent, Kurun	July 10.
Yi-k'ò-t'ang-ah, Deputy Lieutenant-General	Aug. 22.

DECEASES.

Ch'êng Lin, Minister, Tsung-li Yamèn, &c., &c.	Sept. 29.
Chiu Kuo-ch'ên, Judge of Kwangtung	Sept. 14.
Han Chao, formerly acting Governor of Kweichow ...	March 12.
Hsia Hsien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan	Sept. 10, 28.
Hsü Ssü-shu, late Financial Commissioner, Shantung...	Nov. 11.
Hwo Ch'ang-ling, formerly Governor-General, Yünnan and Kweichow.....	Jan. 27.
K'ò-sing-ah, late Lieutenant-General Banner Corps ...	Dec. 28.
Kwang K'è, Brother of Senior Empress.....	Dec. 29.
Kwei Ch'ing, Superintendent of Granaries	March 1.

Lien Ch'ang, acting <i>T'itu</i> , Szechuen.....	Aug. 14.
Li Hui-wu, Commander-in-chief, Kansu	Aug. 27.
Liu Tien, Assistant Administrator, Kansu ...	Feb. 4, 26.
Shan Mao-ch'ien, retired Grand Secretary	Sept. 26, Oct. 16.
Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Two Kiang	Dec. 26.
Tsêng Show, Financial Commissioner, Chêkiang.....	Oct. 6.
Wên Hui, Taotai at Kiukiang.....	Feb. 12.
Wên Yung, Political Agent at Kuchê	July 20.
Wu Shih-chung, Captain of "Yang Wu"	Aug. 31.
Yang Ch'ing-lin, ex-Financial Commissioner, Kwang- tung	March 7.
Ying Kwei, retired Grand Secretary	Dec. 12.
Ying Kw'ei, Imperial Agent, Kurun	June 1.

PUBLIC SERVICE—OFFICIALS.

Chang Chao-tung, Refuses appointment given to his son	Jan. 29.
Do. Goes into mourning	March 7:
Chang P'êng-yi, Retires.....	Oct. 29.
Chang Shu-shêng, Governor of Kweichow, has audience of leave	March 7.
Chên Tsê-fu, General, Têngchow, retires	Nov. 8.
Ch'ên Shih-chieh, goes to Foochow	Aug. 26.
Ch'ing Ch'un, Tartar General, Foochow, retires.....	Aug. 3.
Ch'ing Lin, Released from servitude	July 13.
Ch'un P'u to be Groom of Library	July 24.
Ch'üan Fu, Deputy Lieut.-General, Foochow, retires...	March 19.
Ch'ung Ch'i, Assistant Governor, Kirin.....	Jan. 5.
Do. Censor recommends that he should be kept in Peking.....	July 16, 26.
Fu Kwan-hai, Salt Comptroller, Shantung, retires.....	May 29.
Hsia Hsien-lun, Rewards conferred	Sept. 5.
Hai Chên, Resident at Thibet, retires	March 19.
Hsi Chih-ming—Posthumous attack upon	Nov. 20.
Hu Chung-ho—Riding cape returned.....	July 25.
Hu Kwang-jung—Honors bestowed	July 15.
Hu T'u-li, retires.....	Nov. 28, Dec. 8.
Hu Yü-yün, Grain Taotai, Chêkiang, goes into mourn- ing	Dec. 9.
Hwang Shao-ch'un, <i>T'itu</i> , Ningpo, congé	June 1.
Do. do. Retires	Aug. 5.
Hwui Ch'üan, Vice-President, Mongolian Superinteu- dency, retires	Feb. 14.
Jung Lu—Penalties awarded	Sept. 14.
Do. Congé granted	Dec. 11.
Kwo Sung-tao—Application for congé	April 24.
Do. Retires.....	Aug. 27, Sept. 7.
Kwo Ying, Financial Commissioner, Kiangsi, retires...	Feb. 11.
Li Chêng-mou, Admiral of the Yangtsze, mourning expired	Jan. 13.
Li Hung-chang—Arrives in Peking, &c.	March 27.
Do. Has audience	March 28, 29.

Li P'ei-ching—Punished for unwarranted suggestions...	Jan. 27.
Do. Degraded and removed	Feb. 15.
Do. do. do.	March 9.
Do. Departure from province	March 14.
Lin Chao-yuan, Acting Governor of Kwelchow	March 15.
Lin Wei-yuan—Reward bestowed upon	Aug. 12, 26.
Liu Chin-t'ang—Imperial gifts bestowed	April 9.
Liu Hsi-hung—Returns to Peking	Feb. 26.
Liu K'un-yi—Punished for improper recommendation.	March 7.
Do. do. do.	March 22.
Do. Two months' congé	Dec. 13.
Liu Shêng-ts'ao—Applied for by Li Huang-chang....	Oct. 20.
Lo Ta-ch'un dismissed	Aug. 26.
Mao Lin—Released from servitude.....	July 13.
Mei Ch'i-chao, Summoned to Peking.....	Oct. 14.
Mêng Chi-hsiün, to be Secretary to Grand Council	July 16.
Ngên Ch'êng deprived of his rank	July 29, Aug. 10.
Pao Chün—Reduction of duties	Jan. 19.
Pao Yün—Penalty for carelessness.....	July 1.
Sang Ch'un-jung, President Board of Punishment, re-	
tires	Feb. 16, March 9.
Shao Hsien, Financial Commissioner, Anhwei, takes	
office	Feb. 12.
Shên Kuei-fên—Penalty for carelessness	July 1.
Shên Pao-chêng, allowed to ride in Palace	June 1.
Do. Two months' congé	Dec. 16.
T'an Chung-liu—Refused permission to retire.....	May 6.
Do. Visits Peking	Oct. 6, 10.
Tê Chun, Vice-President Board of Works, retires	Feb. 14.
Ting Jih-ch'ang—Honors conferred	Sept. 4.
Ting Pao-chêng—Penalties inflicted on	March 11.
Do. Report on charges	March 21.
Do. Dismissal and reinstatement.....	Aug. 10.
T'uung Hwa deprived of his rank.....	July 29, Aug. 10.
Tsai Ching retires	Feb. 14.
Ts'ai Keng-liang, recommended as prefect of K'ai-feng	
Fu	Feb. 4.
Ts'ên Yü-ying—Pays respects at Court.....	March 5.
Do. Had audience	March 6.
Do. Leaves for Kwelchow	May 18.
Do. Arrives at do.	Oct. 6.
Tsêng Kwo-ch'üan, granted sick leave	Nov. 3.
Do. Expiration of do.	Dec. 28.
Wang Ting-an, ordered to Peking	Oct. 29.
Wên Chung-hau, Taotai Wenchow, takes office	Jan. 11.
Wên Ko, starts for Peking	July 2.
Wên Pin, Director-General of Grain Transport, ordered	
to Peking	Oct. 7.
Wêng Tsêng-kwei—Record of services and denial of	
undue favour towards	Feb. 2.
Wu Tsan-ch'êng, granted a month's congé	March 25.
Do. retires	Oct. 22.

Yang Ch'ang-chün—Arrives at Lan-chow Fu	Feb. 24.
Yang Ch'ing-lin, Financial Commissioner, Kwangtung, goes into mourning	March 1.
Yang Chung-ya, Governor, Kwangai, recalled	May 3, Aug. 29.
Yeng Yü-k'o, three months' leave	Feb. 27, May 9.
Do. Denunciation	July 29, Aug. 12, 28, Sept. 8, Oct. 2, 18.
Yên Ching-ming—Conclusion of mission and leave ...	Aug. 2.
Yên Hein-fang retires	Oct. 29.
Yi Jung, agent at Urga, leaves for his post.....	Sept. 2.
Yi Kwang, <i>Bei-lêh</i> , goes into mourning	March 22.
Ying P'u, Grain Intendant, Kiangsu, removed from office	Nov. 5.
Yü Kw'an, Governor of Fohkien, released from duty in Honan	March 27.
Yü Lu, Governor of Anhui, had audience	July 16.
Yung Lu, Diminution of duties	Jan. 19.
Precipitate execution of robbers by District Magistrate	Jan. 4.
Colonel cashiered for opening gambling-house.....	Jan. 5.
Acting-Colonel tries to oust his chief.....	Jan. 7.
Wu-ch'ang Fu, Prefect, denounced	Jan. 9.
Chang P'si-lun, charge of favouritism dismissed.....	Jan. 10, Feb. 2, April 6.
Tribute rice, charge of short delivery	Jan. 11.
Unauthorised establishment of office for sale of rank, Kwei-chow	Jan. 17.
Ho Shou-tz'ü and the Peking Book-seller.....	March 18, 20, 26, 28, April 1, 7, 18, 24, May 20, June 14, July 27, Aug. 12.
Pay Office—Harplars outside	Jan. 19.
Officer cashiered for disgraceful conduct	Jan. 21.
Fraudulent sale of official letter of recommendation ...	Jan. 21.
Magistrate Chang-hua district, Formosa, cashiered for wrecking	Jan. 25, Feb. 22.
Magistrates absconds with accounts unsettled	Jan. 29.
Frauds in grain department.....	Feb. 4, 8, 14, March 8.
Penalties for stealing grain, Honan	March 8.
Presents to officials, plan for stopping practice	March 19.
Grain Agent, Shansi, fraud by	March 21.
Yellow River Repairs, charge of embezzlement	March 23.
Shansi—Extortion by Magistrate	March 1.
Destruction by fire of Imperial gifts—Penalties solicited	March 3.
Do. do. do. inflicted	March 9.
Do. do. do. do.	April 1.
Shênsi—Officers cashiered for incapacity, &c.....	March 6.
Shansi—Frauds in purchase of grain.....	March 11.
Kwangtung—Military Officer punished for gambling...	March 30.
Heh Lung-kiang—Punishment of absconding officer and others.....	March 31.
Governor of Kirin—Charges against	April 7, 28.
Governor of Shantung, &c.—Charges against	April 24, 30.
Taotai charged with owning land in his jurisdiction ...	May 4.

Magistrate tried for defalcation	May 5.
Office of Gendarmerie—Abuses in	May 13.
Penalty for omission of threefold elevation	May 18.
Shantung—Defalcations of seven officials	May 21.
Magistrate dismissed for unseemly conduct	May 25.
Lo-yuan Hsien, Fuhkien, trial of Magistrate	June 6.
Frauds in issue relief, &c.—Honan.....	June 8.
Magistrate sentenced to death for connivance at murder	June 15, 30.
Officer of the guards banished for perjury, &c.	June 19.
Extortion in collection of taxes, Chihli	June 24.
Szechuan—Extortion by soldiers.....	July 16.
Ngên-ch'êng and T'ung Hwa, extortion, &c., in Shansi.	July 18, 29, 30, Aug. 10.
Opium smuggling by officers of Revenue cruiser.....	July 23.
Officials of Ch'ahar tribe, swindling Government in horses.....	July 25.
Officers of Royal Household defalcations	July 27.
Keeper of Royal Household denounced, &c.....	Aug. 9, 11, 24, 30, Sept. 9, 23, 26.
Salt Taotai, Szechuen, dismissed	Aug. 16.
Police Magistrate, Peking, dismissed.....	Aug. 19.
Magistrate, Shansi, dismissed for extortion, &c.....	Aug. 28.
Supplementary Provincial Courts, abuses in	Sept. 13, 29.
Gambling establishments opened by officials	Sept. 13.
Commander-in-chief, Hunan—Complaints against	Oct. 3.
Blind Lieutenant dismissed for begging near Chinkiang	Oct. 16.
Officers travelling at Government expense, extortion by servants of	Oct. 20.
Magistrates in default—Confiscation of property	Oct. 23.
Szechuen—Sub-prefect and Jail Warden dismissed ...	Nov. 1.
Kiangau—Grain Intendant dismissed for giving thea- trical entertainments and opening shops..	Nov. 5, 23, Dec. 27.
Szechuen—Major dismissed for stealing Military stores	Nov. 12.
Anhui—Captain dismissed for issuing short pay to troops.....	Nov. 14.
Copper from Yunnan—Complaint of Wei-yuan in charge of	Nov. 17, Dec. 1.
Colonel dismissed for immorality	Nov. 20.
Chékiang—Absconding Salt Examiner	Dec. 1.
Chihli—Officials in, engaged in trade, &c.	Dec. 3.
Official appointments—Protest against nepotism.....	Jan. 5.
Special Commissioners to Amur—Travelling expenses charged to Government	Jan. 6.
Sale of Office—Abolition of	Jan. 8, Feb. 11, March 2, 21, May 17.
Do. Appeal from Kwei-chow	March 15, Apr. 7.
Do. Report from Hunan	April 15.
Do. do. Shansi.....	April 26.
Do. do. Szechuen	May 2.
Do. do. Shénsi	May 6.
Do. do. Kuangsi	July 8.

Sale of Office—Report from Kuangtung.....	July 14.
Do. Censor points out evil of choice of Province	July 16.
Do. Proposed resumption in Shansi.....	Aug. 7.
Do. Presentation of accounts, extension of period.....	July 20.
Administration—Pao T'ing on abuses in	Feb. 10.
Do. Extravagance—Decree on.....	March 24.
Do. Suggestions from minor official	April 1.
Do. Abuses in civil and military services	July 7.
Do. Clearing up of outstanding cases.....	July 29.
Do. Administrative reform—Chang Chih-tung upon, and decree	Sept. 3, 12.
Do. Recommendation of individuals and <i>lekin</i> reform	Sept. 29.
Postal Service—Secretary objects to climate.....	June 10.
Censors—Restriction of subjects of remark, &c.....	Aug. 4, 8, 18, 21.
Grand Council—Rank restored to members.....	Feb. 14.
Distilling in Honan—Resumption of	Feb. 16.
Suicide of Wu K'o-tu	May, 7, 15, 30, June 16.
Kansu—Biography of meritorious officers.....	June 5.
Nominations to Censorships.....	July 1.
Kwangsi—Appointment to presidential post	July 5.
Kwang-tung—Promotion granted to meritorious military officials.....	July 16.
Honan—Promotion granted to meritorious District Magistrate	July 17.
Do. Suicide of <i>Wei Yuan</i>	Nov. 14.
Enforced assistance in entertaining officials travelling on duty.....	July 9.
Governor of Peking, an addition to his pay recommended	July 21.
Ch'ahar Tribe—Officials dismissed.....	July 24.
Hunan—New camp. Governor and Governor-General should receive punishment as well as General-in-chief	July 27.
Red Book—Issue of Autumn copy.....	Aug. 8.
Klukiang—Memorial from Taotai [Note].....	Aug. 19.
High officials travelling on duty. Local authorities forbidden to entertain them beyond their jurisdiction	Oct. 20, 31.
Supplementary provincial Courts, suggested abolition.	Sept. 13, 29.
Official applied for by Li Hung-chang	Oct. 20.
Suicide of <i>Wei Yuan</i> in charge of satins	Nov. 14.
Taotai applies to retire and wait on his mother	Nov. 19.
Application for official—Dispute between Li Hung-chang and Board.....	Nov. 29.
Veritable Record—Fuel allowance to officers engaged in compilation of.....	Dec. 5.
Place of naturalisation—Application by official for leave to change	Dec. 14.

Expectant Officials—Decree on discrimination in re-commendation of.....	Dec. 20.
Officials connected by marriage ; transfer of junior ...	Dec. 28.
DROUGHT, FLOOD, AND FAMINE.	
Shénsi—Return of sums expended in relief	Jan. 3.
Honan—Work for refugees	Feb. 17.
Do. Horses purchased for ploughing	July 14.
Do. Precautions against locusts	July 16.
Shansi—Diversion of relief funds to	Feb. 17.
Do. Purchase of seed corn.....	Feb. 21.
Do. Fraudulent conduct of grain agent.....	Feb. 21.
Do. Magistrate executed for fraud	March 3.
Do. Purchase of seed corn, proposal for	March 11.
Do. Frauds by officials agent	March 11.
Do. Officer denounced for dilatoriness	March 16.
Do. Escort of grain, rewards to military officers .	March 18.
Do. Contributions cease.....	April 6.
Do. Scarcity of rain, Iron tablet sent for	May 29.
Do. Report on rainfall	June 23.
Do. Rewards to officials for forwarding grain	July 12.
Do. Report on rainfall	July 16.
Do. Iron Tablet to be escorted back to Dragou Temple	July 19.
Do. Distribution of grain &c., Report	Aug. 2.
Do. Report on condition of province	Aug. 7.
Do. Rainfall produced by "Iron Tablet".....	Aug. 17.
Do. Transport of grain, rewards to officials	Sept. 18.
Do. Rewards for local officials, &c., applied for ...	Oct. 13.
Do. Provision of grain, scheme for securing	Oct. 15, Nov. 2.
Do. Distributor of Famine Relief, application for retention of services	Dec. 28.
Chihli—Floods in	March 18.
Do. Grain appropriated	April 5, Aug. 26, Sept. 6, Oct. 20.
Do. Famine Field, rewards to helpers in	March 31.
Do. Precaution against locusts.....	July 16.
Do. Distribution of relief, charge of carelessness refuted	Nov. 17, Dec. 6.
Do. Floods in Shun-t'ien Prefecture, repairs to embankments	Nov. 29, Dec. 13.
Anhui—Locusts in	Dec. 14.
Tornado on Grand Canal	June 29, July 9.
Do. Canton, return of casualties, &c.	July 2.
Floods near Canton.....	July 6.
Provision against famine	Sept. 2, 11.
Waste land, proposed cultivation by Baunermen	Sept. 6, 20.
Rewards to agents	Oct. 21, 23.
MILITARY AFFAIRS.	
Fuhkien coast—Tour of inspection.....	Jan. 8.
Si-an Fu—Troops at, resumption of full payment	Jan. 8.
Hangchow and Chapu—Inspection of troops	Jan. 29.

Officer exchanges from Army to Navy	Jan. 29.
Szech'wan—Office expenses of Tartar General, etc. ...	Feb. 25.
Rations to Banner Corps—Complaints about quality...	March 6.
Crippled officers excused from drill	March 8.
Kwangtung—Naval economies and reforms	March 13.
Li—Military expenditure	March 28.
Wenchow—New gunvessel for.....	April 1.
Admiral of the Yangtze retires	April 20.
Exchange of posts by Military Officers	May 6.
Canton Banner Corps—History of	May 18.
New Forts on Fuh-kien Coast	May 24.
Defence works at Kirin	June 24.
New Training Camp in Hunan—Disallowed.....	July 17, Oct. 3.
Military inspections in Szechuen.....	Aug. 15.
Defence corps in Ché-kiang—Commandant appointed..	Aug. 18.
Lieutenant executed for insubordination	Sept. 5, 17.
Lieut.-Col., Chinkiang, removed	Sept. 16.
Hang Kia Hu Naval brigade	Oct. 2, 22.
Forwarding office for Military stores, Uliasut'ai, es- tablishment in Peking forbidden.....	Oct. 4, 28, Nov. 9, 12.
Yunnan—Redistribution of troops	Oct. 14.
Hu Lan-ting, &c.—Redistribution of troops	Jan. 8, Oct. 31.
Jeh Hoh—Rations for troops	Nov. 3.
Horses for cavalry at Tarbagatai—Cost of	Nov. 4.
Arms issued to train bands—Return of.....	Nov. 22.
Troops in Peking—Winter allowances	Dec. 5.
Leave to officers to visit their parents	Dec. 13.
Pensions to disabled officers.....	Dec. 13.
Brigadier-General sentenced to banishment allowed to retain his command on payment of a fine. Dec. 27.	

PRISON AFFAIRS.

Mao Lin and his brother—Further reduction of sen- tence	Jan. 5.
Escape of prisoners—Chihli.....	Jan. 15, Dec. 18.
Do. Yunnan.....	April 12.
Do. Shantung	April 27.
Do. Honan	May 27.
Do. Ch'ahar	July 1, 12, 13.
Do. Shénsi	Oct. 26.
Banished official—Application for release refused	Sept. 15.
Police master convicted of accepting bribes from a prisoner.....	Dec. 10.

IV.—INSTRUCTION, WORSHIP, AND USAGES.

INSTRUCTION.

Yunnan—Arrangements for spread of education.....	Jan. 3.
Shansi—Official printing establishment at T'ai-yuan Fu	May 23.
Kansu—Report on Licentiate examination	July 16.
Kuei-chow—College for study of Classics and History. Sept. 1.	

EXAMINATIONS.

Manchuria—Descendants of Wu San-kwei, application for admission to examinations.....	Jan. 14.
Hsüan-hua Fu—Drawbacks in triennial examinations.	Jan. 27.
<i>Lu Ming</i> Banquet—Second attendance	Mar. 23, June 27.
Banquet for <i>Chin-shih</i> do. do.	Dec. 28.
Examination of candidates for official posts	June 24.
Literary Chancellor Shuu-t'ien, takes office.....	June 26.
Shipwreck of Literary Chancellor and loss of papers...	June 14.
Fuhkien—Tour of examinations	June 28.
Candidates for examination, extortion at gates of Peking	Sept. 2, 11.
Shansi, Examination Tour	June 22.
Hsiang Shih examination—Selection of examiners.....	June 4.
Do. Hsü T'ing, chief examiner.....	Sept. 21.
Do. Subjects.....	Sept. 25, 28.
Do. Salutation from examiners	Sept. 26,
Do. Conclusion of	Oct. 30.
Do. Text examination—Candidates qualified..	Nov. 3.
Foochow—Chief examiner; mental derangement of, during examinations	Oct. 30, Nov. 11, 18.
Manchu Interpreters—Examination for <i>chi-jên</i>	Oct. 30.
Candidates from Yünnan for examinations in Peking —Travel at Government expense	Nov. 5.
Hupei—Military examinations in	Nov. 13.
Examination of Manchus—Supervisor's Seal	Nov. 24.
Examination for <i>chi-jên</i> —Penalty for careless supervi- sion	Dec. 1, 14.
Foochow—Examination of Manchus, Paucity of candi- dates	Dec. 3.

WORSHIP.

Soldiers in Formosa—Worship at temples to	Feb. 11.
Temple of Agriculture—Sacrifices at	March 19.
Prayers for rain, Peking	March 24, April 4, May 1, 30, June 9, 20, July 2.
Thanksgiving for ditto	April 9, July 15.
Sacrifices at source of Yellow River	Oct. 28.
Tibetan incense to River God	Oct. 31, Nov. 5.
Prayers for snow in Peking	Dec. 28.

TEMPLES.

Tablet for temple in Kausu	Jan. 31.
Do. God of War, &c., Ch'eng-tu Fu	March 6.
Do. God of Yellow River	March 23.
Do. Dragon God, Shansi	March 24.
Do. do. Fêng-chên T'ing	April 11.
Do. do. Ho-chien Fu.....	Aug. 9.
Do. Gods of the Yellow River.....	Aug. 11, 25.
Do. and titles for temples in Shansi	Aug. 17.
Do. Temples in Tê-ping, Shantung.....	Sept. 11.

Tablet for Kia-hing Fu, Chékiang	Sept. 17.
Do. River God at Fan Hsien, Shantung	Nov. 5.
Do. Chu Ko-liang—Statesman of Han dynasty..	Nov. 19.
River God at Lin'ts'ing Chow—Title for	Oct. 27.
Gods of Yellow River—Titles for	Dec. 5.
Temples in Shansi—Memorial boards for	Dec. 13.
Dragon God at Ch'ang-chow Hsien, Kiangsu	Dec. 28.
Han Chao, Acting Governor of Kwel-chow—Temple to.	March 12.
Mausoleum of Kwang Wu Ti—Repairs.....	May 8.
Li Hui-wu, Commander-in-chief, Kansu {.....	Aug. 27.
Officers killed at Tarbagat'ai—Temple to.....	Oct. 27.
Huang Ting—Temple to	Oct. 30.
Ma Shéng-wu—Portal to parents of	Nov. 16.
Wu K'o-tu—Temple to	Nov. 29.
Prince of Su—Temple to	Dec. 6.
Liu Tien—Temple to	Dec. 6.

VIRTUOUS AND DISTINGUISHED FEMALES.

Charitable dowager—Portal to	Feb. 16.
Faithful widow	June 4.
Do. and filial daughter	July 7, Dec. 6.
Great-great-grandmother—Honors applied for.....	Dec. 7.

SUPERSTITION.

Direction of wind on New-Year's day—Events be- tokened by	Jan. 21.
Iron Tablet—Results in Shansi	Aug. 17.

METEOROLOGY.

Rain in Peking	April 8, May 2, June 20, July 6.
Snow in do.	April 10.
Almanac for 6th year of Kwang Sü	Nov. 14.

V.—EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Officers with experience of foreign business—Applica- tion for by Governor of Shantung	Jan. 27.
Liu Hsi-hung, late Minister to Berlin, returns to Peking	Feb. 26.
<i>Forest Belle</i> —Wreck of	Aug. 31.
Rewards for salvage	Aug. 31.

ARSENALS AND STEAM VESSELS.

Szechuen Arsenal abandoned	March 21.
Director Foochow Arsenal—One month's congé	March 25.
Officers and Artificers in Foochow Arsenal—Rewards to	Sept. 1.
Dredgers for the Grand Canal—Unsuitability of.....	Sept. 10, 20.
Loss of Government steamer <i>Chih Yuan</i> by collision with C. M. s.s. <i>Hung Kuan</i>	Oct. 21.
Foochow Arsenal—Wu Tsan-ch'ung retires	Oct. 22.
Do. Li Chao-t'ang appointed Director... ..	Oct. 22.
Chékiang—New steam cruiser for	Dec. 9.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Liu Hsi-hung, returns from Berlin Feb. 26.
 Secretary to Chinese Legation Berlin..... June 6.
 Do. for Ch'ên Lan-pin—Appointment cancelled.. Nov. 27.

COREA, LOOCHOO AND ANNAM.

Corea—Return of Commissioners from Feb. 25.
 Do. Patrol of frontier Oct. 11.
 Lochoo—Shipwrecked Lochooans at Foochow..... May 9.
 Do. Do. do. Canton Aug. 2.
 Do. Relief to Lochooan junk July 22, Oct. 25, Dec. 8.

TIBET.

Imperial Resident retires March 19.
 Tung Sè-leng—Imperial Resident March 20.
 Ex-Prior of Lamasery, appointed *Kablon* May 8.
 Enthronement of "Embodiment"..... May 8, 13, Aug. 29, 31.
 Dismissed "Embodiment" allowed to return to the
 priesthood May 28.
 Tribute Mission sanctioned Aug. 31.
 Appointment of New Resident and Assistant Resident. Dec. 13.

NEPAL.

Despatch of Tribute Mission March 25, April 9.
 Tribute Mission—Passage through Honan Nov. 14.

SUNGARIA AND KASHGARIA.

Kuchê—Extortion by Hakim of Shayarh Feb. 28.
 Kashgaria—Victory over insurgents April 9.
 Do. Presents to tribute-bearing Mussulmans... May 21.
 Do. List of killed during 15 years war May 22.
 Do. Temple to do. do. June 27.
 Do. Treatment of sons and grandsons of
 Yakoob Beg June 26.
 Ili—Memorial on expenditure March 28.
 Do. Posthumous rewards to deceased officers Aug. 7, 8, 20.
 Do. Rendition of—Addition of troops in anticipation
 of return of Mahommedans Dec. 8.
 Hami—Inspection of frontier posts Oct. 23.

VI.—MANCHURIA, MONGOLIA, AND PROVINCES.

MANCHURIA.

Kirin—Ch'ung Ch'i acts as Governor..... Jan. 5.
 Do. Ming An goes to the Amur..... Jan. 5.
 Do. Charge of torture by Governor Feb. 15.
 Do. Winter Hunt, foregone Oct. 30.
 Do. Territorial authorities, proposed increase Dec. 15.
 Shêngking—Altchuké, survey of Ma-yên Ho Aug. 25.
 Taotai at Newchwang—Assumes office May 21.
 Sub-prefect do. Officer recommended Aug. 17.
 Heh-lung Kiang— Reorganisation of Hulan, &c. Jan. 8, Oct. 31.
 Do. Capture of horse stealers Oct. 29.

MONGOLIA.

- Jehol—Mongol Chiefs unwilling to produce witnesses. Jan. 15.
 Do. Hunting Reserves, survey of May 7.
 Do. Opening of new Judicial Court Jan. 25.
 Do. Governor retires..... July 8.
 Do. Winter Hunt, temporarily abandoned..... Oct. 12, 30.
 Do. Imperial flocks and herds—Change of overseers. Nov. 13.
 Do. Mines in, superintendent appointed Dec. 11.
 Khorch'in Tribe—Charges against *Dzazzak* March 10.
 Urumtsi—Revival of agriculture..... July 2.
 Do. Governor goes on visit to Tso Tsung-t'ang... Dec. 12.
 Do. Governor appointed..... Dec. 13.
 Uliasut'ai—Imperial breeding stud, inspection of and rewards conferred Oct. 4.
 Kuldö—Robbery of Treasury—Information laid by Russian trader..... June 10.
 Do. Inspection of Mongol leagues Oct. 23.
 Hami—Assistaut Agent, one month's congé..... Dec. 31.
 Chihli—Judicial Commissioner takes office Jan. 25.
 Do. Destruction of ammunition magazine Feb. 20.
 Do. Tientsin—Arrival and departure of Governor-General March 12.
 Do. Peking—Denunciation of book-seller March 18, 19, 21, 25.
 Do. Topography—Revision of June 2.
 Do. Tenure of land Sept. 4.
 Do. Loss of treasure in Chang river, Tz'u Chow ... Sept. 15, 26.
 Do. Departure of Governor-General for Pao-ting Fu Dec. 15.
 Do. Reward of filial piety Dec. 18.
 Shantung—Arrival of officers for despatch of foreign business..... Jan. 27.
 Do. Special mission March 4, May 10.
 Honan—Financial Commissioner—Retained until expiration of famine Jan. 7.
 Do. Absconding Magistrate Jan. 29.
 Do. K'ai-fêng Fu—Prefect recommended Feb. 4.
 Do. Distilling—Resumption of Feb. 16.
 Do. Mausoleum of Kwang Wu Ti—Repair of May 8.
 Do. Loss of carts with treasure Oct. 14.
 Shausi—P'ing Ting-chow—Sub-prefect recommended. March 20.
 Sheusi—Victims of Rebellon, marks of compassion for March 26.
 Do. Governor granted congé..... May 6.
 Do. do. Visits Peking Oct. 10.
 Do. Earthquake in Sept. 13.
 Do. Provisional Government Oct. 10.
 Kansuh—Brigadier's Yaméu at Liang-chow—Fire in... Feb. 4.
 Do. Liu Tien—Assistant Administrator, hands over charge to Yang Ch'ang-chün Feb. 15.
 Do. Chou Ta-wu, arrives at Kanchow..... Feb. 15.
 Do. Yang Ch'ang-chün, arrives at Lan-chow Fu. Feb. 24.

- Kansuh—Yang Ch'ang-chün, Seal for Feb. 24.
 Do. Earthquake at Chieh-chow, &c..... Aug. 23, Sept. 3, 5, 12, 13,
 Nov. 4.
- Nganhwei—Financial Commissioner takes office..... Feb. 12.
 Do. do. visits his tombs... March 9.
 Do. Departure of Governor July 5.
 Do. Return of do. Nov. 26.
- Kiangsu—Provincial Government during absence of
 Governor-General March 28, June 13.
 Do. Remarkable instance of filial piety May 29.
 Do. Permission applied for to open mines Dec. 5.
- Chêkiang—Wenchow—Taotai takes office Jan. 11.
 Do. Ningpo—Lekin riots, punishment of offend-
 ers March 4, May 23.
 Do. Wênchow—Steam gunvessel for..... April 1.
 Do. Loss of Government stores on junk during
 gale April 4.
 Do. Hang-chow sea wall, repairs to Oct. 27.
 Do. Yü-yao Hsien—Charges against notable ... Nov. 22.
 Do. Waste lands—Invasion by vagrants Dec. 20.
- Fuhkien—Hou-kwau Hsien—Magistrate recommended
 for Feb. 24
 Do. Min District—Magistrate recommended for. March 1.
 Do. Foochow—Deputy Lieutenant-General retires March 19.
 Do. do. To Lun-pu succeeds..... March 20.
 Do. Tartar General—Further congé granted June 2.
 Do. do. Retires..... Aug. 3.
 Do. Financial Commissioner—Takes office..... Sept. 24.
- Formosa—Magistrate cashiered for pillaging wreck ... Feb. 22.
 Do. Establishment of new districts May 29.
 Do. Chang Méng-yuan, Acting Taotai Sept. 10.
 Do. Death of Taotai, &c. Sept. 10, 28.
- Kwangtung—Changes in Provincial Government March 1.
 Do. Governor goes into mourning..... March 7.
 Do. Provincial Government—Penalties in-
 flicted..... March 22.
 Do. Arrival of new Governor..... Oct. 22.
- Kwangsi—Governor recalled and replaced May 3, Aug. 29.
- Yunnan—Charges of Censor against Hu Chung-ho—
 Report by Imperial Commissioner Aug. 6.
 Do. Suicide of Wei-yuan Nov. 6, 20.
 Do. Hsü Chih-ming, late Governor—Penalties
 inflicted Nov. 20, Dec. 8.
- Kweichow—Li P'ei-ching, degraded and removed Feb. 15.
 Do. do. Departure..... March 14.
 Do. Provincial Government—Temporary ad-
 ministration of..... March 14.
 Do. Financial condition of province March 15.
 Do. do. do. April 7.
 Do. Lin Chao-yuan acts as Governor March 5.

Kweichow—Mines opened	June 12.
Do. Tsén Yü-ying assumes office.....	Oct. 6.
Szechw'an—Commission of Investigation	March 5, 11, 21, 24, April 12, Oct. 29, Dec. 5.
Do. Wei-ching—Deputy Lieutenant General...	March 21.
Do. Enquiry into alleged harsh treatment by Magistrate	May 2.
Do. Judge dismissed	May 13, June 7.
Do. Outrages by soldiery in Tung-hsiang	May 24, June 30, July 9, 11, 29, Aug. 10, 22, Nov. 2, Dec. 5, 27.
Do. Salt trade in	June 11, 19.
Do. Earthquake	Nov. 13, Dec. 2.
Do. Riots at <i>likin</i> office	Nov. 13.
Hupei—Wu-ch'ang Fu—Prefect denounced	Jan. 9.
Do. Loss of boat and officers with treasure	Sept. 20.



ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

1879.

January 1st.—(1) The Censor Yu Han-ch'ih requests that strict orders may be given to Li Hung-chang, the Governor-General of Chihli, that no oppression be allowed in connection with repair of the road by which the Imperial cortège will proceed to the Eastern Tombs next spring on the occasion of depositing the remains of the late Emperor (T'ung Chih) and the Empress, his wife, in the Mausolea prepared for their reception. Their Majesties have already directed that no special road be constructed, but the Censor still fears that those charged with the repairs to the existing road may find means of extorting money from land-owners along the line of march, under the plea of levying labour for the necessary work. [A Decree on the subject has already appeared.]

(2) The same Censor states that it has come to his knowledge that certain men in the disguise of police runners, charged with the service of summonses, have lately been victimising innocent individuals in and about Peking. This all arises from summonses not being sealed, and from no mention being made of the plaintiff, or the nature of the charge. He requests that, as is done in the provinces, the particulars of the charge may be mentioned on the document, which should also bear the seal of the proper authority. [A Decree in the terms prayed for has already appeared.]

January 2nd.—No documents of importance.

January 3rd.—(1) The Governor of Yün-nan submits for approval the measures he has taken to encourage education in the province. Colleges and schools existed before the rebellion, but in the troubles that ensued they were neglected. He has now directed the district authorities to reopen schools wherever necessary. Special buildings need not be constructed, nor is it required that instructors should be brought from a distance. A room in the nearest temple, and a graduate from the neighbourhood will answer every purpose. If there be no school funds on which to draw, subscriptions are to be invited; and failing

these, the expenses are to be defrayed from any moneys the authorities may have in hand. The main object being to reclaim the uncivilized, and confer on all the advantages which proceed from education.

(2) The Governor of Shensi begs that he may be permitted to send in a general statement of the sums expended in famine relief, instead of submitting the detailed accounts which are required by regulation. Relief operations are now at an end in the province of Shensi. During the ten months ending with the sixth moon of last year, there were assisted, in all, 3,140,000 persons; the sum spent being 2,300,000 taels, in addition to 1,100,000 *tan* of grain consumed. It is obvious that so large a number of persons could not have been kept alive with this alone; private charity fortunately was not wanting, but of this it was not possible to keep count. If the district authorities were to be called upon for detailed accounts, they would put down certain figures which, however well they would balance, would not represent what had actually been done. Rather than submit falsified accounts, the Governor prefers to state the impossibility of preparing correct returns, and to beg that, in their stead, a general statement may be accepted showing what moneys have been received and expended in famine relief.—The request is granted.

(3) Li Hung-chang requests that a reward may be bestowed on Wu Chung-siang (吳仲翔), an official in the Arsenal at Foochow, who has subscribed Tls. 1,400 to the famine fund.

January 4th.—(1) Li Yang-sheng (李揚陞) is appointed Brigadier-General of Nan-ao (Namoao) in Fuhkien.

(2) The Governor of Shantung submits the result of his enquiries into an affair that occurred in the district of Ling Hsien in May last. A band of two or three hundred robbers who had been pillaging the country round was met and attacked by the district Magistrate at the head of

an armed force. The banditti were defeated, and twenty odd were taken prisoners. These, after a trial, were summarily decapitated. As the Magistrate merely reported the matter without forwarding the depositions made at the trial, it was feared that he might have put innocent persons to death. An officer was accordingly despatched by the Governor to investigate the circumstances. He learnt that the offenders were, in truth, malefactors who well deserved to die, and that the reason why the Magistrate had put them to death so precipitately, without awaiting the orders of his superiors, was that the country was in such a state of alarm that an immediate example was necessary to restore confidence. The Magistrate, however, was undoubtedly guilty of carelessness in failing to submit the depositions and confessions made at the trial, and for this it is requested he may be punished.

(3) Li Hung-chang requests that an Imperial tablet may be conferred on the mother of P'an Wei, Governor of Hupeh, in consideration of her having sent Tls. 2,000 for the relief of the distress in Ho-chien Fu in Chihli.

January 5th.—(1) A Decree. Chang Pei-lun has submitted a memorial pointing out the inexpediency of showing favour to the relations of high officials in recommending them for promotion. He instances two men, Pao Shên, the brother of the Grand Secretary Pao Chün, and Weng Ts'eng-kwei, nephew of the Censor Weng T'ung-yo, both of whom have been pushed on through favour. Let the Governor-General of Szechwan report the grounds on which he recommended Pao Shên, and let the Governor-General of Chihli also report upon Pao Shên's services while holding a position in the province of Chihli. As regards Weng Ts'eng-kwei, let the proper Board explain how he came to be included in the first list at the examination of Peking officials; and let the Board of Civil Office inquire into the charge made by Chang Pei-lun that Weng Ts'eng-kwei did not obtain office in the regular way by taking a degree.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports that Mao Lin, formerly Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and Ch'ing Lin his brother, both of whom were banished to a military station in Mongolia for having encroached on public land in laying out their cemetery, have contributed 300 oxen to be distributed among the ruined agriculturists in the famine districts. On a previous occasion Mao Lin subscribed Tls. 4,000 towards the expenses of the military station, on which occasion His

Majesty was pleased to decree that after the expiration of two years' banishment he might be liberated. In what way this second act of generosity will be rewarded it is not for the Governor-General to say, but he would fail in his duty were he to withhold it from His Majesty's knowledge. —Rescript: Let the term of banishment which Mao Lin and Ch'ing Lin have to undergo be further reduced by one year.

(3) Ch'ung Ch'i (崇綺) reports having taken over the seals as acting Military-Governor of Kirin, on the 3rd December last.

(4) Ming An, Military-Governor of Kirin, having been ordered to proceed to the Amur to investigate a certain matter, reports having handed over charge of his office to Ch'ung Ch'i on the 3rd December, 1878.

(5) The Governor-General of Shansi and Kansuh requests that Colonel Li Chü'an-sheng may be cashiered for having opened a gambling establishment in the city of Su-chow in Kansuh. He has already been sent under arrest to his native place in Hupeh, to be there released on bail.

January 6th.—(1) Sun Yi-ching (孫詒經) is appointed Vice-President of the Board of Works.

(2) The Court of Censorate requests that an investigation may be ordered into a case which has been appealed from Shantung. The petitioner, a man named Chang Hwa-p'eng, a native of the An-ch'iu district, relates the following story:—His father died in the summer of 1875, and was buried in the family cemetery. In the following spring, a man named Chao Tsung-yuan and others spread the report that the body of the deceased had been changed into a "drought goblin," and presented a petition to that effect to the district Magistrate, who, however, refused to entertain it. Subsequently, Chao Tsung-yuan got together a band of over 2 thousand men, who went armed with guns and other weapons to the grave of the petitioner's father, whose body they disinterred and placed on the top of a heap of straw and wood which they set on fire. After the mob left the petitioner put out the fire and rescued his father's remains and buried them once more on the following day. A complaint was made before the Magistrate, who put the rioters nominally under arrest, but really allowed them to remain at liberty. The following month the grave was again desecrated, and the repeated appeals made for justice by the petitioner's

brother brought upon him such persecution that he eventually died. The constant state of fear in which his mother lived eventually proved fatal, and she also died. Appeals to the Prefect and Governor have been of no avail, and in despair Chang Hwa-p'eng has come to the capital to implore for justice. The Censors express their opinion that this is an affair that should be sifted to the bottom, and beg that instructions may be sent to Shantung to that effect. [A Decree has already appeared calling for an inquiry.]

(3) Ming An, the Military Governor of Kirin, who with Feng Yü-chi, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, has been ordered to proceed to the Amur to inquire into a certain matter, requests that he may charge his travelling expenses and that of his suite and escort, amounting in all to Tls. 2,960, to the Kirin Government, instead of allowing the authorities of various districts through which he passed to provide for his wants. This latter course is always made an excuse for levying illegal exactions, and is the source of many abuses.

January 7th.—(1) A Decree. At the request of the Governor of Honan, instructions are given to Yü Kw'an, formerly Financial Commissioner of Honan, but lately named Governor of Fuhkien, to remain in his present post while famine matters still engage attention. Tê Hsing, recently appointed Judicial Commissioner of Honan, is directed to repair to his post without delay.

(2) The officers who have charge of the funds appropriated to the maintenance of the Eastern Tombs apply for the sum of Tls. 30,000, to be provided from the Chihli Treasury. Between the years 1730 and 1828, certain sums were periodically invested in land, the revenue from which was intended to meet the expenses connected with the tombs. The revenue from this land comes to Tls. 10,600 annually. Formerly this was found sufficient, but since 1865 the establishment has been gradually getting into debt; and in view of the large outlay which will shortly be incurred when the late Emperor's remains are laid to rest, the Superintendents feel compelled to apply for a loan, to be repaid as soon as better harvests come to swell the fund.

(3) The Governor-General of the two Kwang requests that a certain military official may be reduced one step. The person in question was acting temporarily as colonel of a battalion, in which position he wished to remain. Upon learning that the titular Colonel was about to return, he

trumped up charges against him, such as that the soldiers were resigning in consequence of his return. An investigation proved that this was merely a device to remain in the post. The Commander-in-Chief in Kwansi having reported the incident, the Governor-General requests that the peccant official may be punished by the loss of one step.—Granted.

January 8th.—(1) A Decree. The uninterrupted expenditure of money, which went on so long as military operations continued, left one no alternative but to have recourse to the sale of office. Of late years, amongst those who have purchased office, there has been no lack of men whose competence and abilities rendered them eminently serviceable; while, on the other hand, there have not been wanting those who were no better than charlatans or cyphers; or still worse, those who brought disgrace on the public service. At first, the agencies for the sale of rank earnestly strove to do their best, and did contribute to the revenues of the State; but as time went on, the misapplication of the sums contributed, the devices resorted to by the candidates, and the malpractices of the official agents, became so common, that while these results proved to be an obstacle in the way of an honest administration, the income derived from this source existed more in name than in reality. In the interests of a pure form of Government it then becomes necessary to abolish the system as soon as practicable. We command the Board of Revenue, and the Governor-General and Governors of the respective provinces, to examine into the whole question, to ascertain exactly what amount is annually received at the agency in the capital and at the agencies in the provinces; to inquire in what way these sums are expended, and substitute some other method of obtaining the money. At the same time, let them report the abolition of the system, without making the difficulty of finding the money a pretext for delay or evasion.

(2) Feng K'un, Military Governor of Hei-lung Kiang (the Amur province), proposes a reorganization of the Military Government of the cities of Hulan, Payensusu and Pei-twan Lin-tzu, the population in that part of the country having increased so much latterly that the present force is insufficient to maintain order. The suggestions are referred to the proper Board for their consideration.

(3) P'eng Ch'u-han, the Admiral on the Fuhkien coast, reports his return from his

annual visit to all the stations within his jurisdiction.

(4) The Tartar General at Sin-an Fu reports that in December last he received a communication from the Governor of Shensi, stating that now that the taxes had been collected, it was possible to give the Manchu troops their whole pay in money. Owing to the want of funds, sanction had been previously obtained to the men being paid half in *cash* and half in paper.

January 9th.—(1) The Censor K'ung Hsien-k'o referring to the dispute which has arisen in connection with the embankment at Fan-k'ow in Hupeh, criticises the decree ordering the embankment to be rebuilt, and requests that the whole question may be thoroughly studied before action is taken. The decree, based on the report of P'eng Yü-lin, directed the Governor-General of Hu-kwang to have the dyke repaired and a stone lock constructed, adding that when the work was completed, it would be for the Governor-General to watch the results, and report as to their success. In the opinion of the Censor, when two high officials such as P'eng Yü-lin and Li Han-chang hold opposite views as to the advisability of reconstructing the embankment, it would be preferable to give the whole matter the most careful consideration, especially as the consequences involved are of such magnitude. What the Censor would suggest is that P'eng Yü-lin, whose acquaintance with all matters appertaining to the Yangtze is undoubted, should be called upon to answer Li Han-chang's original report, clause by clause, and if in the end these two high Authorities still hold different views, that Yang Yo-pin, who was Admiral of the Yangtze for many years, and is now in retirement in Hupeh, should be directed to report upon the matter.

(2) The same Censor denounces Fang Ta-shih (方大澍), the Prefect of Wuch'ang Fu, as an unscrupulous corrupt official, whose sole thought is to ingratiate himself with his superiors. It was due to his bad advice that last year the Governor-General despatched a force to demolish the Fan-k'ow dyke, when several boats were swamped, and several hundred persons drowned. He was also responsible for the summary decapitation, on insufficient evidence, of a certain person who had mixed himself up in the dispute about these embankments. The Censor suggests that the notable Ju Yü-kaio, the Grand Secretary Tan Mow-ch'ien; the ex vice-President of

the Board of Civil Office, Pên Chiu-yü; the President of the Board of Works, Hwo Shou-tz'u; or the vice-President of the Board of Rites, Wang Wen-shao, who are all honest and upright men, and well versed with the circumstances of the case, should be directed to make inquiries into the whole of this Fan-k'ow dyke affair, when the rights and the wrongs of the case will come out, and it can be ascertained once for all if the dyke should be rebuilt or removed.

January 10th.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office having been directed to inquire into the truth of the charge made by Chang P'ei-lun to the effect that partiality had been shown in pushing forward an official named Wéng Ts'êng-kw'e'i, now report that Wéng's promotion was in no wise out of order. We accordingly decree that Chang P'ei-lun's memorial be put aside.

(2) A Decree. The Imperial Equipage Department complains that for many years the Ch'ang-lu Salt Gabelle has failed to remit the amount annually due, and that at the present moment, when the Equipage Department has to make extensive preparations in connection with the obsequies of the late Emperor and Empress, it finds itself without funds. Let the Governor-General of Chih-li direct the Financial and Salt Commissioner to send up at once Tls. 40,000, to be subsequently recovered from the Salt Department; and for the future let the annual contribution be punctually remitted. [From this date the public offices are closed for one month, and the *Gazette* is only published every other day.]

January 11th and 12th.—(1) A Decree. Ying Chên having been accused of receiving bribes for conniving at the short delivery of tribute rice, it is ordered that the charge be inquired into, as well as another charge taxing him with having received money to include certain names when submitting for favourable consideration a list of those who had exerted themselves in taking over the tribute grain.

(2) The Governor of Chekiang reports that Wen Chung-han (溫忠翰), recently appointed Taotai for Wen-chow and Ch'u-chow, took up his post on the 19th October last.

January 13th and 14th.—(1) Ts'ai Kwo-hsiang (蔡國祥), is appointed Brigadier of T'êng-chow in Shantung, and Wu Ch'i-hsien (吳奇勳) is sent to replace him as Brigadier of Hai-t'an in Fukkien.

(2) Shen Pao-chen, Governor-General of the Liang-kiang, reports at the request of Li Ch'eng-mow, Admiral of the Yangtze, that the latter's period of mourning terminated on the 9th November last.

(3) The Literary Chancellor of Fêng-t'ien Fu makes an appeal on behalf of a class of persons settled in Manchuria who are debarred from competing at the examinations. They are the descendants of the adherents of Wu San-kwei, the famous rebel who figured at the commencement of the present dynasty. The hardship of the case has often before been represented to His Majesty, but each time, owing as the memorialist thinks to the incomplete information on which those to whom the application was referred based their decision, the appeal has proved unsuccessful. Originally, on the establishment of the present dynasty, it may have been politic to treat these unfortunate persons' ancestors with severity, but now that eight Emperors have successively occupied the Throne, and that a general pardon has been proclaimed seven times, and furthermore that the loyalty of the people has been sufficiently tested by the T'ai-p'ing, Nien-fei, and Mahomedan rebellions, the Chancellor thinks the time has come when these outcasts might be admitted to the full privileges enjoyed by the people at large.—A Rescript refers the application to the proper Board.

January 15th and 16th.—(1) A Decree. Li Hung-chang requests that a penalty be awarded to two subordinate officials for having allowed eight prisoners to escape from custody while locked up in the house of detention. It appears from the memorial that the criminals were in the house of detention for the reason that the prison had been destroyed by fire. This being the case, the offence of these officials is as serious as if the escape had been made from the prison itself, and the infliction of an ordinary penalty would not be sufficient. Let the officials be stripped of their rank, and put upon their trial; and let the prison be immediately rebuilt.

(2) A Decree. Yen Hsiü, Lieutenant-General at Jehol, complains that a large number of judicial cases in Mongolia remain unsettled owing to the difficulty experienced in inducing the Mongol Chiefs to produce the necessary witnesses. They even go the length, when so serious a crime as murder has been committed, of taking the evidence themselves, and on this evidence venture to apply that the case be closed. We command the Mongolian Superintendency to call upon the Monglo

Chiefs to be strictly guided by standing regulations, and to give warning that the Commanders of the respective banners will be held responsible should there in future be any tendency to trifle with the law.

January 17th and 18th.—(1) A Decree. The Governor of Kwei-chow is directed to report whether a certain official who has opened an office for the sale of rank in Anhwei was duly authorised by him to do so. According to the statement of the Governor of Anhwei, the individual in question opened an office for the receipt of subscriptions to the Kwei-chow Treasury, but as he was unprovided with credentials of any kind, there is reason to suspect that he may have been acting without authority.

January 19th and 20th.—(1) A Decree. The official duties of Pao Chün and Yung Lu are somewhat too onerous. Accordingly, let Pao Chün cease to act as Director of the State Historiographer's Office and Inspector of the Forces; and let Yung Lu cease to be President of the Board of Works and Comptroller of the Inner Household.

(2) Kwang Shou is appointed Inspector of the Forces.

(3) A Decree. A Censor reports that on the days when pay is issued at the offices of the Board of Revenue, a crowd of impostors collects outside, and by threats and violence extort promissory notes from those who have been drawing money. Let the Police authorities be on the watch, and should any persons be detected in such acts as the Censor describes, let them be at once sent to the Board of Punishments.

(4) A Decree. Ch'üan Ch'ing (全慶) is appointed President of the Board of Works; Wên Yü (文煜), President of the Board of Punishments; Ch'ung How (崇厚), President of the Censorate, with Chih Ho (志和) to act in his stead until his return.

(5) A Decree. Ch'ung Ch'i (崇綺) is appointed Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, with Lin Shu to act in his stead until his return. Ch'eng Lin (成林) is appointed Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, and Wên Ch'eng (文徵) Vice-President of the Board of Works.

(6) A Decree. An Hsing-ah (安興阿) is appointed Comptroller of the Inner Household.

(7) A Decree. Ching Lien (景廉) is appointed Director of the State Historiographer's Office.

[Owing the occurrence of the Chinese New-Year, the *Gazette* is not published for three days.]

January, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th.—(1) The Astronomical Board reports that on New-Year's day the wind was in the N.E., which betokens longevity and plenty.

(2) A Decree. Wang Wên-shao (王文韶) is appointed a member of the Grand Council.

(3) The Governor-General of Chihli requests that T'ung Tsai-t'ien, an officer of the Guards resident at Tientsin, may be deprived of his rank and brought to trial for various offences of a disgraceful kind.

(4) The Governor-General of Hukwang reports the proceedings in a case of a fraudulent sale of an official letter of recommendation for promotion. The circumstances were as follows:—Mêng P'eng-ch'eng, who had been an officer in the army, came in 1877 to Wu-ch'ang, where he happened to meet a man named Yen Ch'un-shan, a military graduate. On one occasion Yen was lamenting that he had repeatedly failed to obtain the second military degree, and said he proposed volunteering, in the hope of rising through merit. Mêng then remembered that he had in his trunk a certificate entitling the person in whose name it had been made out to promotion as sergeant. The original holder, one of Mêng's old messmates, had died before making use of the certificate, which then, in some way, came into Mêng's hands. This certificate Mêng offered to sell to Yen, who by assuming the name of the original holder, would secure his advancement to the rank of sergeant. In order fully to persuade Yen that the scheme was feasible, Mêng went out to fetch a confederate who representing himself as a clerk in the Governor's Yamên promised to put the business through for him. The certificate was eventually sold for thirty strings of *cash*, and the parties separated. Subsequently the circumstances came to the ears of the authorities, who caused all those implicated to be arrested.

During the course of the trial, Mêng P'eng-ch'eng died in prison, so that it is unnecessary to go into the question of his punishment. The others are sentenced to undergo such punishment as the law prescribes.

January 25th and 26th.—(1) A Decree. The Governor-General of Fukhien and

Chehkiang denounces Chung Hung-kwei (鍾鴻逵), Acting Magistrate of the Chang-hwa district (彰化縣) for gross misconduct in the discharge of his official duties. Let him be stript of his rank, and put upon his trial before the Taotai of T'aiwan.

(2) The Lieutenant-General stationed at Jehol reports that, in accordance with the Imperial sanction previously obtained, he has opened a Court for the hearing of the numerous judicial cases which have accumulated in the districts within his jurisdiction. He has given instructions that all arrears are to be cleared off within two years, and submits for their Majesties' approval six rules which he has framed for the guidance of the Court. The rules however are not published.

(3) Ting Shou-ch'ang, the newly appointed Judicial Commissioner of Chihli, reports that he took over the seals of office on the 1st January last.

January 27th and 28th.—(1) A Decree. Li P'ei-ching, the Governor of Kwei-chow, requests that posthumous may be conferred on Hwo Ch'ang-ling, Governor-General of Yunnan and Kwei-chow; and further, that his rank as Governor-General, of which he was deprived, may, now that he is dead, be restored to him. Hwo Ch'ang-ling when Governor-General of Yunnan and Kwei-chow was degraded in consequence of his serious mismanagement of Mohamedan matters. The list of his services now submitted by Li P'ei-ching contains nothing but that Hwo Ch'ang-ling's official position required of him. Why should Li P'ei-ching represent these as something unusual? The fact that Li P'ei-ching is a native of Hunan, which was also Hwo Ch'ang-ling's native province, suggests the suspicion that he is not acting altogether disinterestedly. His request is disallowed, and the proper Board is directed to consider what penalty he has incurred.

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli explains that the people of Hsüan-hwa Fu in Chihli are at a disadvantage compared with former years as regards their chances of taking a decree at the triennial examinations. Formerly, in consideration of the lower standard of learning in that prefecture, four degrees were allowed among all the candidates of the prefecture, usually about 220 in number, who thus competed with each other, but were independent of the candidates from other parts of the province. In 1803, a deputation of the students in Hsüan-hwa Fu represented that

their number had so much increased that their chances would be better if allowed to compete against the whole province. They were accordingly merged into the general examinations, but they found that although Hsian-hwa Fu supplied more competitors than before, the prefecture failed to pull off so many degrees as before. Under the old rule, it was always sure of four, but since the change, it has sometimes failed to carry off one. Under these circumstances it is the wish of the Hsian-hwa Fu literati to revert to the old system under which the one prefecture had four degrees allotted to it separately.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) A supplementary memorial from the Governor of Shantung, who referring to his earlier application for the appointment of certain officers whose services he required in the despatch of foreign business, now reports their arrival in Shantung. Their names are P'eng Yü-fên (彭毓芬), Yang Chu (楊樹), and Ma Wei-hsi (麻維緒).

January 29th and 30th.—(1) A Decree. The Governor of Honan reports the disappearance of a Magistrate named Kwang Lien, who had been dismissed from the Kwang-shan District Magistracy. He has left his accounts unsettled, and omitted to report himself at the provincial capital as was his duty. He may have made his way to Peking, or may be hiding himself elsewhere. Orders are given that his whereabouts be discovered.

(2) The Tartar General at Hangchow and the Lieutenant Tartar General at Chapu, in Chehkiang, report having held the annual inspection of the troops stationed at Hangchow and Chapu. The artillery and rifle practice were both good.

(3) The Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang requests that a certain expectant Captain may be transferred from the army to the navy. It is true he originally began his career in the army, but all the service he has seen has been at sea. He has distinguished himself in suppressing piracy on the coast of Chehkiang, and is well versed in all nautical matters. He has considerable knowledge of Meteorology, and knows the coast well. A precedent is quoted when, under similar circumstances, an officer was allowed to exchange from one service to the other; and in order that the man's special qualifications may not be thrown away, and his valuable services lost, it is recommended that a similar course be now followed.—Granted.

(4) Chang Chao-tung, Governor, of Kwang-tung, requests His Majesty to conceal an appointment which had been conferred upon his son in recognition of his exertions to alleviate the misery caused by the famine in his native district. Chang Chao-tung, who is a native of Wei-hsien (維縣), in Shantung, sent some money to his son in that district with directions to use his utmost endeavours to reduce the sufferings of the people in their neighbourhood. Some time after, he was surprised to see in the *Peking Gazette* that on the recommendation of the Governor of Shantung, his son had been appointed to an Assistant Secretaryship of a Board. Considering the high post which has been conferred on himself, and the marks of Imperial favour which his son has already received, Chang Chao-tung feels that he is totally unworthy of this last honour, and he earnestly entreats that his son's appointment may accordingly be cancelled.—Rescript:—Let him not persist in refusing to accept the post.

January 31st and February 1st.—The Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh requests that a votive tablet may be placed in the temple of a certain deity in Ch'ing-yang Fu, in Kansuh, in order to gratify the wishes of the people who are anxious to testify their reverence for the deity in question. Last spring, when the prefecture was overrun with refugees from other parts, and when the prospect of a harvest was very gloomy, the Prefect, at the request of the inhabitants, headed a procession of the gentry of the place, who went to pray for rain at a temple in the hills to the North of the city. Here they remained seven days and nights, when abundant rain fell, and continued at intervals for a month. The popular anxiety was at once relieved, and in their gratitude the inhabitants have entreated the Prefect to apply for a votive tablet to be placed in the temple, a request which the Governor-General endorses.

February 2nd and 3rd.—(1) The President of the Board of Punishments, in obedience to a Decree previously published, reports upon the services of Wêng Tsêng-kw'ei, a Secretary in the Board, who had been declared by the Censor Chang P'ei-lun to have been pushed on through favouritism and in disregard of the regulations of the service. The President of the Board explains that the regulations have in no wise been ignored, and that, so far as his fitness for the post is concerned, Wêng Tsêng-kw'ei has, during the time he has

been employed in the Board, shewn himself eminently qualified to discharge the duties of his office.

(2) The Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture requests that 300 *tan* of rice may be annually supplied to a benevolent institution in Peking known as the Tzū-shan-t'ang (資善堂), where over a thousand poor people are taken in and cared for during the winter. The place has hitherto been supported by voluntary contributions, and by an annual grant of Tls. 500 given by the Tsung-li Yamén out of the tonnage dues (船鈔), but the increasing number of applicants for relief makes it necessary for the managers to make an appeal to the Imperial bounty.

February 4th and 5th.—(1) A Decree. Imperial regrets are expressed on receipt of the intelligence of the death of Liu Tien (劉典), late assistant Administrator of Military Affairs in Kansuh. It is ordered that the same honours be done him as in the case of a Vice-President of a Board. His son Liu Pen-chien is promoted to be a Prefect, and the second son, Liu Pên-tsé, to be an assistant Secretary of a Board.

(2) The Censor Lou Yü-chin denounces his colleague Ying Chen for conniving at frauds committed by the officials employed in the grain department. The two above-named Censors had been deputed to superintend the delivery of the tribute rice last year, when to his intense astonishment Lou Yü-chin discovered that his colleague was accepting bribes to connive at the short delivery of grain. The Censor fears that there may be others implicated in this business, and requests that a searching enquiry be ordered.

(3) The Governor of Honan recommends the present Prefect of Kwei-té Fu, Ts'ai Keng-liang (蔡賡良) by name, as the official best qualified to fill the post of Prefect of K'ai-feng Fu, lately become vacant.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports that the Yamén of the Brigadier-General of Liang-chow in Kansuh was partially destroyed by fire in October last. The seal and the archives fortunately were saved. In compliance with the regulation, the Brigadier has been ordered to make good the damage caused by the fire.

February 6th and 7th.—(1) The Governor of Honan reports that the damage done to the dykes by the rising of the river in the Wu-chih district (武陟縣) has been repaired. He had originally reported that

the work would cost Tls. 99,600, but when the repairs were almost completed a storm arose and a fresh breach was made by the waves beating against the bank. This estimate therefore will have been somewhat exceeded, but the Governor defers submitting the accounts until he shall himself have inspected the repairs.

February 8th and 9th.—(1) A Decree. Nearly a month has elapsed since We called upon the Superintendent of the Granaries to inquire into the truth of the accusations brought against Ying Chen, and yet no report has been sent in. We direct that the report be immediately submitted without further delay.

(2) The Governor of Honan submits a report of the trial of several small officials who had purloined some grain out of the relief establishment, of which they themselves were in charge. The amount stolen was eleven *tan* and a half, which was divided amongst those who had a hand in the robbery. They have all been sentenced to various periods of banishment, the punishment in each case being one degree more severe than in ordinary cases, in consequence of the property stolen having been rice intended for famine relief.

February 10th.—(1) A decree appointing Liao Shou-hêng (廖壽恒) to be Literary Chancellor of Honan.

(2) A decree. Ch'eng-fu (成孚) is transferred to Kwangtung as Financial Commissioner; Ch'ang-keng (長庚) is appointed Financial Commissioner of Honan; Sung-chün (崇駿) is named Judicial Commissioner of Kwangsi.

(3) Pao-t'ing, Expositor in the Han-linyuan complains of the laxity now existing in the administration of the Government, and requests that a sterner tone may be made to prevail. If in spite of repeated commands to the contrary, the High Officials at the capital still continue to discharge their duties without zeal and earnestness, it may well be imagined what a state of things exists in the provinces. The graver abuses which suggest themselves to him, Pao-t'ing proposes to expose one by one, with the steps he would recommend for their removal.

First, he would have the Imperial Commands carried out within a definite time. Of late, whenever one of the Boards in the capital, or one of the provincial governments, has been directed by Imperial Decree to take any action, the matter has been neglected and put aside, in the hope that

as time wore on His Majesty's first intention might be gradually forgotten; and then an evasive reply has been sent up, or perhaps no reply at all, when no further notice has been taken of the matter. His Majesty having invited his Ministers to frankly state their views, Pao-t'ing has ventured more than once of late to make certain suggestions to the Throne, and on more than one occasion a Decree has been issued directing that these suggestions be carried out. And yet, in the end, what practical good has resulted, and how many abuses have been swept away? The best of plans, and the most beneficial of schemes, continue to exist only on paper. To let things take care of themselves, and stand quietly by, has grown to be the rule instead of the exception. It is only necessary to read the recent memorial of Yen-hsiu on the arrears of Mongol Judicial cases to appreciate the truth of the above remark. To remedy the present evil, Pao-t'ing suggests that whenever an Imperial Decree is issued calling upon the metropolitan or provincial Authorities to take certain steps, a certain limit of time should be assigned them for the performance of their duty. Further, Pao-t'ing would request Their Majesties, in the interval of their official business, occasionally to take up a case of importance, and if on examination it prove to have been managed carelessly, to severely punish those responsible for the negligence.

The next abuse Pao-t'ing has to call attention to is the manner in which the Emperor is deceived by his Ministers. Of late years it has become the custom to suppress the truth, and put on a false colouring, in reporting upon any matter with regard to which information has been called for from Peking. It has even happened that a forced interpretation has been given to the wording of the law, or irrelevant precedents have been brought in, to justify a certain course of action. How seldom does it happen that the facts of the case as set forth in the reports from the provinces correspond with the circumstances as detailed in the original memorial submitted by the Censors?—and unless the complaints of these latter are invariably misrepresentations, what conclusion can be come to but that the provincial governors are in the habit of glossing over or hushing up the difficulty. All this arises from the fact that His Majesty is still in his minority, and that Their Majesties the Empresses in the seclusion of the palace hear little of what is passing outside; while the Ministers of the Grand Council console

themselves with the reflection that so long as the head of the State is lenient, it is not for them to be anything else. And thus it happens that both in the capital and in the provinces the Ministers deceive their Sovereign without fear of consequences, or without a sense of shame. As a remedy, Pao-t'ing suggests that the Ministers of the Grand Council should be required to criticise carefully every report coming up from the provinces, and to expose all who venture to mispresent facts; failing this, they should be denounced themselves, and held responsible. Thirdly, the prerogative of pardon should be had in greater respect. To grant a pardon is an act of grace on the part of the Sovereign. The person undergoing punishment has no right to hope for a remission of the sentence; much less is it proper for any one else to apply for it on his behalf. Of recent years, it has frequently happened that when a disgraced official has made a contribution to the State, some person has come forward with a precedent, and requested that the sentence be remitted. What is in fact an act of Imperial mercy is thus treated as if it were a matter of routine; and thus, while poverty debars the clean-handed official from enjoying the Imperial clemency, the dishonest servant uses his ill gotten gains to purchase immunity, and a direct encouragement is given to greed and cupidity. The country's revenues may be at a low ebb; but it is not of these paltry thousands that it stands in need. Is gold to be held in greater respect than the law, that money will purchase a pardon? Their Majesties are requested to issue orders that for the future, whenever a disgraced official may offer to make a contribution to the State, the facts of the case only, without any recommendation of a pardon, shall be submitted to the Throne; when, if it seem a suitable case, His Majesty may graciously pardon the offence; but unless the character of the individual in question be such as to entitle him to merciful consideration, and that his services are worth retaining, the proffered contribution should be declined, and the law allowed to take its course. These are the views of the memorialist, which he feels bound to submit in return for the many favours he has received at the hands of His Majesty.

February 11th.—(1) Lu Jen-k'ai (陸仁愷) is appointed Grain Commissioner of Shantung.

(2) Shên Pao-ching (沈保靖) is appointed Judicial Commissioner of Kiangsi

vice Kwo Ying (英國), who retires on account of ill-health.

(3) A Decree. The Board of Revenue reports that all the agencies in Peking for the purchase of office have been closed. We command that the same be done in the provinces, under whatever name these agencies may exist. Let the respective provincial governments devise other means of getting funds, and let them also, as soon as possible, close the accounts of these agencies and forward them to the Board, so that by the fifth moon at the latest the present system may have ceased to exist.

In conformity with the request of the Board of Revenue, We further direct that detailed statements be forwarded from all the provinces, showing the sums received, and the manner in which they have been expended, ever since the purchase of rank has been in existence.

(4) Ho Chin, Governor-General of Min-ché, and Wu Tsan-ch'eng, Acting Governor of Fuhkien, request that sacrifices may be offered at the stated periods in two temples lately erected in Formosa to the memory of soldiers who have recently died there, either in action or from disease.—Granted.

February 12th.—(1) Wén Hui is appointed Taotai of the Kwang-jao-kiu-nan Circuit in Kiangsi.

(2) Shao Hsien (紹咸), Financial Commissioner of Anhwei, reports having taken up his post on his return from Peking, where he had gone to have audience.

February 13th.—(1) The Governor-General of Chihli reports the circumstances attending a case of murder in the Tientsin district. The facts are as follows:—One Li Chen-chia, finding himself without means to pay for a wife he had bought, sought out a friend, Yü Ch'ang-yü, to borrow the necessary amount. As Yü had previously lent the applicant considerable sums, which had not yet been repaid, he declined to advance any more money. Hereupon Li asked Yu's son to go to Wang San to see if he would lend the money—this Wang San being the man who had made peace between Li and Yü on a previous occasion when there had been some difficulty with reference to the outstanding debt. During the son's absence, Li remarked that if Wang San was not able to advance the money, Yü would have to make out a promissory note for the amount. Yü replied that he was already a loser to a sufficient extent, and that he would lend no more. Angry words passed between the two, which ended in Li draw-

ing a knife and stabbing Yü. A struggle ensued, in the middle of which the son returned. He joined in, and having wrested the knife from the assailant proceeded to stab Li in various places. The struggle continued, and as Li lay on the ground he used foul language towards Yü's son, not even sparing his ancestors; and added that when his wounds were well he would have his revenge and do for both father and son. Mad with rage, the son hacked at him with the knife until he died. Wang San, on hearing of the affair, was afraid that, as the person who had made peace when there was a quarrel about the previous debt, he might get dragged in the affair, went out in the night and drowned himself in the river.—The son has been sentenced to decapitation, and the father to receive 80 blows and be banished for two years.

February 14th.—(1) A Decree. The Prince of Kung; the Grand Secretary, Pao-Chün; the Assistant Grand Secretary, Shên Kwei-fên, the President of the Board of Revenue, Ching Lien; and the Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Wang Wên-shao (members of the Grand Council), have restored to them their rank, of which they had been previously deprived, as a recognition of their assiduous devotion to the welfare of the State. In the same way, Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli; Tao Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh; and Shen Pao-chên, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, are to have some special reward conferred on them by the Board of Civil Office. In consideration of his age, Ying Chao-yung is transferred from the Vice-Presidentship of the Board of Revenue to the same position in the Board of Ceremonies, where the duties are lighter. Tâ Ch'un, vice-President of the Board of Works; Hui Ch'üan, vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency; and Tsai Ch'ing, are allowed to retire on their present rank.

(2) A decree appointing Hsü Chih-hsiang (徐致詳) Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office.

(3) A Decree. Ying Chên, who had been accused of conniving at the short delivery of tribute grain at T'ungchow is pronounced, after investigation, to be innocent of the charge; so also is he of the charge of allowing his son to accompany him and presume on his father's position. Ying Chên, however, did not do his duty conscientiously in punishing those implicated in the robbery of tribute grain; and in allowing his son's constant presence to be

talked about, he gave rise to scandal and criticism.—Let him accordingly be handed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(4) Li Hung-chang reports that an expectant Magistrate named Cha Tsung-jên, taking pity on the desolate condition of the small farmers in Chihli, whose cattle had all died during the famine, and who were therefore unable to plough their land, went off to Mongolia to persuade the cattle breeders to contribute animals for distribution in Chihli. He succeeded in thus getting together over three thousand head, all of which were driven into this province, and handed over to the most needy farmers. It is requested that Cha Tsung-jên may be left in Chihli to be employed as Magistrate on the occurrence of the first vacancy.—Granted.

February 15th.—(1) A Decree. Ch'ung-Ch'i and Feng Yü-chi report having held a trial in the case of robbery at the house of the Imperial Guardsman Wo Hsing-ngo. They state that in the course of his examination, the principal prisoner, Hsü Hwa, declared that a certain man named Fu had been concerned in another robbery at the house of a man named Ch'i; but afterwards he admitted that he had merely said this in order to get the man into trouble; and the memorialists affirm that, in truth, Fu was found to be innocent.

Their report further states that this said Ch'i, who had an old quarrel with Fu, sought to fasten suspicion on the latter by concealing one of his own pay-warrants in Fu's house. In the end, when he had been confronted with many witnesses, Ch'i had to admit his guilt. Shortly after, while in prison, he fell ill and died. In spite of the most clear testimony and the admission of the principal prisoner himself, Wo persists in denying that justice has been done, and still maintains that the pay-warrant is evidence against Fu, relying on the fact that now that the person who put the pay-warrant there is dead, it is impossible to controvert his statement.

On the same day, the Board of Censorate memorialised Us to the effect that Wo Hsing-ngo had lodged an appeal in which he accused Ch'ung Ch'i of having caused the man Ch'i to be tortured in order to make him admit that he himself had concealed the pay-warrant in Fu's house; and that under this torture he died. Wo further accuses Ch'ung Ch'i of having used torture to make the prisoner Hsü recall his previous statement to the effect that Fu was associated with him in the robbery, and to confess that he alone was concerned.

In order to arrive at the truth of this affair, We command Chih Ho and En Fu to proceed post-haste to Kirin and there hold an investigation. They will carefully examine Ch'i's body to ascertain whether he died from illness or under torture. The staff of secretaries and clerks who accompany Chih Ho and En Fu will also travel post-haste.

(2) A decree appointing Chên Shih-chieh (陳士杰) to be Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, and T'an Chün-p'ei (譚鈞培) to be Judicial Commissioner of Shantung.

(3) A Decree. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chow, is degraded three steps and ordered to be removed from his present post.

(4) Yü Kw'an (裕寬) is appointed Governor of Kwangtung, and Li Ming-ch'eh (李明墀) Governor of Fuhkien.

(5) Chang Shu-shêng (張樹聲) is appointed Governor of Kwei-chow.

(6) Liu Tien, formerly Assistant Administrator of Military Affairs in Shensi and Kansuh, reports that he handed over charge to Yang Ch'ang-chün, his successor, on the 1st of January last, and that if his health permit it, he will start on his return home to Hunan on the 10th of February.

(7) Chou Ta-wu (周達武), Commander-in-chief of the Chinese forces in Kansuh, reports his arrival at his post in Kan-chow Fu. He had audience on 25th June last, travelled by way of Tientsin and Hankow, and arrived at Kan-chow Fu on the 20th December. In passing through Kansuh he found the harvest good, and observed that the Mahomedan barbarians were living in peace.

February 16th.—(1) A Decree making the following appointments and changes:—Fu Ch'ing-yi (傅慶貽), to Financial Commissioner of An-hwei; T'an Chün-p'ei (譚鈞培), Judicial Commissioner of Hunan; Ling Chieh (靈杰), to be Judicial Commissioner in Shantung.

(2) Sang Ch'un-yung (桑春榮), President of the Board of Punishments, is allowed to retire on account of sickness.

(3) The Governor of Honan reports that he has received a petition from a number of notables from Chehkiang under the following circumstances: An old lady named Ching Yang, of the Shang-yü district in Chehkiang, upon hearing of the

distress prevailing in Honan, directed her three sons, Ching Yuan-shan, Ching Yuan-jen, and Ching Yuan-yu, to get together the sum of Taels 40,000 in Shanghai, and after selecting some benevolent persons to accompany them, to proceed to the Ling-pao district in Honan and spend the money in relieving distress. Last Autumn, learning that their mother was ill, the sons wished to return home, but she wrote forbidding them to leave the place, saying that to save life was the more important duty. By selling her clothes and ornaments she was able to get together another thousand taels, which she sent to be used with the rest. In October last, she died; and the notables request that permission be obtained to erect an honorary portal to her memory, with an account of her good deeds cut into the stone.—The request is granted by Rescript.

(4) The Governor of Honan states that Shên Tun-lan, Taotai of Chinkiang, who has become entitled to a reward for his contribution to the Honan famine relief fund, has expressed a wish to receive a peacock's feather.—The application is referred to the Board.

(5) The Governor of Honan, referring to a suggestion made a year ago, that all distilleries in the province should be closed, states that owing to the high prices of grain the distillers had to give up business, and that spirit-making ceased of itself without the intervention of the law. Now that last Autumn's crops have brought down the price of grain, these distilling establishments are being started again; and the Governor does not propose to interfere with the freedom of trade; but at the same time he will carry out the decision of the Board of Revenue that only the distilleries already existing shall be allowed to continue working, and that no new ones may for the future be started.

February 17th.—(1) The following appointments and changes are notified:—Wêng T'ung-yô (翁同龢) to be President of the Board of Punishments; P'an Tsu-yin (潘祖蔭), Vice-President of the Censorate; Wang Wên-shao (王文韶) Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and President of the Three Treasuries; Ch'i Shih-ch'ang (祈世長), Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies; Wang Hwa-t'ang (王化堂), Salt Commissioner of Chehkiang.

(2) The Governor of Honan suggests, now that there is no longer such urgent

need of relief in his province, that all the money collected in the other provinces by the Honan relief agencies should be diverted to Shansi, where much distress still prevails.

(3) The Governor of Honan reports that last year he set all the able-bodied refugees to work on the embankment round the city. The repairs are now finished, but as it would be cruel to send these men about their business in the middle of the Winter, he proposes employing them in removing the sandhills which have accumulated against the North wall of the city to half the height of the wall itself. The aged, sick, and young will, as before, be taken care of in the relief establishments.

February 18th.—(1) The Governor of Kwei-chow reports the proceedings in a trial for the murder of a concubine. The accused, Shih, who kept a pawnshop, had a concubine named Wan, and a shop assistant named Ch'ên, and these two were so well acquainted that the woman did not retire when he was present. One day Shih had to attend a funeral, and left home for the day. The concubine Wan, taking a little girl aged ten with her, also left the house, under the pretext that she was going to see her relations. Instead of so doing, however, she retired with the shop assistant Ch'ên to a lonely spot in the hills, and there spent the day. They did not get home until Shih had returned, and Shih noticing that she looked uneasy, suspected that there was something wrong, and questioned her. She, however, persisted in maintaining her innocence, and refused to admit her guilt until the little girl disclosed all that had passed. It was then too late in the evening to send the shop assistant to the authorities, but Shih bound him hand and foot, and put him in charge of the watchman. During the night he managed to undo his bonds and make off while the watchman was asleep; and the concubine upon learning that her paramour was away, recanted her previous admissions, and again maintained her innocence. Getting exasperated, her master struck her, and upon her declaring that she would make away with herself, he forced some opium down her throat, from the effects of which she died next day.

The punishments meted out are:—One hundred blows to the pawn-broker and eighty blows to the watchman for his carelessness in allowing the adulterer to escape. Ch'ên, on being apprehended, will be dealt with according to law.

February 19th.—The Governor-General of Sze-chw'an suggests a plan which will enable him to put a stop to the system of giving presents of money by subordinate officials to their superiors. As is well known, he remarks, the system of making presents of money to one's superiors in office, on festivals and birthdays, has been in vogue for over two hundred years; it is not a very reputable custom, but under the circumstances there is no help for it. No allowance is made to officials for the expenses of their office, and their pay, subject as it is to many deductions, is quite insufficient to meet the many calls made upon it on public account. In some of the other provinces there exists a fund on which to draw, built up out of the surplus grain tax paid as "waste allowance," and out of the profits made in the process of commuting the grain tax for a money payment. A similar fund, however, is now being accumulated out of the profits derived from the turn of the scale in receiving payment for the Sze-chw'an Salt, and the Salt Office has signified its consent to the money so collected being used to defray the office expenses of the various authorities in the province. From the beginning of the present year, accordingly, the custom of giving presents will be strictly forbidden, and any officer, whether as donor or recipient, who ventures to disregard the injunctions now laid on the provincial authorities will be impeached.

February 20th.—A Decree. When the Magazine with large stores of ammunition was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1876, Li Hung-chang merely reported the accident without submitting a detailed list of the articles destroyed. Having now been called upon for particulars, he states that there were consumed in the fire, nine million rifle caps, 800,000 fuses, 6,400 tents, 5,500 rifles, 38 gun-carriages, and other articles, adding that he had made no detailed return because, according to regulations, no one had to be held pecuniarily responsible. Military stores should be most carefully guarded and watched. The present accident does not come within the category referred to by Li Hung-chang. The officers responsible must make good the loss, and stringent orders must be issued requiring greater vigilance in the future.

February 21st.—A Decree. The Censor Wang Ping points out that seed grain is urgently needed in the province of Shansi, and recommends that some may be purchased in Chihli, where grain is now unusually cheap. Let the Governor of Shansi send to Chihli to purchase seed grain for immediate transport to Shansi, and let

him also distribute such seed as he may now have in hand.

Let also the Governor of Shansi, the Famine Commissioner in that province, and the Governor of Anhwei inquire into the truth of the charge brought against the expectant Prefect Shao Hwai-fang, that, having been sent to Chou-chia-k'ou with Tls. 60,000 to buy grain in 1877, he went instead to his native place in Anhwei, and bought up the grain there, which he kept until the summer of 1878, when he re-sold it at a profit.

(2) The Governor-General of Sze-chw'an reports that the salt merchants in the province have undertaken at their own expense to improve the water communication between Sze-chw'an and the salt depôts in Kwei-chow and Yünnan. It will greatly facilitate navigation, and give employment to the destitute people living along the banks.

February 22nd.—A Decree. Liu K'un-yi reports the successful termination of the operations against the Annamese and border rebels. The Annamese rebel chief, Liu Te-chang-erh, having had the temerity to league himself with the Chinese rebels, and

make a raid on Ch'in Chow (欽州), the Civil and Military authorities of the district acting in concert with the Annamese troops, brought a force against him, and completely routed his rebel band, killing a large number, and destroying all their strongholds. The rising, it must be admitted, was very promptly suppressed; but at the same time there is no clue to the whereabouts of the rebel leader Liu Te-chang-erh (劉德章二), and the rebel chief Wên A-tan (溫亞單) is still at large. Let Liu K'un-yi give orders that a strict search be made, and that it be ascertained whether it be true that Liu Tê-chang-erh was killed by a cannon shot. Wên A-tan must be seized, as well as any others who may be at large, in order that the extermination may be complete.

(2) The Governor of Fuhkien requests that Chung Hung-kw'ei (鍾鴻逵), Acting Magistrate of Chang-hwa Hsien (彰化縣) in Formosa, may be stript of his rank, as a preliminary to being brought to trial. The offences with which he is charged are:—(1) that when a certain junk was wrecked and pillaged by the people on shore, he took a force to the spot and burned some villages, and imposed a fine

of \$5,000 on some others. Out of this, \$2,000 were given as compensation to the junk, and the remaining \$3,000 have not yet been paid; (2) that on discovering that gambling was going on in a certain house, he confiscated the premises and sold them; (3) that in a certain judicial case he fined the defendant \$600 for failing to obey the order of the Court; (4) that he fined a man \$400 for being behindhand with his contribution of grain to the Shansi famine; and (5) that when one of his subordinates carelessly allowed a prisoner to escape, he seized all his property and sold it, expending the money, as he said, in repairs to his official residence. Pillaging wrecks, the Governor points out, is too common in Formosa; and gambling is a vice that should be stamped out. The infliction of a fine is not the proper penalty in such cases. To be behindhand with one's contribution is not a criminal offence, and the imposition of such a heavy fine was a gross injustice. It is requested that the Acting Magistrate may be brought to trial, in order that it may be discovered whether he has been guilty of appropriating to himself the fines he has been imposing.

February 23rd.—A Decree ordering an enquiry to be made into a charge brought against Li Yuan-hwa, Financial Commissioner of Shantung, and Ma Ying-kw'ei, Prefect of Ts'ao-chow, of falsifying the accounts of the Yellow River embankment repairs.

(2) The Governor of Kwei-chow reports the sentences passed on certain men convicted of having counterfeited the official seal of the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Kwei-chow; and of having obtained money by means of forged documents. The principal offender is sentenced to death; the others to banishment.

February 24th.—(1) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports the arrival at Lan-chow Fu of Yang Ch'ang-chün 楊昌濬, Assistant Administrator of affairs in Turkestan.

(2) A memorial from the same states that Yang Ch'ang-chün has been provided with a seal bearing the words "Ex-Governor of Chehkiang, decorated by Imperial order with the button of the fourth rank, Assistant Administrator of affairs in Kansuh and Turkestan;" and it is requested that in order to avoid the delay which would be incurred were reference always to be made to Tso Tsung-t'ang at Su-chow Fu, twenty stages off, Yang Ch'ang-chün may be allowed to address the Throne directly on questions specially coming under his cognizance.—Granted by Rescript.

(3) The Governor-General of Fukkien and Chehkiang recommends Cheng Tsung-jui (鄭宗瑞), at present Magistrate of the Yung-fu district, for the post of Magistrate of the Hou-kwan district (侯官縣) in which the city of Foochow is situated.

(4) The Governor-General of the two Kwang provinces requests that memorial portals may be erected in honour of certain individuals who subscribed largely for the relief of the distress caused by the overflowing of the West and North rivers in Kwangtung.

February 25th.—(1) Chi Ko and Eu Liu report themselves on their return from Corea.

(2) The Governor-General of Szechwan states his intention of making a quarterly allowance for office expenses to the Tartar General and Lieutenant-General at Ch'eng-tu Fu out of the fund derived from surplus payment for salt by the monopolists. At present the Tartar General and Lieutenant-General have nothing but their pay, which is barely sufficient for their private wants.

February 26th.—(1) Liu Hsi-hung, late Minister in Germany, reports himself on his return to Peking. He had audience the same day.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, reports the death of Liu Tien (劉典), late Assistant Administrator of Military affairs in Turkestan, and submits a statement of his public services.

February 27th.—The Governor of Hunan applies on behalf of Yang Yü-k'o, recently appointed Brigadier-General of Kao-chow in Kwangtung, for three months' leave, in order that he may put the family graves in order.

February 28th.—(1) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang stating that he is in receipt of a report from General Chang Yao to the effect that the *Hakim* of Shayarh in Kuche, Abdulah by name, had been maltreating the people under his jurisdiction, and extorting money from the Mohamedan landowners. Further, that in the house of the said *Hakim* had been discovered 33 foreign rifles, with bullets and gunpowder. Seeing that this man Abdulah had not only been spared when Turkestan was reconquered, but had also been appointed *Hakim* of a district, it is a serious aggravation of his ingratitude that he should now harass the people under him, and harbour seditious

designs against the State. Tso Tsung-t'ang has sent instructions that he be at once decapitated, and that his accomplices be flogged to death.

March 1st.—(1) A Decree banishing Wang Hsing-ts'un, formerly Magistrate of the Jung-ho district (榮河縣) in Shansi, to the Amur for having illegally levied a fine of a thousand taels from a person in his district who had been ordered by him to subscribe a certain quantity of grain to the famine relief fund.

(2) A Decree expressing regret on receipt of the intelligence of the death of Kwei Ch'ing, Superintendent of the Granaries.

(3) A Decree making the following appointments:—Chi Ko to be Superintendent of the Granaries; Ch'ang Hsi to be Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments; Ch'i Hsin to be Junior Vice-President of the same Board; Hsi Chen to be Vice-President of the Board of Works; Ah Ch'ang-ah to be Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency.

(4) The Governor-General of the two Kwang provinces reports that the Financial Commissioner, Yang Ch'ing-lin, has been compelled to go into mourning for his mother, and requests that Ching Fu (成孚), who has recently been promoted from Judicial Commissioner of Kwangtung to Financial Commissioner in Honan, may be allowed to remain as acting Financial Commissioner in Kwangtung until a new appointment is made.

(5) The Governor-General of Fuhkien requests that P'eng Ao (彭熬) may be appointed as Magistrate of the Min district (閩縣), which is the most important district in the province, the reasons assigned being that at Nan-t'ai foreigners and Chinese are living together, and that brigandage has again become common about Shang-kan (上幹). P'eng Ao has already temporarily occupied the post, and made himself very popular in the district.

March 2nd.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Huang Yuan-shan memorialises requesting that orders may be given for a systematic restitution of the grain transport by river. The river route was originally the permanent channel for the transport of the annual subsidies in the form of grain demanded by the State from the Southern and Eastern provinces for the support of the Peking granaries. The subsequent adoption of the sea route in consequence of the Yellow River following a northerly course

was only a temporary expedient. Of late, only the tribute grain from the districts North of the Yangtze has been attempted to be conveyed by river and that in considerable quantities. Officers, high and low, have repeatedly advocated the resumption of the old system, but the expense connected with the repairs to the banks of the Yellow River and Grand Canal, and the control of their waters, rendered it difficult at the time to concentrate any efforts in this direction. The Censor's statement that the grain transport by river should be used as a means of enriching the State and advantaging the people, and that as it has not long ceased to be availed of it is not too late to resume it, cannot be said to be without perspicacity. Let the Director-General of the Yellow River, the Director-General of the Grain Transport, and the Governors-General and Governors of the provinces, through which these waters run, give their careful consideration to the proposal, and if they have any views on the subject of the resumption of grain transport by river let them report the same to Us in detail. We learn that abuses exist in connection with the annual repairs to river works in Shantung, and that grants received for this purpose are not altogether applied to the object for which they are issued. We command the high officers concerned to break through the fetters of prejudice and favouritism, and to see that work is honestly and carefully performed by the officers under their respective control.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Censor Huang Yuan-shan, pointing out abuses in connection with *lekin* collectorates, and certain judicial courts. Reform in both these branches is enjoined on provincial Governors-General and Governors.

(3) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from the Board of Revenue in answer to a decree published in the issue of the 8th January, ordering the abolition of offices for the sale of rank and titles in the capital and in the provinces, and calling for a return of the annual receipts derived from this system, with suggestions as to the manner in which funds can be raised to take the place of the revenue that will thus be lost. The Board lost no time in communicating this decree to the high authorities of the provinces in which the purchase system is in force, and they beg now humbly to observe that in the "Dynastic Institutes" it is provided that all certificates for the purchase of the degree of Senior Licentiate or Licentiate, or that of official rank actual or brevet, as well

as commutative rank or "honorary record," shall be issued by the Board of Revenue, which shall also be charged with the control of any temporary arrangements of the same nature. The "term temporary arrangements" applies to extra privileges that were allowed to be purchased when funds for military expenditure or river works were found to be insufficient, and were abolished when military operations ceased [or river works no longer required additional funds.] At the close of the year 1850, when causes for military expenditure were continually arising, and the want of funds was a constant source of anxiety, numerous expedients for raising money were adopted, such as Government notes, paper money, iron *cash*, the ten *cash*, and thousand *cash* piece, etc., all of which were sooner or later abandoned, with the exception of the ten *cash* piece and the purchase system, as they were found to give rise to numerous abuses and to be productive of national harm. The ten *cash* piece has been so long in circulation in Peking, that an abrupt change in the currency of the capital would be inexpedient. The purchase system is not without its benefits and advantages to the income and expenditure of the Board, and has also this merit that it is a willing and spontaneous contribution from wealthy graduates, who are not in any way forced into it. It is for this reason that application has not been made for its abolition. Since its adoption, however, the various provinces in which it is in force have applied, first one and then the other, for permission to reduce the tariff, with the result that the regulations in connection therewith have become both numerous and complicated. Some of the more important (among the changes introduced), as, for instance, purchase of military rank, of exemption from removal from a particular post, or immunity from inspection, and the like, have at one time or another been put a stop to at the request of the Board, but the reduction of rates has rendered the purchase of rank comparatively easy, and when once a candidate has passed through the "selection" stage and been sent out to a province, it is difficult to judge of his merits and qualifications, while the existence of different rates at various agencies renders the growth of corruption more easy. The memorialists then proceed to enter with much detail into the income derived from various branches of this system and the fluctuating value of their receipts, but the accounts rendered are so confusing that it is almost impossible to reduce these to an intelligible schedule.

Whatever the amount of income may be, they hope that the abolition of agencies for the sale of office in the provinces will bring such an increase of contributions into the legitimate channel sanctioned by the "Dynastic Institutes" that the cessation of all other forms of contribution in the capital will not affect the yearly income. Should their anticipations not be realised, they must endeavour to make good the deficit from the supplementary military grants for Peking. It will be for each provincial Government to submit its own proposals as to the manner in which the gap caused by the abolition of these agencies is to be filled. (See *Gazette* of 8th Jan.)

March 3rd.—(1) A decree ordering the immediate execution of Tuan Ting-yo, sub-Prefect of Chi-chow in Shansi, who has been tried and found guilty on a charge of dishonesty in connection with the distribution of certain relief funds entrusted to him.

(2) Li Shên 李慎 is appointed Taotai of the Yên-yü-sui circuit in Shénsi.

(3) Pao Chao, formerly Commander-in-chief in Chêkiang, reports the destruction of his dwelling house by fire and the loss of a number of valuable Imperial gifts, for which piece of carelessness he prays that he may be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. A common and inferior scholar residing in a humble cottage, a useless log, whose talents are of the meanest order, he has been enriched by the special favours of his Sacred Master, and has frequently rendered thanks for the treasures that have been bestowed upon him by the Heavenly Household. Patents of nobility rendering honor to his progenitors and his ancestry, Imperial commands through which instruction has descended on him upon numerous points, extraordinary gifts with which he has been supplied, have enriched and glorified him to a vast degree. Having retired from office on account of ill-health and returned to his home, he built a two-storied study or library in the eastern Court of his house, placing all the precious articles bestowed on him by the Imperial bounty, as well as the Imperial autographic scrolls, patents, etc., in the upper story of the building on the 19th May last. Some masons who were repairing his house let some fire fall in the grass [of the court yard] which was not perceived until it had ignited some discarded mats and the flames had spread to the wall of the house from whence volumes of smoke arose which attracted the notice [of the inmates.] By this time the workmen had left, and there were not many people in the house to

contend with the flames, which were fanned by a strong wind; but thanks to the united exertions of the civil and military authorities the neighbouring buildings were saved and the fire was confined to the library, which was entirely destroyed. More than half of the Imperial presents in the upper room were rescued from the flames, but three copies of Imperial instructions, eleven patent scrolls, and numerous memorials returning thanks for favours received, on which endorsements in "vermilion" had been made, were completely destroyed. The memorial concludes with a string of self reproaches couched in the most flowery language.—Rescript: Let him be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

March 4th.—(1) A Decree. Mei Chi-chao requests that certain officers charged with the administration of *lekin* matters may be severally cashiered or punished. Tsou Sun-shu, expectant sub-Prefect of Chêkiang, who was deputed to take charge of the Hsi-tien station in the Ning-hai district, created a serious disturbance by the fines and penalties he inflicted for evasion of duties, and for this he certainly ought to be punished. Let him therefore be cashiered forthwith. Fang Kwan-lan, expectant Magistrate, who was charged with the supervision of the Hao-ho station outside the city of Nungpo, though guilty of no excessive exactions, in that he was unable to control his subordinates, whose altercation with certain boatmen was the origin of a disturbance, failed to exercise proper scrutiny and supervision. He, too, cannot find an excuse for his culpability, and We command that he be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

(2) A decree ordering Li Hung-chang to provide a sum of Tls. 16,000 from any available source for the construction of a road and other expenses in connection with the final interment of the remains of the late Emperor and Empress.

(3) Hwang Shou-ch'ien and Pao Lien are ordered to proceed with all speed on a special mission to Shantung.

(4) A decree in answer to the representations of a Censor, enunciating afresh the existing prohibitions against the manufacture of *cash* by private individuals, and the melting down of the *cash* currency into utensils of different kinds.

March 5th.—(Court Circular). Ts'ên Yü-ying, late Governor of Yünnan, paid his respects on the expiration of his mourning.

(1) A decree in answer to a report from Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hwa, the two

high officers specially appointed to investigate a certain case in the Tung-siang district in Szechuen. They state that they have found great difficulty in eliciting correct answers from Li Yu-hêng, a commander-in-chief who has been cashiered, his attitude being blustering and tricky in the extreme. At one moment he makes admissions, and at another he denies these admissions. Authority is hereby given to these high officers to exercise the greatest severity against this ex-official, with a view to ascertaining the true facts of the case they have been called upon to investigate. They further complain of the dilatoriness and want of energy of the Tung-siang Magistrate in summoning certain witnesses they wish to examine. He is hereby committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the same officers, who had been directed to investigate an accusation of the Censor Wu-chên charging Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, with having, at the advice of a certain Taotai, removed a dyke or embankment, and thereby caused considerable damage. The facts alleged are found to be untrue, but they discover that by the substitution of a stone embankment instead of the earth works at the place in question, the bed of the river was narrowed, and the consequent pressure of the water carried away nearly half of the new embankment, which was 1,300 feet in length, so that Ting Pao-chêng's report, which stated that only 30 feet had been carried away, was very far from representing the actual extent of the damage. The decree then proceeds to censure the Governor-General in the strongest terms. Instead of giving his careful attention to the matter in the first instance, he trusts to the advice of another person, and hastily makes changes which involve a large expenditure of public money and end in a rupture of the new embankment. He then fails to report the actual state of the case, and when called upon for an explanation adheres to his statement that there had been no damage at all, and endeavours to evade the responsibility of his actions by garbled and embellished statements. He is accordingly committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. Ting Shih-shan, the Taotai at whose instigation he made the change, and the acting Magistrate of the Kwan District, the two officers who were entrusted with the work, had the handling of large sums of money in connection therewith, and the want of veracity that has been discovered lays them open to suspicions of

dishonesty and speculation which must be cleared up by the high commissioners. As a first step, they will be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a long memorial, of over forty pages, reporting the trial of a case of burglary and murder in the province of Kirin. The evidence taken is given in full, and the memorial concludes with an expression of contrition from Ch'ung Ch'i, one of the memorialists, for his failure to arrive at the truth in an earlier hearing for which he incurred the Imperial censure. (See *Gazette* of 15th February.)

March 6th.—(Court Circular.) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Ex-Governor of Yunnan, had audience.

(1) A Decree. An Siang, Supervising Censor of the Banner Corps, reports that the rice stored in the Granary known as the Nan-sin-ts'ang has mildewed and gone off, and is unfit for the consumption of the troops; while the Censor of the Public Granaries requests that We will issue orders for some action to be taken in this matter. That the rice in the Imperial Granaries should be [carefully stored] is a matter of the greatest importance, and yet it is stated by those in command of the Plain Red Banner corps, that the rice which should have been issued from that Granary to this corps for the present month has mildewed and gone off, and is unfit for the use of the men. This state of things is indeed unconstitutional, and We command Ching Lien and Ho Shou-tz'ü to go to the Nan-sin-ts'ang and find out how it was that the grain stored in the various *ngao* or *bins* should have changed colour and mildewed. They will also carefully ascertain what quantity of grain there is in store, and whether it falls short of the proper amount, in which case they will unsparingly denounce the delinquents. Let the Board of Revenue instruct the Granary officers to issue a fresh supply of rice.

(2) A votive tablet is granted for the temples to the God of War and the tutelary deity (城隍) of the city of Chang-tê, in Honan, as a token of gratitude for responses to prayers for rain.

(3) A decree cashiering a number of minor officials denounced by T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shên-si. The sub-Director of Studies, in the Lo-yang District, is a superficial busy-body who has not the characteristics of a scholar; the district police master of Ch'êng-ku does not keep a proper control over himself and has a bad reputation; the police master of Lo-yang

is a fool with an evil disposition; and the police master of Shao-kuo has a very ordinary reputation with an absence of self esteem. They are all dismissed.

(4) Li Hung-chang prays that the permission for the reduction of the salt licenses issued for the Ch'ang-lu area may be extended for a further period of five years, as a succession of unfruitful seasons has seriously interfered with the salt trade. He gives a return of the number of licenses issued and the sales effected for many years past, and states that only a fourth of the *yin* or lots for which permits were issued during the past year were disposed of. Referred to the Board of Revenue.

March 7th.—(Court Circular.) Chang Shu-shêng, Governor of Kweichow, had audience of leave.

(1) A Decree. Liu K'un-yi requests the bestowal of posthumous honors upon a Financial Commissioner now deceased, and begs that a title may be given him and his official biography be compiled by the State Historiographer's office. Yang Ch'ing-lin, late Financial Commissioner of Kwangtung, who rose from the rank of Han-lin to his late position, was a faithful servant, and his death from grief at the loss of his mother is indeed pitiable. Let him be committed to the Board for the bestowal of the posthumous honors assigned to Financial Commissioners. The substitution of another name is specially an Imperial prerogative and may not rashly be applied for by our servants. Yang Ch'ing-lin did his duty thoroughly and completely, but his merits were not of an extraordinary type. The application for the bestowal of a posthumous title upon him, and for the compilation of his official biography, is most improper. Let Liu K'un-yi be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty, as well as the Governor and Literary Chancellor of Kwangtung.

(2) Memorial from Chung Ch'i, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, on special duty in Kirin, reporting the death in prison of one of the parties in a case that he was called upon to investigate,

(3) Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang Provinces, reports that Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwangtung, is compelled to vacate his post in consequence of the death of his mother, and begs that an officer may be appointed to take his place. Pending the appointment of a successor, the Governor's seals have been entrusted to Ch'êng Fou, the Financial Commissioner, who will perform the acting duties of the post.

March 8th.—(1) A decree temporarily suspending the Censor Ying Chên from his duties, and directing him to appear at the Board of Punishments to give an explanation of certain assertions made by him that are not fully credited by the Board. A member of the Censor's household having committed an offence, he was called upon to give him up to the Board for trial, but ignored repeated demands for his surrender until at last he declared that the man was dead.

(2) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang praying that certain officers who are crippled by wounds received in action may be excused from cavalry and archery drill. Granted by Rescript.

(3) Memorial from the Commissioners of the Board of Granaries reporting the result of an investigation into certain charges of fraud brought by the Censor Lou Yü-chin against his colleague Ying-chên in connection with the supervision of the delivery of tribute rice. In order to arrive at the truth of this matter, all the drafts of reports prepared by this officer were inspected and a number of minor officials stationed at different points at which the grain was transhipped were summoned and carefully questioned. The Commissioners have now come to the conclusion that the charges of fraud are unsubstantiated, but they are of opinion that the penalties inflicted by the Censor for peculation on the part of his subordinates were very light and display a reprehensible carelessness and want of attention to his duties. With regard to the charge brought against the same officer, of recommending an undue number of officers for the bestowal of honorary reward, they are of opinion that there is no case against him, but they recommend that he be called upon to give up a member of his household, Liu Liu by name, to the Board of Punishments for trial on a charge of a similar nature, the evidence in his favour being of a one-sided nature. Finally, they consider, with reference to the statement that the Censor's son was allowed to go backwards and forwards to his father's rooms and thereby gave rise to scandal and criticism, that although the son was only obeying a natural duty in constantly going to see his father, and no distinct charges are brought against him, the Censor did not sufficiently appreciate the propriety of keeping him at a distance. (See preceding decree and *Gazette* of 5th and 14th February.)

March 9th.—(1) A decree announcing the penalty that the Board of War has determined in the case of P'ao Chao, late Com-

mander-in-chief of Chékiang, whose library was burnt and certain Imperial gifts thereby destroyed. He is to be fined six months' pay for his carelessness in this matter. The penalty of dismissal to which he is liable for retaining in his possession certain memorials containing the "vermilion endorsement," is graciously remitted in consideration of the fact that, being a soldier, he was ignorant of the proper procedure in these matters. (See *Gazette* of 3rd March.)

(2) Pao-yun, President of the Board of Civil Office, reports the penalty that this Board has adjudged to Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kweichow, for his improper request for the bestowal of posthumous honors on Hwo Chan-ling, late Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow, and the restoration of the rank of which he had been deprived. The legal penalty for such an offence is deprivation of the steps of commutative rank and removal to another post. (See *Gazette* of 27th January.)

(3) Sang Ch'un-jung, President of the Board of Punishments, makes a second appeal for leave to vacate his post on the ground of ill-health. (Granted by decree 16th February.)

(4) Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, applies for permission to retain Hu Yü-tan, judge of that province, who has been summoned to Peking for audience. The Financial Commissioner is anxious to visit his native place to repair the family tombs, and during his absence his functions will be performed by Hu Yü-tan. Rescript noted.

(5) A similar application is made by Wên-ko, Governor of Shantung, on behalf of the late General of the Têng-chow Brigade, who has not visited his native place for more than ten years.

March 10th.—(1) The following appointments are gazetted:—Readers of the Han-lin, Liao Shou-hêng 廖壽恒 and Pao Shu 寶恕; Supervising Censor of the Board of War, Chou Ho 周鶴.

(2) Memorial from the Censor of the Kwang-ung Circuit requesting that Special High Commissioners may be appointed to investigate certain charges against the Prince of Ta-erh-lan, *Dzazzak*, or chief of the Khorch'in tribe of the Inner Mongols. It appears that he was accused of levying fines of so many head of cattle from the Mongols under his jurisdiction, and of wounding some men during the course of a hunting expedition. These accusations were not substantiated, but it was found that he had borrowed money from his

subordinates, and this being a most improper proceeding on the part of an official in his position he was committed by Imperial Decree to the Mongolian Superintendency for the determination of a penalty, a step that will be regarded with satisfaction by the Mongol tribes. The memorialist has now heard that the investigations instituted by the Mongolian Superintendency in connection with this case have disclosed intrigues on the part of the Méng Chang, or Captain General, who has induced persons to give false evidence, and have proved the *Deazzak* to be a man of an extraordinarily arbitrary and violent temperament. He has treated his subordinate in a tyrannical manner on more than one occasion. During the summer hunt conducted by him, numbers of men died of thirst, while the corruption and dishonesty that he has displayed in the administration of justice and the distribution of rations to his troops, etc., etc., are so numerous as to render him an object of dread to the Banner over which he has command. The tyranny under which his subjects must labour will increase the longer he is allowed to hold the seals of office, and must eventually result in a disturbance. No one of his subordinates dares to testify to his tyranny, and if his conduct is again scrutinised by the Mongolian Superintendency and he be let off with a light penalty such as they have now determined on, he will be encouraged to continue in his evil courses. Memorialist would therefore pray that the Military Governor of Shêng-king and the Deputy Captain General of the Tribe be instructed to investigate his conduct at once and report the result of their enquires direct to his Majesty.

March 11th.—(1) The following appointments are gazetted:—Supervising Censor of the Board of Revenue, An Hsiang 安祥; Inspector of the Bordered White Banner Corps, A Kso-tun 阿克敦; Supervising Censors, Board of Revenue, Feng Erh-ch'ang 馮爾昌 and Yü Shang-hua 余上華.

(2) A decree announcing the penalties to be inflicted on Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechuen, and some of his subordinates, for mismanagement and untruthfulness in connection with certain river works. As a special act of grace, Ting Pao-ch'eng is to be degraded to a button of the third grade, and to retain his post of Governor-General of Szechuen instead of suffering the full penalty of dismissal

from his post as determined by the Board of Civil Office. The other officers are to be cashiered, as a preliminary to being placed on their trial.

(3) Memorial from Wang Ping, Censor of the Shansi Circuit. He hears from everyone coming from Shansi expressions of gratitude for the Imperial benevolence towards the people of this province in devoting large sums to their aid, causing high authorities to consider and carry out measures for their relief, and supplying them with seed corn, and oxen and horses wherewith to till their land. Unfortunately the autumn crop last year was only just got in when it was killed by frost and sleet, and a dry winter has succeeded with the result that there is very little corn in blade. The South-western portions of the province are especially badly off in this respect. *Tsa Liang* or miscellaneous cereals (such as sorghum and other kinds of millet) are particularly suited to the requirements of the soil in Shansi, and are at the same time preferred by the people for food. There is now large amount of this *Tsa Liang* in Chihli that has come from Fêng-tien, the price of which is very low, and the memorialist would suggest that the Governor of Shansi be instructed to send officers to Chihli to purchase this grain, any of the same kind that is now in the province being immediately distributed to be sown. In this case, provided that a seasonable succession of rain and sunshine occurs, an abundant harvest will be secured. The memorialist learns from the *Gazette* that a proposal from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, that the proceeds of the contribution agencies in Kiangsu and other provinces as well as subscriptions from Hong-kong and other places instituted by Ting Yih-ch'ang should be entirely diverted to Shansi at the end of the first moon, has received the Imperial sanction. He would suggest that the sums realised by this change be devoted to the measure he advocates.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(4) The same Censor prays that a judicial enquiry may be held into the conduct of an expectant Prefect, Chao Hwai-fang by name, who he hears has been behaving in a dishonest manner. He was sent to Chow-chin-k'ow with Tls. 60,000 to buy grain for Shansi, but he never went there at all, going instead to Chêng-yang-kwan in Anhwei, his native place, to buy it, and thereby causing so much delay that none of the grain had reached Shansi by the summer of last year. The memorialist further hears that he made a commercial speculation, buying the grain cheap and selling it

dear. With every respect for the zeal and impartiality of the Governor of Shansi and the Famine Commissioner, it is impossible for them to hear and see everything, and the memorialist therefore brings this matter to the notice of His Majesty in the hope that enquiry may be made into the matter.

March 12th.—(Memorial issued for publication.) Li Hung-chang reports his arrival at Tientsin and departure for the capital for the purpose of carrying out the special business of importance with which he has been entrusted.

[Note.—The Governor-General has been instructed to accompany the Empresses and Emperor to the Mausolea.]

(1) The following appointments are gazetted:—Intendant of the Ch'uan-tung Circuit, Szechuen, P'eng Ming-shih 彭名滉; Prefect of Shao-hsing, in Ché-kiang, Ngên Lun 恩綸.

(2) Wên Kw'ei, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow, is re-appointed for a further term of office.

(3) Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kweichow, gives a biographical notice of Han Chao, formerly acting Governor of that province, and begs that permission may be accorded for the erection of a temple in his honor. The deceased officer was born in Ch'ang-li Hsien in Chihli, and obtained the degree of unsalaried licentiate in the year 1843, when he entered upon an official career and was selected for service in Kweichow. He acted as sub-Prefect of several places in succession, and in 1852 and following years distinguished himself in operations against the *Miao-tzû*, or aborigines, his courage and exertions on many occasions preventing a combination of the rebel forces and thus securing the safety of the province. In 1856 he was appointed acting Prefect of Ssü-chou, in 1859 was promoted to the Intendancy of the Liang-chu Circuit, and acted as Intendant of the Kuei-tung Circuit in the following year. In 1861 he was acting Judge, and at the close of that year a button of the 2nd grade was bestowed upon him by Imperial decree, and he was made acting Governor of the province. At the time of his appointment the funds for the pay of the troops and grain for their rations had come to an end, and he found himself at the head of a famished and exhausted army with rebels surrounding him on every side. Han Chao proved himself equal to the crisis, and devoted such energy to his work that order was eventually restored. He died at his native

place, and Li Hung-chang having received the Imperial permission to erect a temple in his honor, and a posthumous title having been graciously conferred upon him, the gentry of Kweichow have joined in an application to memorialist, requesting that he will apply to His Majesty for permission to pay him a similar honor in that province.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) The Governor of Shantung forwards a return of the amount of tribute grain it is proposed to forward this year as the result of the collection of 1878. It will be remembered that 120,000 piculs of rice were ordered to be forwarded to Shansi before the end of last year, and that this order was duly carried out. The Grain Intendant now reports that exclusive of the amount that has been remitted on account of the distress, the total collection for last year was piculs 314,582.6.8.9.5. To this has to be added piculs 2,188.9.7.2.4 arrears from other places, making a grand total of piculs 316,701.6.6.1.9. After deducting from this amount the 120,000 piculs already sent to Shansi, the balance will be forwarded to T'ung-chow as soon as instructions are received from the Board as to the amount of *ping-mi* or military rations to be issued to different places.—Rescript: Noted.

March 13th.—Ts'ui Chih-tao 崔志道 is appointed Prefect of Ya-chou Fu in Szechuen.

(1) Memorial from Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, and Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwangtung. The employment of *yung*, or irregulars, in police and defence work, was a temporary expedient, and cannot be regarded as a permanent institution, such as the enlistment of regularly trained soldiers. Since the pacification of the Canton province, a number of these irregulars have been expunged from the various garrisons for land defence, but there are still over nine thousand of them remaining, and although attempts have been made to supply police and other vessels with regularly trained soldiers from the land battalions, the scattered nature of these forces has rendered it impossible to get the men together for proper drill, and no regular system [of training and supply] has been adopted. The memorialist Liu K'un-yi, in his memorial setting forth the proposals of the late Governor-General, Ying Han, with regard to the various requirements of the province of Kwangtung, has already explained his intention of consolidating the land forces of the provinces and exercising them in battalion drill, and the manner in

which he proposed to substitute properly drilled soldiers for the irregular naval brigade; and in accordance with the plan therein detailed, orders were given to the Commanders of the various territorial regiments and naval brigades at Canton, Ch'ao-chow, and elsewhere, to organise their men into *ying*, or battalions, of 500 strong, and institute a certain system under which these should be controlled, a time being appointed for the adoption of the [new order of] exercise. In the case of the naval brigades, however, uniformity has not been hitherto secured, in some instances vessels being entirely manned by regulars, in others wholly by irregulars, or, again, by a mixture of the two. In a province containing so large a coast line as Kwangtung, a concise and systematic organisation of the naval forces is a matter of special importance. Orders were given for the consideration of a plan under which the control of all vessels, whether cruisers or police boats, might be vested in the several garrisons or military divisions, within whose jurisdiction they were placed. Certain vessels stationed at a distance in the shallower waters of the East, North and West rivers were to be exempted for the present from the contemplated reforms, the consideration of special arrangements to meet their case being left to a future date, but all sea-going vessels, and those in inner waters other than the ones enumerated above, were to be supplied with proper crews from the several shore battalions. In the case of it being found impossible to obtain regular soldiers fitted for duty afloat, the *ying*, or irregulars, already employed on such vessels were to be enrolled as regulars and the strength of the garrison reduced by the number thus admitted. As regards steamers, their adoption being of comparatively recent date and the wages paid being higher than those given to ordinary seamen, the duties are very different. With so extensive a seaboard to protect, steamers are indispensable, and being daily on the increase, there is a proportionate increase in the number of men required to man them. As in former times no steamers were employed, a knowledge of the special duties required by their crews can hardly be demanded from everyone, but with a fleet now numbering over twenty crafts, a knowledge of these duties may eventually be secured by constantly changing the men and training them to the work. With the exception of the foreigners employed, who need not be taken into consideration, the crews of these steamers have accordingly

now been transferred to the regular naval brigade, where they will have facilities for drill and exercise. Men from the naval brigades of the Viceroy and Commander-in-chief, as well as from the garrisons at Shuntek, Lung-men, Hoibow, etc., etc., will be drafted for duty on board these steamers and native craft, by which means over 2,300 irregulars will be got rid of and 2,300 regular sailors secured. The pay of an ordinary soldier varies from Tls. 1.8 to Tls. 1.5 a month. To each sea going vessel an allowance of Tls. 12 per mensem is made for rations, and each *shui yung* or irregular sailor gets Tls. 5 for pay, Tls. 4.8 being the ration allowance for vessels employed in the inner waters, and Tls. 4.8 per head per mensem the wages paid. Thus it will be seen that there is a great difference between the amount of wages paid to a regular soldier and an irregular sailor, the wages paid to seamen on board steamers being still greater. By the transformation therefore of irregulars into regulars (or soldiers into sailors) a saving of over Tls. 40,000 will be effected, the army will be put to a real use, and no wasteful expenditure incurred under the heading of pay to troops. This, it seems to memorialists, will be a measure attended with advantage alike to the standing military force, to maritime defence, and the police system generally.—Rescript: Noted.

March 14th.—(Court Circular.) The Imperial Clan Court, Board of Civil Office, and Board of War submit the names of officers who have been selected to perform ceremonial duties at the Mausolea on the occasion of the approaching obsequies.

(1) A decree sentencing Liu Ch'un-ts'ao, a first Captain of the Ning-hsai Brigade in Kansu, to dismissal and perpetual exclusion from employment in an official capacity. He has been denounced by the Governor-General Tso Tsong-t'ang for extortion and unauthorised infliction of penalties upon Chinese subjects.

(2) Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kweichow, reports having handed over his seals of office to his temporary successor, and his departure for the capital to present himself at Court.

(3) In another memorial he reports that Wu Te-pu, the provincial judge, has taken charge of the seals of Liu Chao-yuan, Financial Commissioner, who acts temporarily as Governor of the province. Tséng Ch'iféng, Intendant of the Kuei-hsi Circuit, is recommended as the judge's *locum tenens*. The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied by memorials from the same officers, reporting a number of changes

in the provincial staff and other matters of official routine.

March 15th.—(1) A Decree. Lin Chao-yuan reports that it is impossible to raise funds for the expenditure of the Kweichow province, and begs that the cessation of the sale of office may for the moment be left in abeyance. The Board of Revenue has already in obedience to Imperial decree replied on the subject of the purchase system in the various provinces, and We have issued orders for the general cessation of the present means of raising funds for military expenditure. Lin Chao-yuan's request that the question of the abolition of the purchase system in Kweichow may for the time be left in abeyance need not therefore be considered. As regards his assertion as to the multifarious nature of the expenditure of the Kweichow province, and his statement that the income does not come up to the expenditure, there is no doubt that it is a true account of the state of things. Let the Board of Revenue immediately ascertain the actual amounts due from various provinces as grants in aid of military expenditure to the province in question, and urge the Governors-General and Governors concerned to use their utmost endeavours to secure a never-failing supply of the aid required, that no delay may occur in meeting so pressing a need. Upon the arrival of Chang Shu-sheng at his post, he will thoroughly consider the whole question, and ascertain in what manner he can reduce the force maintained for the defence of the province. He will study economy in every branch of expenditure, and ascertain the actual amount that is annually required, together with the exact income that the province enjoys each year, as well as the annual sum that is really obtained by the sale of office, and report to Us in detail. The Board of Revenue will then declare by what items the income derived from the purchase system can be replaced, and will at once proceed to its abolition in the province in question as commanded in Our earlier decree.—Let there be no delay in this matter.

(2) Lin Chao-yuan, Acting-Governor of Kweichow, reports his assumption of the duties of that post.

March 16th.—(1) Memorial from Yen Ching-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, denouncing a Prefect for dilatoriness in forwarding relief grain, with the purchase of which he was entrusted, and praying that a penalty may be inflicted on himself for his responsibility in the matter. On his arrival at Tai-yuan Fu, the capital of Shansi, in the end of 1877, he consulted

with the Governor as to the measures to be adopted for the administration of relief, but the trouble was that they had no funds and no men. Memorialist then recommended the late Chang Shu-tau, formerly Taotai in Kansu, as Chief Superintendent of relief operations, and as the Governor was also acquainted with him, a memorial was addressed to His Majesty praying that this officer might be transferred to Shansi. Memorialist was then to leave the capital for the South of the province, and having heard that Chang Shu-tau was still in Peking and could not arrive at once in view of the urgent need of supplies in the South of the province and the dearth of competent high officials to superintend their transmission, he wrote from Hsü-kow, on his journey southwards, to Tsêng Kuo-ch'uan to send the expectant Prefect Chao Hwai-fang at once to Chêng-yang-kwan to purchase grain, this officer being selected because he was a native of that part and would therefore be well acquainted with the conditions and facilities of the place, and because he had the reputation of being a quiet and intelligent man with no faults. On his arrival at Chêng-yang the weather was so snowy and wet that the grain market was not open, and it was only at the end of March, 1878, that he was able to send men out to buy grain. In a month's time he had bought piculs 18,000 odd, and as he had not enough funds to pay for its transport, memorialist ordered him to sell a portion of it to raise the necessary amount, which left a balance of piculs 13,760, which he was directed to send by water with all possible despatch to the Chow-chia-k'ow transport office. He kept on sending reports of the impossibilities of finding boats, and was repeatedly urged in reply to find some means of getting it down at once. So dilatory was he, however, that it was five months before he got the whole of it off, and it did not arrive at Wu-yang Hsien, in Honan, until seven months had elapsed. In spite of his plea that the water was so shallow that large boats could not ply, and other excuses of a like nature, the fact that he was unable to devise any plan, and could not manage a way out of the difficulty, lays him open to censure which he cannot evade, and the memorialist therefore prays that his peacock's feather may be taken from him, and that he be reduced to the rank of sub-Prefect, that he may learn to be less dilatory in future. As this officer was nominated by memorialist in his letter to the Governor, he has shown a want of attention and an incapacity for leadership for which he begs that he may

be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

March 17th.—(1) A Decree. On the 17th April next, the occasion of the consignment of the remains of their late Majesties the Emperor and Empress to their everlasting place of rest, We have been honored with instructions from their Majesties the Empresses Dowager reverently to set forth in our chariot on our Imperial progress to the Mausolea among the mountains. In the clearing of the road along which we must pass, the cleansing of it from dust, and the preparation of equipages of various kinds, it is impossible to dispense with the labour of our subjects. But as there is cause to apprehend that the Department and District Magistrates on whom this task will devolve may indulge in exactions in excess of their authority and make public privileges subservient to their private ends, and so occasion disturbance and annoyance, We hereby command the Governor of the Shun-t'ien Prefecture and the Governor-General of Chihli strictly to enjoin upon the Department and District Magistrates entrusted with this work, as well as all officers officially engaged therein, the positive necessity of purifying themselves from personal corruption and carrying out the public duty with which they have been honored [in an upright and honest manner.] Should they find anyone making his official duties a pretext for extortion to the injury of the rural population, they will at once indicate him by name and unsparingly denounce him. It is difficult absolutely to secure that the eunuchs, who accompany the cortège, and the body guard and official underlings who are to accompany our equipage, will not take advantage of their position to commit unlicensed acts, and create trouble along the line of route, so that it becomes a still more necessary duty to keep a strict watch over these people and prevent any misdoings on their part. Let the officers of the Imperial Household, the Imperial Equipage Department, and the Heads of other Departments caution the chief of the eunuchs (首領), the guard, and others, against presuming on the strength of numbers to create disturbance. Any one who shall be discovered taking forcible possession of the property of the people shall be punished in the manner laid down by law in the case of theft or robbery.

No other documents of importance.

March 18th.—(1) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Li Hung-chang

reporting that Wen-an-chow and other departments and districts in Chihli are suffering from the effects of flood, and requesting that tribute grain may be stopped *en route* to the capital and appropriated to their relief. The heavy rains of last autumn caused a rise in the river watering the districts in question, which overflowed the country. The water thus accumulated has not subsided, and the distressed condition of those who are in consequence unable to till their fields is most pitiable. As an act of special grace the Governor-General's prayer is granted, and he is authorised to appropriate piculs 40,000 of tribute rice from the Kiangsu and Chékiang tribute rice respectively, and apply it to the relief of those in need of help.

(2) A decree appointing Hsing Lien 興廉 to the post of Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) A Decree. Chang P'ei-lun, Sub-Expositor of the Han-lin, states that Li Chung-ming, *alias* Li Ch'un-shan, a native of Shansi, who has opened a book shop in the Liu-li-ch'ang in Peking, under the style "Pao-ming-chai," has presumed upon his position to arrogate certain rights and privileges to himself, has interfered in official matters, and has incited the official class to acts subversive of morality. He prays therefore that this individual may be expelled from Peking. If Li Chung-ming, a man holding the position of a tradesman, should have dared to carry his disregard of his duty and position to such an extent as this, he must certainly be proceeded against with the utmost vigour. With regard to the Sub-Expositor's statement that the tradesman in question falsely represented himself to be a kinsman of Ho Shou-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works, and gave himself airs, coming into collision with various persons and defrauding them [when he could], let Ho Shou-tz'ü clearly explain to Us whether there is any relationship between himself and Li Chung-ming. He is further charged with keeping up an acquaintance with metropolitan and provincial officials and undertaking to pass their accounts at the Board of Revenue; with arranging to secure selections to certain provinces and appointments to different posts; with procuring official employment for metropolitan officials; with being the medium of private correspondence between provincial officials and high officers in the capital; with wearing a hat and robes of the fifth grade of official rank; with inserting himself amongst the officials on duty

on the occasion of presentations at Court or inspections by the Ministers of State, and obtaining the entry into the Ching-yün gate of the palace. We command the Court of Censors to summon the tradesman in question and examine him upon all these charges, reporting to Us the result of their investigation. The decree concludes with a warning to all high officials to keep aloof from their inferiors in social position, and neither to associate with them nor accept presents from them.

(4) Memorial from Yén Ching-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, requesting that the Imperial bounty may be extended to certain military officers in Honan who did good service in the escorting of grain through that province into Shansi. He further prays that the Governor of Honan may be directed to send back the irregulars employed in this work to their respective battalions. In the year 1877, when the famine was at its height, the provinces which surround Shansi on three sides were suffering from the same calamity, and instances of pillage and robbery were of such constant occurrence that merchants were deterred from importing grain, so that those who had money complained that there was no food to buy and the poor were in a still worse plight. Impressed with the danger that this crisis presented, memorialist, after consultation with the Governor, came to the conclusion that the neighbourhood of Chow-chia-'kou, in Honan, was the only place at which grain could be procured at a comparatively low rate. He accordingly requested His Majesty to send officers to this district and to Chêng-yang-kwan in Anhwei to purchase grain and to clear the roads, which in the Honan, Shên-chow, and other prefectures were impassable, while those to the east of the river were mere narrow tracks. The Governor of Honan was then commanded to station troops along the roads to keep them clear and maintain order. This was done by the present and the former Governor in the most efficient manner, but as the expense of conveying grain from so large a distance was greater than the resources at memorialist's command would bear, private enterprise was encouraged and merchants were provided with passes calling on the soldiers along the line of route to afford them escort and protection. When it was found that the roads were safe, a brisk competition ensued and Government and private enterprise were carried on side by side, resulting in a reduction of prices in spite of the high cost of transport. After describing the measures adopted for

the establishment of agencies for the sale of grain at reduced rates in different places, the memorialist states that about 60,000 piculs of grain were purchased in Honan and Anhwei, all of which would have arrived last autumn had it not been for the impossibility almost of procuring carriers during the spring and summer months. This was followed by so bad a condition of the roads in consequence of heavy rain, that it was not until nearly the end of the year that all had reached its destination. The memorial concludes with expressions of the highest approval of the arrangements made for securing protection for the grain *en route*, and the manner in which these were carried out.

March 19th.—(1) Hsi Chên, Assistant Imperial Resident in Thibet, is permitted to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(2) Ch'üan Fu, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Foochow, is permitted to retire, for a similar reason.

(3) The high authorities of Canton are instructed to select a competent official from among the Prefects of Kwantung to fill the post of Prefect of Ch'ao-chow Fu.

(4) The Court of Sacrificial Worship reminds His Majesty that the 1st of April is the date for offering sacrifice at the Temple of Agriculture. Tsai Tun is directed to perform the ceremony.

(5) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from the Famine Commissioner and Governor of Shansi reporting at great length the result of the trial of the sub-Prefect of Chi-chow, who has been found guilty of fraud in connection with the distribution of relief.

March 20th.—A Decree. Ho Show-tz'ü reports to us on a certain matter in obedience to command. He states that there is no relationship properly so-called between himself and the tradesman Li Chung-ming, nor any intercourse between them. He begs that the Court of Censors may be directed to ascertain whether it be true or not that this person has given himself airs and come into collision with various persons. Let the Court in question, in reverent obedience to Our earlier decree, summon Li Chung-ming and question him carefully, reporting to Us a true statement of the case.—(See *Gazette* of 18th March.)

(2) T'ung Sê-leng 統色楞, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Ch'eng-tu Fu, is given brevet rank of that grade and appointed Assistant Imperial Resident in Thibet.

(3) To Lun-pu 多綸布, Colonel of a Manchu Banner at Si-an Fu, is appointed Deputy Lieutenant-General at Foochow.

(4) Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, submits the name of Lai Ch'ang-ch'i, expectant sub-Prefect and Magistrate of the Fêng-t'ai district, for appointment to the post of sub-Prefect of P'ing-ting, now vacant. He is not one of the expectants who would ordinarily be selected for this appointment, but none of this class on the Shansi list are suited for the duties of so responsible a post. P'ing-ting being the first stage on the eastern road into Shansi, is a place of great importance, and requires a capable official to conduct the multifarious business that has to be transacted there. The usual account of the candidate's official antecedents and career is given.—Referred to the Board.

March 21st.—(1) A decree acknowledging the report of Ngên Ch'eng and T'ung Hwa, two high officers sent to investigate certain charges brought against Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Szech'wan, and some of his subordinates by the Supervising Censor Wu Chên. The Governor-General was accused of establishing an arsenal without sufficient experience of the machinery required, of appropriating public funds to his own use, and of screening others who were guilty of a similar misdemeanour. The Commissioners find that the charges made were either unsupported by proofs or that the acts complained of were justified by circumstances, but that the cost of the arsenal was heavy and the work turned out was faulty in construction and not durable. The Governor-General is accordingly directed to abandon the undertaking in order to avoid a useless expenditure of money. Lao Wên-show, a Taotai in charge of the military expenditure department, has denied that he sent money to the Governor-General's Yamén, but in order to ascertain whether or no he has been guilty of misrepresentation, he is to be relieved of his duties and his books for some years past are to be carefully scrutinised by the Financial Commissioner and Judge. A *wei-yuan*, against whom a charge of embezzlement was brought, has been found to be innocent, but is to be withdrawn from his present duties on account of his having formed undesirable acquaintances which have given rise to the circulation of stories damaging to his official reputation. Certain other minor officials are to be deprived of office and their conduct investigated by the high authorities of the province.

(2) Wei Ch'ing 維慶 is transferred from the post of Deputy-Lieutenant General of the Bordered Yellow *Han-chün* Corps to that of Deputy Lieutenant-General of Ch'eng-tu. He is to be succeeded by Wên Chêng 文徵.

(3) A decree ordering a fresh series of charges against Li Chung-ming, *alias* Li Chung-shan, *alias* Li Ping-hsiün, the Peking bookseller referred to in Decrees of 18th and 20th March, to be investigated by the Court of Censors. It is now stated by a Censor that both his house and shop encroach on Government land, and that he has appropriated a public refuge for the poor and converted it into a private house.

(4) Memorial from the Censor Hwang Yuan-shan. He hailed with pleasure the appearance of the Imperial Decree on the abolition of the purchase system, and the subsequent announcement of its cessation by the Board of Revenue. The measure is one that cannot fail to be appreciated by all members of the official class who have the slightest acquaintance with administrative economy. The evils of the purchase system were universally recognised, but no one dared to give expression to his opinion on this matter at a time when the financial condition of the Empire was in such an unsatisfactory state. It was left to Their Majesties the Emperresses and Emperor to take the decided step of abandoning the system abruptly and for ever, thereby commanding respectful admiration for Their energetic appreciation of lofty aims. While every effort will doubtless be made by high provincial authorities to give due effect to Their Majesties' will, there is much cause to fear that the pressure of immediate necessities, restricting their views to present needs and causing them to lose sight of future advantages, will lead to the conclusion that sale of office must once more be renewed. The object of this memorial is to suggest means whereby such a contingency may be avoided, and after anxious consideration of the subject the Censor conceives that what is needed to this end is the reduction of channels of expenditure rather than the devising of fresh sources of income. He then proceeds to demonstrate in what directions this reduction can be effected. He would do away with all *Chü* (局), or special offices or departments, the growth of recent years. Such are the *Fa-shen-chü*, or supplementary judicial courts, defence committees, subordinate military departments, &c., which are supported by

Chüan-chü, or contribution agencies, "re-organisation" departments (善後) supported by *lekin* collectorates, *Shu-chü*, or public institutions for the sale of standard works at a reduced price, and a host of others too numerous to mention. Each *Chü* that is established involves an increase of expenditure and necessitates the employment of officials the multiplication of salaries for their support. These men consider only the fact that the expenditure of their respective offices is supplied by the offices themselves, and forget that each item is a drop that is drained from the public purse. Military operations are now at an end, and yet the offices that military needs created continue to exist, and in the humble opinion of memorialist it would be better to abolish a number of these and so save the expenditure they cause than retain them and the plethora of officials they entail. He suggests therefore that with the exception of extra judicial courts, all other *Chü* be abolished or reduced, and concentration be thereby effected. Finally, he attacks the *lekin* system and its abuses. The returns from the collectorates are less by several millions of taels than they used to be, and it is vain to try and account for the fact by the increase of *Yang-shui*, or duties on goods from abroad. In former days when there was more liberality in the system of collection, the returns were larger than at the present time with all its increase of restrictions and watchfulness. All the fines and confiscations do not bring receipts up to their old standard. Under the old régime of Hu Lin-yi, there was a greater respect for authority, a higher standard of official probity, and so efficient a detective system that every item collected went into the Exchequer. As time went on, half the men employed wormed their way into office and looked upon their duties only in the light of private gain, with the result that the meshes of the law grew smaller and smaller, while oppression and exaction gradually increased until the trading class generally have come to look upon [a tax station] with as much dread as they would regard a tiger. Carelessness and recklessness of expenditure have gone on and fines are appropriated to private use, until the sums over and above legitimate salary with which the agents are enriched have become too great for computation. Unless, therefore, a thorough readjustment of the whole system be not speedily contemplated, the evil wrought will be positively indescribable.

March 22nd.—(1) A decree ordering the bestowal of honorary rewards upon the acting Magistrate of the Kuo-mén district in Anhwei, who, with the assistance of the local military authority, succeeded in capturing the leaders of a gang of banditti who had leagued themselves into a sworn brotherhood.

(2) A decree inflicting the penalty of deprivation of two steps of comutative rank upon Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, and ordering that a fine of one year's salary be inflicted on the Governor and Literary Chancellor of Kwangtung.

(3) The *Bei-léh* Yi Kw'ang is permitted to go into mourning for his father for a hundred days. He has held the office of Grand Chamberlain for many years and has performed his duties carefully and diligently. The Brevet rank of Deputy General of which he was deprived is therefore now restored to him as an act of special grace.

(4) Shih Tséng 帥曾 is appointed sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat.

(5) Memorial from the Censor Hwang Yuan-shan on the restoration of grain transport by sea, which has already been summarised in a decree of the 2nd March.

March 23rd.—(1) A decree directing the suspension of a votive tablet in the temple of Chin Lung Ssü Ja Wang, or the fourth of the deities that watch over the Yellow River, at the crossing by which access is gained to Shansi from the south, as a token of gratitude for the protection vouchsafed by the River God to grain for the sufferers by famine during the transit across the Yellow River.

(2) Li Hung-mo 李宏謨 is appointed Secretary of the Office of Transmission, and Chang Chih-tung 長之洞 is appointed to the post of Tutor of the Imperial Academy of Learning.

(3) Application from the Governor of the Hu-kwang provinces for permission for Lei Yi-ch'eng, Acting Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, a native of the Hsien-ning District, to attend a second time at the banquet given to successful candidates at the triennial examinations. He is now 84 years of age, and obtained the decree of *Chü-jén* in the year 1821.

(4) The Court of Censors report the receipt of the following appeal:—Petitioner's uncle, a native of the Nan-chang district in Hupeh, who was a literary graduate and a schoolmaster, was robbed of some clothes during his absence from

home, by a man called Chang. A charge of theft having been made against the latter, he was arrested, but some disreputable relatives protected him and rescued him from his captors, and then dragged petitioner's uncle from his house, and so beat and ill-treated him that he died in a temple to which they had taken him. The priest of the temple was induced to report the death to the Magistrate, and he, bribed by the murderers, held a hurried inquest at which none of the relatives of deceased were present, and decided that suicide by strangulation was the cause of death, fear of the consequences of an offence he had committed being decided as the motive that tempted him to the act. This verdict was given in open disregard of two livid streaks or bruises round the throat, which proved that death could not have been self-inflicted.

March 24th.—(1) A decree ordering a series of prayers to be offered for rain at the various State temples on the 26th inst., in which His Majesty will take a part.

(2) A decree directing the attention of the Board of Civil Office to a memorial from the Censor Ko Ching on the necessity of care in the selection and examination of candidates for official posts.

(3) A decree referring to a memorial from the Censor Hwang Yuan-shan on the extravagance and waste entailed by the multiplicity of *chü* or supplementary establishments for the conduct of public business, and to the decree ordering a reduction in the number of these establishments. The Censor Ko Ching now memorialises on the same subject, and adds that another evil of the system consists in the wholesale nature of the recommendations of the services of the officials employed in these *chü*. Governors-General and Governors are hereby called upon to give speedy effect to the instructions earlier issued, and to refrain from undue or unauthorised recommendation of the services of officers employed in the supplementary office in question.

(4) A decree ordering a votive tablet to be prepared by the Imperial College of Inscriptions for the Dragon God at Fêng-chên T'ing in Shansi, who has manifested his divine interposition in answer to prayers for rain.

(5) Memorial from T'ung Hua and Ngên-Chêng, the high officers appointed to investigate certain charges against Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, and his subordinates in connection with an arsenal established by the former, and other matters. Being unable to take action upon the evidence placed before them by

the Governor-General, and the statements of Li Yu-hêng and others implicated being so evasive and contradictory that nothing short of extreme measures will suffice, which memorialists are loth to take in the case of such high officials without special authority and sanction, they beg that this may be given them. They have further to make a complaint against the Magistrate of the Tung-hsiang district, who although specially called upon more than three months ago to produce certain witnesses whose testimony was most important, has, so far, neglected to do so. His careless disregard of instructions has prevented the termination of the enquiry, and they beg that he may now be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

March 25th.—(Memorials issued for publication.) Heng Hsün and others report that the Nepalese Envoy begs that he may be allowed, as heretofore, to enter the capital and have audience of His Majesty—Rescript: It is noted. Let the Nepalese Envoy and those with him be permitted to enter the capital in accordance with law, and let letters be sent before them along the route in order that due care may be taken of them. Let the regulations be referred to determine the propriety or otherwise of the acceptance by the Military Governor of the presents that have been sent him.

(1) A decree ordering the Magistrate of the Yung-chi district in Shansi to be cashiered and placed on his trial on a charge of collecting land tax in excess of the proper amount, and sending in returns for less than he should have collected.

(2) Yung Hwui 榮惠 is appointed Reader of the Grand Secretariat and Fu K'un 福銀 and Ying Hsü 英煦 Deputy Supervisors of Instruction.

(3) At the request of the Censor for the central division of the metropolis, the fifteen kitchens for the issue of cooked rice and others at which gruel is dispensed are to be kept open for a further period.

(4) Wu Tsan-ch'eng, Director of the Foochow Arsenal, requests a month's leave for the benefit of his health. Memorialist crossed over to Formosa twice last year and visited in person several places in the hills at the back of the island that had hitherto been unvisited by man, where he contracted a malarious complaint from the pestilential air from the mists that hung over the country, which recurred at intervals. Feeling his constitution to be robust, memorialist neglected to pay much attention to this complaint and returned to

the provincial capital at the end of the year, where he took counsel with the Governor-General as to the conduct of official business. He then went to the house of Ting Jih-ch'ang, the former Governor, and had just commenced to talk with him, but had not said many words when his left hand suddenly grew numb and his whole body gradually commenced to shake, while the numbness spread to the left foot. Ting Jih-ch'ang, noticing that memorialist could not support himself on the stool upon which he was seated, and seemed half asleep, and that though conscious could not express his thoughts in words, administered some medicine to him, and though the attacks of fever daily returned they gradually became less violent. Memorialist continued unable, however, to attend to public matters, and his left hand remained paralysed without power of motion. Ting Jih-ch'ang being an invalid himself, comparative facilities were afforded for medical attention, and the Governor-General and Governor, who constantly came to see memorialist, were of opinion that it would be impossible for him to move after such a grave and sudden attack, and that he should not exert his mind. They therefore as a preliminary step deputed the Proctor Wu Chung-yü to perform memorialist's duties for him. The medical attendant now states that memorialist is suffering from severe malarious catarrh which will necessitate absolute rest and nursing, and under these circumstances he prays that His Majesty will grant him a month's congé.—Granted by Rescript.

(6) Memorial from the special Commissioners Ngên Ch'êng and Tung Hwa reporting the result of their enquiry into the circumstances of certain alterations in a river embankment authorised by the Governor-General of Szechuen, and the flood that resulted therefrom. Their report has been summarised in an earlier decree.

March 26th.—(1) A Decree. Huang T'i-fang, Reader of the Han-lin, states that in his memorial replying to questions asked a high officer has been guilty of deceit and imposition. He states that although Ho Shou-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works, is in no way connected with Li Chung-ming; both his present and former wives have been recognised by the President as his adopted daughters. The intercourse between the families is like that of relations, and the chair of Ho Shou-tz'ü is constantly deposited in front of the tradesman's door, and may be seen by all, as the place is a wide thoroughfare. It is manifest therefore that in his earlier memorial the President

was guilty of deceit and duplicity. It cannot be suffered that Ho Shou-tz'ü, who holds the position of a high officer, should be guilty of the slightest reservation or concealment and thus intensify his fault. Let the President report to Us truly upon the matter now brought forward by Hwang T'i-fang without making false or embellished statements to the extent of a single character. If he endeavours to support his earlier statements by the slightest deception or fraud, he will be shown no mercy if detected in so doing. Let the Court of Censors take this matter into consideration with the antecedent details, and try Li Chung-ming in concert with the Board of Punishments.

(2) Kuo Shih-ch'ang, newly-appointed Literary Chancellor of the Shun-t'ien prefecture, reports the assumption of his official duties.

(3) Postscript memorial from T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shên-si, reporting that he has received through the Literary Chancellor a numerous signed petition from the gentry and people of Hsing-ping and other departments and districts, praying that marks of Imperial compassion may be bestowed on thirty people, men and women, who lost their lives during the rebellion either in defence of their homes or in consequence of their indignant refusal to follow the rebels.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript memorial from the same officer. Some time since a gang of lawless persons headed by one Li Ch'ang-ho, established themselves in a *yao* or cave cut out in the *Loess* cliffs, near Chou-chia-k'ou, and commenced a trade in women and girls. As soon as the fact came to the knowledge of the Governor, he caused them to be arrested, and Li Ch'ang-ho was summarily decapitated, the rest being reserved for further examination. The Prefect of K'ai-fêng Fu now reports that he has ascertained that these men all hold official rank, and begs that their buttons may be taken from them preparatory to placing them on their trial.—Rescript: Let Wang Fu-ch'ing and the rest be at once cashiered and proceeded against with the utmost severity.

March 27th.—(Court Circular.) The Grand Secretary Li, Governor-General of Chihli, paid his respects on arrival in Peking and was received in audience.

(1) Memorial from Tsai Ling, Captain-General of the Plain Red Banner Corps, Grand Secretary, *Kung*, or noble of the first order, and Imperial Clansman, complaining of the quality of the rice served out to his corps at the last issue. Memorialist went to the Nan-hsin Granary on

the 28th February with the Secretary of the Corps and other members of his staff, where he met the Superintendent of the Granary, the Censor whose duty it is to superintend the issue of grain to the soldiery, and other officers. The bin from which the rice was to be drawn was selected by lot, and it was found that the rice was so mildewed and changed in colour that it was unfit for the use of the troops. The Superintendent was then directed to inspect the other bins and the contents were found to be all so rotten that they were neither fit for issue nor consumption. A specimen was sent for His Majesty's inspection.

(2-3) Memorials to the same effect from the supervising Censor and Censor above-mentioned. (For decree on this subject see *Gazette* of 6th March.)

(4) Postscript memorial from the Governor of Honan reporting the arrival of T'ê Ch'ing-yeh, newly-appointed Provincial Judge. As this officer has already had some experience of official procedure in Honan, the Governor now feels at liberty to release Yü Kw'an, the Financial Commissioner, who has been appointed Governor of Fuhkien but was retained at memorialist's request for duty in Honan. The Judge will act in his stead.

(5) Postscript memorial from Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Honan. Some time since the memorialist reported that he had deputed Liang Kung-ch'ên, Expectant Taotai, to investigate the circumstances of the destruction of the *lekin* stations at Hao-ho and Ning-hai Hsien, and on the 15th November last his memorial was returned to him with the following endorsement:—"We have read the report. The collection of *lekin* contributions has now been in force some time. How comes it that there has been a sudden application for the abolition of *lekin* at Fêng-hua and Ning-hai, and the assemblage of a mob for the destruction of the barriers? We cannot be sure that there were not other circumstances that gave rise to the outbreak," etc., etc. Instructions were thereupon given for the respectful execution of the instructions therein conveyed, and a joint report has now been received from the Prefect and sub-Prefect of Tai-chow, stating that two men, Wu Fêng-shia and Hung Tso-ma-chui, the prime movers in the destruction and plunder of the Hsi-t'ien collectorate at Ningpo, had been apprehended. Upon examination they confessed that it was they who issued written notices calling the people together, and that they had been instrumental in the burning and plundering of the *lekin* barriers. In reply to this report the memorialist has given

orders for the summary execution of the two criminals in question and the exposure of their heads at the scene of the crime. He has also given instructions for the capture of the criminals that are still at large. With regard to the destruction of the Hao-ho station by the Fêng-hua people, the Prefect of Ningpo states that Wu Hsiao-ho-shang and three other criminals who were arrested for being concerned in this matter, state that they were the first to beat gongs and get the mob together, but had nothing to do with the distribution of the plunder; and that they and one Wu Tsao-fu who helped the others to stop the boats had surrendered themselves at the Fêng-hua Magistracy and applied to be "cangued" and beaten as the leaders of the riot. Inasmuch as if these men were the actual leaders of the riot, their offence was a most serious one, and inadequately punished by the imposition of the cangue and a beating, though solicited by themselves, and judging from the depositions forwarded that they were poor and ignorant persons whose ordinary occupation was poleing of boats and whose antecedent history contained nothing to show that they had been guilty of lawless acts, memorialist considered that there was probably some one else behind and that the fact of their having been the actual ring-leaders was not proved. He accordingly instructed the Prefect to make further enquiries in a quiet and secret manner, and have these men before him for further examination. He was directed to inflict the punishment of the cangue or any other penalty that might be necessary on the runners and search officers attached to the stations in question. The barriers at Hao-ho and Hsi-tien were to be reconstructed, and *lekin* again levied in accordance with the regulations. The people are now peacefully disposed and quiet is restored. The *wei-yuan* at the Hsi-tien barrier has been in charge for more than half a year, and must be to blame for having caused a grave disturbance by the levy of fines for evasion of duties. The *wei-yuan* at the other station had only been there a month, and there were no charges against him of unauthorised or oppressive exactions, but he has shown a want of supervision in his inability to keep his runners and searchers under proper restraint and control. The memorialist would therefore suggest that the first of these two individuals be cashiered, and that the other be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. (See *Gazette* of 4th March.)

March 28th.—(Court Circular.) The Grand Secretary Li had audience.

(1) A decree appointing the Prince of Tun, the President and Assistant Grand Secretary Ch'üan Ch'ing, the President Tung Hsün, and Captain General of Gendarmerie Jung Lu, as a Committee of Administration during the absence of the Emperor at the Mausolea. The Prince of Tun, Ch'üan Ch'ing, and Tung Hsün are to take it in turns to sleep in the palace, one each day, the two who are not on night duty being allowed to leave at 4 p.m. (申刻), Jung Lu need not take turns at sleeping in the palace after his work is done. He will be allowed to leave at noon, before his colleagues.

(2) A Decree. Ho Show-tz'ü replies on the subject upon which he was directed to report, and solicits punishment for his offence. He states that he has purchased books at the *Pao Ming Chai* kept by Li Chung-ming, and maintained towards him the ordinary relations of customer and dealer, but that there has been no social intercourse between them. From last winter until now he was constantly in the *Liu Li Ch'ang* engaged in reverently practising the Imperial Hearse (龍輅車), and he occasionally dropped into the shop on his way, to look at books. How comes it that Ho Show-tz'ü did not explain in his earlier report the facts which he now relates? The rehearsal of the manipulation of the Imperial Hearse is an important duty wherewith to be entrusted, and the going to look at books on his way, as he says he did, is a grave misdoing. Let Ho Show-tz'ü, as a preliminary step, be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(3) During the absence of the Governor-General Shên Pao-ch'eng, who is about to proceed to Peking for an audience, Wu Yuan-ping is to act in his stead, the duties of Governor of Kiangsu being temporarily performed by Lo Fang-ch'i.

(4) A further decree on the subject of the damaged rice at the Nan-hsin Granary. An inspection having been ordered by several high officers, these have now reported the result and state that there is a deficiency of over 95,000 piculs. Prompt and speedy punishment is called for in so abominable a case. The machinery of the metropolitan prefecture is to be put in motion for the arrest of certain keepers and clerks who have absconded, and others are to be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial. The Superintendents of the Granary, by their complete ignorance

of the frauds that were going on, seem to have been either blind or deaf, and have laid themselves open to suspicions of complicity in the frauds or of protecting and screening their subordinates. They are to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty, and are to be relieved of the duties of Superintendent preparatory to being had up for examination. Pi Tao-yuan, Commissioner of the Peking Granaries, is also to blame for not having exercised proper supervision and is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. When the case is settled the Board of Punishments will state upon whom they consider the onus of restitution of the losses should fall. Memorial from Chin Shun, Assistant Commander-in-chief and Military Governor of Ili, requesting permission to limit his accounts to a general statement of receipts and expenditure since the year 1871, instead of rendering a list of items. He commences with a brief summary of his movements since the year 1868, when he went to the relief of Sh'ensi and cleared Ning-hsia of the rebels that were infesting it. In September, 1871, he was ordered to proceed with all speed to the relief of Urumtsi, and advanced in that direction at the latter end of the month, leaving detachments of cavalry at points on his way, and pushing forward himself to Shipartai and other places. He was ordered, from the date of his departure from Ning-hsia, to send in returns of military expenditure at the same time as those sent from the four provinces of Shensi, Kansu, Kweichow and Szechuen, the limit for the forwarding of which was December, 1874. Owing to the pressure of his military work which was just at this time particularly onerous, memorialist was unable to comply with the order as to the limit of time for the rendering of accounts. It should be borne in mind too that he was beyond the Wall, with a long line of communication and many obstacles in the way of its maintenance. That the expense of forwarding military supplies purchased within the frontier over thousands of miles placed him not only in a very different position from those working in the south eastern provinces, but even doubled his expenses as compared with Ning-hsia, Szechow, and other places. While inside the Wall memorialist was able to get on with the allowance granted for his cavalry squadrons, but beyond the Wall it was different. With thousands of *li* of desert, where everything was waste, the carriage of food more than doubled its cost, and when to this had to be added

the arduous transit of the Gobi desert and the Tien-shan mountains, in the crossing of which so many mules and camels succumbed, and conveyances broke down, while the winds and heavy snow contributed further to the difficulties, memorialist was indescribably hampered by the magnitude of expenditure under every heading, and could not accommodate his outlay to the legally allotted sum. But the pressing and urgent nature of the claims for expenditure were such as would brook no delay or admit of a rigid adherence to rule. In order, therefore, to avoid queries on the part of the Board, who would doubtless tie him down to the letter of the regulations and call upon him to refund any items that these do not allow, or to make good all sums over and above the fixed amount, he would crave permission to be exonerated from the rendering of detailed accounts. Memorialist, who has now followed the career of arms for over twenty years, has been the recipient of weighty favours from His Majesty. He fully appreciates the importance of attention to the minutest details of military expenditure, and has never failed to study economy to the best of his ability. He never embarks upon expenditure that appears to him unnecessary, even though it be sanctioned by law, and, on the other hand, he would not hesitate to indulge in unauthorised expenditure where grave interests might be jeopardised by excessive or petty economy. As a proof of his honesty, and in support of his statements, he may state that Tls. 8,000,000 are owing to him from various Custom Houses, and that the distress and hardship caused to his troops by the want of these funds is extreme.—Granted by Rescript.

March 29th.—The Grand Secretary Li had audience.

The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from the Famine Commissioner and Governor of Shansi, reporting the trial of the Magistrate of the Yung-ho district and some of his subordinates for fraud in connection with famine relief. The details are uninteresting.

March 30th.—(1) A decree appointing Sun Chia-nai 孫家鼐 to the post of Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) Chung Lien 鍾濂 is appointed Commissioner of the Office of Transmissiou.

(3) A Decree. We have received Their Majesties' commands to set out on Our journey on the 12th April. On the 14th We shall reverently repair to the Lung Fu temple, and on the 15th the remains of Their late Majesties will be moved from their temporary place of deposit to their Hui Lung and Lung Ngén Halls. On the 17th, these will be deposited in their place of everlasting rest, and on the completion of the observances attending this ceremony We shall do homage to the Sacred Tablets and then return to the capital. We hereby decree that the land tax in the five departments and districts of Ta-hsing, T'ung-chow, San-ho, Chi Chow and Tsun-hua through which We have to pass, shall be remitted in full for the present year. Copies of this Decree shall be printed on yellow paper, and distributed everywhere for general information, that the dwellers in the hamlets and villages may all be partakers in this act of bounty.

(4) Memorial from Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, reporting the result of the trial of a captain in the army charged with opening a gambling establishment and levying a percentage on the winnings. Careful enquiry, and the man's own testimony, which could not be shaken, show conclusively that he is not guilty of the charge as it is stated. He admits, however, that he was induced by a Hakka, one Huang A-fu, to rent a house of his to a Hunan man as a tailor's shop, and that on two evenings in the early part of last year, he did gamble there, though he denies that he either assembled a crowd of worthless characters with that object or took a percentage of the winnings. He has been sentenced to dismissal, exposure in the *cangue* for three months, and 100 blows, which is the penalty awarded by law to his offence. The other parties implicated in the transaction have absconded. Orders have been given for their arrest, and they will be separately dealt with when captured.

(5) The Governor of Shénsi reports the trial of two men who attempted to effect robbery by administering a stupefying drug, from the effects of which their victims died. Chao Ting-fu, a native of Pa-chow in Szechuen, left his home to look for work, and on his road he met an acquaintance called Chang Wên-shén, also from his native place. They began to talk about the hardness of the times and conceived the idea of stupefying travellers with a narcotic called 鬧楊花. They accordingly

bought a small packet of this narcotic at the stall of an itinerant medicine vender, whose name they did not know, and proceeded on their journey. In the course of a few days they met a Pa-chow man, Lung Ping-yün by name, and entered into conversation with him. He told them he was going to Hsing-an to buy tea for which he had the money with him, and they then declared that they were also going there to trade. They suggested that he should travel in company with them, to which he consented. At the end of three days they reached the Hsi-hsiang district, and it was arranged that they should buy some pastry at a certain restaurant and boil it for a meal. The opportunity was seized by the confederates to mix some of the narcotic in the pastry which was eaten by Lung Ping-yün and another man called Yang Lin-tsung; a third man called Wang who was with them refused to eat, as he was unwell. Their meal over, the party resumed their walk and had not gone far when the drug began to work and the two who had eaten it fell stupefied to the ground. The confederates were, however, afraid to rob them as they were lying near a restaurant, and Wang, who had lagged behind, was expected to come up immediately. They therefore ran away and left their victims on the ground. When Wang came up, he found them lying there unable to speak, and at once went in pursuit of the two, whom he succeeded in capturing with the assistance of another man. The men who had been drugged were then attended to, but could not be resuscitated and shortly died. After calling attention to the fact that Chao Ting-fu and his confederate had not actually proceeded to rob their victims, and stating that there is no law precisely applicable to a crime of this kind in which the intention had not been fully carried out, the memorialist suggests that the case should be treated as one of murder and robbery, as if the latter had been actually accomplished, the penalty for which is summary decapitation with exposure of the head. Referred to the Board of Punishments.

March 31st.—(1) A decree ordering the infliction of severe penalties upon certain rowdies who have been arrested by the office of Gendarmerie for having been concerned in a riot attended by robbery that had its origin in a quarrel between two women in Peking. The same office reports that rowdies and bad characters frequently collect outside the three front or southern gates of the Tartar city, and fights are of constant occurrence. The metropolitan

Censorate are required to arrest all such characters, in order to the maintenance of quiet and order.

(2) Ching Hsin 敬信 is appointed Reader of the Grand Secretariat.

(3) A decree acknowledging the finding of the Board of Punishments which had been directed to investigate certain official irregularities in the province of Heh-lung Chiang. Hui An, Military Governor of the town of Hulan, who vacated his post without leave and disappeared; T'o-shih-na, Manchu Captain, who was guilty of wrongful extortion of confession from witnesses and other irregularities; and Yang-ho-pak'o-t'ang-ah, who forged a sick certificate for the absconding Governor, are to be cashiered. Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung Chiang, is punished with deprivation of rank and retention in office, for his share of the transaction.

(4) Li Hung-chang submits a list of officers upon whom he solicits the bestowal of honorary rewards for their exertions in the distribution of famine relief. When the famine was raging in Ho-chien Fu, memorialist deputed the Taotais Wu Ta-chêng and Shêng Hsüan-hwai, etc., to go about inviting subscriptions, and ordered them to call a number of zealous and earnest workers to the aid of the local authorities and gentry. These helpers in the field are all gentry from other provinces, who, regardless of distinctions of locality, have given all their energies to the work before them, have toiled in the blazing sun, and moved promiscuously in the midst of pestilence, disease and death, inspecting the condition of different households, and, by the aid they have furnished to the sufferers, have enabled many to live and provided them with the wherewithal to sow their fields. To the sick they have given medicine and raiment, and have performed the office of burial for the dead; they have established refuges for the support of the old, the young and the forlorn, and have given personal attention to every matter, hurrying to the aid of distress wherever it was found really to exist. For eight months these men have been engaged in this charitable work, saving the lives of many people at the expense of labour and hardship that is by no means comparable to that of ordinary official work. The memorial concludes with a list of these persons, and the rewards it is suggested they should receive. Granted by rescript.

(5) The Governor of Shansi forwards a return of the amounts subscribed by

himself and other officials in the province on behalf of the sufferers by famine from May, 1877, to December, 1878. The following are the totals reported :—

Silver	Tls.	51,698
Cash	Strings	1,950
Rice	Piculs	400
Grain of other kinds...	„	2,400

By a rescript appended to the memorial, the contributors are to be committed to the proper Board for the bestowal of the customary rewards.

April 1st.—(1) A decree noticing a memorial from a minor official on probation in Kiangsi, forwarded through the Court of Censors, and containing twelve suggestions for the better administration of the Empire. Most of these, such as the increase of land tax, the temporary removal of the prohibitions against opium, the institution of a silver coinage, etc., etc., are set aside, either because they would necessitate a change in systems already complete, or be injurious to the constitution. Some other of his suggestions have earlier been given effect to, and need not therefore be considered, but his remarks on the improvement of water communication are deemed worthy of consideration, and the attention of provincial high authorities is directed to the subject. His views on the subject of frontier defence are also commended to the notice of those concerned.

(2) A decree inflicting the penalty of deprivation of three steps of commutative rank, with removal to another post, upon Ho Shou-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works, this being the punishment allotted by the Board of Civil Office.

(3) The kitchens for the issue of gruel to the poor of Peking are to be kept open for a further period of two months beyond the extra month already granted.

(4) Kwang Shou, President of the Board of War, and his colleagues submit the penalties which they consider should be inflicted upon Pao Ch'ao, late Commander-in-chief in Chekiang, who allowed certain Imperial gifts to be destroyed on the occasion of a fire in his house. Reference to the law on the subject shows that members of the official class who shall so carelessly bestow Imperial patents, orders, letters, or other things, as to allow of their being eaten by insects, rubbed, or otherwise injured by damp, breakage, stains, or dirt, shall be fined six months' salary. But that where satisfactory evidence shall be forthcoming, that the loss of these articles is caused by theft, robbery, fire, or water, the penalty shall be remitted, and it shall

be permitted for the holder to make application for the gifts to be bestowed a second time. Again, it is laid down that when Commanders-in-chief or Brigade-Generals shall be the honored recipients of the "vermilion endorsement," they shall take the opportunity of the next occasion upon which they memorialise the Throne to return such documents, the penalty for delay in the performance of this duty being deprivation of official rank. In the present case, although Pao Ch'ao himself reported the loss of the Imperial gifts and solicited punishment, to the remission of which, as fire was the cause, he would be entitled, yet the number of articles destroyed is too large to admit of comparison with ordinary cases of loss. They suggest, therefore, that his case shall be treated as one of destruction by insects, etc., the penalty for which is a fine of six months' pay. In retaining possession of "vermilion endorsements" in his library, he has transgressed the law referred to above; but as he manifestly erred through ignorance, memorialists will await His Majesty's command before proceeding to consider the penalty which he has thereby incurred.

(5) Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, in a postscript memorial, points out that in consequence of the extent of the coast line of the province of Chêkiang and the number of islands situated in its waters, the maintenance of an effective cruiser service is rendered a matter of special importance. The late Governor, Yang Ch'ang-chün, had two vessels, the *Fu Po* and *Yuan-k'ai*, built at the Foochow arsenal, for service in his jurisdiction, but as Wên-chow has now been created a port of open trade, it becomes necessary to station a steam vessel there also. In February last memorialist received a letter from Wu Tsan-ch'êng, Superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal, informing him that the *Chao Wu*, a newly built, armour-plated, steam vessel, Captain Yeh-fu, had already been furnished with her complement of men, engineers, stokers, etc., as well as the necessary flags and other fittings, and he suggested that she should be retained for service in the Chêkiang waters. Seven guns were still required for the vessel, but as [the Arsenal] was short of money these must be supplied by the Chêkiang province. The wages and rations were on the scale allotted to 150 horse power vessels, that is to say, a complement of 84 men at a cost of Tls. 1,770 for the longer months and Tls. 1,710 for the shorter ones. Since the 12th of the 12th moon of last year, the day upon which the Captain

entered on his command up to the end of the year, the cost of maintaining the vessel was Tls. 1,000, which had been advanced by the Fohkien Government, and this sum memorialist would be requested to repay. The Captain left the docks on the 16th January and anchored in Ningpo at noon on the 20th, where the vessel was inspected by the Commander-in-chief, the Taotai and the Prefect. They reported her to be strong, durable and fast, and well adapted for cruising purposes. Memorialist accordingly gave orders that she should proceed to Wenchow and take up her station at that port, where the Taotai would take delivery of her and purchase the necessary guns for her use. As the coal she might require was a fluctuating article as to value, and the quantity used depended on the number of days she might be at sea, which were also undetermined, it was arranged that the allowances for coal and wages should be issued from time to time according to the actual amount spent. The necessary funds, as in the case of the *Fu Po* and *Yuan K'ai*, were to be supplied from the *lekin* office. —Rescript: Noted.

April 2nd.—(1) The following appointments are gazetted:—President of the Board of Works, P'an Tsu-yin 潘祖蔭; President of the Court of Censors, T'ung Hua 童華; Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, Hwang Cho 黃倬. Hsia T'ung-shan is transferred to the Vice-Presidentship of the Board of Civil Office, and Chu Chih 朱智 is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Board of War.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports a case of triple murder. Liu Hai, a native of P'achow in Chihli, lived in the same village as a married woman called Wang. A year and a half ago improper relations were established between them, which continued several months unknown to the husband of the woman or other members of her family. The man, however, failed to supply her with money enough, and she broke off relations with him, and though he continued to come to the house and annoy her, she refused to have anything to do with him, and ordered her two boys to join her in cursing and insulting him, forbidding him entry into the house. Mortified and stung by this treatment, the man determined to revenge himself by poisoning the woman and her children. One in the day early part of November last he saw the two boys grinding millet at the stone in the village street, and he bethought himself of

some arsenic that he had remaining over from a packet he had used for killing insects among the corn. He went home to fetch it, and seized an opportunity when the boys were not looking to mix it with the flour they had ground. On the following morning the woman made this flour into gruel, of which she, her married daughter, and the two sons partook. The poison took effect in course of time, and they all began to vomit. The woman questioned her sons and learned from them that when they were grinding the millet on the previous day Liu Hai had come up and stirred the flour with his hand, so she divined that he had mixed poison into it. On her husband's return she told him her suspicions, and died on the same day in spite of the efforts that were made to save her, as did also one of her sons. The other followed them the next day and the daughter alone recovered. The Prefect was told of the crime, and the man having been arrested made a full confession of his guilt. In accordance with the law on the subject, the standing Imperial Death Warrant was put in force, and the man was led forth to a public place and executed by the slicing process.

April 3rd.—(Court Circular.) Wadded robes will now be worn, and the white sleeve edgings will be taken off.

(1) Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the receipt of a petition from Liu Yün-ch'ing, a native of Wei-hsien, in Shantung, holding official rank. He complains that nearly twenty years ago he reclaimed some waste land in the Yü-t'ai district of the same province, and that one Wang Hung, head of the ward in which it was situated, presumed upon his position and endeavoured to levy unauthorised taxes thereon, calling in a number of lawless persons to assist him in the execution of his unlawful acts. Frequent collisions occurred in consequence, and the people, unable to endure his tyranny any longer, applied to the Governor of the province, who sent an officer to survey the land and place it on the register for regular assessment. Wang Hung and his coadjutors were angered at this step, and vented their spite upon the persons who had applied to the provincial capital by stealing their crops, setting fire to their houses, and murdering those who resisted. Under such lawless tyranny, no one felt secure, and petitioner being unable to obtain protection from the local authorities or justice against so powerful an enemy, appeals to the capital on behalf of himself and his fellow sufferers.

(2) Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the departure of a fleet of 100 junks

from Shanghai with the first instalment of the tribute rice from his province. They carry altogether 223,128 piculs, exclusive of a waste allowance of 17,850 piculs which is to follow them.

(3) Postscript memorial from Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Grain Transport. Two years ago a grant of Tls. 90,000 was obtained for dredging a portion of the Grand Canal, in Shantung, known as the Shih Tzü Ho, and putting the channel generally in a proper condition. It having been then determined to continue the adoption of the sea route for a while, these dredging operations were postponed and the money was lent to the Honan Government for application to the relief of the sufferers by famine. It having been determined that transport by Canal shall be resumed this year, it becomes necessary to undertake this work of dredging the Shih Tzü Ho that had been postponed, and the loan above referred to having been refunded by the Honan Famine agency, it is proposed to put the matter in hand at once.

April 4th.—(1) A decree appointing Ngén Lin 恩麟 to the post of Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat.

(2) A decree ordering a further series of prayers for rain at the State Temples to be held on the 7th inst. His Majesty will take a part.

(3) The Governor of Chékiang reports the loss of two masts and thirty-three spars that were being conveyed to Chefoo with other stores for the repair and use of vessels belonging to the Chin Chow Brigade in Shantung. These stores were under the charge of a petty official, who reports that the vessel left Ningpo on the 10th October last, and after having been at sea for a month, they had reached what is known as the *Hei-shui-yang*, when a violent storm arose and the waves broke over the ship, even above the sail, with such violence, that the masts and spars that were lashed alongside broke adrift and were washed away, two sailors being washed off with them into the sea. The waves were so high that it was impossible to go in search of them, the more that six others of the crew were seriously injured in the storm. The greater portion of the twenty per cent. of private cargo that the vessel was allowed to carry, which was stowed on deck, was thrown overboard to lighten the ship, and on the following day when the sea had somewhat abated it was found that the rudder and mast of the vessel had been injured in the storm. Certain casks of oil, rattans, varnish, and military stores from

Foochow that had been stowed below were, however, found to be complete. After another fortnight the vessel reached Chefoo, where she was inspected by a deputy of the Taotai, who found the loss of the mast, spars, and men to have occurred as reported, and was convinced that the mishap was beyond the power of human strength to prevent. The memorialist then proceeds to quote the case of a vessel laden with copper for the mint that had been lost on a shoal, for which no restitution had been claimed, and on the strength of this precedent prays that no claim may be made in this instance for the restitution of the spars that have been lost.—Referred to the proper Board.

April 5th.—(1) A decree announcing the following appointments:—Reader of the Han-lin, Wu La-pu 烏拉布; Expositor of the same College, Lien Yuan 聯元; Censor, Board of Works, Wén Pao 文保; Censor, Shénsi Circuit, Li Jui-fén 李瑞芬.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang, Chief of the Grand Secretariat, and his colleagues. The 17th inst. being the date fixed for the final obsequies of Their late Majesties, and His Majesty having received the command of the Empresses Dowager to start for the Mausolea on the 11th inst., the memorialist's Yamên will, in accordance with the regulations, send forward one report of matters connected with their special department daily at 1 p.m., all memorials and other documents from the Boards and other Yamêns being sent at the same time. The report for the 11th inst., the day of His Majesty's departure, will be despatched at 3 a.m. on the following morning, the next one starting at the regular hour, and the same hour will be selected daily until the 15th inst., when no report will be sent, as His Majesty will be starting on the return journey the following day.

(3) Memorial from Li Hung-chang applying for permission to divert a portion of the grain tribute now on its way to the capital for the relief of the sufferers by flood in his province. The drought in Chihli last spring and summer was followed by such excess of rain in the autumn that the rivers and dykes were full to overflowing, and the lowlying country was submerged. This state of things was made known to His Majesty in successive reports, and both taxes and rents were graciously remitted, measures being also taken for the relief of the sufferers. On his journey from

the provincial capital to Tientsin this year, memorialist passed through Wen-an and other places and found the country everywhere a vast lake, with occasional patches of high ground upon which crops could be grown. In An-chow things were nearly as bad, and a breach in the embankment had not yet been stopped. In the Hung District there was a slight improvement, the water gradually receding from the flooded villages. Reports from numerous other places reveal a great amount of distress and suffering from the same cause, that urgently demands relief. Unfortunately, after the famine had reached its height, the provincial Treasury was completely drained, and now with the pressing demands for expenditure in connection with the Eastern Mausolea, and the pay of the troops at the Western Mausolea, memorialist's resources are really exhausted. His relief fund, too, is at an end, and he does not know how to raise more. Under these circumstances, in view of the fact that human life is at stake, all that he can suggest is an appropriation from the tribute grain *en route* to the capital. (See *Gazette* of 18th March.)

April 6th.—(Memorials issued for publication.) Li Han-chang submits the regulations he has drawn up in connection with the sluice at Fan-k'ow. These are approved in a rescript appended to the memorial and are ordered to be given effect to. Hu Ping-lu, a graduate who was concerned in the riots that took place last year, and has now absconded, is to be apprehended without fail and brought to justice.

Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, reports the cessation of contributions towards the famine.

(1) A decree referring to an enquiry that was ordered in January last into a statement volunteered by Chang P'ei-lun that Pao Shên, brother of the Grand Secretary Pao Yüan, had been pushed on through favour. Ting Pao-chêng and Li Hung-chang, in whose province this officer served for a time, both give him an excellent character for ability and zeal which earned for him the bestowal of honorary rewards in both provinces. Chang P'ei-lun's charges are accordingly dismissed.

(2—3) Decrees appointing officers to take temporary charge of the seals and keys of different Banner Corps and vanguard divisions during the absence of their regular Commanders with the Imperial cortège.

(4) A decree once more enunciating the programme to be followed in the course of the Imperial visit to the Eastern Mausolea.

The strictest order and seclusion is to be maintained along the line of route and the various detachments of officers detailed to guard the road are to take up their several stations quietly and respectfully, being careful to keep their men under thorough restraint and control. The carts and horses of those who are to take part in the procession are to be kept off the Imperial road, and are not to be permitted to crowd at the side.

(6) A decree ordering money to be given at the rate of one tael mace per *mow* to the farmers between Peking and Tsun-hua-chow, whose corn has been rooted up for the preparation of the road along which the Imperial cortège is to pass, in order that they may supply themselves with seed to sow their land again.

(7) A memorial from the Governor of Hupeh exonerating the Prefect of Me-ch'ang from all blame in connection with the late disturbances at Fan-k'ow, and giving a favourable account of his character, antecedents and career.

April 7th.—A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Ch'ung Ch'i and Fêng Yü-ch'i, the two high officers who were commissioned to investigate a charge laid against Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, at the Censorate by Wei Hsing-ngo, a member of the Imperial Body Guard. The Governor was stated to have sent a messenger privately to one Han Hsiao-chung, a gold hunter, telling him to keep out of the way for a time, immediately after receipt of an Imperial decree ordering an enquiry to be held into a case in which this gold hunter was implicated. Ch'ung Ch'i and Fêng Yü-ch'i now report that upon careful enquiry they have ascertained that no servant of Ming An's went last autumn from Peking to Kirin, and that every detail of the guardsman's complaint is incorrect. He is, therefore, as a preliminary step, committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) Sun Yü-wên 孫毓汶 is appointed Supervisor of Instruction.

(3) Memorial from Ho Show-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works. Having been called upon to state clearly in what relationship Li Chung-ming stands towards him, he begs to report that P'u-ch'i Hsien, in the Prefecture of Wu-ch'ang in Hupeh, is his native place, and that all his relatives are in Hupeh or Hunan. A slight relationship has long existed between memorialist's family, and that of a metropolitan graduate Yao Chi-hwui, an Expectant

Magistrate in Kwangtung. Li Chung-ming is connected with Yao Chi-hwui by marriage, but has no actual connexion with memorialist, nor has he had any social intercourse with him. He begs that the Court of Censors may be directed to ascertain whether or no Li Chung-ming does "give himself airs, come into collision with various persons, and defraud them."

(4) Memorial from Lin Chao-yuan, acting Governor of Kweichow, requesting the temporary suspension of the decree for the abolition of the purchase system as far as his province is concerned. (See *Gazette* of 15th March.) On receipt of this decree, memorialist, fully recognising the merits of the measure could any means be devised for supplying the financial void which abolition of sale of office would cause, took counsel with the Financial Commissioner and Judge upon the subject. The result of their deliberations was a conviction that the difficulty of raising other funds rendered the immediate suspension of the purchase system quite impossible. Since the province became the scene of military operations the calls for expenditure have been numerous and varied, and though the measures of re-organisation that have of late been instituted are gradually beginning to assume a less tangled and composed form, the defence works both in the upper and lower divisions of the River cannot possibly be abandoned. The payment of irregulars, arrears of wages, the construction and change of instruments of warfare, the renewal of city walls and other defensive works, the securing of immigrants for the occupation of waste and deserted lands, etc. etc., are, each and all, objects requiring the expenditure of large sums, and in addition to these, salaries, anti-extortion allowances, the support of the regular army, the postal service—the ordinary and indispensable organisation of the province, in short, has also to be provided for. The exercise of the most rigid economy cannot reduce the requirements for the satisfaction of these claims to less than two or three million taels. The province of Kweichow, at all times a poor one, has been so impoverished since the military occupation, and so much waste land still remains unoccupied, that the tax receipts from land and customs do not amount to more than Tls. 200,000. The Board of Revenue has fixed the annual subsidies which the various provinces are called upon by law to pay towards defraying the expenses of Kweichow at Tls. 700,000 odd, but not a fraction of this sum has ever been forwarded, while not more than twenty per cent. of the military subsidies,

which are fixed at over Tls. 2,000,000 per annum, has been sent at any time. The total receipts from the customs in Chêkiang, Shantung, Szechuen, Kiangsi and Kiu-kiang, for instance, only amounted last year to something over Tls. 300,000. It is seen, therefore, that the income of the province does not amount to a ten thousandth part of the expenditure, and hitherto the purchase system has been looked to to supply in an infinitesimal degree the enormous deficit that has been shown to exist. The revenue obtained by the province from this source having greatly diminished of late in consequence of the "forest" of agencies that have everywhere been established, permission was some time since applied for and obtained to depute officers to negotiate the sale of office and titles in every province in the Empire. The issue of the decree above referred to will, doubtless, apply to every class of office, and memorialist must of necessity respect the motives that prompted the reform, and cannot venture to disregard the injunction. At the same time no efforts on his part will enable him to raise the funds necessary to take the place of the revenue that will thereby be sacrificed. He cannot fail to appreciate at the same time the difficulties under which those provinces who under an obligation to aid him must be labouring when they are obliged to disregard imperative calls from the Throne to furnish this aid. The memorial concludes with the assertion that if these grants in aid continue not to be forthcoming and the only means of supplementing them are now to be withdrawn, the whole organisation of the province must come to a deadlock. Salaries and allowances cannot be paid, the army cannot be supported or the postal system carried on, and the work of organisation will be brought to a standstill, with the result that previous labour will be thrown away, and with the abandonment of defensive and precautionary measures fresh troubles and calamities will again arise. Memorialist has regarded the question from this side and from that, and his cogitations have interfered with his food and with his rest, and still he can think of no alternative. All therefore that he can do is to speak out the truth, and pray His Majesty, in consideration of the terrible financial distress of the province of Kweichow and its exceptional condition as compared with other provinces, to delay for a while the abolition of the purchase system as far as his particular province is concerned.

April 8th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-tien reports a fall of rain in the capital to the extent of one inch and upwards of saturation.

April 9th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial gratitude for the rain which fell the preceding day. A series of thanksgiving services are ordered to be held in the State Temples on the 11th instant, in which His Majesty will take a part.

(2-5) Decrees nominating officers to take possession of the seals and keys of various departments and offices during the absence of their respective heads with the Imperial cortège.

(6) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang reports a complete victory gained by the Imperial troops over the Buriats and Andijani upon the frontier. Last year Ali Tashi, head of the Andijani rebels, induced Abdul Hama, a disaffected Mahomedan of the Buriat tribe, and others, to join him in a raid on the frontiers of Kashgaria, on the Southern portion of the New Dominion. Liu Chin-t'ang, Commissioner of the Office of Transmission, attacked them and put them to the rout. On the death of Ali Tashi, Abdul Hamet organised a second revolt with Andijani rebel bands and other disaffected subjects within the frontier. Liu Chin-t'ang, having informed himself of the nature and condition of the country, laid plans to surround them, and from the 24th of January to the 2nd of February was engaged in the disposition of his forces at Wu Pa-érh 烏帕爾, Fu Ssü-t'ang 傅斯塘 T'á Lo-k'o 特勒克, and other places. A succession of brilliant victories was gained and the enemy were pursued as far as the frontier. Three of their leaders were killed and over two thousand men, those that were left escaping across the border. A vast number of arms, camels and horses were captured. The decree then proceeds to speak in flattering terms of the discretion, promptitude and zeal of Liu Chin-t'ang, who, as a reward for his successes, is to be presented with a dagger with a handle of white jade-stone, a flint and steel, a pouch, and two purses. Permission is at the same time given for a list of those to be submitted under his command who distinguished themselves in these engagements. The names of those officers who were killed in action are to be committed to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of posthumous distinction.

(7) Memorial from Hêng Hsün, Tartar General of Szechuen, and Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of that province, report-

ing the arrival of an envoy from Nepal, or the kingdom of the Ghorkhas, with tribute and a letter from the King of that country, begging that his envoy may again be permitted, in accordance with the law, to have an audience of His Majesty. In the month of November, 1877, in consequence of the interruption of communication along the Government postal road, resulting from the famine in Shên-si and Shansi, memorialist applied to His Majesty for permission to detain the tribute and letter from the Ghorkha King in Tibet and have them sent forward from thence under charge of a Weiyuan to Ch'eng-tu, where they would be taken delivery of by memorialists and sent on to Peking. The proposal received His Majesty's sanction, but Sung Kw'ei, the resident at Lassa, having reported that the Nepalese envoy had already arrived and been sent forward under escort to Szechuen, a decree was issued directing that the tribute and letter should be taken charge of on his arrival at Ch'eng-tu and taken on to Peking from thence by an officer specially appointed for the purpose. In obedience to the above command, a Weiyuan was sent to Chamdo to meet the envoy and escort him to Cheng-tu. On the 2nd February last a Nepalese Envoy, Kochi and suite, arrived in Ch'eng-tu. In accordance with regulation, a banquet was given him and presents were bestowed upon him in manifestation of the great extent of the Imperial bounty and tender condescension. The envoy beat his head upon the ground with exclamations of joy at the treatment he received. He then presented a petition from the ruler of his country, dated the 6th moon of last year (July, 1878), to the following effect:—"A dweller in a remote corner of the earth in a distant and barren land, the King turns with longing towards the civilisation [of the Middle Kingdom]. It has been his practice to gain glory to himself by the despatch of an envoy who was admitted to the Presence, and he has been entirely dependent upon the rays of His August Majesty's awe-inspiring influence and prosperity for securing peace and tranquillity in his borders." He begged memorialists to represent his sentiments to His Majesty, and pray for permission for his envoy to go to Peking as heretofore, that he might reverently gaze upon the Sacred Countenance and offer the tribute in person. The wording of this document being respectful and submissive, and the spirit of it earnest and perfectly sincere, the memorialists dare not refrain from bringing it to His Majesty's notice. They now find that since rain was obtained last autumn, the provinces of

Shansi and Shênsi have been quiet and undisturbed, and that there is no reason to apprehend obstructions or stoppages along the Government postal road. It will be for His Majesty to decide whether the grateful influences of the Imperial bounty shall be specially exercised on this occasion, and the envoy Kochi and those with him be graciously permitted, as heretofore, to visit the capital. The memorialists humbly await His Majesty's commands on this matter, to which they will give reverent and respectful obedience. They have further to report that on this occasion the ruler of the country in question and his envoy have some satin and comestibles as presents for memorialists, who do not venture to take upon themselves to determine whether or no they shall accept them. They therefore humbly await His Majesty's instructions on the subject. (For Rescript see *Gazette* of 25th March).

April 10th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of snow in the capital, to the depth of over 4 inches.

(1) Memorial from the Prince of Tun, President of the Imperial Clan Court, and his colleagues. The gate keeper of the To-lo *Bei-léh Yi Kw'ang*, who holds the Brevet rank of Chün Wang, or Prince of the 2nd Order, had reported that his master had a respectful representation to make which he prayed the Court would submit to His Majesty on his behalf. The *Bei-léh* begs humbly to state that his own father, an Imperial Clansman whose name was Mien, died at 1 a.m. on the 15th March. *Yi Kw'ang*, holding the position of Chiang fu tzu 降服子, or a son whose mourning is of the second or modified degree, should by law fulfil a period of mourning lasting 60 days. He humbly reflects, however, that as he is the eldest son of the house, he will not really feel easy in his mind if he only observes the 60 days period of mourning. He respectfully considers therefore that as his country is governed on the principle of filial piety, all that is left for him to do is humbly to implore the Heavenly Grace for the bestowal of congé to enable him to fulfil the 100 days period of mourning, that he may thereby in a slight degree carry out the feeling that even a bird will have towards [the old ones that have given it life.] Memorialists find that it is laid down by law that adopted sons, succeeding to the title of Prince, *Bsi-léh*, *Bri-tzú*, Duke, or other distinguished title, shall not be allowed to complete the 100 days period of mourning for their own father or mother until they

have received special permission from His Majesty. With the exception of those who have obtained this privilege, all such persons shall observe the 60 days of mourning followed by the year of [slighter] mourning prescribed by law. The memorialists cannot take upon themselves to come to any decision in the present case, which must be left to the Heavenly bounty of Their Majesties the Empresses and the Emperor. The *Bei-léh Yi Kw'ang*, being now under an obligation to put on mourning, has not appended his name to this memorial, although a member of the Court by which it is presented. The request is granted by decree earlier issued.

April 11th.—(Court Circular.) The Emperor will start on his journey at 5 a.m. to-morrow.

(1) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, praying that a Memorial Board may be presented to a temple at Fêng-chên-t'ing in that province, the presiding deity of which has manifested itself in a marked manner in answer to prayers for rain.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(2) Postscript memorial from Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei. The dense woods and deep and lofty mountain ranges in Southern Anhwei affording facilities for the concealment of gangs of banditti composed of the remnants of the Mahommedan rebels and mixed classes of people that are to be found in the province, memorialist has been careful to give strict and repeated injunctions to his subordinates to be on the watch for insurrectionary movements. In the month of November last, the Magistrate of the Kuo-mên district of the Hwei-chow Prefecture reported that a rising in a village within his jurisdiction on the confines of Kiangsi, the promoters of which had attached a number of people to them by oaths of fraternity, had been brought to his notice, its existence having been betrayed by the murder of a countryman who came across them. Soldiers were immediately sent in pursuit and succeeded in capturing six of their number, a seventh having taken to the water to escape from his pursuers, and been drowned. A number of arms that had been dropped by the fugitives were picked up, as well as yellow wrappers and other articles. On the persons of the prisoners wrappers were also found, as well as seals of office. The prisoners were sent to the provincial capital and examined by the Prefect, who ascertained that they had been induced to join the confederacy by the man that had been drowned. The leader of the gang was a Kiangsi man, who had abstained

from flesh for a long time and was in the habit of reciting Buddhist prayers. Each *t'on mu*, or head man, was invested with a *quasi* official rank and was provided with a seal, the members of the society being furnished with a cotton wrapper as a badge of membership. The gang were in the act of swearing allegiance over a decapitated fowl when they were surprised by the man above referred to, who asked them what they were doing and was killed for his curiosity. They then determined to enter the district town and plunder it, but before they could carry out their plan they were surprised by the troops and the deponents captured. The six men were summarily decapitated, and the head of the man that was drowned was cut off and exposed after the usual inspection and identification of the body. Orders were at the same time given for the capture of those who were still at large, and the leader of the gang and some of his followers were subsequently arrested and put to death. The usual rewards are solicited for the officers who distinguished themselves on this occasion.

April 12th and 13th.—During the absence of the Emperor from Peking the *Gazette* appears only on alternate days.

(Memorials issued for publication.) The Governor-General of Min-ch'eh recommends Ch'ên Hsing-chü for the post of *Fu Min T'ung-chih* (撫民同知) or sub-Prefect with jurisdiction over subjugated aborigines (?), for the central division of Tai-wan Fu.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

(1) A Decree. Let Wang Shao-tsu, the common person who presented an urgent petition (叩關) to Us on the road this day be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be subjected to the most rigid examination.

(2) A decree ordering the Jail Warden at Pin-ch'uan-chow in Yunnan to be cashiered and placed on his trial with certain other persons for having allowed some prisoners under his charge to escape. The sub-Prefect of the place is to be deprived of rank but retained at his post during a limited period, within which he is to effect the arrest of the missing prisoners. If he fails in doing so, he is to be denounced and proceeded against in the usual manner.

(3) A long memorial from Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hwa, the two high officers commissioned to investigate certain charges brought against Ting Pao-ch'êng and some of his subordinates, reporting on the result of their enquiry into a portion of these charges, each of which is recapitulated and

the true statement of the case appended. After calling attention to their earlier reports and the complaints they have been obliged to make against certain officers, whose continued disregard of their orders to produce several witnesses has delayed the completion of their reports on every charge, they proceed to detail those upon which they have been able to come to a decision. The first of these was that the Governor-General, knowing nothing about mechanical appliances, did, from a love of great enterprises, a wish to gain credit to himself, and a belief in his own powers, erect an arsenal, break down a reservoir for the purpose of opening a waterway for the conveyance of machinery into the city of Ch'êng-tu; and completely destroy certain works for the control of the water in the lower part of the city. That he further destroyed a number of dwelling houses to render a stream navigable inside the city in places where it had hitherto been impassable for boats, and turned a deaf ear to the lamentations of the people at the suffering this entailed upon them. That he had spent over Taels 100,000 in the construction of guns and rifles that burst when they were tested; that he wished to denounce the *Wei-yuan* in charge; that the *Wei-yuan* objected and wanted him to call on the Financial Commissioner to make good the loss, but that the latter had no money wherewith to do so. Finally, that these useless weapons were forced upon the Volunteer Militia throughout the province, who were compelled to pay for them whether they would or no. Careful enquiry has elicited the following facts:—An arsenal was established on the archery ground of the Governor-General's Brigade, and as the space was not large enough, a neighbouring house was bought at the proper rate, as the deed of transfer will show. The remaining charges enumerated under the above heading prove to be utterly untrue. No guns burst, no demand was made from the Financial Commissioner, and no weapons were forced upon the Volunteers. The arsenal was opened in December, 1877, and in the course of twelve months it turned out a complete set of water power machinery, a number of other kinds of machinery large and small, and over two hundred guns and rifles, at a total cost of something over Tls. 60,100. In the opinion of memorialists, however, the conditions of Szechuen—an inland province where military operations are not at present in progress—are so vastly different from those of a maritime province, that there is not by any means the same

necessity for an arsenal as called forth those in the north and south, which have for their object maritime defence. There is constant reason to apprehend, moreover, that the *lekin* collected will be insufficient to meet the grants in aid to other provinces, while the Arsenal, which has just been established one year, has cost over Tls. 60,000 including building, repairs, and machinery, and has only turned out seventy rifles. Were these of fine workmanship and superior quality the Government would of course not object to the heavy expense, but as a matter of fact they very much resemble those imported from foreign countries, and seem neither in material, workmanship nor finish to be quite as good as they might be, while it is as yet impossible to predict anything about their power of range, accuracy, or durability. On reference to the books, memorialists find that the Governor-General bought 4,500 rifles (來復槍) in the month of June, 1877, at a cost of Tls. 1.2 per rifle, so that it does not require much experience to see that it is far cheaper to buy than to make them, especially when the article of local manufacture is not of the finest workmanship. Under these circumstances they would recommend that the arsenal be closed, in order to save a waste of expenditure. If an actual necessity arises for arms, they can be bought as heretofore. The memorialists then proceed to report on other charges of irregularity, etc., which are summarised in a decree of 21st March.

April 14th-15th.—(1) A decree ordering the bestowal of a piece of silver one tael in weight upon each of the members of the Imperial Equipage Department forming the escort to Their Majesties on the road to the Mausolea. The money is to be supplied from the Privy Purse.

(2) A decree ordering the bestowal of half a month's extra pay upon the lieutenants, sergeants, second sergeants, corporals and privates on duty at Yèn-chiao, Pai-chien, T'ao-hua Ssü and Lung-fu Ssü, the four places through which the Imperial cortège passed.

(3) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hunan, reports the rehearing of an appeal case sent down by the Court of Censors in January, 1877. Huang Shao-hsiang, a graduate by purchase, who lives at Shao-yang in Hunan, opened an iron smelting establishment some years ago, and hired Hsiao Kuo-k'un to conduct the manufacture of steel in his works. In July, 1874, Hsiao Kuo-k'un was reckoning his account of wages with Hwang, and the latter wished to

deduct the price of thirteen days' labour from the account as Hsiao had been ill during that time and had done no work. Hsiao objected, and a dispute arose, in the course of which he caught hold of Hwang, who struck him with his fist in the stomach, whereupon Hsiao retaliated and showered blows promiscuously upon him. Hwang, in the excitement of the struggle, drew back and dealt Hsiao a kick in the midriff which caused him to fall over a low bench on which he struck his jaw, and then fell to the ground, bruising his temple in the fall. Some men that were by picked him up, and his account of wages settled, he went home to his father's house, where he died some weeks afterwards from the effects of his bruises. His father Hsiao Ting-lieh, who was a poor man, borrowed some money, bought a coffin and buried him. His brother Hsiao Ting-jung, who was blind and dependent on his brother for support, laid a charge in the Magistracy of murderous assault against Hwang Shao-ch'i. The Acting Magistrate, who suspected that the charge was a false one, on the ground that it had been brought nearly a month after decease, when, owing to the heat of the weather, decomposition would render inspection difficult, insisted on the appearance of the witnesses for the prosecution before he would hold an inquest. Before these made their appearance his successor arrived, and a second charge was laid, but it was not till four months afterwards that the coffin was exhumed and the body inspected, and then decomposition was so far advanced that no marks of violence could be detected and a verdict was given of death from natural causes. The plaintiffs declined to sign the usual acceptance, so the body was given over to the *tipao*, and they were sent back to the Magistracy for further examination, but, as the witnesses were not all forthcoming they were released on bail. In the meantime the father had appealed to the judge who referred the case to the Magistrate. The latter, however, was cashiered at this juncture, and his successor, hearing that a certain military graduate, a relative of the plaintiffs, was setting them on to give all this trouble, applied for permission to cashier him and bring him to trial, but the man refused to surrender himself, and this occasioned much delay. Hsiao Ting-jung, the brother of the deceased, indignant at the failure to avenge his brother's wrongs, and distressed that these should have brought trouble on his relatives, went to Peking and lodged an appeal in which he stated that bribery and corruption had been at work, and made

other charges that were quite untrue. After quoting the law bearing on the case, the following sentences have been passed:—Hwang Shao-ch'i, who should suffer death by strangling after the usual term of incarceration, obtains a free pardon under the Act of Grace of 1875. He has been ordered, however, to pay Tls. 20 for the funeral expenses of the deceased. Hsiao Ting-jung ought to receive 50 blows, for his false charges and neglect to appeal to the Governor-General or Governor before taking his case to Peking. As he is a blind man, however, he is allowed to commute the sentence by the usual monetary payment.

(4) Postscript memorial from the same officer with reference to the decree on the abolition of purchase. The only purchase agency for raising funds for local purposes was abolished three years ago. An agency for Kweichow has long been established, and this was subsequently followed by the institution of similar offices for Yunnan and Shansi. The memorialist has now written to the high authorities of these three provinces to furnish returns to the proper office of the amount of their receipts from the sale of office and to report to His Majesty the schemes they have devised to supply the deficit that will be created by the abolition of the system.

April 16th-17th.—(1-3) Decrees directing the bestowal of pieces of silver, one tael in weight, to the members of the Bodyguard and other subordinates in attendance on Their Majesties during the ceremonial at the Mausolea.

(4) Kwang-ying 廣英 is appointed Superintendent of the Huai-an Customs. No other documents of importance.

April 18th-19th.—A series of decrees are published in this issue expressing satisfaction at the manner in which the preparations and arrangements for the final ceremony at the Eastern Mausolea have been carried out, and conferring rewards on the high officers to whom these arrangements were entrusted.

(1) The Empresses being satisfied with the manner in which the building works have been carried out, have given orders for the bestowal of extraordinary marks of distinction upon the Princes and high officers to whose reverent attention and zeal the satisfactory nature of this work is due. The Prince of Kung is to be committed to the Imperial Clan Court for the bestowal of a distinguished reward, and his son, the *Bei-léh* Tsai Chéng, is to draw double pay. The Prince of Ch'un is to draw double salary and to have the privilege of riding in a four

bearer chair within the precincts of the "Forbidden City." The list includes the names of Jung Lu, Commandant of the Gendarmerie; Ngén Ch'èng, President of the Board of Ceremonies; and Weng T'ung-ho, President of the Board of Punishments; besides a number of Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries of Boards, to each of whom a specific reward is assigned.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial satisfaction with the manner in which the ceremonies were performed at the Hui Ling (Mausolea of Emperor Tung Chih), and conferring rewards upon the responsible officers. The name of the Prince of Kung also heads this list, with the gift of two grades of commutative rank.

(3) Next, the high officers who assisted at the ceremony of the installation of the tablets to Their late Majesties are rewarded.

(4) Certain of the commissioned officers of the Cavalry in attendance are to be selected by the Commander-in-chief of the Peking Field Force for the bestowal of rewards, and the privates are to receive a month's pay. The commissioned officers of the Chihli force that were on duty are all to receive one grade of commutative rank, and the privates are to get a month's pay.

(5) The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Works are next rewarded.

(6) The bearers of the Imperial Hearse are each to receive a piece of silver one tael in weight.

(7) The Princes of Kung and Li, Prince Po-yén-na-mo-hu, and the *Bei-léh*, Dukes, and others who accompanied His Majesty into the tomb are rewarded by the bestowal of two steps of commutative rank or other distinctions.

(8) The Governor-General of Chihli and the officers under his command, who were on duty in connection with the Imperial visit to the Mausolea, are to receive one step of commutative rank, and the soldiers are to receive a month's pay.

(9) Memorial from Hwang T'i-fang once more referring to the charges against Ho Show-tz'ü and Li Chung-ming the Peking bookseller. In a recent number of the *Peking Gazette* he noticed a memorial from the President of the Board of Works in which he states that there is no "actual" relationship between himself and Li Chung-ming, nor does any social intercourse exist between them. The memorialist humbly ventures to consider that in the matter of family relationship, if such exists, it should be acknowledged to exist, and if it does not exist it should be denied, how can distinctions be drawn between actual and spurious relationship, between proper and

improper intimacy? Memorialist hears that "there is not the slightest tie between Ho Show-tz'ü and Li Chung-ming," and yet both the late and the present wife of the latter are recognised by Ho Show-tz'ü as his adopted daughters, and the intercourse between the two families is that of relatives! Li Chung-ming assumes towards others the position of the son-in-law of Ho Show-tz'ü, and Ho Show-tz'ü presents a fan to Li Chung-ming upon which the latter is styled in large letters "Chung Shan, my elder brother by marriage." This is known to everyone in the capital by hearsay or ocular demonstration. The habit of adopting different names and borrowing children is one that prevails amongst the petty inhabitants of a simple village as a means for increasing friendship and intimacy, and is a base and servile practice amongst the hangers on of honorable and distinguished families. It carries with it no duties of relationship that can be called such. Ho Show-tz'ü, knowing well that the relationship was neither actual nor legitimate, does, in reality, under pretence of repudiating it, give a clue by which the families may be brought together, connecting them by a [chain both] distant and involved. Surely the manner in which he states this renders the matter he tries to conceal more patent than ever to all. Commercial intercourse and acquaintanceship between booksellers and gentry or high officers of State is a matter of frequent occurrence, and if they be not allowed to reach a stage of intimacy as in this case, but are confined to visits in connection with the purchase of books, there can no harm be done. But the intimacy of Ho Show-tz'ü is a matter of common notoriety. Presents pass on every occasion of festivity or of mourning, and the visits that are paid in the course of the year could not be reckoned in two figures. Li Chung-ming's residence is in the centre of the *Ch'ang*, in a wide thoroughfare, where everyone can see the green covered chair of Ho Show-tz'ü frequently standing in the street exciting general astonishment and admiration. What, then, can Ho Show-tz'ü's object be in prevaricating to this extent? Memorialist ventures to consider that truthfulness (*lit.* absence of deception) is a fundamental principle in the service of a Minister towards his Prince, and Ho Show-tz'ü has been the first to offend against the prohibition against deceit laid down with such a blaze of majesty in a decree issued at the close of last year. The memorialist then proceeds to demonstrate the deception that

has been practised by the President in the explanations offered by him which no one ventures to expose, and argues that if he dares openly to be guilty of deceit in a matter of public notoriety, it is probable that he would go to greater length in other cases. The Censorate will doubtless be able to deal properly with Li Chung-ming, but Ho Show-tz'ü's duplicity and guile have been the subject of open comment and amusement in the streets. The interests that are involved in the lawless action of a tradesman are so slight as compared with the wrong doing of a high Minister towards those above him, that memorialist feels it his duty to put the case in its true light before His Majesty. (See *Gazettes* of April 1st and 7th.)

April 20th-21st.—(1) Yang Yo-pin is permitted to relinquish his duties as Admiral of the Yangtze and return to his native place to minister to his parents.

(2) Decree directing that certain people who presented petitions during the progress of the Imperial cortège of the preceding day shall be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be submitted to the most rigorous examination.

(3) A further reward of a piece of silver one tael in weight is to be bestowed on the guards in immediate attendance upon the Imperial equipage. The Privy Purse is to supply the necessary amount.

(4) Memorial from the Governor-General of the Hu-kwang Provinces and the Governor of Hupeh respecting a set of rules, eight in number, that they have drawn up for the maintenance of peace and order in and about the lake and its approach at Fan-k'ow. These regulations are not given in the memorial. (See *Gazette* of 6th April.)

April 22nd.—The *Gazette* again commences to appear daily.

(1) A decree ordering a further bestowal of rewards upon the high officers and others who accompanied the Imperial cortège back to Peking.

(2) Memorial from Ching Lien and Ho Show-tz'ü, who were instructed to inspect the condition of the rice in the *Nan Hsin Ts'ang*, a portion of which was reported unfit for consumption. The result of their enquiries and the frauds discovered by them are summarised in a decree of the 28th March.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials relating to matters of official routine.

April 23rd.—(1) A decree conferring rewards on a number of minor officers who have been connected with the works at the Imperial Mausolea since the death of the

Emperor T'ung Chih. The list of names occupies over thirty pages of the *Gazette*.

(2) A series of proposals for the conservation and improvement of the waterways of Kiang-nan, submitted by a civil official on probation of the 9th degree of rank, Hsi Jung by name. He commences by the assertion that the question of grain transport is one that specially affects the Kiang-nan provinces in which, similarly, the preservation of waterways is a matter of great importance that has engaged the attention and called forth the efforts of successive dynasties, resulting in commercial activity and prosperity for the past two hundred years. In the 28th and 29th years of Tao Kwang there was so heavy a rainfall that the rivers and lakes could not contain the water, and the historical region of San-hu, of which Su-chow is the centre, was transformed into one vast lake. On the subsidence of the flood the beds of the various streams and rivers became choked up with mud, and the general attention having been concentrated shortly afterwards upon the suppression of the T'ai-ping rebellion, which was followed by a diminished population and an exhausted treasury, the water system fell into neglect and became daily shallower and more obstructed, with the result that it was serviceable neither for drainage in times of excessive rain, nor as a feeder in time of drought. At the present time, at the expense of double the effort, it is capable of being availed of to half the extent it formerly was, but if no efforts be made in the way of improvement or repairs until it becomes useless, the cost will be enormous even if success be possible. It is in view of this contingency that the writer of the memorandum ventures to submit a few suggestions on the subject. The water system in and around the cities of Sung-kiang and So-chow is so complicated that it is impossible to consider each channel separately, but it may be stated as a general proposition that the whole of this system is fed by, and drains into, the T'ai-hu Lake, which is a reservoir also for the drainage from the hills around Hangchow, Chia-hsing, Hu-chow, and other places. The lake has two outlets into the sea. One to the S.E. by the Shanghai or Hwangpoo River, the other to the N.E. by the T'ai-tsang or Liu-chiang River, both these streams forming, as it were, the vitals of the two prefectures whose names they take. Forming, as they do, the one the throat of the lake, and the other the tail, it is essential that these waterways should be kept clear, and with this object it is necessary that a clearance should be made of the marsh grass and reeds that

line the banks, the growth of which is encouraged by a set-of roughs and vagabonds, as they obstruct the flow of the water. The branches or feeders of these main streams should be cleared out, that they may be available for purposes of drainage or irrigation, and so the two prefectures referred to be secured against the effects either of drought or flood. In the case of Huai-an and Yang-chow [the prefectures lying between the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers], and forming the bed of the water system that connects the Huai-an and Yellow Rivers, the question becomes still more difficult. Speaking generally, the Hung-tsê Lake forms the upper reservoir, both for feeding and drainage, of this system; the five *t'ang*, or dykes, control the central portion of the system, and the Mang-tao, and Yên-ho or Salt Canal, form the connecting channels with the Yangtze, while the Miao-wan and Yun-ti Kwan Rivers connect the system with the sea. The method in which this system should be preserved and controlled lies in the deepening of the Hung-tsê lake in such wise as to render it capable of containing the water [that is drained into it], maintaining the five dykes in such order that they may be available for purposes of irrigation, and keeping free communication along the four rivers mentioned above. Dykes or embankments were constructed in this region during the Sung dynasty, and were of great benefit, but in spite of repeated repairs and attention, they do not now answer the purpose that they did. It seems improbable that the failure is due to the fact that the standard of intelligence is not so high as it used to be. The supposition therefore is that the rivers have changed their character. Not only is the river at Huai-an and Yangchow different from what it used to be in ancient times, but it has undergone a marked change during the past twenty years or so. Before that time the waters of the Hung-tsê Lake were agitated by high winds into great waves all through the year, and now at dry seasons it is possible to cross it with the skirts of one's garment lifted up. At Kao-chia-yên there used to be a brick-faced dyke, but this was pulled down and the bricks employed in the construction of a wall round Ch'in-ch'iang-p'u, and now, though the Yellow River no longer flows to the Southward, the prefectures of Huai-an and Yang-chow are still in imminent danger whenever there is a rise of water [at Ch'in-ch'iang-p'u], and if at any time the Yellow River should revert to its old bed, the disastrous results would be quite inestimable. If minor

officials were sent to inspect the country and concert measures of precaution, their certain course would be to pursue a near-sighted policy and to act only with regard to the interests of the immediate locality with which they were concerned, without considering the safety or convenience of the country lower down. Or they might even gloss over the danger and condemn the whole question as one involving remote contingencies, and therefore unnecessary of consideration. It is therefore suggested that high and responsible officials be sent to consider the whole matter and gather information on the subject from those whose age and experience entitle their opinions to respect, with a view to determining what permanent provision can be made against the silting up of the present channel and consequent flooding of the country. The sluices in the various tidal streams should also be set in order with a view to preventing the entry of mud or silt, and the inner waters thus secured from obstructions caused by deposits. In former times the grain junks from Chinkiang to Kua-chow used to go by way of Tan-yang and Tan-t'u, and thus avoid the dangers of the other route which necessitated a voyage of 90 *li* on the Great River. This involved the annual dredging of a channel some 130 *li* in length, which bore hardly on the people in that neighbourhood, owing to the exactions of the officials superintending the work. This work was purposely scamped and the dredgings were piled up on either side of the river instead of being carried off, that they might be washed back into the stream by the rain and the dredging recommenced the following year by the officials who made a living out of the job. It followed that the channel filled up again almost as soon as it was dredged, and boats had to wait for the tide before they could get on. There being two tides daily, and the flow of the incoming one being swift and that of the outgoing one slow, silt accumulated, and the large sums annually employed in clearing the channel were actually spent in vain. What is now required therefore is that this 160 *li* should be properly dredged and a sluice constructed at Chinkiang, which should be opened and shut at stated periods under official supervision, no boats being allowed to enter or go out except on a falling tide. No silt can then get in and the channel will be kept permanently clear at a great saving of expense, labour, and the hardship that the latter entails. In former days dredging was an expensive work, but now that machinery can be em-

ployed, this might either be constructed at one of the arsenals, or foreign dredgers hired, which will do the work both more rapidly and at a saving of expense, and show immediate results.

The same officer next submits a memorandum suggesting the necessity for increasing the salaries at present issued to officials serving in Peking, which are miserably inadequate.

April 24th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from Kuang Show and Ch'ien Pao-lien, the high officers sent to Shantung to ascertain the truth of statements made by the Censor Chên Po-yuan, who charged the Governor of Shantung with being in the habit of demanding presents on festivals and birthdays and indulging in illegal levies. They state that, although no positive proof exists of the Governor having exacted illegal fees, on each of the festivals and upon his birthday the Commissioners, Taotai, Prefect, and others go to him with presents, which he accepts. Also, that his domestics are in the habit of accepting what are known as *men-pao*, or fees for sending in cards of visitors. For his apparent ignorance of the duty of keeping a due check [upon avaricious instincts], and for his neglect to exercise a proper supervision over his inferiors, the Governor is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. The Judge and late Financial Commissioner having been found to have indulged in similar misdemeanours are to be committed to the Board simultaneously with the Governor.

(2) Explanatory memorial from Ho Show-tz'ü. Having been called upon to offer further explanations as to the nature of his relations with Li Chung-ming, the Peking bookseller, he begs to report that his story of his distant relationship with Yao Chi-hui, and the connection of Li Chung-ming with the same person by marriage, is perfectly true. Had memorialist wished to deceive it would have been easy enough to have said directly that no connection existed, for what object could be served by inventing such a story and creating unnecessary complications? The memorialist being a lover of books, and there being no special law to prohibit officials from holding relations with booksellers, he was constantly in the habit of frequenting different book shops to purchase or inspect their stock. The *Pao Ming Chai*, belonging to Li Chung-ming, contains a larger stock than the others and was consequently frequently visited by memorialist, who had, however, no intimacy with the proprietor beyond com-

mercial dealings. Memorialist having been frequently to the *Liu Li Ch'ang* since last winter to drill the bearers of the Imperial Hearse, was wont to look in on his way to see the books, and, as Chang P'ei-lun correctly observes, his cart might have been seen at the door by everyone. As for such a boorish and petty thing as the adoption of the man's wife for his daughter, such practices are the delight of rustic clowns, and even they are ashamed of them. However great a fool memorialist may be, he certainly would never get as far as this. An old man now, seventy years of age, he has served three generations of the Imperial House, and surely, however stupid he may be, it is his wish to do his duty carefully and reverently towards those who have cherished and fostered him? The memorial concludes with the strongest protestations of loyalty and gratitude. In a postscript it is explained that the memorial was ready for presentation at an earlier date, but as it contained characters which on that particular day came under the law of "respectful withdrawal," its presentation was delayed.

(4) Postscript memorial from Kuo Sung-tao (late Envoy to Great Britain and France):—Your servant, who was always a victim to numerous bodily infirmities, was graciously sent forth by His Majesty on a distant errand of great responsibility in the declining years of his life. His task was the more difficult from his dullness and want of comprehension, which intensified his fears and apprehensions [of failure.] From the 6th or 7th moon of the year before last he began to suffer from sleeplessness, and by the time a year had elapsed his constitution grew more feeble day by day. In the second moon of last year he suddenly experienced a welling up of phlegm into his mouth, and he vomited fresh blood without ceasing in such quantities that in a brief space of time a basin was filled to overflowing. Reflecting on the fact that his life had been marked by a series of troubles and afflictions causing obstruction of breath and mental agitation which had already developed an asthmatic condition, but that he had hitherto been perfectly free from this particular complaint [described above], memorialist was filled with deep apprehension lest he might be laid in a ditch in a strange and far distant land, and so be unable to fulfil his obligations even to an infinitesimal degree. Thanks, however, to the Heavenly Companion, he was graciously allowed to give up his duties, thus being indebted to the vast and far-reaching bounty of his Sacred

Master for the failing breath that still remains to him. Considering, too, that during the two years he was abroad he had been examined by many doctors, who felt his pulse and gave him medicines in a very different manner from that of the Central Land; and that though their efforts to relieve the indigestion and remove the torpor of the internal organs were occasionally efficacious in a slight degree, memorialist's constitution grew weaker day by day, and he had no means of restoring it, after careful thought he came to the conclusion that the only thing was to seize the opportunity of a steamer going to Shanghai and return to his native place by way of the Yangtze to seek [proper] medical advice. He therefore now implores the Heavenly Grace to bestow upon him three months' congé, that he may give timely attention to his complaint and thus perhaps prevent its assuming a chronic form. Upon arrival at his native place, it will still be incumbent upon him to report the date upon which he reaches his home. It is his earnest wish that the speedy measures he will adopt for his cure may bring about an approach to convalescence enabling him to return to the capital and perform his duties, in the hope that he may be permitted to testify by his efforts the gratitude that even a dog or a horse would show to its master. Your humble servant prays for the sacred glance upon this his postscript memorial, setting forth the particulars of his application for congé on the ground of sickness.—Granted by rescript.

April 25th.—(1) Memorial from the President of the Board of Civil Office and his colleagues with reference to the penalty they were called upon to determine for Ho Show-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works, for his want of frankness in the explanations offered of his connection with Li Chung-ming, the Peking bookseller. His offence comes under the category of a private misdemeanour, the legal penalty for which is deprivation of three steps of commutative rank and removal to another post. The memorialists submit that Ho Show-tz'ü should be punished accordingly. (For decree see *Gazette* of 1st April.)

(2) The Governor of Chékiang reports the departure of the first instalment of the tribute grain to be forwarded by sea from Shanghai. The total amounts to 180,120 piculs, of which 102,110 were despatched by steamer and the remainder in 32 junks.

(3) Memorial from one of the high officers in charge of the Mausolea, giving details as to the number of cushions he had

provided for Their Majesties' use at the Mausolea with the color and material of which they were made, and the rooms and seats for which they were intended.

April 26th.—(1) A decree appointing Hu T'u-li 瑚圖禮 to the post of Director of the Grand Court of Revision.

(2) An appeal case submitted by the Court of Censors. A woman called Sun had sent her nephew with the following petition:—Petitioner was married to Sun Chan-ting, a native of Ts'ang Chow in Chihli, three years ago. He had a concubine residing in the house, whom he had bought some years since. This woman had behaved improperly with petitioner's husband's nephew Sun Shên-nien. Two years ago she and her paramour cast covetous glance at the family property, and with a view to its acquisition persuaded a number of official underlings to take petitioner's husband in custody on some false charge. He was then mulcted of 200 strings of *cash*, but his liberty was still refused him and he died in prison at the end of two months from some unknown cause. The nephew had then the audacity to carry the body to petitioner's house and deposit it there. There were bruises on it that had been inflicted by kicks, which were attributed to the nephew. Appeals for an enquiry were unheeded, and petitioner's land was sold for the benefit of her persecutors.—Referred as usual.

(3) Memorial from the Governor of Shansi, reporting that, in obedience to the decree ordering the abolition of the purchase system, all the officers for raising funds for famine relief by the sale of rank and titles have been directed to close at once. The memorialist has not yet received returns of receipts from all the agencies, but as soon as these are complete a statement shall be submitted. With regard to the consideration of a scheme whereby the sums thus forfeited shall be replaced, the memorialist regrets that he sees no way in which this can be done, for the amounts contributed by purchases of rank have been large, doubtless from an appreciation of the object to which they were to be devoted. The revenue receipts of the province are derived entirely from taxes on land and salt, for the *lekin* receipts do not now amount to more than Taels 60,000 to 70,000 per annum, in consequence of the small number of merchants and the limited extent of their operations, differing materially in this respect from the prosperity that characterises the southern provinces. As regards

the land tax, for the last three *man* or periods, no levy has been made, and the first levy for the present year must be postponed, as far as the south of the province is concerned, until the month of July, while even then the most uncompromising severity will not result in more than half the usual proceeds, while a full levy from the north of the province, even, cannot bring in at the most more than Tls. 100,000 and upwards. In the matter of salt, again, the sale has become much restricted, the yield for last year having been only some Tls. 40,000, less than the amount of subsidies due to the capital which were allowed to be appropriated for the relief of the province. Funds are urgently needed for the transport of seed corn to various prefectures and the purchase of plough oxen to replace those that have been lost; and now that measures are ordered to be devised to replace the loss caused by the abolition of purchase, memorialist finds it utterly impossible to do so. His only resource therefore is to borrow the money required for relief purposes from the subsidies due to the capital out of the land tax and salt *gabelle*.—Rescript: Noted.

April 27th.—(1) A decree ordering rigorous steps to be taken for the recovery of large sums of money in which four district Magistrates in Shantung are in default. Two of these officers being dead, the sums for which they are liable will be recovered from their families.

(2) The Governor of Shantung reports the sentences passed in a case of jail breaking in which a prisoner under sentence of death escaped from the cage in which he was confined and the responsible officers have failed to effect his capture after a lapse of a year and a half. The stereotyped account of the escape is given. The officer in charge went his usual nightly rounds, and having satisfied himself that the manacles and fetters of the prisoners were properly secured, set the guard and left them for the night. A heavy storm of wind and rain arose, and the watchmen went into their room for shelter, where they were overpowered by sleep. The prisoner, seeing his opportunity, wrenched the iron collar from his neck, and having twisted off his handcuffs and leg irons, pulled out one of the bars of his wooden cage and with it worked out a brick in the wall which enabled him to make a hole big enough to creep out of. He then got a bench and placed it against the outer wall, climbed by its aid on to the top, and jumped down into the open. From that time to this he has never been heard of.

The turnkey responsible for his custody, as there is proof to show that the escape was owing to his carelessness and not to his connivance, will be punished by the infliction of 100 blows and banishment for three years, which is a mitigation by two degrees of the sentence that was to have been undergone by the prisoner that escaped. Two of the watchmen on duty are dead, but the under-turnkey and clerk, who still survive, are to receive eighty blows, which is the legal punishment for a misdemeanour.

April 28th.—With the exception of a decree conferring further honors on minor officials in connection with the recent ceremony at the Mausolea, the whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a report from the high officers commissioned to investigate the charges brought against the Governor of Shêngking by an officer of the Guards. (See *Gazette* of 7th April.)

April 29th.—(1) A decree appointing Wen Hwui 文暉 to the post of Director of the Court of Imperial entertainment.

(2) Memorial from the Governor of Kiangsi, reporting a case of highway robbery and murder in the Kan District of that province. Ts'un Ts'ai-hsiu, a worthless vagabond of that district, met some year and-a-half ago some friends, five in all, and they commenced to relate to each other how hard the times were, and how difficult it was to get a living. The result of their conversation was a determination then and there to rob some passer-by in a thoroughfare near at hand. With this intention they all started off for the position they intended to take up. They had not gone far before one of their number who had a sore on his left foot, and another who was seized with a pain in his stomach, left them and went back, reducing the number to four. These having arrived at a place called Hwang Kang Ling, picked up a stone a-piece and waited at the side of the road. They had not waited long before one Chou T'ung-fang, a native of a neighbouring district, passed by. He had a belt round his waist in which were dollars, and he carried across his shoulders slung at either end of the pole, packages containing cotton cloth, long ells, thread, and *cash*, Sun Ts'ai-hsin and Teng Chao-wen ran forward to rob him as soon as they saw him. Sun Hai-yung, one of the four, then threw his stone and hit Chow in the stomach, causing him to drop his pole and lay hold of his parcels, shouting aloud the while for help. Sun Yüeh-ts'ai's stone took him at the back

of the head and knocked him over, when he commenced to kick and cry and halloo. Sun Ts'ai-hsin's stone struck him on the knee, and Têng Chao-wên's which caught him over the left eye, killed him. The murderers then proceeded to distribute the plunder, the two renegades coming in for a small share. The following sentences have been awarded:—Sun Ts'ai-hsin, decapitation with exposure of the head; Têng Chao-wên died in prison, but his head will nevertheless be cut off. The two men who did not participate in the murder but only divided the booty, will be banished to a distant and pestilential frontier. The other parties to the crime being dead, their sentence need not be considered.

April 30th.—(1) A decree conferring further rewards in connection with the recent ceremonies at the Mausolea.

(2) A decree announcing the penalties to be inflicted on the Governor, Financial Commissioner, and late Judge of Shantung for the offence of having accepted presents from their respective subordinates at the festivals and on their birthdays. They are to lose three steps of commutative rank and to be removed to other posts. A further step of commutative rank is to be forfeited by Wên Ko, the Governor, and other officers, whose names are not given, for their negligence in the control of their domestics. (See *Gazette* of 23rd April.)

(3) Postscript memorial from Ch'un Fu, Military Governor of Uliasutai, begging that he may this year be absolved from the obligation to send to His Majesty the annual offering of two cases of jam from the *Ha ta* fruit. It has hitherto been the custom to order the Mongol patrols to search for the fruit and send it into the town, where it is made into jam and forwarded to Peking. Last autumn, however, the acting deputy Commandant reported that the year had been so cold and dry that none of the *Ha ta* fruit at Ho-fu-lo-k'ò, the place at which it was to be found, had come to maturity, and he was therefore unable to supply any. In reply he was directed to do his utmost to get some, and he now states that he has been with his men all over the hills to hunt for the fruit, but the drought and wind have really checked the growth for last season and none can be found. Under these circumstances memorialist hopes that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to forego the two cases of jam for the present year. The Grand Council had the honor to receive the following Rescript:—"Noted."

May 1st.—(1) The following appointments and transfers are noted:—Governor

of Shantung, Chow Hêng-ch'i 周恒祺; Financial Commissioner of Chihli, Jên Tao-jung 任道鎔; Financial Commissioner of Chêkiang, Tsêng Show 增壽; Judge of Chêkiang, Sun Chia-ku 孫家穀; Financial Commissioner of Shantung, Hsieh Yün-shêng 薛久升; Judge of Shansi, Sung Chuang 松椿; Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, Ch'ing Yü 慶裕; Judge of Shênsi, Pien Pao-ch'uan 邊寶泉.

(2) A decree ordering a service of prayers for rain in Peking and Shansi to be held on the 3rd inst. at five of the State Temples. His Majesty will worship at the Ta Kao Tien.

(3) The Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of Kwangtung solicit permission for the Prefect of Ch'ao-chow to be allowed to resign his post, and take up his position amongst the list of expectants for Taotaihips, to which class he properly belongs. The usual account of the applicant's official career is given.

(4) The Director-General of the Yellow River and the Governor of Honan submit a return of the amounts collected by the Kweichow contribution agency, the proceeds of which were allowed to be appropriated by Honan for a certain time. This return subdivides the receipts under several complicated headings embracing different grades and classes of officials, which cannot be interesting to the general reader. The accounts embrace a period of twelve months commencing on the 25th January, 1878, and closing on the 7th January, 1879, and the total receipts are given at Tls. 133,545.1.2.4.5.

(5-6) Postscript memorials from the Director-General of the Yellow River soliciting the bestowal of rewards upon an elderly lady and the Prefect of Canton, who have spontaneously contributed sums of Tls. 1,000 and Tls. 5,000 respectively towards the relief of sufferers by famine.

May 2nd.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the metropolis to the depth of an inch and upwards of saturation, and a varying depth of an inch or less in the surrounding departments and districts.

(1) A decree ordering the immediate degradation and trial of an expectant Taotai in Szechuen who has been denounced by the Governor-General on a number of charges. Amongst others, he is accused of levying a *lekin* contribution on wells,

appropriating public funds, and purchasing a girl as a concubine who was already betrothed.

(2) A decree conferring rewards upon a number of Secretaries recommended by the Prince of Kung and his colleagues for diligence and success in the discharge of their respective duties for several years past. The list of names and rewards conferred occupies nearly eighteen pages of the *Gazette*.

(3) A long memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, submitting a scheme for raising funds to take the place of the deficit that will be caused by the abolition of the purchase system. He commences by quoting a report from the Superintendent of the Salt Department who has the control of the export of Government salt on the borders of Kweichow, in which a summary of the accounts for the year 1878 is given. The results of the year's transactions leave the Superintendent with a capital (成本) of over Tls. 1,200,000, and now that the Government monopoly has been extended to the borders of Yunnan and embraces over thirty sub-prefectures and districts, this capital will require to be augmented by Tls. 500,000. If the present year's operations are successful, the receipts will be considerably increased, and the Superintendent therefore proposes to forward an annual subsidy from these receipts of Tls. 180,000 to the Board of Revenue. The memorialist commends this plan, and considers that the gradual resuscitation of the Government salt trade warrants belief that this amount can be annually forwarded. After quoting the orders he has received relative to the abolition of purchase, and commending the measure, he suggests that the subsidy above referred to will aptly take the place of the revenue that is forfeited by the abolition of purchase.

(4) Postscript memorial from the same officer reporting the result of an investigation into the conduct of Hwang Tsu-chien, a sub-district Deputy Magistrate, who had been charged with inflicting punishment on innocent witnesses and causing the death of one of them. The facts have been ascertained to be as follows:—The Deputy Magistrate had charge of a small district in Chung-chow in Szechuen. Four years ago one P'êng and his brother-in-law robbed the corn fields of a neighbour called Ting Fu-k'ê. A complaint was made at the Magistracy, and a bowman was sent to arrest the man P'êng's wife and bring her to the Court as a witness. Upon

interrogation she confessed that her husband had committed the theft in company with others, and while orders were given for her husband's arrest, she was released on her father's security. The excitement and movement had been too much for a woman in her situation, however, and she gave birth prematurely to a child which died. The confinement was not, as alleged, caused by any violent treatment on the part of Ting Tu-k'è, the neighbour who had been robbed. The woman P'êng's mother-in-law when she heard that her son had been incriminated by his wife, did nothing but abuse and reproach her on every occasion. In the meantime the guilty parties were arrested, and Yang Hsio-shih, the husband of defendant's mother having interfered with the police in the execution of their duty, was arrested with them. His behaviour in Court when called upon for an explanation was insolent and abusive, whereupon he and the other defendants were ordered to be beaten and exposed in the cangue. This so irritated the mother-in-law that she beat her son's wife with a bamboo stick and caused her to cry bitterly. She was consoled for the time, but her mother-in-law's reproaches weighed upon her mind and she went into Ting Fu-k'è's garden and hanged herself upon a tree. At this stage the whole case was removed into a high Court, and the Deputy Magistrate was denounced. The enquiries resulting from this denunciation elicited the facts above detailed, and certain penalties would now be inflicted upon the Deputy Magistrate were it not for the fact that he has since died.

May 3rd.—(1) A decree ordering Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, to vacate his post and come to the Capital to await other employment. Chang Shu-shêng 張樹聲 is to take his place, and Ts'ên Yü-ying 岑毓英 is to succeed him as Governor of Kweichow. (Note.—Ts'ên Yü-ying, who was Governor of Yunnan at the time of the murder of Mr. Margary, vacated that post on the 17th May, 1876, to go into mourning for his adopted mother.)

(2) The Court of Censors report the following appeal case:—Hsü Wên-hsing, a native of the Yung-hsing district in Hunan, sent an agent with a petition complaining that his uncle having had a dispute with an employé called Ts'ao on the subject of wages due, was killed by one Kuei and others at Ts'ao's instigation. The murder was witnessed by a stone-

mason called Wu, who divulged the secret one day in the course of conversation. Guided by the remarks he let fall, petitioner made search for the body in a certain copse and finding a spot in which the earth was "loose," he dug down and discovered his uncle's body covered with wounds. He at once reported the matter to the *ti-pao*, but the murderer tampered with him and got the depositions altered. He also bribed some persons to file a counter-statement, declaring that the body discovered was that of a beggar who had died by the side of the road. An appeal to the Magistrate was dismissed, and the petitioner was subjected to bodily punishment for daring to lodge a complaint. After appeal to the Prefect, an inquest was held, at which the coroner declared that wounds had been inflicted, but his finding was set aside on the ground that he had been intimidated. Petitioner then applied to the Sub-prefect and was put in prison for doing so. His brother thereupon complained to the Taotai, Judge, and Governor in succession, but none of them would have the case brought on for hearing, so that, despairing of justice in his own province, he finally despatched an agent with a petition to Peking.—Referred in the usual manner.

May 4th.—A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, who had been directed to investigate a number of charges brought against Ying Liang, Intendant of the T'ung-yung Circuit in that province, by a Censor. One of the charges against him was that he was the holder of land within his own jurisdiction. Enquiry shows that the Intendant did, in effect, possess a burial ground, and sacrificial land forming the endowment of this ground, in villages in the Ta-hsing and San-ho districts respectively, but that his uncle and nephew had exchanged this land for Government property [which was leased to them (?)], and bought some more property near T'ung-chow and San-ho. As, however, there is no specific legal proviso applying the law of "withdrawal" to Manchu officials holding land within their own jurisdiction, the Intendant is not guilty of any misdemeanour in holding the property referred to. It has been found that the said Intendant did not engage in commercial transactions; that he did not level a burial ground belonging to a private individual at Hsin-tien; that the charge of unauthorisedly substituting building materials in the construction of the Yamên of the Intendancy is untrue, inasmuch as

the funds for this purpose were contributed by himself; that his frequent annual visits with his wife and family to the ancestral tombs were not the occasion of any disturbance whatever, nor were they made a pretext for promiscuous gadding; that he did not put out the public funds under his charge at interest and appropriate this interest, &c., &c. Under these circumstances the accusations brought forward by the Censor are dismissed, but as the Intendant has shown a want of zeal and attention in the execution of river works, giving rise to much comment in the numerous villages under his control, he is at once to vacate his post and to return to the Board to await other employment.

(2) A joint memorial from the supervising Censor and Acting Censor of the northern division of the metropolis reporting the arrest of the members of a gang of burglars who committed a robbery in open daylight in a lane to the westward of the *Ta Sha Lan* street in Peking. They quote the various decrees on the subject that have appeared in the *Gazette* (summaries of which have been made), and then proceed to report that immediately notice of the burglary was brought to them the police were set in motion and rewards issued for the arrest of the perpetrators of so daring an outrage. In the afternoon of the same day a woman called Chang came to the memorialist's place (坊) and related in vociferous tones how on that morning in broad daylight a number of rascals headed by one Sung Liu, armed with knives and other weapons, had broken into her house, wounded her aunt, and carried off her husband's female cousin as well as a number of clothes and head ornaments. In course of time a number of the burglars, first one and then another, whose names and soubriquets are given, were arrested. When brought up for examination they obstinately refused to tell the truth, in spite of the numerous and positive testimony of various eyewitnesses and others. Sun Liu has now at last confessed, but the others continue to give varnished and embellished statements, avoiding the point at issue. The memorialists have now sent them on to the Board of Punishments, and beg that this Bureau may now be instructed to place the above mentioned criminals, with those who have before been sent to them, on their trial.

(4) The same memorialists beg to report, with reference to another case of burglary, that the limit allowed for the apprehension of the criminals has now been exceeded.

They pray therefore that the responsible district officer may, as a preliminary step, be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.—Sanctioned by decree earlier issued.

May 5th.—(1) The Governor of Anhwei reports the trial of an ex-district Magistrate for defalcations in his accounts and the sentence passed upon him. Lu Yü-pi, an Expectant Sub-prefect, was acting Magistrate of the Shun-yi district from November, 1871, until November, 1872, and was unable to hand over to his successor the sum of Tls. 1,335.2.3 for which he was responsible. He was accordingly denounced, and his button was taken away by Imperial decree ordering him to be placed on his trial. The Governor's first step was to send the district Magistrate of Huaining to the ex-officer's temporary place of abode to make a careful search of the premises and confiscate everything he could find, but all he discovered were a few clothes and odds and ends—there was no property whatever. The Governor also wrote to the Governor of Honan to direct the Prefect of Hsin-yang, the ex-Magistrate's native place, to confiscate any property his family might possess in that place; and, finally, ordered steps to be taken with a view to ascertaining whether he possessed property at the places in which he had previously held office. In the meantime the ex-Magistrate was handed over to the Prefect for trial and by him passed on to the two Commissioners who, in turn, passed him on to memorialist. The result of these several enquiries proved that the ex-Magistrate, being called upon during his term of office to repair a sea wall or break-water forming a refuge for junks in the Tai-hu Lake in bad weather, as well as an examination shed that had fallen down, and having no money to do so, appropriated, at one time and another, Tls. 1,335.2.3 from the tax receipts in his treasury. The deficit was discovered by his successor when he took over charge, and immediately reported. The law lays down that the penalty for removal of Treasury funds to be applied to other than their legitimate ends shall, if the sum so removed be under Tls. 5,000, be punishable by banishment. A limit of four years, however, is allowed for the deficit to be made good. If the whole be paid within one year, the punishment is remitted; if within two, it is diminished by two degrees; if within three years, by one degree. But if at the end of the fourth year the whole has not been paid, a penalty shall be inflicted proportionate to the amount that still remains unpaid. Lu Yü-pi, whose offence

does not come within the scope of the Act of Grace, will now be imprisoned, and if at the end of twelve months he has not made good the deficit, further steps will be taken. The effects seized at his lodging are valued at Tls. 1.6.2, which will be placed to his credit as an instalment of his debt. The Sub-prefect of Hsin-yang writes to say that Lu Yü-pi has no relations at his native place, and no property to confiscate. His servant who did not "respectfully" prevent his master from removing the funds in question, should receive eighty blows for "misdemeanour," but he escapes under the Act of Grace.

May 6th.—(1) Liu Chang-yo, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, requests permission for two military officers serving in Yünnan and Kweichow respectively to effect an exchange of posts, as their present stations bring them within the limits in which "respectful withdrawal" should be observed. In a letter from the Board of War, received some time ago, an order was conveyed that, military operations being now at an end in Yünnan, the law of "respectful withdrawal" should be enforced in the case of military officers whom in affected, and arrangements should be made for their exchange of duties with officers in Kweichow, who were under the same jurisdiction.—Referred to the Board of War.

(2) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shénsi, requests His Majesty graciously to grant him permission to vacate his post, as he is suffering from chronic disorder of the liver which recurs at intervals, insomnia caused by anxiety in connection with famine matters, asthma, giddiness, and dimness of vision, while after a lengthened conversation with visitors the root of his tongue becomes corrugated and speech fails him. With disorders so numerous and complicated to contend against, rest and quiet are absolutely necessary, medicine alone being inadequate to work a cure.—Rescript: Let T'an Chung-lin be granted two months' congé. He need not vacate his post. The Governor in question has heretofore discharged his duties with zeal and sincerity. So critical a period of affairs as the present is just the occasion for striving to repay his debt of gratitude to his Sovereign. He must not suddenly give in at the outset

(濼萌退志.)

(3) The same officer acknowledges the receipt of the Imperial decree ordering the abolition of the purchase system. In accordance with the instructions therein contained he has given orders to the office

for the receipt of contributions of rice in Si-an Fu to be closed at the end of the second moon. He proposes to fix the end of the 5th moon as the time of closing for the agencies in Szechuen, Kwangtung, and Shangtung in consideration of their distance. Returns of receipts for the Si-an office will be sent in within five months, the limit fixed by the Board, but he begs permission to defer rendering accounts for the other agencies until six months after the date of their being closed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

May 7th.—(1) The following decree has been reverently received from Their Majesties the Empresses:—The Board of Civil Office reports that the second Secretary Wu K'o-tu has put an end to himself by swallowing poison, and that he has left behind him a secret memorial which they beg to present on his behalf. With regard to the request contained in this memorial, that We will issue an explicit decree in Our joint names, providing beforehand for the reversion of the dynastic succession into the main or proper line, a decree was promulgated on the 22nd January, 1875, providing that when the inheriting Emperor should have a prince born to him, this son should be the adopted heir of the Emperor that had passed away. This was the intention conveyed in the decree that was issued on that occasion which Wu K'o-tu has now referred to in his memorial. Let the Princes, High Ministers, Grand Secretaries, Presidents of Boards, Nine Chief Ministries of State, the College of Literature, Imperial Superintendant of Instruction, Office of Scrutiny, and the Censorate, jointly and duly consider the memorial of Wu K'o-tu and report to Us thereon.

(2) Memorial from Ch'i Yuan-ch'ing and K'ai Ngên-fu, reporting that the survey of the *Wei Ch'ang*, or Imperial Hunting Reserves, has been completed and the land occupied by squatters measured and marked out. This survey was undertaken in consequence of an application from the Superintendent of the Eastern Circuit, who represented to Ch'ung How, the former Military Governor, that a cordon of squatters were establishing themselves round the Hunting Reserves without authority to do so, and that in consequence of the enormous extent of these reserves it was impossible for him to exercise proper supervision without the assistance of special officers told off for the purpose. For years past squatters had been quietly encroaching, more particularly in certain localities known as Na-tan-po, T'u-k'ou-tzü,

etc., etc., while their numbers were increased by refugees from the east of Chihli, who built themselves mat sheds and took possession of unoccupied land. As the wholesale expulsion of so large a number of people might meet with resistance and be attended with considerable danger, the exercise of great care and thought was necessary, and His Majesty was besought, in merciful leniency for the past, to allow those who had already cleared the land to have their holdings surveyed for taxation, careful lines of limitation being marked out, and the scattered squatters relegated to selected spots, while a large proportion of the Reserves was set aside for military exercises. These proposals received the Imperial sanction, and a Deputy Lieutenant-General, a Colonel, and other officers were specially charged with the care of the Hunting Reserves with orders to put the scheme into execution. In course of time the Colonel, by name Wen Hsü, reported that in order to execute a proper survey of the Hunting Reserves and define its limits, with the exercise of due consideration for the interests of the people in such wise as not to cause their ejection or removal to other spots to bear too hardly upon them, it would be necessary to retain the boundary hills of the great Reserve, clear out the long trench or ditch and follow the line of the river [that formed its boundary.] The circuit of the Reserves would then extend over a distance of something more than 1,000 *li*. He proposed to remove the squatters on the land under the control of Na-tan-po and three other stations to the north and south banks of the Liu River, and allot other tracts of land outside the ditch that was now to be dug to those squatters that were occupying land in the new Reserves and to admit them to taxation. He described the boundaries of the area that would thus be under cultivation as follows:—From T'u-kou-tzū to Tung-ta-kow, thence in an oblique north-westerly direction to Sâ-li-ho and Chin-fêng-tui, 350-360 *li*. Length from north to south from 100-450 *li*. The plan proposed having been submitted to Ch'ung How and having received his sanction, the officers entrusted with its execution proceeded to carry it into effect, and they now state that the squatters within the large Hunting Ground have all been ejected and placed elsewhere, while the occupants of the new Reserve have paid taxes on their holdings, an area of over twenty thousand *mow* of waste and cultivated land, exclusive of hills, rivers and timber, having thus been taken possession

of by the squatters. The land has been measured by officers specially appointed for the purpose, and over 1,020,000 strings of Kwantung *cash* collected as a deposit [or security for payment of taxes] upon the waste land now made over. The rate of taxation is fixed at 2 candareens per *mow*, with a waste allowance of one candareen more, and the first levy will be made in the autumn of the present year. In commenting upon the reform that has now been accomplished, the memorialists admit that the occupation of the Hunting Reserves by squatters was due to a want of proper supervision and a failure on the part of the responsible officials to enforce the privacy of these Reserves. Thanks, however, to the benevolence of His Majesty in graciously admitting these people to the privileges of taxation, joy has entered into ten thousand homes, and the indigent subject has found a place of abode. To render the benefits thus conferred lasting and complete, these people should be brought under proper official influence and control. The present military force posted at the various *t'ai* or stations is quite inadequate for the control of so large an area as the one under consideration, and it is proposed that a larger official staff shall be maintained. The question of expense is of course a serious consideration, but this difficulty it is proposed to meet by appropriating the "waste allowance" on the million or more of *mow* on which taxes will be paid. This waste allowance is estimated at Tls. 10,000 odd. For this expenditure an additional force of 200 soldiers and 300 *sula* or Manchu bondsmen (?), with proper officers over them, will be maintained in this region.—Referred by Rescript to the proper Board.

May 8th.—(1) Memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requesting sanction for the expenditure of Tls. 40,000 in the repair of the Mausoleum of Kuang Wu-ti, first Emperor of the late Han dynasty (whose accession is dated from A.D. 25,) a portion of which has been washed away by the Yellow River, as well as the Sai, * or wall of the town of T'ieh-hsieh, about a *li* distant from the Mausoleum. The damage was inspected some years ago by an officer deputed by the Governor, who constructed an embankment of stone to prevent further encroachment. This precaution, however, has been found to be insufficient, as the river is gradually washing the bank away, and has already carried off one wall of the town, while a third of the Mausoleum has gone. An expectant Taotai has lately been sent to inspect the

place, as well as the Financial Commissioner, and the latter now reports that repairs are urgently needed, as delay will entail additional expense. Costly therefore as the undertaking will be, memorialist has thought it right not to allow himself to be tied down by formalities, and has directed the work to be put in hand at once [without waiting for His Majesty's sanction.]—Rescript: Noted.

* [Note.—寨 appears to be a term applied to towns beneath the dignity of Hsien that are surrounded by a mud wall, the entrance gates only being faced with bricks.]

(2) Postscript memorial from Sung K'uei, Imperial Resident at Lassa. The Chief Abbot Lobtsang Jungtien, formerly Prior of a lamaserai, having now recovered from his illness, and the *Shang-shang*, or Treasury, being in want of a man to conduct the various matters that come under this department, the officer in question, being a person of wide learning and experience in the conduct of official matters, was unanimously selected by the whole of Tibet as the right person to be sent to make the necessary arrangements for the ceremony of enthronement [of the new pontiff.] The Resident had now been respectfully requested to move His Majesty to restore the old régime, and permit the abbot to fill the first vacancy of *Kablon*, or Councillor of State, that might fall vacant, or appoint him assistant supernumerary *Kablon*, as [his employment in either capacity] would be of immense benefit to Tibetan interests. The memorialist would humbly observe that there used to be four *Kablon*, one of the appointments being reserved for members of the Tibetan priesthood, but in the reign of Ch'ien Lung, as these latter were found to be incapable of conducting the duties of the post, the appointments were all given to members of the local official body (番官.) The memorialist cannot venture to take upon himself to revert to the old system, and therefore begs respectfully to lay the application he has received before His Majesty, whose instructions he humbly awaits. A translation of this application is forwarded for the information of the Grand Council.—Rescript: Let Lobtsang Jungtien act as supernumerary *Kablon*. Let the proper yamên take note.

(3) Memorial from the same officer announcing that a date has been fixed by the *Shang-shang*, 商上, or Treasury, for the enthronement of the "incarnation" ('*hubil'han*) of the Dalai Lama, and request-

ing His Majesty's commands on the matter. The *T'ung-shan-chi-lung* 'Hut'ukht'u, Awangpantiensch'üchichientsan, the high dignitary in charge of the *Shang-shang* or Treasury, has respectfully represented that in reverent conformity with existing regulation, the '*hubil'han*', or réembodiment of the Dalai Lama should be enthroned at the age of four years. The réembodiment of the thirteenth generation of the Dalai Lama having now attained the age of four years, and being possessed of extraordinary spirituality and intelligence that has aroused the most eager hopes and expectations of the clergy and laity, the spirits have now been reverently appealed to in a special manner, and Buddha has been solemnly invoked [with a view to selecting a date for the ceremony] by genuine and earnest divination. The result has shown that the only superlatively auspicious date is the 31st July, and it is accordingly proposed to go forth on this day to meet the réembodiment of the Dalai Lama and bring him to Mount Potalá for enthronement, that the hopes of all may be fulfilled. It was requested that this matter might be vicariously represented in a reverent manner to His Majesty and the Imperial commands solicited thereon. The memorialist would humbly observe that the matter of the enthronement of the Dalai Lama being regarded throughout Tibet as an auspicious and glorious rite, it is necessary that extra care and attention be shown. He humbly awaits His Majesty's reply to the application of the Treasury. The Grand Council had the honor to receive the following Rescript:—There will be a separate decree issued.

[Note.—For a detailed account of the selection and enthronement of the Dalai Lama, see "Mayers' Chinese Government" and the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. IV, Part I, 1869.]

May 9th.—(1) The Governor-General of Min-chéh and the Governor of Fohkion report the arrival of forty-seven Lewchewans, the survivors of a party of fifty-three, whose vessel had been driven by stress of weather on to the Kwangtung coast, where they were rescued by a fishing craft and taken to the Magistrate of the Nan-hai district (Canton.) From the depositions of these men, taken through an interpreter, it was ascertained that they came from Pa-chung-shan, an island in the Lewchewan group. They were returning in a small junk from Chung-shan Fu to their island in November last, when they were caught in a squall and their vessel wellnigh capsized. They had to cut away their

masts to save the boat, and were driven helplessly before the wind for twelve days, when they found themselves off Nan-hai and fell in with a fishing boat that rescued them. Six of their number had died on the road, and were buried where they died. One of the party was so ill that he had been left for a while at Hongkong and placed under medical treatment. These men will be sent to Lewchew when an opportunity presents itself.

(2) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hupeh, reports that the three months' congé that was granted to Yang Yü-k'è, newly appointed General of the Kao-chow Brigade in Kwangtung, for the purpose of cleaning his ancestral graves, has now expired, and it is the intention of that officer to leave for his post, to which he will repair with all speed, on the 29th March.

(3) Memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang Provinces, submitting the arrangements he proposes to make in connection with the resumption of the Canal route for the conveyance of the winter instalment of the grain tribute for the Kiang-peh area, the restoration of the river transport having been decided upon by the Board. The following report has been received from the Grain Intendant Sung Chuang:—"It having been determined to send forward the grain tribute due this season from Kiang-ning, Huai-an Yang-chow, and T'ung-chow, officers were sent to Kiang-peh, Anhwei, etc., to get in the various quota due, and others were sent to Pao-ying and Fan-shui to establish agencies for the hire of boats, stowage of the rice as it arrived, etc., etc. The empty junks returning from last season's trip having been detained at the Wei River until last autumn, and some of them even then being unable to get south, the junkmen looked upon the service as a hard and embarrassing one, and the consequence was that the difficulty in hiring junks, already sufficiently great, was much more so than in previous years. By dint, however, of much running about, persuasion, and exhortation, and the promise of extra liberality with a speedy return southward, boats were at last got together, and it was arranged that all should be in readiness to start by the end of the year, while an engagement was entered into that the boats should be all loaded some time during the 2nd moon. They were then to be despatched in two fleets, each fleet consisting of five divisions. The object of effecting an early start was to ensure timely arrival at Shantung, where they would

await the [spring] freshets before crossing the Yellow River and proceeding northwards. The force of the Yellow River freshets, on the Shantung frontier unfortunately varies, and there is no certainty whatever that the waters of the Yellow River can be made to aid the entry of the junks along the Chang-ch'iu reach. Of late years, owing to the diversion of the Yellow River northwards, the entrance at Pa-li-miao has been continually washed away, with the result that the mouth has been narrowed and the passage is attended with inconvenience. On the last occasion upon which the sluice was opened to admit the entry of the grain junks into the Canal, after only five and a half detachments had passed, the water fell so low that the passage became obstructed. It was only after prompt and energetic dredging that the whole fleet succeeded in reaching Lin-ching. The Tai-tsun sluice is intended to dam up the water in the Wên River, a most important channel, and prevent its flow eastwards. This sluice was carried away during the floods of last summer and the Canal became so low in consequence that the fleet could not advance. The old channel by the Shih-tzū River has long been obstructed, so that for many seasons past the junks have been obliged to make a detour by the Wei-shan and other lakes. An estimate of the cost of dredging the Shih-tzū River in order to avoid the dangerous detour by way of the lakes, has now been made, and the conclusion that has been arrived at is that the shallow portions in Shantung and the breach at the Tai-tsun sluice should be set in order by the Shantung Government. This Government should also be called upon to estimate the expense of altering the Chang-ch'iu sluice into the canal, and put the work in hand at once if feasible." In reply to the Intendant's report, the memorialist has instructed him to get his boats loaded by a certain time and send them forward when ready. He has also written to the Director-General of the Yellow River and the Governor of Shantung to give orders to have that portion of the canal within the limits of Shantung properly inspected and dredged before the arrival of the fleet.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

May 10th.—(1) A decree ordering prayers for rain in the metropolis and Shansi to be offered up on the 12th inst.

(2) Memorial from Kuang Show and Ch'ien Pao-lien, the High Commissioners appointed to investigate certain charges against the Governor of Shantung, reporting the result of their enquiries into a

portion of these charges. They took with them as their staff two senior and a second Secretary of different Boards, and reached Tè Chow eleven days after they had taken leave of His Majesty. From thence they changed the route, and instead of advancing by the ordinary road, travelled by way of Wu-ting, Ling-hsien, &c., &c., their object being to ascertain by private enquiry whether or no the Governor had been guilty of the acts of oppression with which he was charged on the occasion of his tour of military inspection. They found that, although food and fodder for men and horses had been required at the different places through which the Governor passed, there had been no wanton exaction or oppression of the people. Most of the official resting places and houses at which the party had lodged, had the ceilings of the rooms prepared with blue flowered paper, and the walls with white flowered paper, which was still fresh-looking after the lapse of several months, but they saw no traces of the walls having been pasted with red satin, nor did they hear talk of red felt having been laid along the streets. On their arrival at the capital, the memorialists propose to get in all the books of the Commissioners, Taotai, Prefect and Magistrate residing in the city, and search them carefully to see whether any entries are made of the receipt of presents, etc., etc.—Rescript: It is noted. The President in question and those with him having arrived at the provincial capital, they will at once carefully enquire into the matters they have been directed to investigate and report to Us truly thereon.

(3) Report by the same officers on the result of their investigations at the provincial capital. These have already been summarised in an earlier decree.

May 11th.—No documents of importance.

May 12th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from the Special Commissioners Kuang Show and Ch'ien Pao-lien, relating with tedious minuteness the circumstances of a case of murder by official underlings, who were afterwards permitted to escape by the acting district Magistrate under whom they were serving. The case, which had been appealed to Peking, and was relegated to the Commissioners, is intricate and uninteresting.

May 13th.—(1) A decree ordering greater promptitude in the settlement of outstanding cases that are handed over by Sub-prefects or Magistrates to their successors on change of office.

(2) A decree committing the Censor Ying Chên, to whom reference has been made in several earlier decrees in connection with the supervision of delivery of grain, to his Board for the determination of a penalty. He had been called upon to produce a member of his household against whom a charge of interference in the matter of recommendations for special service had been brought. He declared, in reply, that the man was dead, and although subsequent enquiry has cleared the deceased of the charges made, it has elicited the fact that the Censor had been guilty of breach of regulation in entering as soldiers on his good conduct list two individuals who were not soldiers at all, and obtained the bestowal of a button of the sixth grade without any claim to it whatever.

(3) A decree directing the immediate dismissal of Fang Chün-yi, Judge of Szechuen, who has been ascertained by the Governor-General to be of too yielding and complacent a disposition to be fitted for his post, added to which he has been guilty of accepting illegal fees.

(4) A decree ordering immediate reform in the office of Gendarmerie in which a Censor has declared numerous abuses exist.

(5) Li P'ei-ching 黎培敬 is appointed Judge of Szechuen.

(6) Memorial from Sung Kwei, Imperial Resident at Lassa. It has been reported to him that until the succession of the late Dalai Lama, it had been the custom for a new Pontiff after he had been enthroned to return the Golden Roll (金册) that is bestowed upon him. Since the accession of the 12th Dalai Lama the same Golden Roll has been used, and application was now made for permission to be absolved from changing this Roll on the occasion of the approaching enthronement. Memorialist awaits His Majesty's commands. Rescript. Let it be as requested.

(6) Postscript memorial from the same officer, praying that the Imperial letter of authority and the usual presents bestowed upon the Dalai Lama on the occasion of his enthronement may be forwarded by the Government postal route instead of, as heretofore, by an Imperial Commissioner escorted by Mongols outside the Wall, who have this year been absolved from tributary service (貢差) in consequence of the distress occasioned by the drought in the North. Granted by Rescript.

May 14th.—The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials from the Prince of Kung and those associated

with him in the conduct of the ceremonies at the late obsequies, recommending officers for special distinction whose services are worthy of recognition. (See series of decrees earlier issued.)

May 15th.—(1) A decree ordering the compilation of the official biographies of certain Secretaries of the Grand Council and Boards, now deceased, who have served under Tso Tsung-t'ang, with credit and distinction, during the late campaign in the North-west.

(2) Memorial from Pao Yün, Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Office, and his colleagues, reporting that a *Ssü yuan*, or Secretary of a Board, committed suicide by swallowing poison at the conclusion of ceremonies at which he was appointed to officiate, and left behind him a sealed and confidential testamentary memorial. The Board received a letter from the Governor of Shun-t'ien informing them that on the 29th of April Liu Chih-yên, Sub-prefect of Chi-chow, reported as follows:—"On the 26th April, 1879, at 7 p.m., the headman of the Ma-shên-ch'iao village in his prefecture, Chang Li by name, gave information that a man on duty with [the late cortège] who had taken up his residence on the 11th April at the San-yi Temple, situated at the eastern end of the village street, swallowed poison on the night of the 25th, from the effects of which he died. The headman therefore begged that some one would go and inspect the body. The Sub-prefect was overcome with astonishment on the perusal of this report, and at once went in person to inspect the body when he discovered that it was Wu, second Secretary of the Board of Civil Office, whose personal designation was K'o-tu, who had swallowed poison in this place and put an end to his life, leaving behind him a sealed confidential memorial in a box and a will directing that this memorial should be submitted to the Board of Civil Office for presentation on his behalf. The will also stated that 'one step beyond the limits of Chi-chow would not be his place of death.' Garments were prepared and a coffin was made into which the body was placed, officials underlings being told off to watch it, etc., etc." The Governor of Shun-t'ien begged to communicate this statement for the information of the Board that they might take the necessary action thereon. The memorialists have to observe with reference to the memorial handed to them for presentation on behalf of the Secretary in question, that the custom has hitherto been for the heads of Departments whose

duty it is to peruse memorials [from subordinate officials] and then submit them to His Majesty if they are found to contain no expressions of a seditious or contumacious character. On the present occasion the second Secretary of memorialist's Board, Wu K'o-tu, who was sent to assist at the ceremony [of entombment] has already succumbed after swallowing poison, and the memorial in question was, moreover, closed by himself and left with an injunction that the Board should be solicited to present it to His Majesty on his behalf. It would therefore be inexpedient for memorialists to open the document to see whether it contains expressions of a seditious or contumacious character. Still less would they venture to keep the fact of its existence from His Majesty's knowledge. They beg therefore respectfully to offer the document in its original integrity for the Imperial perusal. (For decree see *Gazette* of 7th May.)

(3) Your Majesty's servant Wu K'o-tu, Inspector of Officials, second Secretary of the Board of Civil Office, and formerly Censor of the Honan circuit, on his knees addresses Their Majesties, and implores them with tears, while he gives his life as an expiation [for his presumption], to settle beforehand the reversion of the great dynastic succession in order to put the appropriate finish to a life of loyal devotion and love. Your Majesties' guilty servant has heard that in the Government of an Empire political disturbance should not be made a secret of and danger should not be met with disregard. If political disturbance and danger may severally be kept secret and disregarded, then will earnest exhortation become but a "causeless whine applied to a Yao or a Shun," and an exposition of latent evil brought to the notice of the Sacred Intelligence will be an effort portentous of misfortune. Some time since, Your guilty servant, in consequence of too indignant language upon a certain matter, voluntarily rendered himself liable to decapitation or confinement. Princes and Ministers after joint deliberation requested that they might be allowed to summon Your servant for examination and confront him [with the man he accused.] His late Majesty, however, graciously going out of his way to bestow on him the fulness of his compassion, spared Your servant death from decapitation, then spared him death from imprisonment, and yet again spared him the death [he deserved] for touching on subjects upon which he should not speak and provoking His Majesty to wrath when

summoned for interrogation. Thus the remaining years he had yet to run were wholly the gift of His Majesty a few years since, in that he did not die after committing three deadly sins, and had a life restored to him for which he did not sue. But then a subversion of the heavenly and earthly elements occurred (*lit.*, the heavens fell and the earth was rent asunder), and the great change of the 12th of January, 1876, suddenly took place. On the same day an Imperial Decree was received from Their Majesties the Empresses to the effect that "His late Majesty having ascended upon the Dragon to be a guest on high, without offspring born to his inheritance, no course was open but that of causing Tsai T'ien, son of the Prince of Ch'un, to become the adopted son of the Emperor Wên Tsung Hsien (Hsien Fêng) to enter upon the inheritance of the great dynastic line as Emperor by succession. When a prince should have been born to the Emperor by succession he should be adopted as the inheritor of His Majesty now passed away." Your guilty servant, weeping bitterly while he read, perused this mandate as he knelt upon his knees, and after pondering on it this way and that could only in all humility come to the conclusion that Their Majesties the Empresses Dowager had been wrong, and then wrong again. To become the son of the Emperor Wên Tsung Hsien (Hsien Fêng) is not to establish a [proper] successor to our Emperor now passed away, and since a [proper] successor to the Emperor now passed away has not been established, the great dynastic succession now carried on by the succeeding Emperor, is, under the mandate of Their Majesties the Empresses Dowager, given to the Emperor Wên Tsung Hsien and not to our Emperor now passed away. And yet no explicit statement in writing has so far been received securing the future course of the great dynastic succession to the son of the [present] heir. If it be said that the expression "enter on the inheritance as successor" implies without the necessity of further statement that the great dynastic succession must devolve on [this] successor's son, Your guilty servant ventures to remark that this is not the case. In ancient times, when it was the custom to raise a Sovereign to the Throne in an arbitrary way (*i. e.*, by force), Ministers of State were not in a position to speak on the matter, but in the case of the present dynasty, the domestic law of the Imperial ancestry has been observed for over two hundred years, and son has transmitted to son without a break in the chain of consanguinity. Again, the

Prince of Ch'un, who is loyal and devoted to his country, and is universally styled a virtuous prince, excited a feeling of loyalty and patriotism by his memorial at the time [of the nomination of his son.] How could his words be false when they were the echo of his heart? When Your guilty servant read this memorial he was moved to a state of loud-voiced admiration and tears that seemed as if they could not stop. If the Prince should hear that Your servant has submitted this memorial he may possibly be angry with Your servant in that he has done wrong, but still he will pity his simplicity, and will certainly not consider that his remarks have been made with the purpose of causing family estrangement or dissension. And the Emperor, who is endowed with benevolent and filial instincts, having received the Throne at the hands of Their Majesties, will never fail, during the numberless years that he has before him, to be of one mind with Their Majesties in their purpose of to-day. Be that as it may, the Court is composed of specious as well as loyal followers, and the popular voice is not always the same. In the early days of the Sung dynasty, so lofty a character as Chao P'u was the first to disregard the testament of the Emperor Tu, [and place another heir upon the Throne.] In the days of the Ming, the Grand Secretary Wang Chin, who was an old servant of the State, considered that the fact of the memorial suggesting that Ching Ti's son should be set up as heir coming from Wang Hung, the barbarian chief, and not from one of his class, was a shame and disgrace to them. If this was the way in which men of worth could act, why ask what the worthless ones would do? If men in olden days were so, how can those of modern times be blamed? If this could occur when the name of the successor had been decided upon, how much more should it do so where no successor has been fixed? There is therefore no other course now open but to discover how to bring about from a mistake a reversion to a proper order of things, and this can only be done by reverently praying Their Majesties once more to issue a decree announcing in clear terms that the dynastic succession will hereafter once more revert to the heir of the Emperor that has passed away, and that if the Emperor succeeding [to Hsien Fêng] should have a hundred males [born to him] it shall not be allowed to any officials whatsoever to advance propositions of a nature differing from [the order now laid down.] If this be done, the family traditional law of the present dynasty, that son

shall transmit to son will be observed, and the Emperor now passed away, though having no son, shall be as though he had one, Their Majesties the Empresses though having no grandson shall yet possess one, and in days to come the succession shall be transmitted in one unbroken line for ten thousand generations. This act will emanate from Their Majesties and thus be immutable. This is what Your guilty servant means when he says that though one mistake is followed by another there will in the end be no mistake. Your servant had proposed to embody this idea in a memorial at the time, and had the draft of this memorial, as well as that of the letter to the Censorate requesting them to transmit it, already prepared, but he thought that as he had been removed from office he was not at liberty to exceed his functions by addressing Their Majesties, and, again [he said to himself], "What manner of question is this, what manner of words are these? Coming from Ministers near to the sacred person, from responsible Ministers, or high Ministers it would be a scheme of deep design, a far-seeing provision, but if it came from one that was far removed from the Imperial presence, or one that was stationed far away or held a minor post, then the suggestion would savour of a wish for personal reputation." He reflected, again, that amongst the most loyal and straightforward Ministers there surely must be those who would not think this was a matter that would brook delay, or that as representations would be unprofitable it might be set aside. Your guilty servant, therefore, kept his drafts and waited. The name of Your guilty servant having been graciously selected amongst the list of disgraced officials that underwent inspection, he was presented to His Majesty and, by Imperial decree, was specially employed as second Secretary, being once more selected for service in the Board of Civil Office. Five or six years have now passed away, and during this five or six years he has looked around him, and has still found no one at Court who is mindful of this great question. The late Emperor having been now consigned to his everlasting place of rest in his tomb amongst the hills, it is to be feared that as time gradually wears on, the remembrance of him will gradually fade away. Your guilty servant therefore feels that [his remonstrance] put away in days long gone to wait, can now wait no longer. Humbly yearning in spirit after the Emperor now on high, to whom he owes the remaining years of his life, he humbly craves on his Sovereign's

behalf a few words from Their Majesties. Being, as he is, on the verge of death, his mental energies are so dim and confused that the wording and sense of his memorial are sure to fail in explicitness, and so many points will be omitted or forgotten that the document will not compare with the one earlier drawn up, but not presented, nor is it even copied in a firm and regular hand. Your guilty servant never had the learning of the men of olden time, and cannot therefore be expected to possess the confidence that they displayed. In ancient days there was a man who, when walking to meet his death, could not take a proper pace. One said to him "Are you afraid, my master?" "I am afraid," was the reply. "If you are afraid, then why do you not submit?" He answered "My fear is my inward self, my death is a public act." Your guilty servant is this day like that man. The birds sing mournfully before they die, and the words of a man on the point of death should be words of wisdom, but how can Your guilty servant compare his qualities with those of Tsêng Shen? Although he is about to die, it does not necessarily follow that his words will be words of wisdom, but still he hopes that Their Majesties the Empresses and Emperor will have compassion for his piteous accounts, and will not deem his harmless groans to be a movement fraught with ill omen. Then will Your guilty servant have no reproachful feeling even when in death. There is a saying of a Minister of Sung:—"To speak on any matter at a time when it has not arisen is truly excess [of caution]; but when it has already occurred and it is too late to discuss it, what profiteth this? The Court can be made to endure the infliction of representations on matters that have not arisen, but it cannot be that Ministers should suffer the remorse of being too late." It is the sincere wish of Your guilty servant that his words may not be fulfilled and that his simplicity may provoke the laughter of future generations, nor does he wish that if, perchance, they should be fulfilled, future generations should say that Your servant saw clearly what was going to be.

He would be like Shih Mu, whose works were in excess of his functions, and would emulate Shih Yu, whose dead body conveyed a rebuke and thus displayed his simple loyalty. Still more does Your guilty servant desire that Your Majesties the Empresses and Emperor will identify yourselves with the wishes of Shih Tsung (the Emperor Yung Chêng) and temper mercy with severity in such wise as to foster the

blessings of harmony and generosity; that You will make use of the aged whose experience is matured; that You will not strive after those things which foreign countries specially contend for, that You may keep something in reserve for the Central Flowery Land; that You will not engage in new enterprises in which Your ancestry have not engaged, that You may leave something for Your sons and grandsons to do. Your guilty servant here ends his words, here end his desires, here ends his life.

Again, Your guilty servant formerly held the Office of Censor, and it is for this reason that he dares to face death and draw up this memorial; and, further, as his present rank does not enable him to communicate direct with the Throne, he prays the heads of the Board to present it on his behalf. Your guilty servant was not in the first instance included amongst the list of those who were sent to assist at the ceremony [of entombment], but he importuned the President of his Board the Grand Secretary Pao Yün, in person, with such persistency that he at last added him to the number, and so he came. Your guilty servant's death could not have been contemplated by Pao Yün, and he imagines that Pao Yün will not have incurred censure for sending him when he ought not to have done so. In an age of prosperity (enlightenment) like this, it can hardly be that [Your servant's death] should be suspected by anyone to correspond with the unnatural practice of burying the living with the dead that prevailed in ancient days. The real cause of his death is that the Dragon chariot of the late Emperor has ascended for ever into Heaven above, and the whole world now weeps in unison. So it is that, carried away by his bitter grief, he ventures to intrude a lengthy exposition of his views on the subject of the interests at stake in connection with the dynastic succession, and styles himself Your Majesties' guilty servant.

May 16th.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of an appeal from a Military graduate in Kweichow who complains that his father was killed by the machinations of a worthless character out of revongo for his having aided in the capture of the head of a gang of robbers to which he belonged. The murderer entered his father's house, and stabbed him suddenly after having been supplied with food and wine. His father on complaining of the outrage was confined in a dark room and kept there until he had paid more than a hundred strings of *cash*. He was sub-

sequently re-arrested and again squeezed, being beaten on this occasion with such severity that he died.

May 17th.—With the exception of a short memorial from the Governor of Shansi briefly announcing the closing of all agencies for the purchase of office or title in his province, this day's *Gazette* contains no document of importance.

May 18th.—(Court Circular.) Ts'en Yü-ying, Governor of Kweichow, had audience of leave.

(1) A decree occupying 24 pages of the *Gazette* and enumerating the rewards to be conferred upon various members of the Peking Field Force who have been employed on guard duty at the Mausolea during the past few years.

(2) A decree appointing an officer to the vacancy of Lieutenant-Colonel to which His Majesty's attention has been called by Hsi La-pu. In the memorial from this officer characters which should have been given the threefold elevation were only moved two places up the column. He is committed to the Board for the determination of a fitting penalty for so improper a proceeding.

(3) The Tartar General and Deputy Lieutenants-General of the *Han-chün* and Manchu Banner Corps stationed at Canton, forward a manuscript copy of the history of these corps since the time of their establishment in that city, the former in the 20th year of K'ang Hsi, and the latter in the 21st year of Ch'ien Lung. The record is a collection of extracts from the mass of documents relating to these corps that have accumulated since their establishment, with an appendix giving a biographical notice of the more distinguished members and a description of antiquities deserving of attention. It is proposed to raise a subscription to defray the cost of printing the work, and a copy is now submitted for His Majesty's approval, the efforts of the compilers being specially brought to his notice in the hope that they may be considered worthy of recognition.—Referred to the proper board.

May 19th.—(1) Ngên Ying 恩雲 is appointed Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) A decree announcing a further series of intercessory services for rain to be held on the 24th inst.

(3-6) Memorials from the Board of Ceremonies commending the services of various officers who have been charged with the conduct of ceremonies at the Mausolea during the past few years. The decrees in

answer to these recommendations have already appeared.

May 20th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of the report of the Court of Censors which was deputed to investigate the charges brought against Li Chung-ming, the Peking bookseller, by Chang P'ei-lun. This Court has held an investigation conjointly with the Board of Punishments, and they have found that Li Chung-ming, *alias* Li Ping-hsün, commenced life as a tradesman but purchased a licentiate's degree, and from this beginning bought his way to the post of Financial Commissioner. Having passed the necessary examination, he performed the office of T'êng Lu or Archivist, but continued to carry on his business at the same time. He cultivated the society of official personages and struggled into terms of intimacy with Under-Secretaries of State and other influential officials; he bought temples and household property upon which he built, encroaching with impunity upon the public street; he secreted duty and title deeds of his house property, and at the expiration of his term of official duty he made his way through the Tung Hua gate without the requisite authority, entered the State Historiographer's Office and tried to get employment as a copyist or in some other official capacity with the object of securing additional honorary recognition to that already conferred upon him. Li Chung-ming having already been deprived of titular rank, We command that, in accordance with the proposal laid before Us, he receive sixty blows with the heavy bamboo and be banished for one year. On the expiration of his sentence he will be sent to his native place and be subjected to the strictest official supervision. It having been ascertained that the adopted relationship existing between Li Chung-ming and Ho Show-tz'ü has no bearing upon the official obligations of the latter, We command that no further penalty be inflicted on Ho Show-tz'ü in addition to that of the loss of three steps of commutative rank which has already been imposed.

May 21st.—(1) The Governor of Shantung requests that certain of the following officers may be cashiered and the property of all confiscated in order to make good deficits that their accounts showed on handing over charge to their respective successors. 1—The acting Magistrate of the Chao-yuan district with a deficit of Tls. 1,855; 2—The Magistrate of Ch'ao-chêng with a deficit of Tls. 120; 3—The Magistrate of Fu-hsing with a deficit

of Tls. 17,586; 4—The late Magistrate of Yang-ku, now deceased, with a deficit of Tls. 16,207; 5—The late Magistrate of Lo-an, also deceased, with a deficit of Tls. 28,353; 6—The late Sub-Prefect of Tung-p'ing, deceased, with a deficit of Tls. 8,750; and, 7—The late Magistrate of the Yi district with a deficit of Tls. 14,963.

(2) Hsü Ch'ang, newly appointed Taotai of the Fêng, Chin, Shan-hai Circuit (who resides at Newchwang) reports the assumption of the duties of his office.

(3) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang. He received a communication from the Mongolian Superintendency to the effect that it being the custom to bestow a present of two pieces of satin upon the Mussulman Chief from K'an-chü-ti (a district in Kashgaria) who is bound by law to present one tael five mace weight of gold dust as tribute to the Emperor, which satin should be given by memorialist to present as being nearest at hand, the matter had been represented to His Majesty and the Imperial sanction to this measure obtained. In accordance with this decree, copy of which was forwarded, memorialist sent to the market to find some satin, as he had no supply of this material in his marching establishment, and succeeded in finding two pieces of blue flowered satin which he sent to Liu Chin-t'ang with a request that he would make known the decree to the chief and bestow the satin upon him. He would observe that the various towns in the New Dominion used to have a supply of silk and satin ready for use, but since the war supplies of these articles have not been forwarded. As order has now been restored to this region, there will be a constant demand for satin to be bestowed on presentation of articles of tribute, and the difficulty of finding the material ready to hand, if it has to be hunted for at places within the frontier, is so great that it appears to memorialist that the right thing would be to have it specially manufactured, as legally provided for, and issued to the places requiring it. It will also be necessary to consider the expediency of supplying the satin which forms [part of] the salary of the Mussulman Princes of Hami and other places, as well as arrears of the same material that are due to them. He therefore begs that the Superintendents of the Imperial Manufactories at Soochow and Hangchow may be instructed to have this satin manufactured with all expedition.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

May 22nd.—(1-6) Memorials from the Prince of Tun and his colleagues submitting

the name of a number of officers employed on duty at the Mausolea for the bestowal of rewards for their services.

(7) Memorial from the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang forwarding, in obedience to Imperial decree, a list of the names of officers, non-commissioned officers, and *Beg*, or local chieftains, who fell at the siege of the four cities of Kashgaria. He prays that the list may be verified by the Board of Civil Office, the Board of War, and the Captains-General of the Banner Corps previous to the bestowal of posthumous honors upon the individuals mentioned therein.

May 23rd.—(1) The Governor of Chehkiang reports the capture and execution of three more criminals implicated in the robbery of the tax station at Pai-kuan in the Shang-yü District (上虞縣). He now requests that the Magistrate and sub-Magistrate may have their buttons restored to them.

(2) The Governor of Shansi reports the opening of an official printing establishment in T'ai-yuan Fu for the purpose of bringing out the Classics, the Topography of the Province, and other works. Education, he complains, is at a very low ebb. For some years past, the number of young men presenting themselves for examination has been very small—in large districts not more than a hundred, and in smaller districts only fifty or sixty would come up. How much learning has been neglected may be judged from the fact that not one per cent. of the clerks in the public offices can understand what they read; and not three in a thousand have a critical knowledge of their language. Despatches, notices, proclamations, and official documents of all kinds, have to be prepared by the Magistrate himself, or his Secretary; and in a large and important district the work cannot possibly be got through. The Topography of the province has not been reprinted since 1735; apart from its importance as containing the ancient history of that section of the country, it is important for the sake of future generations that it be preserved, so that a record may exist of the incursions of the Nien-fei rebels, of the names of those who preferred death to dishonour; and of the calamities that have visited Shansi of late. All this will naturally cost a considerable amount. An appeal will be made to the generosity of the gentry in the more prosperous districts to subscribe the necessary funds, as in the present condition of the province it is impossible to lay the people at large under contribution.

May 24th.—(1) A Decree calling upon the Board of Revenue to report upon the irregularities stated by Eu Ch'eng and T'ung Hwa to exist in the Szechw'an Salt Gabelle.

(2) A Decree referring to the Board of Punishments the report of Eu Ch'eng and T'ung Hwa upon the Tung Hsiang affair in Szechw'an. On the plea that the villagers refused to pay lawful taxes, and resisted forcibly all attempts to coerce them, a body of troops was moved, two years ago, against Tung Hsiang, on which occasion the soldiery were guilty of gross outrages. The reports which reached Peking led to a commission being appointed to sift the matter, and the two above-named commissioners have now submitted their report implicating a large number of officials. The Decree further commands the Board to state whether a penalty shall be adjudged to Wên Ko, formerly Acting Governor-General of Szechw'an; Ting Pao-chên, the present Governor-General of that province, and Li Tsung-hsi, a high official now in mourning retirement.

(3) P'eng Ch'u-han, the Admiral on the coast of Fuhkien, reports having started on 25th March in the steamer *Chen-wei* on his annual tour of inspection. He mentions that five new forts have lately been constructed at important places on the coast, the guns for which, however, have not yet been purchased. He dwells on the necessity of maintaining an efficient force at Amoy, especially at this particular time, when coast defence is all important.

(4) The Governor-General of Fuhkien reports that as the aborigines in Formosa are now quiet, the exchange of post previously arranged between Chang Ch'ikuang, Brigadier-General in Taiwan, and Wu Kuang-liang, Brigadier-General of Funing in Fuhkien, will now take place.

May 25th.—(1) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng prays for the dismissal of a Prefect whose ways are defective. The Prefect Ch'êng Hsing-chü now residing in his native province, formerly accompanied his father, who was Judge of Yünnan, to his post. He there had the audacity to beguile a widow called Hwang into becoming his second, or adopted wife. His proper wife having subsequently forced the woman to assume her right position, which was that of concubine, he locked his wife up, but she escaped from confinement and took legal proceedings against him. Such conduct is verily a stain upon the uniform, and We command that the Prefect be forthwith cashiered.

(2) A decree granting an application from the same officer that special temples may be erected in Anhwei, Kiangsi, and Fuhkien to the memory of Lin Tien, late Assistant Administrator in the North-west. During the time of the rebellion this officer did distinguished service in each of the provinces in question.

(3) A long memorial from Li-Hung-chang reporting the result of an investigation into the conduct of the Taotai Ying Liang, who had been charged with being an extensive holder of land within the limits of his own jurisdiction, appropriation of other people's burial grounds, substituting inferior woodwork for that of his official residence, and allowing his wife too much liberty of movement. These charges, as announced in a decree earlier summarised, have, one and all, been ascertained to be without foundation.

May 26th.—(1) Decree. Hsü Kêng-shên (許庚身) is appointed Director of the Grand Court of Revision, still retaining his post as a Secretary to the Council of State.

(2) Memorial. Teng Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'uan reports the trial of a case of murder. T'ai Jung-piao, Lei Lao-chin and Mu Nu-tzü, natives of Hsing-wên-hsien were old acquaintances of one Liu Shih-kuan and his son Liu Lao-man. During the 11th moon of the 3rd year of Kwang Hsü, Lei Lao-chin saw Liu Lao-man purchasing some hundreds of Taels of opium which he took with him. The same afternoon Lei Lao-chin met his friends T'ai Jung-piao and Mu Nü-tzü, to whom he mentioned the circumstance, and proposed that, as they were in great poverty, they should murder Lin Lao-man, and divide the opium between them. On the following day the three started for Liu Lao-man's house; Lei was armed with a pointed knife, T'ai with a wooden hoe, and Mu was unarmed. When they had gone about half-way the last named-complained of pain in the intestines and was left behind, while the other two went on alone. On reaching their destination they pretended that they wished to buy some opium. Liu Lao-man replied that his purchase was made in partnership with a man named Chin Tê-chang and that he could not let them have any. They thereupon set upon him with their weapons and killed him. Just as they were taking away the opium, Liu Shih-kuan returned home and seeing the state of affairs shouted "murder." Lei Lao-chin, fearing that the neighbours would be alarmed, and wishing to close the mouth of the witness of the crime, stabbed him.

The murderers then carried the two bodies to a cave in the hills and made off with the spoil. Some time after, Chin Tê-chang being in the market place saw Mu Nü-tzü trying to dispose of four bundles of opium which he recognised by the "chop." He asked him how he came by it, and Mu finding himself unable to give a satisfactory explanation, confessed the truth. The affair became known to the police, who at once reported the matter to the Magistrate, and the criminals were arrested and imprisoned. Mu and Lei died in prison after their examination. The sentences provided by law are as follows:—T'ai Jung-piao to be summarily beheaded, Lei Lao-chiu to be summarily decapitated and his head to be publicly exposed (as he died in prison, the sentence must be carried out on the corpse.) Mu Nü-tzü to be imprisoned till the usual time of executions, and then beheaded; but as he has died in prison his punishment need not be further discussed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately consider and report.

(3) The same official begs that an expectant Taotai by purchase, named Wang Yü-chao, may be stripped of his rank as a preliminary to being brought to trial. The charges against him are:—

1—That he presumed upon his wealth and standing to oppress the inhabitants of Fu-shun-hsien.

2—That the local officials were so afraid of him that they dared not enquire into any charges brought against him.

3—That he had illegally established an office for the sale of salt tickets, exacted a percentage on the yield of the salt wells, and appropriated to his own use public funds.

4—That he purchased for concubines girls already betrothed, and that his conduct is altogether unspeakable.—Rescript previously recorded.

May 27th.—(1) Decree. Hwang Li-fang (黃體芳) to be Reader, and Nui Yü-kêng (鈕玉庚) to be Expositor of the Han-lin-yuan.

(2) Memorial. The Viceroy of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, reports his decision in an appeal case. Some time ago a salaried licentiate of Fu-chêng-hsien, by name Chao Ju-lin, appealed to the Court of Censors accusing certain notables named Kao Yün-chang, To Ying-ping and others, of appropriating to their own use portions of the grain handed to them for Famine relief purposes; of bribing the Magistrate's

runners to arrest and imprison petitioner's uncle; and causing his death in prison. Memorialist was commanded to enquire into the matter and now forwards his decision. There is not a shadow of truth in the charges brought against Kao Yün-chang and To Ying-ping. The uncle of Chao Ju-lin was arrested for extortion, and died a natural death in the Yamên. For appealing directly to Peking, instead of first bringing his case before the Provincial Court, Chao Ju-lin has rendered himself liable by law to the punishment of 50 blows with the small bamboo, but in consideration of his literary rank is allowed to commute it by a fine.—Rescript: Let the proper Board consider and report.

(3) Memorial. The Board of Censors report a complaint by Chi Fêng-tâ of P'i Chow in Kiangsu that the murderers of his nephew had escaped punishment owing to the favour shewn them by the military authorities.—Rescript previously noted.

(4) Another memorial from the same. A native of Fei-hsien in Shantung named Chiang Kwan-yuan has petitioned the Censorate stating that a licentiate of bad character named Chang Mêng-pi had, on account of a feud existing between him and the petitioner, strangled the son and cousin of the latter—both children of five years of age.—Rescript previously noted.

(5) Memorial. The Governor of Honan requests that the Magistrates of Li Yang and Hsing An may be deprived of their buttons and sent to the provincial capital to be examined as to the circumstances attending the escape of a criminal, sentenced to death by strangulation, who disappeared whilst passing through the districts within their jurisdiction when on his way to Ling Pao-hsien.—Rescript: Granted.

May 28th.—(1) Edict. Sometime ago Sung-Kwei, Imperial Resident at Lassa, memorialised Us that the re-embodiment of the Nomên Han, Awangch'ulch'imu, who had incurred punishment for an offence committed, had reappeared in the person of Awang Chiamubalch'uch'êngchiats'o. The memorial in question was at the time referred to the Mongolian Superintendency, which reported that during the reign, Tao Kwang the Nomên Han referred to, had committed offences so serious that the privilege of successive births into the world was withdrawn from him for ever, and the request forwarded by Sung-Kwei could not be acceded to. We have now received a memorial from the Military Governor of Ili and the Assistant Governor of Tarbagat'ai, stating that the Tibetan Lamas with the Khan of the Turguts and

chiefs of other tribes (who were willing to provide for the public service 1,000 horses), begged that We would allow Awang Chiamubalch'uch'êngchiats'o to become a Lama. We now grant permission to Awang Chiamubalch'uch'êngchiats'o to join the priesthood, and to return to Tibet, there to study the Sacred Writings; but the request that his former name and title should be bestowed upon him and that he should be recognised as the re-embodiment of the ex Nomên Han is refused. From compassionate motives the gift of horses is declined. Let the Board concerned take note.

(2) Memorial. Ho Ching, Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chekiang and Li Ming-chih, Governor of Fuhkien, make a report with reference to the establishment of new official districts in the North of Formosa.—Rescript: Let the proper Board consider and report. In the memorial a Prefect is improperly alluded to "as Prefect Lin" (林守). Let the names of Ho Ching and Li Ming-chih be handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.

May 29th.—(1) Edict. We have received a memorial from Wên Kô (文格), Governor of Shantung, asking that Fu Kwan-hai (傅觀海), Salt Comptroller of that province, may be allowed to retire on account of ill-health. Fu Kwan-hai's resignation is accepted.

(2) Pao Hêng (葆亨), Financial Commissioner of Shansi, returns thanks on his arrival at his post.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) Memorial. The Governor of Kiangsu, Wu Yuan-ping (吳元炳), reports a case of filial piety and requests the bestowal of an honorary portal. In Chang-shou-hsien (常熟縣) lived an expectant Magistrate named Hu Liang-jui (胡良瑞) who had three sons. The eldest died, the second son was adopted by his uncle, and the youngest, Hu Yuan-fêng (胡元豐) remained at home to nurse his aged and infirm parent. In the first year of Kwang-Hsü the father fell sick, and during his illness, which extended through many months, this filial son tended him unremittingly, day and night, without even taking off his clothes. At length the father's illness reached a dangerous climax and the son spent his nights burning incense and offering up prayers for his father's recovery; and at last cut flesh from his arm to make broth for the old man, who after taking it rapidly recovered.

In the third year of Kwang Hsi, Hu Liang-jui was again attacked with dangerous illness, and on the first month of the fourth year of Kwang Hsi died. The son grieved bitterly, and wept till he fainted. On recovering consciousness he said to his family, "I wish to follow my father even beyond the grave, that I may still minister to his wants. I no longer wish to live." From the time that his father's body was encoffined he refused all sustenance. His family and relations begged him to take some nourishment and induced him to swallow a little congee. On the arrival of his elder brother to take part in the mourning ceremonies, Hu Yuang-feng seized his hands and pressing them in his own wept till blood started from his eyes. He then begged his brother to take charge of the funeral arrangements, and from that moment refused all food, and on the sixth day of the fifth moon in a fit of weeping expired, in the thirty-fourth year of his age.—Rescript: Let an honorary portal be bestowed on Hu Yuang-feng. Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

(4) Tseng Kwo-ch'uan, Governor of Shansi, reports that no rain has fallen in that province since the spring, and that the whole country is parched. Prayers for rain must be at once offered, and it has been determined to send the Expectant Prefect, Hsieh Jên-p'u (謝仁溥) to the Shêng-ching-kang (聖井岡) to bring from the sacred well there an iron tablet to Shansi. At the same time Wu Kwang-hsung (吳光熊) Magistrate of Hun-yuan-chow (渾源州), has been sent to Hêng-yuoh Miao (恒嶽廟) and Sun Yü-ming (孫汝明), Magistrate of Wu-t'ai-hsien (五台縣) to the Lung-shên Miao at Wu-t'ai-shan, to institute at those places services of prayer for rain.—Rescript: Noted.

May 30th.—(1) The following decree has been reverently received from Their Majesties, the Emperresses:—In accordance with Our commands the Princes have reported on the secret memorial of the late Wu K'o-tu (吳可讀), and are of opinion that the request contained in the memorial in question is not in accordance with the family laws of the present Dynasty. His Majesty has received a grave charge from his august predecessor, and will, when sons are born to him, certainly choose out

the best and most capable as his successor, who will then become the adopted heir of the Emperor who has passed away. Copies of the original memorial of Wu K'o-tu, of the memorial from the Princes, of that from the Presidents Hsiü T'ung (徐桐), Wêng T'ung-ho (翁同龢) and P'an Tsu-yin (潘祖蔭); and those of Pao-t'ing (寶廷) and others, together with copies of our decree of the 17th of the 3rd moon (7th May) and this of to-day, are to be placed in the Yü Ching-kung (毓慶宮), [the Emperor's study.] Let the posthumous honours allotted by law to an official of the 5th rank be accorded to Wu K'o-tu as a mark of our compassionate regard.

(2) An Edict. His Majesty will proceed on the 17th of the present moon to the Ta-kaio-Tien to offer prayers for rain. The Princes are also to go to various temples for the same purpose.

(3) Decree. Li Chao-i (李朝儀) is appointed Salt Comptroller of Shantung.

May 31st.—(1) A Decree. Shen Pao-chên, Viceroy of the Two Kiang, is allowed by our special favour to ride on horseback within the Purple Prohibited City.

(2) A Decree. Wên Pei (文沛) is appointed Intendant of the Yung-ting river (永定河.)

(3) A Decree. Huai Tê-pu (懷塔布) is appointed a Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Transmission.

(4) Edict. Certain Magistrates whose conduct had been complained of by Tu Tsung-ying (涂宗瀛), Governor of Honan, are cashiered.

(5) Report from the Imperial Clan Court into charges brought against the Censor Ying Chên (宗室英震.) [The decree in answer to this memorial appeared in the *Gazette* of May 13th.]

June 1st.—(Court Circular.) Shên Pao-chêng returns thanks for the bestowal of the privilege of riding within the Imperial precincts.

(1) A decree appointing Wên Ko to the post of Imperial agent at Kurun. He is, as is customary, to proceed to his post at Government expense.

[*Note.*—Wên Ko has been recently removed from the Governorship of Shantung for misdemeanour.]

(2) A periodical decree enjoining upon the metropolitan executive the duty of

promptitude in the hearing of cases on for trial, a matter that has again formed the subject of a remonstrance from a Censor.

(3) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the death of Ying Kwei, Imperial agent at Kurun. The posthumous honors allotted by law to Deputy Lieutenants-General are to be bestowed upon him, and all official penalties recorded against his name are to be remitted.

(4) Joint memorial from the Governor-General of Min-chêh, Ting Jih-ch'ang, and the Governor of Fuhkien, reporting that the whole of the large sum which Lin Wei-yuan, a notable of Formosa, undertook to contribute for public purposes has now been forwarded by him. Some time ago this notable was invited to contribute towards the heavy expenditure involved in the experimental opening of mines and laying down a railway in Formosa, and he undertook to provide \$500,000 which was to be retained for application to coast defence and other expenditure. The famine in the North having subsequently assumed great proportions, the immediate object for which the money was contributed was abandoned and the money applied as a loan for the relief of the sufferers. Lin Wei-yuan sent to the Taotai of T'aiwan a first instalment of \$100,000, which was afterwards followed by two further instalments amounting \$260,000. These sums were forwarded at different times to the Tientsin contribution agency to be divided by Li Hung-chang amongst the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, and Honan. Lin Wei-yuan also delivered 15,000 piculs of rice, valued at \$50,000, for relief purposes, and these amounts with the sum of \$90,000 which had been retained for use in T'ai-pei Fu, make up the requisite total. In accordance with the ruling of the Board a joint application with Li Hung-chang will be made for the bestowal of an extraordinary mark of Imperial approbation for so large a contribution.

(5) Huang Shao-ch'un, Commander-in-chief of Chêkiang, applies through the Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of his province for leave to vacate his post on account of sickness caused by old wounds, which are affected by the damp or cold. He hears, moreover, from his father that both his parents are ailing as is also his younger brother, who is afflicted with chronic disease. A rescript is appended to the memorial granting three months' congé.

June 2nd.—(Court Circular.) The Beilêh Yi returns thanks for the indication of the

matrimonial alliance he is expected to contract.

(1) A decree bestowing military honors upon a Brigadier-General, one Shên Yü-sui, and others who have been commended by Tso Tsung-t'ang for their success in the dispersion of a number of disaffected natives near Hsüan-hua-t'ing, in Kansuh, who had been guilty of repeated acts of brigandage, highway robbery, and crimes of a like nature. A joint attack was made upon a portion of their number who had stationed themselves at a place called Lang Chin-chuang, but these, afraid of the consequences of opposition, surrendered at discretion. Another branch of the same gang entrenched themselves in an earth-work round which a fosse was dug, and prepared to resist the Imperial force, which advanced to the attack from different points and carried the place at once by storm, rasing it to the ground and making many prisoners. The heads of the neighbouring villages immediately came forward to tender their submission, and peace and order were restored. The Brigadier-General is to be committed to the Board for the bestowal of the most distinguished marks of Imperial approbation, and appropriate rewards are conferred upon the subordinates who were engaged with him.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli. Some time since the memorialist reported to His Majesty that the committee of officers appointed to revise the *chih*, or topography, of the province of Chihli, had discovered over 2,900 instances of remarkable female chastity, filial piety and purity, and had forwarded a list of names to be submitted to His Majesty for the bestowal of marks of approbation, which were granted by Imperial decree. The President of the central committee of revision now reports that further enquiry has resulted in the discovery of 367 more instances of remarkable female piety which come within the scope of the law affecting bestowal of rewards. It was his manifest duty to solicit the bestowal of rewards that would perpetuate the names of those who had carried out the principles of filial piety to the utmost of their endeavour, had mutilated their livers to heal disease, and spent their days from first to last in sacrifice of self to the good of others. The memorialist, finding nothing to object to in this application, begs to submit it for His Majesty's approval and appends a list of the names for which honors are claimed.—Granted by Rescript.

(3) The Tartar General at Foochow reports the expiration of the month of congé that was granted to him in consequence of ill-health, and prays that, as his malady is unabated, he may be given permission to retire. He is granted by rescript a further congé of two months.

(4) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a series of memorials from the Censor Wén Chüeh, exposing a number of abuses. His first memorial is devoted to an attack upon the laxity that has been allowed to prevail in the province of Chihli in the matter of handing over charge of Magistracies to newly appointed incumbents. According to the rules of the Board, a limit of two months is allowed for the handing over of a Magistracy to the new incumbent. If the limit be exceeded, the officer is cashiered but retained at his post, a further period of two months being allowed him in which to close outstanding cases. If this second limit is exceeded he is removed from his post, and subjected to penalties of a sufficiently rigorous nature. The Censor complains that this rule is disregarded, and that in spite of arrangements made by the present Governor-General and his predecessor Tsêng Kuo-fan for the establishment of special courts for the hearing of cases, which were classed as old or new respectively, within certain allotted limits of time, since the administration of the present Financial Commissioner a reprehensible laxity and dilatoriness has been allowed to prevail. The result is that a system which worked well under former superintendence has now become utterly useless and an accumulation of cases is gradually rising, until new ones become old, and old ones farther develop into *chi-an* or arrears. The decree in reply has already been summarised in the *Gazette* of 13th May, as has also the reply to his attack upon the Office of Gendarmerie which forms the subject of his second memorial.

June 3rd.—(1) The Court of Censors report that one Hsieh Ching-shan, a Literary student from Yi-shan Hsien in Kiangsu, has petitioned as follows:—"I am twenty-five years of age, and reside in a village in the Yi-shan district in Kiangsu, where I follow the calling of a farmer. In the early part of last year a gang of robbers burst open the gate of my house during the night, and having effected an entry into the courtyard, broke into the house. They were all provided with torches and were armed, and shouted out the works "kill, rob, burn." They shot my

father dead with a foreign gun, maimed my mother and elder brother, and inflicted sword cuts on myself, my sister-in-law, and my maternal uncle, burning down the house, and plundering it of all the money and clothes that they could find. I reported the robbery to the Magistrate, who inspected the premises, etc., and sent runners to arrest the perpetrators of the crime, but not a single one was captured. I then went to the Prefect of my district, and the Intendant of the circuit in which it lay, and was referred back to the Magistrate. I then appealed to the Brigadier General, who gave orders to the garrison of the locality to arrest the robbers, but one of the clerks for criminal causes attached to the magistracy induced the military thief takers to extort money from me, and to arrest two individuals concerned in a distinct case of theft, from whom a confession of the robbery was forced. I then appealed to the Judge, Financial Commissioner and Governor respectively, all of whom sent the case back to the Magistrate. The case has been pending all this time, and, impatient at the delay, I have come to the capital to lodge an appeal."—Referred in the usual manner.

No other documents of importance.

June 4th.—(1) A Decree. Those amongst the Manchu and Chinese Vice-Presidents, Sub-Chancellors of the Grand Secretariat, and Directors and Sub-Directors of Courts of the third, fourth and fifth degrees of rank who have attained to these grades through the highest class of literary graduation and have not yet undergone the test of capability for employment as functionaries at the [coming triennial examination] will present themselves for examination at the Great Imperial Library on the 17th inst. Those who are unwilling to attend the examination will make the usual statement to that effect to the Board of Ceremonies, that their names may be erased from the list of eligible examiners.

(2) The Acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang reports the receipt of an application from the Magistrate of the Chao-wên district for the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation upon an elderly widow now deceased, whose husband died when she was twenty-nine years of age. She remained faithful to his memory during a long widowhood of forty years, and the gentry of the neighbourhood were loth that so brilliant an example of constancy should be allowed to lapse into oblivion.—Granted by Rescript.

No other documents of importance.

June 5th.—(1) A memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Commander-in-chief in the North-west and Governor-General of Shên-si and Kansu, praying that the official biography of four distinguished military officers now deceased may be recorded in the State Historiographer's Office. He commences with the assertion that the most urgent necessity in the conduct of military affairs is the securing of talented agents, and that strategy is dependent for success upon education and scholarship of a high order. In military matters exceptional talent can alone ensure success, and a firmness of purpose and adherence to principle that gives evidence of its existence in the ordinary affairs of life, whereby a man's power or capacity are established. His efforts and the success attending them are to be witnessed when occasion arises [for the exercise of his powers], and his employment [on such occasions] is sure to be attended with good results. The power of discerning talent does not exhibit itself in small matters. The title of scholarship cannot be given to those who are able only to argue in a specious and plausible manner. To those who only give vent to their passion and have not the power of fostering their courage, the title of true bravery cannot be given. In genuine success the qualities of firmness of purpose and adherence to principle are always to be found; it is not to be commanded or falsely claimed by superficial brilliancy of demeanour and a blustering and coarse deportment. Your servant is but an obscure and impecunious scholar, who knows but few men, and deems his abilities of so low an order that he depends on others for advice and assistance in the conduct of military affairs. Four such men have come to your servant's aid and died before their task was done. While the extent and success of their labours differed in each case, and their reputation was not universal, the standard of conduct they set up for themselves [and followed] from first to last was in each case worthy of regard. The memorialist then proceeds to name these four officers and to enumerate at length the services which give them a claim to biographical notice. The following are the names and titles of the officers in question:—Hsia Hsin, Secretary of the Grand Secretariat and Director of Studies in the province of Anhwei; Wang Po-sin, Second Secretary of the Board of Punishments; Wu Shih-mai, Secretary of the Imperial Patent Office; Wu Kuan-li, Compiler of the Han-lin.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

June 6th.—(1) A long memorial from the Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of Fukh'ien, reporting the result of an investigation into the conduct of the Magistrate of the Lo-yuan District, who had been dismissed and debarred in perpetuity from official employment in consequence of the commission of certain irregularities whereby much public discontent had been engendered and a commercial strike ensued. The details of the case are too complicated to admit of a lengthy summary, but the main facts are as follows:—The Magistrate in question, Chang Chin-chien by name, compelled the grain clerk in charge of the land tax office, whose duty it was to convert *cash* receipts into silver, to supply him with bills undertaking to provide the silver within a certain time under forfeit if the limit was exceeded, the proceeds of these forfeits being appropriated by the Magistrate to his own use, the transaction partaking of the nature of a commercial operation. The clerk fell behindhand in his payments, whereupon the Magistrate agreed to accept the clerk's sister, Shou Hsi by name, as a set off against the debt, with the intention of making her his concubine, which, situated as he was, was an improper proceeding and in contravention of official usage. He then tried to recover by forcible means from the clerk the money due by him, and inflicted corporal punishment upon the spectators in Court in so arbitrary a manner as to provoke the rage of all present and cause a general cessation of business. Having already been dismissed the public service in perpetuity, the memorialists consider that the offence of the Magistrate has been adequately punished, but they suggest the infliction of the penalty of banishment for three years with the addition of 100 blows upon six individuals who created a disturbance in Court, together with sentences of a less severe nature upon others who were implicated in a minor degree.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

(2) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang. Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng 薛福成, an expectant Prefect in Chihli, obtained leave of absence in the early part of 1877 to return to Shantung, his native province, to minister to his parents, and shortly after his arrival at his home one of them died and he went into mourning. In March, 1878, memorialist received a letter from the Tsung-li Yamên stating that they had recommended His Majesty to appoint Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng Secretary to the Legation in Germany, and that he should therefore

be called upon to start with all despatch. Instructions to this effect were sent to the officer in question, and in due time he replied that officials in mourning being required by law to complete the prescribed period of such mourning, it would not be expedient for him to engage in distant service at that time. Memorialist accordingly applied to His Majesty to cancel the appointment, which was done. Hsüeh F'u-ch'êng's period of mourning is now on the verge of completion, and it is the rule that all expectants of office shall, on their completion of a period of mourning, return to the province in which they are expectants, the authorities at their native place obtaining from them a bond of identity, etc., which is passed from one office to another until it finally reaches the head of the province in which the expectant is to serve. As this process is a work of time, and the amount of business connected with foreign intercourse is increasing gradually to an extent that requires the immediate assistance of competent and experienced officers, such as Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng has shown himself to be in an exceptional degree, it is requested that the usual formula may be dispensed with in his case, and the Governor of Kiangsu directed to instruct the Prefect and Magistrate of Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng's native place to urge him to come northward with all despatch at the expiration of his period of mourning. He can provide the authorities with the necessary documents before he leaves.—Rescript: Let the Governor-General write to the Governor of Kiangsu to order Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng to proceed to Chihli immediately on the expiration of his period of mourning, to be available for employment.

June 7th.—(1) Chang Yün-ch'ing 張澐卿 is appointed Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works.

(2) A report from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Szechuen, on the capacity of Fang Chün-yi, the provincial Judge, whom he pronounces to be quite unfit for the duties of his post. (For decree removing this officer see *Gazette* of 13th May.)

(3) The same officer reports a case of murder at T'ien-ch'üan-chow, in his province, under the following circumstances:—Hsiao Yang Kao *Shih*, or the younger Mrs. Yang, was married to the son of Lao Yang Kao *Shih*, or the elder Mrs. Yang. Young Mrs. Yang had been betrothed to old Mrs. Yang's son when quite a child, and had lived for a while on good terms with

her mother-in-law. After her marriage the elder woman conceived a grudge against her daughter-in-law because her mother was poor, and was constantly nagging at her about it, and the daughter-in-law as frequently made her angry by her inordinate remarks, which led to the bestowal of abuse upon her on many occasions. The son, who is a tailor by trade, was seldom at home, but when he was he lectured his wife for her refractoriness, though his injunctions had little effect. In the month of June, 1878, young Mrs. Yang fell sick and moved to her mother's house, or, rather that of her younger brother Kao Chin-wa, in which her mother lived. After she had been there some weeks the elder Mrs. Yang went to look for her son, and, not finding him, suspected young Mrs. Yang of having hid him away somewhere. She accordingly visited her daughter-in-law on the following day and began to abuse her. The daughter-in-law retorted, and the elder woman, objecting to her remarks, butted at young Mrs. Yang with her head and knocked her down, tumbling on the top of her, and knocking her own head in the fall so hard that she felt dizzy and remained rolling about on the ground cursing her daughter-in-law. Mrs. Yang, the younger, got up, and as she thought of the unkind treatment and abusive language she had daily to endure from her mother-in-law, she determined to kill her, and, picking up a wood chopper lying close at hand, sat on the top of her mother-in-law as she lay on the ground and struck her repeatedly with the chopper until she died. At the time that this was going on Yang Chin-wa's wife was in the kitchen cooking rice, and when she heard the noise she ran to the rescue, as did also Kao Wang-ming, who happened to be passing by, but they were too late. After summarising the case in the usual manner, and quoting the law on the subject, the memorialist proceeds to report the penalty he has inflicted under power of the standing Imperial Death Warrant. The woman has been led forth, bound to a public place in the provincial city—the scene of her crime being without the prescribed limit of 300 *li*—and has there been put to death by *ling ch'ih*, though, being a woman, the head was not afterwards exposed. The husband, inasmuch as his mother's death was caused by his inability to keep his wife under proper restraint, has been punished in the manner laid down by law for such cases, that is to say, he has been taken to the place of his wife's execution and there, after having been beaten with forty blows,

he was made to witness his wife's execution, and then sent to the scene of the crime to be exposed in the cangue for one month, at the expiration of which period he will receive forty blows more and be set at liberty.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

June 8th.—(1) Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the receipt of a petition from the notables of Chêng-chow in Honan to the effect that one K'uei Yuan-hsün, an officer in charge of a local agency for the accumulation of supplies of grain against times of dearth, had appropriated over 9,000 piculs of grain stored for this purpose, and when a failure of the crops occurred, did not issue a single peck from the store, but quietly allowed the people to die of starvation. He also availed himself of facilities afforded him as promoter of contributions and issuer of relief to enrich himself, falsified the books, and set his underlings on to extorting over Tls. 1,000 in excess of the amounts subscribed, as well as fees to the extent of several thousand strings of *cash*. In the issue of relief, again, although it was stated clearly on the relief tickets that supplies were to be issued six times a month, he changed the number of issues to three, and only served out one gill per man instead of three gills for adults and half that amount for children as agreed upon, and even adulterated the reduced ration with an admixture of husks and dust. The actual amount expended in relief was Tls. 7,000, and something over 800 piculs of grain, and by sending in false returns Yuan-hsün had appropriated over Tls. 4,000, as well as a sum of over Tls. 10,000 which had been paid over in contributions but not reported. On application to the Prefect, secret enquiries were set on foot, and on being summoned for trial Yuan-hsün admitted his guilt but undertook to refund the amount embezzled, but this he has so far failed to do.—Referred in the usual manner.

June 9th.—(1) A decree ordering a further series of prayers for rain to be offered at the various State temples on the 13th inst. The metropolis still continues in want of thorough moisture, and reports from Shansi show that the rainfall in that province has not reached the extent of complete saturation. His Majesty will take a part in the services, and will, as usual, repair to the Ta Kao Tien.

(2) Memorial from the Governor of Kiangsu, reporting the trial and execution of a parricide, one Huang Kon-lang by name, who lived in the Tsung-ming district on the island of that name. Huang Kon-

lang, who was the only son of his father, was of a turbulent and unruly disposition, and it was elicited in evidence that he had even gone so far on one occasion as to strike his father when he corrected him for refusing to turn the grindstone. On this occasion the father, being fond of his son, did not report him to the authorities. One day, early in the present year, Huang Kon-lang went out with his father to sell some cloth, and was intercepted by a creditor, one Wang Yo-t'ing, who demanded payment of a debt due by Kon-lang, and a fight ensued on the latter's refusal to pay. Huang Sung-fu, Kon-lang's father, called out and rebuked his son, and finally dragged him away and took him home. Kon-lang on his return went to a friend, Liu Pao-chüan by name, who he knew had a grudge against Wang Yo-t'ing and induced him to write a report to the headman of the tithing repudiating the debt. Pao-chüan did so, and explained that the petition stated that Wang Yo-t'ing had robbed Kon-lang of money and rice and assaulted his father. That it would be necessary to explain the purport of the report to his father, and that the headman of the tithing must first inspect the scene of the alleged robbery before an action could be brought against Wang Yo-t'ing. When Kon-lang told his father of the scheme he objected to it altogether, and told the headman, to whom Kon-lang had already spoken, to stop all proceedings. Kon-lang then went again to consult his friend Pao T'ing, and they came to the conclusion that as it would be difficult to inflict injuries on the father in support of the charge they wished to bring against Wang Yo-t'ing, the only thing was to kill him outright and lay him in front of Wang Yo-t'ing's door, when Wang would be sure to come to an accommodation to avoid being implicated in a case of suspicious death. Liu went on to explain to Kon-lang that the best way of killing his father was to kneel upon his stomach and throttle him, and added that he should expect eight or ten dollars as a present for his hints when the act was done. In pursuance of his scheme, Kon-lang went back, and, pretending that he was going out on business, hid himself in a side room until his father had gone to bed and was asleep. He then took a lamp in his hand and crept into his father's room, the door of which was not bolted. His father, still dressed in his clothes, was lying asleep on his back with his right hand thrust into the breast of his coat and his left hand placed on his chest. Kon-lang got upon the bed, and placing his

left knee upon the right sleeve of his father's coat and his right knee upon his stomach in such wise as to hold the left hand fast, knelt down upon him and seized him by the throat, throttled him in a short space of time in spite of his struggles to free himself. He then took the body on his back and carried it in the direction of Wang Yo-t'ing's house, but his strength failed him and the dawn broke before he could get there, so he threw the body into a ditch. Detection followed in due course, and his guilt being established as well by his own confession as the testimony of his accomplice, he was executed by the *ling ch'ih* process, and his head sent to the scene of the crime. The Imperial permission is solicited for the summary decapitation of Liu Pao-ch'üan, at whose instance the crime was committed.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

June 10th.—(1) A Decree. Fu Chên-pang reports that an officer on postal service duty finds the climate does not agree with him and applies for permission to return to the capital to do duty. Tushih-k'ou is not far distant from Peking, and Ch'i Pao, Secretary of the Mongolian Superintendency, who is in charge of the postal service at that place, clearly manifests a lazy disposition and a love of ease in abruptly applying for permission to relinquish his duties on the pretext that the climate does not agree with him. Let Ch'i Pao at once vacate his post and return to the Banner to which he belongs. His application for leave to return to duty at his yamên is not sanctioned. The Mongolian superintendency will, in accordance with statute, select an officer to replace Ch'i Pao in the office of Superintendent of the postal service.

(2) Memorial from the Governor of Uliasut'ai and the Assistant Governor of Kobdo reporting the robbery of the Imperial Treasury at the latter place and the arrest of the guilty parties. The Secretary in charge of the Grain Department had reported to memorialists that a hole having been discovered in the back wall of the Treasury during the month of March last, an inspection was at once made, and it was found that three large ingots of silver with fifteen small ones, as well as five pearls, were missing, the weight of the whole being altogether three hundred ounces. Memorialist was filled with uncontrollable astonishment upon receipt of this intelligence, and at once went himself to inspect the place, when he found that the robbery had undoubtedly occurred. The soldier on duty as watch-

man, Lin Ju-hai by name, was at once sent for, as well as Yen Chin-fu, a soldier who had been given a lodging with him, and interrogated. Lin Ju-hai stated that he had served as a cavalry soldier at Tushih-k'ou, but he had changed his troop and been transferred to K'obdo in 1875, where he was placed on duty as a watchman over the Treasury. One day in the middle of March he met Liu Chin-fu, an old friend, at the door of his watch house, who asked him to let him be his substitute. This he refused, but allowed him to come and live in the watch house. Two days later, Lin Ju-hai went outside the town to look for someone, and deputed Yen to look after his work for him. Being unable to get into the town that night he returned the following morning, when Yen informed him with much trepidation that some thieves had made a hole in the back wall of the treasury on the previous night. This story having been verified on inspection, Lin Ju-hai at once reported the fact. The evidence of Yen Chin-fu was next taken and agreed with Lin's, while the testimony of neither could be shaken under repeated and rigorous examination. They were accordingly locked up, and circular instructions for the arrest of the guilty parties were just about to be issued when the Sub-prefect in charge of the streets and markets reported that a Russian trading in Kobdo had come to his office and informed him privately that a man had just been to his shop to change some silver, and he had such a quantity that there was a suspicion of its not being properly come by. Search was at once made for the man with the assistance of the Russian trader, and he was caught. He proved to be a soldier, Lin Fu-shan by name, and when interrogated, he admitted that he had stolen the money from the treasury. Six small ingots and the five pearls were recovered from him. On being formally placed on his trial, he declared that when looking for a friend he had gone on the night of the robbery to the watch house and had there met Yen Chin-fu, and that they had committed the robbery, Yen Chin-fu taking three large ingots and he fifteen small ones, and a packet of broken silver. Yen Chin-fu said to him, "You had better take all the silver away outside the city to-night, because they will be looking for it to-morrow." He did so, and buried the large ingots in a mound of loose earth outside the south-west angle of the wall, and some of the smaller ones in a dung heap in the street. Four days afterwards he dug up one of the small ingots

and took it to a Russian shop to change into broken silver. Two days after he dug up six more and took them to the same man, who found him out and told the authorities. This story was corroborated by Yén Chin-fu, and the two having admitted their guilt it only remained to pass sentence upon them. Unfortunately the edition of the statutes at Kobdo, a military town, is imperfect, and as in so grave a case as this, memorialists would not venture to propose a sentence which they had no authority to inflict, they beg that the Board of Punishments may be directed to signify the sentence that should be passed.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

June 11th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, entering into an elaborate defence of the present method of conducting the salt trade of that province, which has been attacked by the Tsao-min (灶民) or salt boilers. A number of them had presented a long list of alleged grievances to Ngón Ch'êng, the High Commissioner sent to investigate a number of charges brought against the Governor-General and other officials, and by a decree issued in the month of March last, their petition was referred to the Governor-General for a report. The memorial is too full of details and technicalities to admit of a summary that would bring the subject within the compass of a few lines. The Governor-General commences by calling to His Majesty's recollection the mass of corruption he had to attack when he commenced to set in order the salt system of Szechuen. Memorial after memorial gave details of abuses that existed, and every word that these contained is literally true. The regulations that were finally drawn up were framed with a view to eliminating these abuses and, by giving the salt permits a wider circulation, to enrich the revenue and benefit trade in general. The results of this system, which was matured after careful thought and based on the testimony afforded by experienced traders, the opinion of the official body being also invited, may be seen in the returns which were forwarded to the Board of Revenue at the end of last year. It was, moreover, carefully tested by the experience of five months' working before being submitted to His Majesty for approval. Since its organisation memorialist has never failed to give his personal supervision to its working both day and night, replying in his own hands to all queries and reports. The system,

in two words, is official supervision. Traders are allowed to sell, but under Government auspices, and the memorialist in an elaborate disquisition contrasts the present with the past, showing that not only has a load of debt in the shape of arrears of taxation been replaced by a revenue during the past year of over a million taels, but smuggling and the numerous abuses that formerly existed have been put down, not only not to the detriment of the trader but to his immediate advantage, as may be seen from the fact that while before he was subjected to numerous and vexatious charges at every point and was with difficulty able to secure any return on his capital, he may now realise a profit of over Tls. 20 on each *yin* without any trouble to himself. And all this is accomplished without the expenditure of any additional sums on the part of the Government, as the costly machinery of the executive required is maintained by the imposition of a *p'ing-yü* tax, or the small amount necessary to give the turn to the scale, which is borne by the consumer and not the trader.—The memorial is briefly acknowledged in an earlier decree.

June 12th.—(1) Postscript memorial from Lin Chao-yuan, acting Governor of Kweichow. Every foot of ground in the province, says the memorialist, is hilly, and the pent up accumulation of heavenly and earthy vapours ought to produce there gravel or sand in which mines might be opened for every description [of mineral product], but the workings formerly opened have long become obsolete from age or exhaustion, and the province labours under the disadvantage of possessing no men of business sufficiently wealthy to come and take the place of the former miners. Another deterrent exists in the uncertainty of securing positive success in the exploitation of the hidden treasures of the earth, which causes the majority of persons to suspect that the operation is attended with difficulty, and the result is that no one will engage in an undertaking of the sort. During memorialist's incumbency as Provincial Treasurer he drew up a minute code of regulations to, and issued proclamations inviting the, mercantile class to come forward and engage in enterprises of this nature, but there were very few who responded to his invitation. He then deputed a number of officials and notables well versed in mining matters to make surveys in different directions, but the result of their investigations was that though there were localities in which mines might be made, no capital could be found to work them, and so it came to pass that

matters arrived at a standstill. At the present moment the quota due from Kweichow to other provinces cannot be supplied with regularity, and the impoverished condition of the country becomes daily fraught with increasing danger, so that there remains nothing for it, in the utter absence of all plans for a remedy, but to turn as a last resource to the hope that a small profit may be reaped from the natural products of the earth. The memorialist has now discovered that there is a hill known as the Ma-an or horse saddle hill, with others, in the jurisdiction of the sub-Prefect of Kuei-hua, in which the *Sha-ch'i* or sand element is extremely vigorous, while they enclose a sheet of water in their centre which they surround on all four sides, so that [the working of mines in this locality] would not be in the slightest degree detrimental to the land or houses of the [surrounding] villagers. The memorialist accordingly proposes in the first instances to make an experiment [in this neighbourhood] in the hope that the notables and trading classes, who are in a position to do so, may be stimulated into an effort when they hear what is being done. The works will be used as a means of disposing of the vagrant classes, and a source of wealth will be opened that will to a slight extent relax the strain that now is placed on national expenditure. If the enterprise succeeds, sufficient of the proceeds of the workings will be sold to meet the regular amount due to the capital, and any surplus that then remains will be reported for taxation. The memorialist cannot guarantee that his efforts will be successful, but he will use his utmost endeavours to render them so.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

June 13th.—(1) Memorial from Shên Pao-chên reporting that he handed over the seals of the Governor-General of the Two Kiang and Minister Superintendent of Foreign Trade on the 11th May, and left for Peking by steamer on the 14th.

(2) Wu Yuan-ping reports the assumption of the duties of the Governor-General during his absence.

The remaining memorials in this day's *Gazette* consist of formal reports on matters of official routine.

June 14th.—(1) Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting at great length the result of their enquiries into the conduct of Li Chung-ming, the Peking book-seller, and Ho Shou-tz'ü, President of the Board of Works, and submitting the penalty they consider the former should undergo. They leave it to His Majesty to decide whether

or no Ho Shou-tz'ü has been sufficiently punished by the loss of three steps of commutative rank and removal to another post. (For summary of this memorial see *Gazette* of 24th April.)

(2) Memorial from Wu Yén-chieh, Literary Chancellor of Kiangsi, who reports the loss of a number of official documents in the course of a shipwreck which he encountered, and prays that a penalty may be inflicted upon him. He held an examination this year in Kiukiang, which was concluded on the 9th of March, and he then started by water for Jui-chow to hold an examination there. He was detained so long by contrary winds that he did not reach the provincial capital and leave the Poyang Lake to enter the portion of the Yangtze known as the Shuang-chiang, till the 1st April. He was just congratulating himself that all dangers were past, and he could now reckon on the number of days he had yet to travel, when, on the evening of the 2nd, he came to anchor at a place called Ch'i-chien in the Nan-ch'ang jurisdiction, and at midnight a boisterous wind arose accompanied with rain and hail, and followed by a terrible sea, against which man could not prevail. There were no people living near the place, and cries for help found no response. The fleet consisted of the memorialist's boat and twelve others which were occupied by his servants, secretaries and clerks. Four of these were washed away and foundered in a very brief space of time, and of the remaining nine, some had only the hull left, others the bow alone. Memorialist could only clasp his official seal, and pray earnestly to Heaven that he alone might bear this disaster, and that the others might be protected from harm. The boats were providentially anchored near the shore, and temporary shelter was gained by crawling over the sand, or death escaped by swimming, so that none came to harm; but one of the two boats in which the clerks and archives were broke adrift and was lost. The box containing the examination papers and other documents of special importance was saved by an effort, but three boxes of papers were lost, and attempts at dragging for them proved fruitless. On examination of their lists the clerks ascertained that the missing boxes contained lists of competitors, the red lists of successful candidates, with clean drafts and registers of correspondence, &c., but as the original papers existed, there was sufficient material left to enable reference to be made, and the public business would not be interfered with in any way. As the candidates in

the sub-prefecture had already assembled, memorialist went on to the town in light carts with a reduced following, and so contrived not to miss the date fixed for the examination. Memorialist is, however, to blame for having so conducted his duties as to encounter this extraordinary misadventure and narrowly escape an untimely misfortune, as well as for his want of precaution whereby public papers were lost. It is, therefore, his duty to solicit an Imperial decree committing him to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.—Rescript: Let Wu Yën-chieh, as a special act of grace, be committed to the Board for an investigation of the facts, and the determination [of a slight punishment] instead of the penalty applied for.

June 15th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a joint report from the Grand Secretariat and the Board of Punishments, who were commissioned to investigate certain charges brought by the Censor Wang Hsin against Chu Yung-k'êng, a district Magistrate, whom he accused of partiality in the treatment of the murderers of Kao Wên-pao, a *wei-yuan* in Shangtung. The result of the enquiry shows that Yung K'êng-shên, while acting in the capacity of district Magistrate, had on repeated occasions compelled tradesmen and others to lend him money. Again, when the *wei-yuan* Kao Wên-pao came to convey a prisoner away and the Magistrate's nephew suggested that they should kill Kao Wên-pao and send in a false report that he was mad and had died by his own hand, he at once consented to the proposal and did not hinder his nephew from the commission of the crime. He further made a secret bargain with one of his secretaries, under which he undertook to give certain monies received as contributions to one Li Shu-shu, a *wei-yuan*. The commission of enquiry find, therefore, that he was not only cognisant of the intention to commit the crime referred to by the Censor, but that after its commission he allowed all the criminals who played an important part in the murder to escape, and his first idea was to evade the penalty to which he was liable in consequence of the misdoing of his nephew, whom the murdered *wei-yuan* had been sent to convey to the prefectural court for trial. It is therefore suggested that his penalty be changed to execution after the usual term of incarceration, in consideration of the base motives by which he was actuated. After careful reference to the case of Li Yü-ch'ang, quoted as a precedent by the Censor, We find that though the circumstances of the present case are different,

they are undoubtedly more grave, and, as as a matter of fact, the conditions are more serious than the law provides for. Let the penalty of Chu Yung-k'êng be changed to decapitation after the usual term of incarceration, and let it be carried into effect after the autumn revision of the present year. As the sentence of banishment suggested by the special Commissioner Kuang Shou and his colleagues is in accordance with the law that governs such cases, the [fact of the punishment suggested being inadequate need not be considered.] A decree has already been issued ordering that the assistant Magistrate Kao Wen-pao shall have the highest marks of Imperial compassion bestowed upon him. As a further act of special grace, We command that he shall receive the marks of compassion to which an officer of the 4th grade is entitled.

(2) The Court of Censors report the following appeal case from the province of Chihli:—A woman called Liu complains that certain members of an affiliated society were quarrelling over the division of some grain and were rebuked for doing so by her husband, which so incensed them that an armed party headed by one Li Shu-shêng attacked him and beat him, and, finally, stabbed him to death. Her father-in-law reported the outrage to the Magistrate, who gave orders for the arrest of the guilty parties after he had held an inquest, but they got wind of the matter and decamped. Her father-in-law subsequently died, and there being then no one left to press the case, the murderers came stealthily back and bribed the police to let them alone. Her uncle was then bribed into drawing up a bond under which he sold her husband's life to his murderers (賣兇), and false witnesses were produced whose veracity was guaranteed; and when she afterwards complained at the magistracy the clerks were paid to declare she was mad, and prevent her agent from writing out a petition for her.—Referred in the usual manner.

June 16th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials in answer to the decree of the 7th of May with reference to Wu K'o-tu's suicide and his suggestions with regard to the dynastic succession. The question was referred for the joint consideration of the Princes and high Ministers in the capital. After a meeting of all their number had been held, the question was discussed, and the views of the majority embodied in a memorial headed by the Prince of Li, chief of the eight princely families to whom

the right of perpetual inheritance is secured. The views set forth in this memorial not meeting with the approval of all the members of the Congress, several of the dissentients have refused to append their names to it, and have memorialised on their own account. Space will not allow of a lengthy summary of all these memorials, each of which is more or less typical of the other. General opinion points to those of Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, and Pao T'ing, Reader of the Han-lin College, as the most able; and the reader is referred to the memorial of the former, a translation of which appears in the summary for the 17th June, given below.

June 17th.—(1) Memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, holding brevet rank as Reader of the Han-lin College. On the 17th May he had the honor to receive a decree from Their Majesties the Empresses to the effect that Wu K'o-tu, second Secretary of the Board of Civil Office, had left behind him a secret memorial praying that the dynastic succession might be settled beforehand. That this intention was conveyed in a decree earlier promulgated, and that the various high officers of State were commanded duly to deliberate on the question and report thereon. The memorialist humbly ventures to consider that the appointment of an heir to continue the succession to the Emperor T'ung Chih is, in effect, to secure the dynastic succession, and that this follows on (or proceeds from) the [expressed] intentions of Their Majesties the Empresses, and is in accordance with the views of the officials and people of this Empire, as well as in conformity with the earnest desire of His Majesty the Emperor. It is, moreover, a determination that can never be effaced in the process of ages, and the injunction is one that will assuredly be followed. Memorialist, while he respects the complete loyalty and thorough adherence to principle displayed by Wu K'o-tu, thinks nevertheless that he has manifested an excess of anxiety on a matter about which there was no necessity to be anxious, and yet has paid no particular attention to points which certainly deserved it. Memorialist would reverently observe, with reference to the expression *Chi-ssü*, "to maintain a succession," that on the 12th of January, 1875, the 11th of February, 1876, and the 8th of April of the present year, the decrees of Their Majesties were as clear as the sun or the stars, [so clear that] in time to come, whenever the sons and grandsons of the Ruler of men make

use of the words *Chi-ssü*, they will indicate the continuation of the great hereditary succession. The same rule applies to the Son of Heaven as to the nobility, for the Ruler of men makes the kingdom the fundamental basis of [his actions] and the nobility cannot make an ancestor of the Son of Heaven.* The Ancestral temple of a princely family cannot be placed in a private house. If, then, the inheritance be not [actually] succeeded to, how can there be posterity? In the days of the three dynasties (Hsia, Shang and Chow), the *Ch'ing* and *Ta-fu*, or high officers of State [were hereditary nobility], but from the times of the Han and Wei until the present dynasty, in the case of successors, whether to nobility or to State functions, it has only been [necessary] to declare so and so to be such, and he succeeds to the title of nobility or the hereditary office of his predecessor. So [it may be seen] that there is not the slightest difference between *Chi-ssü* and *Chi-t'ung*, and a careful inspection of the host of classical works and many histories has not [brought to light] a different rendering [to the one now given.] The discrimination between the words *Chi-t'ung* and *Chi-ssü* is attributable to the distorted, reckless, and misleading dicta of Chang Ts'ung and Kwei Ngo of the Ming dynasty, which were long ago refuted by the Emperor Ch'ien Lung in the work entitled *Yi Li Yi Su* (儀禮義疏).

The decrees of Their Majesties having now repeatedly enunciated [the principle that is to be followed], why then look elsewhere than to the "precious talisman in the golden casket"? † But should foolish, ignorant, and petty-minded persons come forward, mere players upon words and up-setters of settled conclusions, it will be in the power of all high officers at Court who have received an education and can read, to combat them with "the tablets on which the decree is inscribed." This is the first reason why memorialist says there is

* [Note.—(1) No one but an Emperor can worship an Emperor as his ancestor. The son of an Emperor is a *Chi Wang* or Prince of the blood, and his posterity cannot, as far as ceremonial is concerned, carry their ancestry back to the Emperor his father.]

(2) The ancestral temple is always placed in the household of the individual who succeeds to the title.

† (3) Kao Ti, the first Emperor of the Han, when conferring patents of nobility, was in the habit of breaking or cutting the bamboo slip, or piece of jade, which was the symbol of the order, into two pieces, one of which was given to the recipient of the honor and the other locked up by the Emperor in a golden casket. (See *Pei Wen*

Yen Fu, under the character 禮.)

no necessity for troubling about the matter. In former dynasties, when the rulers of men gave and received the Imperial sway, the troubles and changes that this gave rise to were verily many in number, and [an answer will be found in history to] two questions raised by the Secretary. T'ai Tsung of the Sung disregarded his brother's injunctions to bequeath the Empire to his son, and caused his nephew's death; Tê Chao, Prince of Yi, was not the son of T'ai Tsung. Ching Ti of the Ming, disregarded the injunctions of Ying Tsung and deposed his nephew in favour of his son; Chien Shên, the Prince Imperial, was not the son of Ching Ti. If, then, the Emperor makes his son the heir of Mu Tsung (T'ung Chih) in name, he will be the bodily successor to the Emperor, but in reality he will still be the son of the present Emperor. Where is the blemish in the case that causes mistrust? Why should His Majesty grudge [the Empire to his son]?

The memorialist then goes on to say that the fact of the Emperor having been specially selected out of the direct line for the bestowal of the Empire, is a sufficient guarantee that he will not show his ingratitude either to Their Majesties for the honor that has been done him, or to the late Emperor whom he has been appointed to succeed. He predicts that His Majesty will display the four cardinal virtues of filial piety, brotherly love, friendship and self-sacrifice, and this is his second reason for denying all cause for anxiety. It is of course impossible to predict that bad advisers, such as Wu K'o-tu refers to, will not arise. A few years since, Kuang An suggested that a *t'ieh ch'üan* record of the method of succession should be engraved on iron, and he surely is not a solitary example of loyalty and straightforwardness? Wu K'o-tu paid a tribute of respect to the Prince of Shun. Surely he will be ready to come forward if improper suggestions should at any time be made. This is the third ground of security. To come to the matters on which great thought might justly have been bestowed, memorialist considers that the foremost of these is the conclusion come to by Wu K'o-tu that the first son born to the Emperor will succeed the late Emperor as his heir and succeed his father as Emperor, in which conclusion he ignored the traditional customs of the Imperial House. The second consideration that Wu K'o-tu has overlooked is the possibility of the nomination of an heir to the Throne causing trouble and dissension, as history has shown that it can do. Lastly, he seems to

forget that the Emperor may have many sons born to him, and it would be premature in view of this fact to nominate any particular one beforehand as heir to the Throne. Being now called upon to deliberate on this question, memorialist ventures to say that the words *Chi-shih-tzu-yi* "convey this intention" employed in Their Majesties' decree are concise and at the same time clear. They are, however, capable of two interpretations. They may be given a shallow meaning or a deep one. [It would be tedious to follow the memorialist through the complicated and apparently meaningless quotations in which he clothes his ideas. The pith of the whole memorial is to be found in a single sentence suggesting that all difficulties will be avoided if the Empresses' decree be read to mean that the successor to the Throne, whichever of the sons of the present Emperor he may be, shall also succeed as heir to the Emperor T'ung Chih. He then goes on in a wordy and elaborate essay, to show five distinct advantages that are to be gained by the adoption of this rendering of Their Majesties' decree.]

June 18th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun returns thanks for the bestowal of a piece of grass cloth (紗葛).

(1) Hsü Yung-yi 徐用儀 is appointed Director of the Grand Court of Revision, and Ch'ung Fu 崇福 is ordered to replace Ying K'uei as second in command at Jeh-ho.

(2) Wêng T'ung-ho 翁同龢 is transferred to the Presidentship of the Board of Works, his place at the Board of Punishments being taken by P'an Tsu-yin 潘祖蔭.

(3) Memorial from Hsiang Hêng, Superintendent of Customs at Shan-hai Kuan, reporting the seizure of two small lots of ginseng weighing eleven taels and thirty-six taels respectively, which were being smuggled across the frontier by Yü Chung-fu, a native of the Ch'ung-yi district of the Lai-chow prefecture in Shantung, and Kêng Yü-shan, a native of the Yao-yang district of Shên-chow in Chihli. On being interrogated, Yü Chung-fu made the following statement:—"I am a native of the Ch'ang-yi district in the Lai-chow prefecture in Shantung, and am thirty-nine years of age. My father is dead, but I have a mother at home. I have been employed in a drug shop in the town of Yang-chia-ch'êng-tzu in the Fêng-t'ien province. My mother fell ill and wrote to me telling me

to buy some ginseng and mix it with medicine to cure her ailment, and I accordingly purchased this ginseng [now produced] from the shop in which I serve, and was taking it home. To my surprise, when I came to the barrier it was found by the officer on duty who said that ginseng was a contraband article, and arrested me and sent me for trial. My statement is true." The statement made by Kêng Yü-shan was much to the same effect. The memorialist then goes on to say that a rule formerly existed that in the event of a seizure of more than ten taels of ginseng the person fraudulently attempting to smuggle the same should be sent to the Board of Punishments for trial, four-fifths of the ginseng seized being confiscated for the public service, and one-fifth given to the underlings who made the seizure. This rule was subsequently modified to the extent that if the person smuggling was ascertained to have acted from ignorance and not to be an habitual offender, the case was to be dealt with summarily, provided the amount of the seizure did not exceed a hundred taels in weight. As it is out of the question to give credence to the unsupported statements of the present offenders, the memorialist proposes to send them on to the Governor at Sêng-ching to be confronted with the shopkeepers to whom they refer, that their depositions may be verified or the reverse, action being taken on the result of the enquiry.

June 19th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Chih Ho and Ngên Fu, the two high officers that were sent to Kirin to investigate a case in which sentence was passed by Ch'ung Ch'i, the Governor, upon Wo Hsing-ngo, an officer of the Guards, who appealed to the Censorate and gave a different story to that of the Governor. The Commissioners find that the Secretary deputed by Ch'ung Ch'i to hold the investigation did not, as alleged, have recourse to illegal modes of torture, and that the death of Ch'i Kwang-chên did not take place until twelve days after his examination under torture, and not in the presence of the Court. The fact having been established by various witnesses and the clearest evidence that Ch'i Kwang-chên had placed stolen property in the house of certain persons whom the woman Ch'i had declared in error to have been guilty of robbery, and Wo Hsing-ngo being unable to refute this evidence, he made false statements, implicated other people, and lied in numerous directions. He is sentenced to dismissal from his position in the guards and to banishment into

servitude on the military postal roads. Sentences of less severity are inflicted on other minor officials who shared his guilt.

(2) A decree acknowledging a report from the Board of Revenue on the Szechuan salt trade, which they had been called upon to make in consequence of a discrepancy between the statements of Ngên Ch'êng who was commissioned to enquire into the matter, and that of Ting Pao-chêng, the Governor-General; the former having stated that the system of Government transport and private sale reduced profits and increased abuses. The Board of Revenue state that since the introduction of the system of Government transport, the Governor-General has repeatedly memorialised that not only have the whole of the regular licenses been disposed of, but also as many as ten thousand and more of the licenses for which no sale could before be found, the taxation under various headings on these sales amounting to a million taels, which is proof positive that the establishment is beneficial to the revenue. The salt trade in Szechuan and Kweichow has long been in abeyance, and the trade of Szechuan has now been revived with such success that it would be impolitic to introduce any sudden change. The change introduced of levying *lekin* on packages or parcels [instead of permits?] does not affect the consumption, and again, although the salt in that province is distributed by the Government, its sale is in the hands of merchants, and as the Governor-General states in his memorial that the Szechuan salt trade is in a flourishing condition, and that the number of licensed traders has increased, it naturally follows that they cannot be very badly treated. With regard to the Governor-General's statement that in addition to what is retained for local expenditure, the additional profits on frontier salt will still leave a balance to meet calls in other directions, if only the Tls. 250,000 required to take the place of receipts from sale of rank and titles be taken into consideration it will be seen that the surplus cannot reach Tls. 80,000 or 90,000. The Board therefore pray that the Governor-General may be directed to continue the present system. This is sanctioned, and Ting Pao-chêng is enjoined with much emphasis to give the whole matter his careful attention in such wise that, while the revenue increases, due regard is paid to the interests of the merchants and the comfort of the people. He is warned also that any irregularity will be visited with severe reprisals.

(3) The following appointments are gazetted:—Literary Chancellor of Shun-t'ien,

Hsü Chih-hsiang 徐致祥. Governor of Hunan, Li Ming-ch'ih 李明墀. Governor of Fukkien, Lo Fang-ch'i 勒方錡. Shao Hêng-yü, late Governor of Hunan, is appointed senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, and is to come to Peking on the arrival of his successor.

June 20th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the Capital of two inches and upwards of saturation.

(1) Prayers for rain will be held in the State Temples on the 25th instant, in which His Majesty will personally take part.

(2) T'an Chün-p'ei 譚鈞培 is appointed Financial Commissioner of Kiangsu, and Sun Ch'iao-tsê 孫翹澤 Judge of Hunan.

(3) The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hua, the Imperial Commissioners in Szechuen, reporting the result of their investigations into the conditions of the salt trade in that province and severely criticising the report on the same subject that had been presented by the Governor-General Ting Pao-chêng. They first summarise this memorial and its appendices, in which the following statements are made:—A loan of Tls. 580,000 was raised as a capital on which to commence operations, and the tax receipts for the year 1878 are stated to amount to Tls. 950,000 or thereabouts, which sum has been realised without a fraction of extra taxation, so that the system is one that the mercantile classes gladly pursue, while the price paid by consumers is reduced from a hundred and several scores of *cash* to seventy or eighty *cash*. The Governor-General undertakes to send Tls. 180,000 to the Board of Revenue annually and to supplement it by a contribution of Tls. 6,000 towards defraying expenses incurred by the Board on public account. The Governor-General further undertakes to set aside Tls. 65,000 from the same fund to take the place of the amount hitherto realised by sale of office. He has now ordered ten boats to be built, and has enlisted a number of sailors to form a preventive service, the expenses for which, as well as for the staff of officials employed, he proposes to defray out of the "balance in favour of the scale." The memorialists based their enquiries on the statements summarised above, and availed themselves of the replies of the Taotai T'ang Ch'ung, the head of the Department, both to

present queries and to others instituted in the early part of the year. They were also furnished with the result of extensive enquiries set on foot at their orders by the provincial executive, their object being to base their opinion upon actual fact. They find, in the first place, that the amount of capital which the Governor-General declares he has borrowed does not agree with the amount entered in the books of the Salt Office, while the receipts shown by him are inclusive of the whole of the taxation, regular as well as *lekin*, throughout the province and are not in accordance with the returns furnished by T'ang Ch'ung. An item headed miscellaneous receipts, which re-appears as office expenditure, is also not accounted for in the memorial. After pointing out a number of other minor discrepancies between the Governor-General's statement and the figures as shown in the books, the memorialists go on to state that the Governor-General declares the amount of borrowed capital to be Tls. 580,000, while the books of the Salt Office, as well as the evidence of members of the provincial Government, show that Tls. 736,654 of Imperial funds were borrowed, of which Tls. 37,000 were refunded, leaving a balance of Tls. 519,654 due to the provincial treasury, exclusive of a debt to Shantung of Tls. 80,000, making a total loan of Tls. 736,000 instead of Tls. 580,000 as stated by the Governor-General. Again, the Governor-General puts down his receipts from different taxes collected at three different stations at Tls. 203,000, Tls. 84,000 and Tls. 130,000 respectively, while enquiry shows conclusively that the receipts of the Salt Office for the year 1878 were Tls. 649,917, and that the last item quoted by the Governor-General was drawn from a collectorate with which the Salt Office have nothing to do. The total of the whole receipts from regular and *lekin* taxes in Szechuen is put down at Tls. 1,500,000 odd. The present system of salt sales has been in force for a year and three months and-a-half, and a comparison between the returns of the number of licenses sold and the sum realised [according to the Governor-General's statement] shows an excess in receipts of over Tls. 500,000, and even if allowance be made for the three months and-a-half, the balance would still be excessive. In the year 1851 the weight of each *pao* or package of salt was fixed at 200 catties, and each *yin*, or license, represented 50 packages of a gross weight of 10,000 catties. In 1851 the *lekin* was fixed at Tls. 8, but in the reign of T'ung Chih it

was raised, and the salt boilers then raised the weight of each *yin* to 17,000 catties. The fraud was discovered by Lo Ping-chang and Ch'ung Shih, both former Governors-General of the province, who let the salt boilers raise the weight of their *yin*, but frustrated them by first charging the usual Tls. 8 per *yin* [of 1,000 piculs] and then charging a second *lekin* of Tls. 17 on the whole *yin* of 17,000 piculs, making the total Tls. 25. This had two results. The dealers, by increasing the weight of their *yin*, reduced the number of licences for which taxes had to be paid, while the extra *lekin* was an aid to the exigencies of calls for expenditure. These Governors-General, it will be seen, fully recognised the indispensability of *lekin* and levied it in such a way as to be palatable to the merchants. The present Governor-General has put a stop to the surplus weight fraud, and reduced the package to its original weight of 200 catties, and the *yin* to 10,000 catties. In common justice, as the *yin* has been reduced to its original weight, the *lekin* ought also to be reduced to the original Tls. 8, but as this would cause a deficit in the Treasury, the Governor-General has only reduced the *lekin* to Tls. 18, which in reality amounts to more than half as much again as it used to be, when the reduction in weight is taken into consideration, which is manifestly a hardship upon the people. Referring to the item of *Hu-pên*, or reserve fund, which the Governor-General puts down at Tls. 23,000, the memorialists find that it stands at Tls. 35,000 in the books of the Salt Office. Be that as it may, the item is a new one, and did not exist under the old régime, and the extra taxation required to meet this item is not only oppressive to the trader, but is levied in such a manner as to seriously affect the Kweichow trade.

It would be tedious to follow the memorialists through their exposure of the falsity of each item of the accounts rendered by the Governor or their criticism of the details of his system, the general outline of which may be seen from the summary given above. They prove that the expenses of the preventive service are enormously in excess of the figures given, amounting in all to Tls. 860,000, exclusive of the cost of the cruisers and wages of sailors, and show that the excess of receipts under the new system over the old does not amount to much more than eighty or ninety thousand taels, which are obtained by increased taxation in the shape of miscellaneous charges. Not only

has no portion of the money borrowed from the provincial treasury been repaid, but all the extra taxation is not sufficient to meet the present working expenses, and the deficit is artfully made good from regular taxes. By a decree earlier issued, the Report was referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration. The result of their deliberations is embodied in a decree of the 19th of June.

June 21st.—No documents of importance.

June 22nd.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of the following appeal from Kuo Ch'êng-chih, the representative of a number of persons of the same clan residing in the prefecture of Ts'ao-chow in Shantung, who complain that Kuo Ssü-ming, a member of their clan, was murdered by an armed band of robbers headed by one Wang Huo, who had been the terror of their neighbourhood for four years and had been guilty of numerous acts of pillage and robbery. The gang had purchased the protection of the underlings of the local authority, and all efforts to bring them to justice had proved unavailing in consequence.—Referred in the usual manner.

(2) With the exception of two postscript memorials from Ngên Chêng and T'ung Hua, supplementing their report on the salt trade of Szechuen that appeared in the *Gazette* of 20th June, and of little material interest, the remainder of this day's issue is occupied with matters of ordinary official routine.

June 23rd.—(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin to the effect that the regulations lately drawn up by the Grand Chamberlain for the maintenance of proper order and decorum in the Imperial precincts have been set at nought by the Secretaries and soldiers at the gates of the Forbidden City, who are lapsing into the most lax and dilatory habits. He states that the guard houses at the Wu-mên and Tuan-mên are empty, and that there are very few soldiers on duty. Also that all sorts of people pass through the stone and wooden railings on either side of the Ta-ch'ing gate. This is a most unconstitutional proceeding, and the high officers in whose charge these matters are, with the Princes and Ministers who enter the Palace for their turn of duty, are commanded strictly to prohibit unauthorised persons from making a thoroughfare of the space in question. Any further laxity or dilatoriness on the part of the Secretaries and soldiers will be visited with condign punishment.

(2) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting on the

rainfall and price of grain in his province during the month of May. Rain fell to a varying depth of from one to five inches of saturation in thirty-seven sub-prefectures, departments and districts, and in P'u-chow Fu, Tsê-chow Fu, Chieh-chow and Chiang-chow the second crop of wheat was daily showing signs of improvement. There were still slight indications of drought in T'ai-yuen Fu, P'ing-yang Fu, Fên-chow Fu, Lu-an Fu, Ta-t'ung Fu, Ning-wu Fu, and Su-p'ing Fu, as well as in the eight sub-prefectures of P'ing-ting, Liao, Ch'in, Hsi, Hsin, Ho, and Pao-tê, and of these Pao-tê had not yet been visited with saturating rain. The memorialist is now engaging in prayers for rain, in the earnest hope that by a continuation of what has already fallen, a wheat harvest may be secured. The price of grain at T'ai-yuan and four other prefectures, with the six sub-prefectures of Liao, Ch'in, Hsi, Chieh, Chiang and Chien, has slightly fallen, while there has been a fluctuation at P'ing-yang, Lu-an and Fên-chow. At other places the rates are the same as during the past month.

June 24th.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from a number of farmers in the Jên-ch'iu district in Chihli, presented by one Ho T'ing-yü, who stated that the district having suffered from floods for several years in succession, the Governor-General obtained His Majesty's sanction to the remission of all taxes in that district for the first period of that year, while permission was accorded for delay in the payment of taxes during the present year in proportion to the amount of suffering in the respective localities. The poor people were extremely grateful for this concession, but in spite of the benevolence of His Majesty having been made known by means of yellow paper notices on which the decree was copied, the Magistrate ignored the remission granted and dared to issue proclamations ordering the full amount of taxes to be paid as heretofore. Again, last year, when the drought occurred, a decree was issued ordering money to be distributed for the repair of wells, and the whole of the grant was appropriated by the clerks and underlings, the people not getting a fraction. In the month of April last the Magistrate verbally warned the heads of public granaries, village municipalities and tithings that the whole amount of taxes due by them, irrespective of the extent to which their land had suffered, would have to be made up in ten days, under pain of a fine of double the amount, as in ordinary cases of refusal. The rate of exchange was fixed

at 5,312 *cash*, while the present rate is only 2,850, so that although double duties were not levied it amounted to very nearly the same thing. Driven to extreme measures by this injustice, they had appealed to Peking.—Referred in the usual manner.

(2) A stereotyped memorial from a Censor advocating prison and judicial reform which, he says, is the first thing to be attended to when a drought occurs, as it is one of the first causes that provokes the anger of Heaven. He would have official underlings severely punished when found guilty of mulcting witnesses and imprisoning complainants, and prays that the metropolitan executive may be directed to clear off all judicial arrears.

(3) Postscript memorial from Ming An, Military-Governor of Kirin. There has never been a wall round the town of Kirin. On the East, West, and North sides an old earthen wall exists which has been made use of as a defence work, and the southern side faces the river. During the rains of summer and autumn the waters rise so high as to flood the country to a width of 3 or 4 *li*, which renders the river unpassable except by boats, but at the same time it secures protection for a dangerous approach. In winter and spring, however, when the river is frozen it becomes a smooth and long road for carts, horses and toboggans, which come and go without let or hindrance. When memorialist arrived at his post in the summer of the year before last, the attitude of the rebels in the neighbourhood was most threatening, and they were constantly making reconnoitres of the provincial city. During the winter soldiers were encamped in tents on the southern bank of the river to guard against surprise, and now, fortunately, that the country is more quiet since the rebels have been put down, it becomes a matter of immediate necessity to take precautions against any misfortune that may arise from the unprotected condition of the town. Memorialist last autumn went to the summit of the Lung-tai Hill to the south-east of the city and surveyed the place from thence, taking in its conditions and situation, which he came to the conclusion were such that the only complete mode of defence was the construction of a redoubt on the southern bank of the river in which a garrison should be stationed and the men drilled during their intervals of leisure upon the sandy flat on which it stood. The work was commenced last autumn, and consisted of various buildings, such as drill sheds, barracks, etc.; an earthen wall

has been built round them over 1,100 feet in circumference, and forts erected at the four corners. The cost of the whole undertaking, which is on the verge of completion, will be upwards of two thousand taels, and as the Imperial funds are not in a position to stand this drain, the money will be raised in other ways.

June 25th.—(1) Memorial from the Prince of Kung and other members of the Grand Council. In the 20th year of Chia Ch'ing (1816) an Imperial decree was issued ordering that the "Veritable Record" and Yü T'ieh (Imperial Register) stored in the Ch'ien Ch'ing Kung, should be dusted and aired every other year, and that on each occasion the Grand Council should depute Manchu and Chinese officers of high civil rank, two of each, to go during the 4th moon with the officers on duty, the Superintendent of the Hall in question, and the eunuchs, and reverently dust and air the books. The year 1877 was the last occasion on which application was made to His Majesty for permission to appoint officers for this duty, and the time for its repetition having now come round, the memorialists beg respectfully to submit a list of Manchu and Chinese high officers, with the omission of those who are engaged on other duties. The names of Kuang Show, Ch'ung Ch'i, Tung Hsün and Chu Chih were encircled with the vermilion pencil.

(2) The Governor of Shantung reports the arrival of the entire fleet of grain junks from Kiang-pêh, consisting of ten detachments numbering 532 vessels in all, within his jurisdiction. He had given strict orders that they should be met and sent on with all despatch, and he now hears from the Intendant of the Grand Canal that the last of them entered the Shantung limits on the 11th May, reached Yü-t'ai Hsien week later, and passed through the T'ien-ching sluice at Chi-ning-chow on the 24th of the same month. While congratulating himself on the satisfactory progress that has been made, the memorialist would observe that it still wants some time to the period of "summer heat," and the head of water in the Yellow River is very weak. He hears that the eastern flow at Shih-chia-ch'iao is strong, but that the western flow is very weak, and as the grain junks must ascend by the western stream on arrival at Pa-li-miao, he fears they will be stopped by the shallowness of the Yellow River and have some difficulty in reaching the entrance of the northern branch of the Canal. He has sent an officer to inspect the condition of

things and to adopt some means for leading [the water into the shallow parts ;] and, fortunately, rain has fallen at the provincial capital, while he hears that the fall has extended over a wide area, so that possibly the recent rise in the waters may add sufficiently to the depth to enable boats to proceed.

June 26th.—(1) A memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Imperial Commissioner and Administrator in Chief in Turkestan etc., etc., reporting the trial of the sons and grandsons of certain rebels, and the sentence passed in accordance with the law ; and requesting that the Board may be directed to revise the proceedings and signify their decision that the law shall take its course. He states that a report has been received from Liu Chin-t'ang, Director of the Court of Transmission, to the effect that when, in the winter of 1877, order was restored in Turkestan, there were taken prisoners Ying Shang Kuli and three other sons of the Andijani rebel Yakoob Beg, now dead ; also, Aisan Ahung and another grandson, as well as two granddaughters and four wives of the same rebel, all of whom were handed over to trusty officers to be kept in custody. The four women, it appeared on examination, were Chinese Mahomedans who had only submitted themselves to Yakoob Beg under compulsion. Under these circumstances they were entitled to be treated with clemency, and accordingly their friends were directed to take them away under bond and find them husbands. Yin Shang Kuli's son, aged three, was attacked with whooping cough and died in prison on the 26th of April, 1878, medical treatment having been of no avail. As to Ying Shan Kuli himself, his arrogant bearing has seldom been equalled. After undergoing an examination at the hands of Liu Chin-t'ang in person, who was satisfied that his guilt had been established beyond doubt, he was put to death on the public execution ground on the 3rd of June, 1878, his identity having previously been duly recognised. The two granddaughters, children in arms, fell ill during the summer and died, the one on the 25th June, 1878, the other on the 2nd July following. An officer, as the regulations require, was deputed to hold an inquest and attend to their burial. Not counting the one put to death and the two who died, there then remained of Yakoob Beg's children his fourth son Maiti Kuli, aged 14 ; his eighth son Yima Kuli, aged 10 ; his ninth son K'ati Kuli, aged 6 ; and Yakoob Beg's grandson, the son of Beg Kuli, Aisan Ahung, aged 5 ; who were

all put in charge of a *Pu Yün*, a degraded captain of the Wên Hsien battalion, and Chu Yuan-chüan and five other soldiers of the Kashgar garrison to be conveyed within the frontier there to await sentence. Their arrival in Kaisu on the 19th February having been reported, they were sent on, after examination, to the Judicial Commissioner at Lan-chow Fu to be tried and dealt with according to law. In course of time, Shih Nien-tsu, the Judicial Commissioner, reported that these rebel children and grand-children, who had been committed to the prison of the Kao-lan Magistrate, were brought before him and put upon their trial. Maiti Kuli stated that he was fourteen years of age, and the fourth son of Yakoob Beg; Yüna Kuli stated that he was ten, and the eighth son of Yakoob Beg; K'ati Kuli stated that he was six, and the ninth son of Yakoob Beg; Aisan Ahung stated that he was five, and the son of Beg Kuli. In reply to the most searching interrogation respecting the treasonable designs of Yakoob Beg and the others, they all maintained that they knew nothing about the matter. Yakoob Beg, it would be remembered, was a Kokandi rebel chief, who, in 1864, together with the rebel leader Beg Kuli, leagued himself with the Mahomedan rebels Chin Hsiang-yin and his son, and, after crossing the mountains, seized Kashgar and gradually gained possession of the eight southern cities, as well as Turfan and Ürumsai, which places were held for over ten years. When, eventually, the Imperial army, making rapid progress, recaptured all the cities, he still ventured to offer resistance. Space itself can scarce contain the detestation of such crimes. Death in its most cruel form is the penalty awarded by the law. In cases of sedition, where the law condemns the malefactors to death by the slow and painful process, the children and grand-children, if it be shown that they were not privy to the treasonable designs of their parents, shall be delivered, no matter whether they have attained full age or not, into the hands of the Imperial Household to be made eunuchs of, and shall be forwarded to Turkestan and given over as slaves to the soldiery. If under the age of ten, they shall be confined in prison until they shall have reached the age of eleven, whereupon they shall be handed to the Imperial Household to be dealt with according to law. In the present case, Yakoob Beg's sons Maiti Kuli, Yüna Kuli, and K'atai Kuli; and the rebel chief Beg Kuli's son Aisan Ahung, are all under age, and

were not, it has been proved, privy to the treasonable designs of their parents. They have therefore to be handed to the Imperial Household to be dealt with in accordance with the law which prescribes that, in cases of sedition, the sons and grandsons of malefactors condemned to death by the slow and painful process, if it be shown that they were not privy to the treasonable designs of their parents, shall, whether they have attained full age or not, be delivered into the hands of the Imperial Household to be made eunuchs of and shall be sent to Turkestan to be given as slaves to the soldiery. But, as these are rebels from Turkestan, it is requested that they may, instead, be sent to the Amur region to be given as slaves to the soldiery there.

As Maiti Kuli is fourteen, it is requested that he may be delivered over to the Imperial Household so soon as the reply of the Board is received. Yüna Kuli is just ten, K'ati Kuli and Aisan Ahung are under ten; they have therefore to be confined in prison until they attain the age of eleven, when they will be delivered over to the Imperial Household to be dealt with according to law.

This is the report received from Liu Ching-t'ang, and Your Minister having found the statements therein contained to be correct, has to apply for a decree commanding the Board to revise the proceedings and signify its decision that the law is to be carried out.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments deliberate and submit a report.

June 27th.—(1) A decree conferring the brevet rank of Provincial Judge upon Wang Chia-lin, formerly acting Prefect of Jui-chow in Kiangsu, now eighty years of age, who obtained the degree of provincial graduate sixty years ago. He is permitted to attend a second time at the *Lu Ming* banquet.

(2) The Board of Revenue report that they have already supplied Tls. 40,000 for the purchase of *Nan-mu* wood and other materials for the construction of the new shrines for the installation of tablets in the *T'ai Miao*, or Imperial Ancestral Temple. The Board of Works now state that the total cost will be Tls. 56,000, and the Board of Revenue agree to supply the balance. They object, however, to making any grant for expense of labour, etc.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports that a temple has been erected in the Chinese quarter of the city of Kashgar to the memory of the officers and non-commissioned officers who fell in battle during the Kashgarian campaign. He prays that it may be entered on

the list of those at which periodical sacrifice is to be offered by the local authorities.—Granted by Rescript.

June 28th.—(1) Hsia Chia-kao (one of the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamén) is appointed Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) The Literary Chancellor of Fukkien reports that his annual tour of examinations was completed at the end of March, when he returned to Foochow and concluded the provincial examination. Altogether 9,640 licentiates, 460 senior licentiates and *chien-sheng*, 39,629 students underwent examination. The province of Fukkien is notorious for its corruption in the matter of examinations, but by the exercise of great strictness there were few who ventured to break the law. The poverty in some of the remote and outlying districts is so great that the lettered classes have not the means of study.

(3) Postscript memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, referring once more to his report on the Szechuen salt trade, in the working of which he declared reform to be inadvisable. In that memorial he referred to the alarm and distrust that was created amongst the salt merchants by a rumour that the system of Government transport was to be changed. The Superintendent of the Central Office now reports that the *wei-yuans* in charge of the branch agencies have all sent to say that the traders in the frontier areas have been pouring in petitions to the effect that the Government transport system has worked with regularity for the past year and more, and they were just anticipating a successful issue to themselves, when they heard a report that changes were to be introduced, in which case they apprehended a return of the old grievances, &c., &c. The memorialist has to observe that since the introduction of the Government distribution system, the accumulation of abuses that formerly existed has been entirely cleared away, and the dealers have no grievance whatever, while the trade is in so flourishing a condition that numbers of capitalists have come to the province to establish salt firms, and now that they hear that changes are to be introduced, which amount to a return of the old hardships and grievances with the addition of the impossibility of securing [a release] of the capital invested, their alarm is perfectly genuine. The amount guaranteed by this department to the capital, the expenses of the Intendancies and Prefectures in the province, and the support of the troops on the frontier, re-

present expenditure of an important nature amounting to over Tls. 500,000, the provision of which is a grave responsibility upon the provincial Government. The salt trade is now in a promising condition, and the hopes of those engaged in it are high. If it should be damaged in any way by the rumour alluded to, both Government and private interests will suffer, and the question then will be on whom the blame should fall. Memorialist has accordingly issued proclamations reassuring the people, and has further directed the agents at the various stations to inform those interested of the reasons which render a change impossible.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

June 29th.—(1) Memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-kwang, applying for a month's congé for the benefit of his health. He suffers from continual coughing attacks, accompanied with a secretion of phlegm. The unseasonable weather during the early spring of the present year brought on one of these attacks, which will not yield to the remedies applied. His rest is broken and his appetite impaired by the incessant cough, which is aggravated by attention to business and continuance for any length of time in a sitting posture. He is now nearly sixty years of age, and his constitution is becoming gradually impaired, so that he is not the man he was, and needs absolute rest and nursing to get the better of his complaint. Under these circumstances he prays for the bestowal of a month's congé.—Granted by Rescript.

(2) Yao Chin-yuan, acting Financial Commissioner of Hupeh, reports the assumption of his duties.

(3) Wên Pin, Director General of the Grain Transport Service, reports in a postscript memorial that on the night of the 23rd May a tornado suddenly arose and blew with great violence from Wang-ying-chên near Ch'ing-chiang to the eastern limits of Ch'ing-ho-an, destroying a large number of houses in its progress, and causing injury to life and limb. Such a disaster is of rare occurrence in the Kiang-Peh region, and excites the deepest commiseration. The memorialist has got together a sum of Tls. 3,000, and he has directed the Taotai of the Huai-yang circuit to send officers to administer relief to the people in proportion to the severities of their distress. The details of the disaster will be reported to His Majesty by the Governor-General.

June 30th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, complaining that

the decision lately arrived at in the Tung-hsiang case in Szechuen is most unsatisfactory. He states that the disturbances had their origin in the illegal action of the Magistrate of that district, who caused a riot by his extortionate levies, and then determined falsely to report an insurrection among the people and applied for their extermination. He was in fact, the chief offender. The President Ngên Chêng and his colleague who were commissioned to try the case did not apply the law bearing upon false accusations of sedition, but dragged in the clause affecting "inaccuracy in a joint report of a grave case," under which they sentenced the Magistrate to banishment to a distant frontier, and struck out two sentences in the law [they quoted], which give discretionary power in cases of grave import. The case is referred to the Board of Punishments for consideration, and they are empowered to send for any documents connected with it that they may require. They are at the same time directed to consider the propriety of conferring a reward upon the acting Magistrate of T'ai-p'ing, and the Prefect of Sui-ting, and the Brigadier-General of Shih-fên, whose attitude in the conduct of this case is considered by the Tutor to be deserving of recognition.

(2) A long memorial from the Grand Council reporting the result of their deliberations upon the case of the murder of the *wei-yuan* Kao Wên-pao in Shantung. The case was heard by special Commissioners, who sentenced the acting Magistrate of the Yi district, Chu Yung-kêng by name, to banishment to the Amur to be employed on public service of a laborious and painful nature, but ordered that he should be kept in prison until his nephew, who had escaped, should have been captured and confronted with him. The Censor Wang Hsin having taken exception to this sentence, which he considered too lenient, and having requested the substitution of summary decapitation instead, the case was referred to the Grand Council, who recommend that the Magistrate shall be executed after the autumn assize. (For decree summarising their report see *Gazette* of 15th June).

No other documents of importance.

July 1st.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Mu-t'u-shan, Governor of Ch'ahar, to the effect that a disgraced official working out a sentence of banishment upon the military post-roads had made his escape from the station at which he was placed. The metropolitan executive are directed to be on the watch

for him, as it is thought likely that he may make his way to Peking.

(2) A decree from Their Majesties the Empresses. Pao Yün and Shên Kuei-fen request that a decree may be issued correcting a patent lately drawn up, and also that a penalty may be adjudicated them. They state that in the month of July, 1877, the Han Lin-yuan memorialised that the patent conferring the title in perpetuity to the Prince of Sh'un (the father of the present Emperor) was drawn up after the old pattern, but that the wording was not altogether satisfactory, and they therefore propose to introduce certain slight modifications, and insert a copy of the decree in the patent, which they would have reprinted. Action was accordingly directed to be taken in conformity with this proposal. Pao Yün, Chancellor of the Han-lin, and Mao Ch'ang-hsi, former Chancellor of the Han-lin, in that, when drawing up this patent some time since, they were unable to determine a form that should be perfect in every respect, have undoubtedly been guilty of carelessness.—Let the penalties awarded by law to their offence be determined. Let the proper Yamên take note.

(3) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a remonstrance from a Censor who complains of a permission lately granted to the Grand Secretariat to cancel the nomination of a Secretary of that department to a Censorship on the ground that his services were too valuable to be dispensed with. The Censor considered that valuable qualities were quite as important for men of his class, and begged that no nomination to a Censorship on the ground of capacity might be afterwards cancelled. In reply the decree states that the action complained of is in accordance with precedent; and intimates that all recommendations to Censorship (which are always made by Presidents of Boards) should be made on the ground of capacity, and those responsible will see to it that this is invariably the ground of recommendation. With the exception of Secretaries of the Grand Secretariat, no other officers holding nominations to Censorships will be allowed to cancel them.

(4) Memorial from Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, reporting the arrival of the whole of the Kiang-peh grain fleet at the Tao-miao sluice, the old entrance to the Yellow River from the south. They arrived there on the 29th May, and he intended to send them on at once to the new sluice at Shih-li P'u, that they might cross the Yellow River and wait at Pa-li Miao for a freshet to enable

them to enter the northern branch of the Grand Canal. He learned, however, that there was only a foot of water in the Yellow River outside the Shih-li P'u sluice, the level of which was very much lower than the clean water inside the sluice, so that there was every reason to anticipate that as soon as the sluice was opened the water would immediately run off and leave the hinder boats aground. Under these circumstances, he is afraid to open the sluice, and has determined to wait until the level of the Canal and Yellow River approach each other more nearly. He adds that the new channel now opened in the south-east is clear throughout, and is a much more expeditious route than that by the lakes.

July 2nd.—(1) A decree ordering that a further series of prayers for rain, at which His Majesty will assist in person, shall be held on the 6th inst. The blessings of the showers that fell in the capital on the 22nd, 27th and other days are gratefully acknowledged, but no report of rain having fallen has yet been received from Shansi, and the capital is still urgently in need of further showers.

(2) Wen Ko, late Governor of Shantung, and newly appointed Imperial Agent at Kurun (Urga), returns thanks for his appointment and announces the arrival of his successor Chou Hêng-ch'i on the 7th June, with his intention to proceed to Peking immediately to pay his respects to His Majesty previous to starting for his new post.

(3) Chou Hêng-ch'i reports his assumption of the duties of Governor of Shantung.

(4) Postscript memorial from Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces. He recalls to His Majesty's recollection his report of the tornado that visited Canton on the 11th April last year, and the decree in reply directing him to ascertain the extent of the disaster and take measures for the relief of the sufferers. On receipt of this decree he set a contribution on foot, and delivered the proceeds to Ch'ên Kuei-shih, expectant Taotai and Superintendent of the foundling hospital, and others, for distribution. An official report has now been received from the two Provincial Commissioners giving the following casualty returns :—

Locality	Buildings destroyed.	People killed.	Boats lost.	People drowned.
West of the Canton city ...	2,800	1,400	200	300
Chin-li town-ship, Nan-hai district	200	60		

Huang-ting township	500	100	90	No return.
Shih-ming Ho and Nan-fang Ts'unin P'an-yü district	100	20	100	100
River below these places ...			1	(Ferry boat.) 20

The total of persons injured is estimated at five or six thousand, and those rendered homeless in the neighbourhood to the west of the city at several thousand. The Commissioners, with the assistance of the local authorities and the gentry forming the committee of the foundling hospital working under their orders, have relieved those amongst the sufferers from destruction of houses, loss of boats, or injury to life, who are not in a position to repair their losses or bury their dead, and have dispensed medicine to those who have suffered bodily hurt. The unemployed poor have been housed and fed, and during the past few months they have all returned to work, and the neighbourhood is gradually resuming its original condition. No other places than those enumerated appear to have suffered simultaneously. The memorialist supplements the Commissioner's report by the statement that the sums employed in the relief of the sufferers having been raised by private subscription, and no public funds having been used, he does not propose to render an account of the manner in which the money was spent. The invitation to contribute met with such ready response that several lacs were raised in a few days. He pays a high compliment to the committee of the foundling hospital for the energy they displayed, their success being entirely due to their disregard for toil and trouble. He has bestowed local distinctions (外獎) upon the officials and notables engaged, but he begs to recommend Ch'ên Kuei-shih for the bestowal of a distinguished mark of approval from His Majesty. By a Rescript appended to the memorial Ch'ên Kuei-shih is commended to the Board for the bestowal of the highest mark of approval.

(5) Kung T'ang, Governor of Urumtsi, details the measures he has taken for reviving agricultural industry in that neighbourhood. During the ten years and more that Urumtsi was in rebel hands the original population, consisting of Manchu and Chinese soldiers, and *min*, or common people, had diminished by eighty or ninety per cent., and all of these had deserted the place and were reduced to a terrible condition of misery. Proclamations were issued

inviting them to return, but as they had lost their implements, and their houses had been swept away, they had no means of earning a living and would have been, as it were, forced to sit down and die with fettered hands. After memorialist arrived at his post in the winter of last year he gained a thorough appreciation of the sufferings of these people, and puzzled his head in every way as to how he could relieve them. He had no funds, and could not wait till any came, so his only resource was to devise some temporary measure by which they might hope to have sufficient to eat by the time the autumn came round. But, alas! they had no tools, no oxen, and no seed, and they could do nothing unless the Government supplied them with these necessaries. Memorialist therefore raised [a small] fund and sent officers in every direction to buy plough oxen, implements and seed, which were supplied to the soldiers and people and any strangers who wished to make a clearing. He hopes that if a good harvest is realised, they will raise sufficient to supply the local market, and prices generally will fall some fifty per cent. He will postpone consideration of the manner in which the money now advanced shall be repaid, until, by a succession of good harvests, the people shall have secured a "rough" sufficiency of food and clothing.—A rescript is appended, acknowledging the memorial, and calling upon the Governor to be zealous in his work and take counsel from time to time with the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang.

July 3rd.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from a woman called Li, a native of Nan-kung district in Chihli, who complains that her husband was tortured to death under the following circumstances:—A woman called Liu had gone out with her sister-in-law to glean. She was seized on the way with a dangerous illness, and her sister-in-law ran and told petitioner's father-in-law who went himself to see the sick woman. She died soon afterwards, and her uncle Liu C'hang-ch'ün took advantage of the circumstance of her death to trump up a false charge against petitioner's husband who, he declared, had kicked his sister and killed her. The petition was afterwards withdrawn by a brother of Liu C'hang-ch'ün, and another substituted declaring that death had occurred from natural causes. Liu, however, mutilated the body and again reported to the Magistrate that his sister had been murdered. The coroner on inspection found a cut on the face of the corpse, but no marks of blood. The Magistrate never-

theless seized petitioner's husband, and tried to extort from him by torture a confession of the murder, refusing bail for him, though it was offered by all the surrounding villages. His brother was mulcted of 270 strings of *cash*, and because he resisted a second demand was knocked down, whereupon he vomited blood and died. The Magistrate would take no notice of the outrage, and ignored all instructions from the sub-Prefect to whom appeal had been made. Petitioner's husband was still kept in prison, and finally died under torture.—Referred in the usual manner.

July 4th.—(1-3) Decrees conferring minor metropolitan appointments and nominating examiners for archery and other tests of military ability.

(4) Hsü Kêng-shên, Director of the Grand Court of Revision, returns thanks for his appointment to the acting post of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(5) Hsü Yung-yi, sub-Director of the same Court, returns thanks for permission to continue to act as Secretary to the Grand Council.

(6) The Acting Governor of Shantung reports the assumption of his temporary duties.

(7) The Acting Judge memorialises to a similar effect.

(8) Yang Yo-pin, late Admiral of the Yangtze, announces that he has destroyed the wooden seal which he had made, in accordance with Imperial decree, for use during his voyages of inspection on the great River.

(9) The Governor of Anwei forwards a list of contributors towards the relief of famine refugees in his province. Relief agencies were established in right prefectures, departments, or districts, irrespective of private aid in the shape of donations and soup kitchens organised by a notable named Ch'êng Wên-ping in his native district of Fu-yang. More than eighty-three thousand refugees were taken in and fed between January, 1877, and September, 1878, while at some of the above named places agencies were started in the autumn of last year for sending back the refugees to their homes. Total amount of the contributions was over Tls. 80,000. Of this amount a portion has been already acknowledged, and rewards applied for, or in process of being so. A list of the contributors of the balance is appended to the memorial.

July 5th.—(1) Huang Wu-hsien 黃武賢 is appointed General of the Lin-yuan Brigade in Yunnan.

(2) A decree granting an application from T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shên-si, for permission to come to Peking for audience, he having announced his recovery and the abandonment of the sick leave he was granted. Wang Ssü-yi is to take temporary charge of the Governor's duties during his absence.

(3) Yü Lu, Governor of Anwei, announces his departure for Peking to have audience, Fu ch'ing-yi, the Financial Commissioner, whose arrival he was to await, having now made his appearance. He arrived on the 21st May, and as the autumn assize was over and matters generally in a satisfactory state, memorialist felt bound to comply immediately with the decree. He accordingly handed over charge of the various local matters seriatim to Fu Ch'ing-yi, and on the 2nd June consigned to his charge the zeal of the Governor and that of the Superintendent of the Wu-hu Custom House, as well as the Imperial Death Warrant, flags, tablets, archives, etc. He left for Peking on the 9th June.

(4-5) Postscript memorials from the same officer recording the provisional arrangements made for carrying on the duties of the Financial Commissioner, etc.

(6) The same officer, in a postscript memorial, applies for sanction to the erection of an honorary portal, with the bestowal of the usual complimentary tablet, in honor of two ladies, mothers of officials, who have each subscribed upwards of Taels 1,000 to the famine relief fund.—Granted by Rescript.

(7) A long memorial from Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, recommending an officer for the office of Sub-Prefect of Lung-chow in the T'ai-p'ing prefecture, which is a post assigned to the category of *ch'ung, nan* and *yên*, or "busy, arduous, and pestilential." The present incumbent has held it for three years and has now a claim to be withdrawn and await promotion in a central position. Under regulation, officers who are natives of Kwangtung, Fukkien, Hunnan, Yünnan, or Kweichow should be selected to fill the post, which derives special importance at this present moment from the fact that, being on the borders of Annam, it is in proximity to the rebellion that is going on. There are however no substantive Sub-Prefects in the province who are natives of any of the five provinces above enumerated, so after quoting numerous rules and enactments under which he conceives himself at liberty to do so, the memorialist recommends one Chi, an expectant Sub-Prefect, forty-six years of age, and a native of Kiangsi. He

then proceeds to give a history of this officer's career, which extends over several pages.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

July 6th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the capital to the extent of complete saturation.

(1) Memorial from T'eng Ch'ing-lin, Censor of the Kuang-tung circuit. In so important a locality as the inner precincts of the Court, decorous quiet is a perpetual necessity, and the various gates of the Forbidden City should be guarded with rigorous care. A certain fixed number of secretaries and soldiers are stationed at these gates with the object of exercising a rigid scrutiny over those who come and go, lest evil characters should mingle [with the men whose duty calls them there], and trouble arise in consequence. These secretaries and soldiers are changed according to roster, and each set stationed at each gate consists of one or two secretaries and twenty or thirty soldiers, who are required by regulation to keep watch by day and night, and never to relax their vigilance for a moment. Of late, these secretaries and soldiers on duty quietly take their sleep at night, and the watch consists of a single man with one lantern, who waits at the gate. During the daytime they leave their post without permission and only a few men keep the gate. When the Princes and Presidents, in whose charge they are, come daily to the Court and go, the secretaries and soldiers on duty at the gates through which they pass are obliged to stand at attention (雁翅) in the order of their names, but as soon as they are dismissed they are as irregular in their attendance and as dilatory as ever. This has become such a habit with them that the guard houses at the palace gates are for the most part nearly empty, and the soldiers on duty are few in the extreme. Any individual, no matter to what class he may belong, who loosely covers himself with [a suitable] coat and displays an official hat, even though he bears a carrying pole on his shoulder or carries a bird upon a stick, is allowed to pass through at will. People who have no business there are not allowed to make a thoroughfare of the space within the railings in front of the Ta Ch'ing gate, the *fêng-shui* of which demands the maintenance of quiet and decorum; but of late, as there has been no one to prevent them, men and women, old and young, have come and gone across this space without an atom of reverence [for the

character of the place]. Such a state of things as this is highly unconstitutional, and if a readjustment of the abuse be not speedily effected and the practice vigorously prohibited, it will be difficult to secure the absence of bad characters, and the *fêng-shui* will be seriously impaired. (For decree in answer to this memorial see *Gazette* of 23rd June.)

(2) Postscript memorial from Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces. A breach occurred in the stone embankment in the Ch'ing-yuan district in the years 1877 and 1878 successively, to the sore distress of the inhabitants of that region. In the spring of 1878 a continuous fall of rain occurred which flooded the country in the neighbourhood of the East, North, and West rivers, and also caused unspeakable distress. Memorialist, and Chang Chao-tung, the former Governor, raised a large sum of money on loan and gave it to the China Merchants' Company to expend in the purchase of rice in Kiangsu, which, on arrival, was sold at reduced rates in the suffering districts. Subscriptions were set on foot both locally and in the Ching-yuan district, and relief was issued in the form of gruel and grants of grain to different villages, over 20,000 piculs of rice being expended in this manner and relief afforded to more than 95,000 people. The total expenditure, inclusive of portorage, erection of mat sheds, &c., was Tls. 11,000 odd, but this was raised by contributions cheerfully given, and the public funds were not indented upon.

July 7th.—(1) A decree on the subject of abuses both in civil and military administration. It has come to His Majesty's knowledge that district Magistrates in all the provinces are constantly in the habit of oppressing and tyrannising over the people as seems to them good, and that the petty officials are still worse, so that the people, careless of their lives, wander off and turn bandits or something of the kind. His Majesty also hears that in the south-eastern provinces vacancies in the lower grades of the land and river forces are obtained by bribery or sold, and that both commanding and petty officers, when they obtain a vacancy, make deductions from the grain served out to the troops, harbour criminals, and allow gambling to go on; while the petty capitalists, by paying a bribe, get their names entered on the military roll in order to free themselves from the extortion of Yamên underlings, being, in short, soldiers in name but not in reality. While this becomes the habitual practice of civil and military officials,

how can any improvement be hoped for in civil or military administration? As we think on these things we are moved to the deepest disgust. The decree concludes with the formal exhortation to Governors-General and Governors to put a stop to these practices and denounce all worthless officials.

(2) Memorial from the Governor-General of the Two Kuang requesting that a retired Secretary of a Board who has organised a society and opened a gambling establishment in the city of Cantou, may be cashiered with a view to being placed on his trial and subjected to the most rigorous examination.

(3) The Governor of Anwei reports the receipt of a numerous signed petition, headed by the Taotai of Shanghai, bringing to his notice a deserving case of filial piety. The second daughter of an expectant Taotai in Kiangsu, who was left a widow at an early age, devoted herself to her mother-in-law, for whose sake alone she refrained from committing suicide on her husband's death. Her own mother having fallen sick, she went home to nurse her, and finding she grew worse instead of better, the daughter, in the most commendable manner, cut flesh from her own arm to mix with her mother's medicine. The protracted illness of her mother so distressed her that she also took to her bed from which she never rose. The Governor was requested to apply to His Majesty for the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation.—Granted by Rescript.

July 8th.—(1) A decree granting permission to Yên Hsü, military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-hoh, to vacate his post on the ground of ill-health.

(2) Memorial from Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kuangsi, acknowledging the receipt of the Imperial decree ordering the general abolition of the purchase system. On receipt of this decree memorialist at once referred the question to the Financial Commissioner, who, in conjunction with the superintendent of the committee of reorganisation, states in reply that the province of Kuangsi being radically barren and impoverished, the purchase system has long been in force there, and the establishment of Yünnan purchase agencies has added to its impoverishment to such an extent that the [annual] receipts from this source do not amount to more than Taels 40,000 odd, which are devoted, as they come in, to the purchase of rations for irregular troops for which the regular grants are inadequate. The increase of the military establishment which the raids of

the rebel Li Yang-tsai upon Annam necessitated last autumn, had completely exhausted the provincial funds, and officers were about to be sent in every direction to promote contributions to supply the deficiency; but as the purchase system is now to be abolished, His Majesty's instructions must of course be obeyed and orders were issued for the withdrawal of all the agencies, which were to be closed by the end of the intercalary third moon. The returns and registers are being rapidly prepared and shall reach the Board by the end of the 5th moon. All blank certificates and counterfoils (照根) will be destroyed.

The proceeds of the sale of office have, since its establishment in Kuangsi, been devoted to the extermination of rebellion and the work of reorganisation. A portion of this expenditure has already been accounted for to His Majesty, and a return of annual receipts and expenditure shall now be drawn up from the books that exist. The most careful thought does not lead to the discovery of any plan by which funds can be raised to take the place of the income now relinquished, and the only suggestion the Commissioner and Intendant can make is that application be made for speedy payment of the grants in aid due from other provinces. The memorialist has endorsed the instructions of these officers with regard to the immediate withdrawal of purchase agencies, and begs to testify to the truth of their statement as to the impossibility of raising funds to take the place of the income now relinquished. The grants in aid referred to being required for military purposes pure and simple, they could not take the place of receipts from purchase even if an application to His Majesty resulted in the receipt of the whole amount that is due. The only thing that memorialist can do is to appropriate from time to time a portion of the funds realised from the regular taxes and *lekin*, and to hope that its devotion to the purposes to which purchase receipts were formerly applied will not be productive of injury to the public cause.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

July 9th.—(1) Ch'ung Ch'i 崇綺 is appointed military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-hoh.

(2) Wu Yuan-ping, Acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang Provinces, reports that a tornado passed over the town of Wang-ying and other places in the Ch'ing-ho district, a little before midnight on the 23rd May. The storm travelled from south-east to north-west, blew down the chief

hall of the Colonel's Yamên and more than a hundred feet of the outer wall, and destroyed sixty-five *chien* of the Yamêns occupied by the captain, deputy assistant magistrate, &c., besides dwelling houses consisting of 18 brick buildings and 2,635 straw huts. Three soldiers and a *mafu* were crushed to death, and nineteen soldiers and four *mafus* were injured, exclusive of twenty-two common people killed and seventy-seven injured. Money was immediately sent by the Magistrate for the relief of the sufferers.

(3) Wên Koh, recently appointed agent at Kurun, has been denounced by Chang Chih-tung for having, during the time that he acted as Governor-General of Szechuen, given wholesale orders for the massacre of the so-called rebels at Tung-hsiang. His appointment to Kurun is cancelled, and he is ordered to come to Peking and await the decision of the Board.

July 10th.—(1) The following appointments and transfers are gazetted:—Ch'êng-Lin, senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office; Chih Ho, junior Vice-President of the same Board; Lin Shu 麟書, senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; K'un Kang 寬岡 junior Vice-President of the same Board; K'uei Jun 奎潤, senior Vice-President of the Board of War; Sung Sen 松森, senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies; Kuei Ch'üan 桂全, junior Vice-President of the same Board; A Ch'ang-ah 阿阿昌, senior Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency. T'ieh Ch'i 鉄祺 junior Vice-President of the same office; Yi Jung 奕榕, Imperial agent at Kurun.

The whole of this day's *Gazette*, with the exception of a short memorial recommending officers engaged in the grain transport for the bestowal of honorary rewards, is occupied with a memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, on the Tung-hsiang riots in Szechuen. This and other documents relating to the same subject have been summarised in the *Gazettes* of 24th May and 29th June.

July 11th.—(1) Liang Chao-huang 梁肇煌 is appointed Governor of the Shun-t'ien prefecture.

The only documents of any importance in this day's *Gazette* are two post-

script memorials from Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, supplementing his long exposé of the Tung-hsiang outrages. Both papers are uninteresting, as they deal only with minor matters of detail, the first being a comparison of the present Magistrate's conduct and that of a former authority, whose action had been quoted as a precedent. In the second paper he declares that certain statements in the judgment of the Commissioners regarding the excess of taxation levied by the Tung-hsiang Magistrate are incorrect. Neither the Governor-General nor the Commissioners can have any object in screening the guilty party, as his extortion of more than the proper amount of taxes can in no way affect them, and memorialist is anxious to have the facts properly established with a view to the support of his argument that the taxation of Szechuen is too heavy.

[Note.—The special interest that appears to be taken by this memorialist in the Tung-hsiang case may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that he was Literary Chancellor of the province in 1877.]

July 12th.—(1) A decree ordering two cashiered Lieutenants in the province of Kiangsu to be banished to the Amur and the military post roads respectively for having been guilty, the one of smuggling opium, and the other of aiding and abetting in the same.

(2) Memorial from Pao Yün and Mao Chang-hsi praying that the patent of princely rank in perpetuity conferred on the Prince of Shun in July, 1877, may be altered. As Chancellors of the College of Literature, the duty of drawing up this patent devolved upon them, and they followed the old form in its compilation. In the beginning of the document the words "Succeeding by the will of Heaven to the succession" occur, and in the end of the document the words "We therefore bestow a patent by which he shall forever enjoy our mighty protection." When memorialists began to analyse the spirit of these words, it seemed to them that, after all, there was something about them calculated to create an unsatisfactory feeling in the mind. They are humbly of opinion that His Majesty, having succeeded at a tender age to the Emperor T'ung Chih, since Their Majesties the Empresses have conducted the Regency, patents of nobility have differed in form. Some have quoted decrees received by the Inner Council, and others have quoted those received direct from Their Majesties the Empresses. The memorialists therefore propose to modify

to a slight extent the patent of perpetual nobility granted to the Prince of Shun, by inserting a copy of Their Majesties' decree of the 20th January, 1875, therein, as this appears to them a more satisfactory form. Should this proposal receive the sanction of Their Majesties, the memorialists purpose handing a copy of the decree in question to the translation office for translation into Manchu. After presentation to His Majesty for perusal, it will be delivered to the Board of Ceremonies and Board of Works to be engraved. (For decree see *Gazette* of 1st July.)

(3) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'ian, Governor of Shansi, forwarding a list of officers on whom he prays the bestowal of rewards for their exertions in the forwarding of grain to the famine districts. During the years 1877 to 1879, nearly 700,000 piculs of grain were imported into Shansi for the relief of the sufferers from famine, the whole of which was forwarded by way of Chihli or Shantung, and great credit is due to the Magistrates of districts and departments who passed it on under escort from point to point, constructing floating bridges at their own expense where the rise of the rivers barred the way; repairing the roads when obstructed or damaged by the rain; and, finally, providing carts and boats where they were required. For the space of two years they never relaxed their efforts, and have shown a full appreciation of general interests. The officers, too, who escorted this grain have been exposed to more than ordinary hardship from inclemency of weather, and have displayed an energy that is more than common.—Rescript: Let Wên Yung and the rest be rewarded as requested.

July 13th.—(1) Memorial from Mu T'u-shan, Governor of Ch'ahar, reporting the escape of an ex-expectant captain in Szechuen who was sent into banishment on the military post roads for having secretly made his way into the territory of the barbarian tribes and created a disturbance there. Tu K'uang-wai, the officer in question, was sent to do duty at Station No. 8, and disappeared from there, leaving no trace of his whereabouts. A description of the man has been circulated in the immediate neighbourhood, and sent to the Governor-General of Chihli, the Governor of Shansi, the Governor of Jeh-hoh, and the Board of War. The memorialist has now to pray that the Metropolitan executive be instructed to look out for him.

(2) Memorial from the same officer reporting that Mao Lin, late Comptroller of the Imperial Household, who was sent to the

military postroads under a sentence of banishment on the 9th May, 1878, has, in accordance with an Imperial decree of the 1st May last, been set at liberty. He arrived at Kalgan on the 14th June. The officer in charge of the postal service now further reports that Ch'ing Lin, late Warden of the Parks and Hunting Grounds, has sent in a petition to the effect that, "having been dismissed the public service for a certain offence and sent to do duty on the military post roads, he was appointed to the 15th Station, where he arrived in the month of May last. Being an eye-witness of the insufficiency of funds to carry on the work of the stations, he had offered a contribution to supplement the same, which, on the representation of the Governor Mu T'u-shan, His Majesty had deigned to accept, and ordered his release at the expiration of two years' service at the station to which he was drafted. He had subsequently contributed a number of plough oxen for use in Chihli, in consideration of which his sentence was further reduced to one year. Exclusive of the intercalary month, he begged permission to state that he had been on the station for one year upon the 25th June." Memorialist finding that the petitioner's statement was in accordance with the terms of the letter from the Board and the two Imperial decrees referred to, gave orders for his release. He has written to inform the Board and the Banner to which Ch'ing Lin belongs of the date of his departure.

July 14th.—(1) Memorial from the Governor-General of the Two Kuang provinces reporting the steps he has taken in conformity with the decree ordering the abolition of the purchase system. When the sale of office was first instituted in Kuangtung in the year 1850, the contributions thus raised were all devoted to military exigencies, such as the organisation of train bands, etc., but in 1863 the old custom was reverted to, and the proceeds devoted to military exigencies pure and simple. Accounts were subsequently balanced up to a certain date, and a limit fixed within which applications were to be made for the bestowal of rewards, a fresh departure being taken from that time, as was then reported to His Majesty. After that date the funds contributed were first paid in and expended on requirements of the military service or the work of reorganisation, and a list of the contributors afterwards made out, with a record of their official antecedents, which was submitted to His Majesty. In pursuance of the instructions now received, proclamations have been issued calling

upon contributors to pay in the amounts to which they are pledged with all speed, and fixing a limit of time beyond which no applications for rewards will be made. The accounts have now all been closed and will be forwarded in a separate memorial. The numerous agencies of other provinces that have been established of late years in Kwangtung have worked the thing to death, and the system, as far as the province itself is concerned, may be likened to a worn out bow. The receipts were never large, and whenever there was an insufficiency of funds for reorganisation purposes, sums were drawn as they were wanted from the *lekin* receipts or the provincial treasury. Under these circumstances there is no necessity for a consideration of the manner in which the income relinquished by the purchase system may be made good.

(2) Postscript memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan. Plough oxen have at all times been scarce in the northern region, and mules and horses have generally been used in the cultivation of the land. The famine having made a clean sweep of all the animals in the province, memorialist supplied the minor authorities with funds to issue to the farmers as a loan with which to purchase animals. There were none, however, to be found in the immediate neighbourhood, and those in more distant places cost so much that the hands of the poorer people were tied, and the greater part of the land that was lying waste could not be tilled. As, in the interests of taxation, this was by no means a matter of slight importance, memorialist bethought himself that the region of Ch'ahar, Lama Miao, and Kalgan produced horses, and that the cavalry were always supplied from thence. He accordingly sent Tls. 27,000 by the hands of trustworthy officers to purchase 3,000 horses at Kalgan and other places, and send them down at once to Honan for distribution amongst the farmers, who are to refund the cost this autumn or next year. He prays that the authorities at Kalgan may be instructed to pass these horses free of duty.—Granted by Rescript.

July 15th.—(1) A decree gratefully acknowledging the copious rain that fell in the capital and its environs on the 4th and 14th inst., and announcing the receipt of a report from Tséng Kuo-ch'uan, Governor of Shansi, to the effect that rain to the extent of over five inches of saturation fell at T'ai-yuan Fu on the 28th ult. A general thanksgiving service is appointed to be held at the various State temples on the 19th

instant, in which His Majesty will take a part.

(2) Memorial from Chou Hêng-chi, Governor of Shantung, requesting the bestowal of further honors on Hu Kwang-jung (Hoo Taotai) and others who at his instance promoted subscriptions for the relief of sufferers in Shantung. By a rescript appended to the memorial Hu, Kuang-jung and the others recommended, are to be committed to the Board for the determination of the most liberal marks of Imperial approbation.

(3) Memorial from Ch'i Yuan, Governor of Shêng-king, forwarding an amended estimate for the construction of town walls and public offices in the new districts lately created on the eastern frontier. He estimates the cost of each wall at Tls. 39,000, or Tls. 21,000 more than in the original specifications. The following amended estimates for official buildings are submitted:—

	Tls.	Excess. Tls.
Taotai of the Eastern frontier...	14,000	6,000
Sub-prefects & Magistrates, each	8,500	1,000
Petty officials, each	1,800	500

He justifies the extra expenditure by the explanation that the original estimates were for works of a much less durable nature. By a larger initial outlay, durability will be secured.—Granted by Rescript.

July 16th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Ngan-huei, Yü-lu, had audience.

(1) A Decree. The Governor-General of Szechuan, Ting Pao-chên, has presented a memorial in which he requests that a Major, serving in his province, who has permitted the men under his command to eject the people from their land and levy unlawful contributions, may be deprived of his office and submitted to judicial examination, etc., etc. The officer in question has allowed his men to indulge their rapacity to such an extent as to seriously endanger the peace of the District (San-p'an Ting on the North of Szechuan); let him be deprived of his rank, tried, and punished according to law.

(2) A Decree. The Board of Censors has presented a memorial in which our attention is called to the case of a woman belonging to the official class in Fuhkien, named Lin, who states that her son Lin Wên-ming has been wrongfully put to death, and that although she has appealed to the capital three times and waited several years, she cannot obtain justice. Further, the nephew of the above complainant, Lin Wên-luan, states that his father Lin Tien-

kuo, and his elder brother Lin Wan-tê, although innocent have been dragged into the case, &c., &c. In August, 1871, his late Majesty issued a Rescript commanding the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêkiang to enquire into this case; again in February, 1876, and also in November, 1877, We ordered that judgment should be given without delay. How is it that the case remains yet undecided? Let the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêkiang and the Governor of Fuhkien have the case tried before them. Let them hold an impartial and strict enquiry and after ascertaining the whole truth report without delay to the Throne. The same course must be followed with the complaint of Lin Wên-luan, and a speedy judgment arrived at. Let the two men who were sent to present the petitions be escorted back to Fuhkien by the Board of War in the usual way, that they may be available as witnesses.

(3) A Rescript. We appoint Chang Kuan-chun (張觀準) to the post of Senior Supervising Censor of the Board of Revenue Division.

(4) A Decree. The Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, Liu K'un-yi, recommends certain subordinate military officials for reward, in consequence of their success in capturing pirates, &c., &c.—Let the officers named receive promotion.

(5) A Decree. The Censor K'ung Hsien-ku has addressed to Us a memorial in which he represents that the High Councillors of the Empire should not be stationed far away from the Capital, and begs that Ch'ung Ch'i* (崇綺), whom We have appointed Military Lieutenant-Governor at Jeh-ho (see *Gazette* of 9th July last) may be kept in Peking, &c., &c. In the selection of officers for State employment, provincial and metropolitan posts are alike important and require the services of able men; the Military Governorship of Jeh-ho has always been considered a difficult and weighty trust, requiring care in the selection of its holder; and in appointing Ch'ung Ch'i to that post We have not acted without forethought or without clearly discerning the requirements of the case. When the Censor says that "it is a matter for regret that Ch'ung

* Note—This Official is a Manchu and was Primus (i.e., the best man at a Metropolitan Examination), a distinction rarely obtained by a Manchu—only thrice we believe during the sway of the dynasty, or 240 years. When the late Emperor : ung Chih was married, Ch'ung Ch'i's daughter was selected to be the Imperial bride. She died shortly after the Emperor in 1874.

Ch'i should be employed as it were in a far corner of the Empire," he shows a profound ignorance of the principles on which We select men for the service of the State. When the Censor asks that "Ch'ung Ch'i may be employed at Court, that the Emperor may have the benefit of his character and talents,"* We conclude he means that Ch'ung Ch'i should be employed in superintending the Emperor's studies. But the choice of men for duties of such weight rests with Us, and it is by no means the Censor's business to make suggestions on such a point. And how was it that while Ch'ung Ch'i was employed in the Capital, the Censor said nothing, but now that he is appointed to a provincial post, the Censor remembers in such haste that he ought to be given the appointment proposed. The Censor's suggestions are imprudent and rash in the extreme; they need not be considered.

(6) A Decree. The same Censor presents a memorial in which he shows under several heads the evils that arise from the selection by persons who have purchased official positions of the Prince in which they wish to serve; and recommends that a choice should be no longer allowed, in order that the various abuses may have an end.—Referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

(7) A Memorial. Prince Kung reports that the Sub-Director of the Court of Transmission, Chou Jui-ch'ing (周瑞清), who has lately been appointed Chief Examiner at the competition for the degree of Provincial Graduate in Kwang-tung, was one of the Secretaries to the Grand Council. There is, therefore, a vacancy in that office, and the Prince recommends that Mêng Chi-hsün (孟繼堯) a Secretary of the Grand Secretariat be appointed to act as Secretary to the Grand Council, and Hu T'ai-fu (胡泰福) be promoted to the vacancy thus caused in the former office.—Rescript: Approved.

(8) A Memorial. The Governor of Shan-si, Tseng Kwo-ch'uan, reports that on the 28th June last rain fell in his province to the depth of four or five inches, and that there is now some hope that an autumn crop may be sown on the ground that failed in the Spring.

When the Imperial orders were received to pray for rain, with the twenty-four sticks of Thibetan incense, Wu-t'ai-shan and all the important temples were visited by officials who offered up supplication for the much needed moisture. On the day after the officer returned from Wu-t'ai-shan, the 18th June last, a little rain fell; again on the 22nd June there fell a few drops; but it was yet almost impossible to sow the seed for the autumn crop, and Your servant felt very uneasy, when the sky became thick with mist and it rained a great rain. All night the sky poured down the longed for showers; and on the morning of 28th June water was rushing down the laves of every house. Your servant, gazing anxiously around on the horizon, saw black clouds in every direction; and there is reason to believe that the rain was general in the province. Although it is late in the year, country people whom Your servant has consulted believe that there is hope for an Autumn crop from the ground that failed in the Spring. If rain falls during the months of July and August, Your servant believes then Shansi may experience better times—Rescript: We are rendered less uneasy by the perusal of this Memorial. But let the Governor be earnest in prayer that the latter rain be not withheld. Let him report to us again.

(9) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Haug-chang, reports than in consequence of the lateness of the rain and the prospect of drought in Chihli he has caused prayers to be offered up at various temples, and that on the 18th, 22nd, 24th, and 28th June rain was very general all over the province. Although the spring crop was very deficient there is time to sow the seed for the autumn crop, and the people are quiet and contented. The hot and damp weather to be expected at this time of the year causes Your servant some apprehension on the score of locusts; and he has given strict orders that any precaution possible be taken against that scourge.

(10) The Literary Chancellor of Kansu, Hsu Ying-ku'e'i, reports that the examinations for the degree of Licentiate for the present year have been held throughout the length and breadth of the province. He expresses himself satisfied with the educational state of the province, all things considered. There is less trickery than elsewhere, although even here it is impossible to say that personation at the various examinations does not exist. The province is on the borders of the Empire and the regulations in the matter of examinations

* See Legge's Book of History, Part IV, Bk. VIII, 8—

啟乃心沃朕心 "Open your mind and enrich my mind."

have been rather loosely carried out, but he has done his best to improve the state of affairs and believes that he has to some extent succeeded.

(11) The Governor of Shantung, Chou Hêng-ch'i, reports the result of an enquiry as to the state of the Grand Canal, in the various districts through which it passes between the Yellow River and Tientsin, and the orders which he has given to his subordinates instructing them to carry on dredging works with all diligence, in order that the transport of grain may be facilitated. The Grand Canal is the most important link in the chain of water communication by which the grain from the North-eastern provinces is conveyed to Peking. Since the Yellow River changed its course, the bed of the Canal has been steadily silted up. Every year the Magistrates of the districts through which the Canal flows have been ordered to dredge the section of the Canal for which they are severally responsible. But the freshets of the Yellow River are not the same every season; and there is almost certain to be deceit exercised in scamping the work on the part of some of the officials to whom it is entrusted. Accordingly every time that a fleet of junks enters the Canal, it is a matter of great difficulty to all concerned. This year when the tribute junks from the South entered this province, before the time of the summer freshet, the late Governor Wên Kê instructed the District Magistrate to dredge that part of the Canal for which each was responsible with all despatch. When Your servant was appointed to the Government of the province, he suspected that a lack of sincerity might be urged against all the officials concerned alike, and he was in constant apprehension on the score of the Canal. When, therefore, he passed through Tê-chou on his way to the Provincial Capital, he despatched some officers competent to report on such matters to make a secret and careful enquiry into the way in which the work had been done, and to report to him. Your servant has received their report, stating that in the majority of cases the results do not correspond to the estimates and reports made by the Magistrate. On this Your servant, considering that the junks to be passed up the Canal this year were numerous, and that the stream of the Yellow River was feeble, feared that unless something was done at once collapse might ensue. He accordingly despatched the expectant Taotai Wu Ping-ch'üan and others to hasten on the work of dredging,

with orders to instruct the Magistrates to clear the Canal to the required depth by a fixed day, under pain of impeachment. Your servant has since received a report from Wu Taotai in which he states that he had with all despatch divided the Canal into setions, clearly marked off by poles erected at proper distances, and that he had urged the Magistrate on with the work of dredging, &c., &c. But that there may be no hitch in the navigation of the Canal, it is necessary to know the relative height of the water in the Yellow River and in the Canal, and the height of the freshet required to carry the junks across the Yellow River into the Canal. A level was according brought into requisition and the depth of the bottom inside and outside the entrance of the Canal was measured. At present in deep parts the Yellow River has four feet of water and in shallow parts one foot to a few inches—much lower than usual. At the entrance to the Canal outside the Ch'ien-k'ou (箱口) the shoal is three feet four inches higher than the level of the water of the Yellow River, and the bottom of the Canal is on a level with the shoal. Allowing for the extra dredging, the bottom of the Canal will be two feet odd higher than the present level of the water of the Yellow River. If then the summer freshet rises to a height of eight feet, it may be anticipated that the junks will pass the Canal without trouble.—Rescript: Noted. Let the Governor direct the Magistrate concerned to carry on the work of dredging with all due diligence, that navigation may be facilitated. Let the Governor report to Us on the culpability of those Magistrates who are stated to have scamped their portion of the work and made false reports as to the results effected.

(12) The Governor of Honan, T'u Tsung-ying, reports the steps which he has taken to guard against a plague of locusts during the present year. The drought which has afflicted Honan during last year and the early part of this gave cause to apprehend that the warm days at the beginning of summer would bring into life innumerable locusts. The Governor therefore issued strict orders to his subordinates that every precaution possible should be taken to guard against the evil, and that report should be made every ten days, stating whether there were or were not locusts in each district. Reports were subsequently received from the following districts (15 enumerated, chiefly in North of province along the course of the Yellow River), stating

that in shallows and banks of streams the spawn* of fish and shrimps was occasionally found, and now that the warm weather had begun, this became seething life (i.e., locusts), but that in this condition the insects were easily destroyed and that in no part of the province were they in great numbers, &c., &c.—Rescript: Noted. Let no exertion be spared in order that the seed of the locust may be swept from the face of the earth.

July 17th.—A Decree. Not long ago the Governor-General of the Two Hu Provinces, Li Han-chang, the Governor of Hunan, Shao Hêng-yü, and the General-in-chief of Hunan, Lo Ta-ch'un, put forward a joint memorial recommending that an additional camp for the instruction of irregulars (braves) should be established at Ch'ang-tê Fu (the Prefecture on West of Tung-ting Lake) and stating that the importance of the place rendered the presence of such a force necessary. We then replied that there seemed to be nothing in the condition of the province to warrant such an addition to the establishment, and declined to sanction the proposal. Lo Ta-chun has now again addressed us on the subject, this time without the support of his colleagues. He repeats that the military force of the province is weak and inefficient, and that in time of danger it would be difficult to reorganize it quickly. If this is so, it is the fault of those in command in the province, who should select efficient men to fill the ranks of the present establishment. We believe that Lo's suggestion arises from his wish to profit by the pay and allowances which would be issued to such an additional force. We cannot sanction the proposition. Let the Board report on Lo's offence that an example may be made.

(2) A memorial. The Governor-General of Chihli, acting Salt Commissioner for the Tientsin Depôt, Li Hung-chang, reports that the salt merchants connected with the Tientsin Salt Depôt have suffered greatly by the depression caused in their trade by the famine and other calamities of the last few years, and that in consequence they are unable to pay the extra charges to cover former deficits, &c. The Governor-General requests that the collection of these charges may be postponed for five years, in order that the salt merchants may have an opportunity of recovering prosperity.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue report.

* The Chinese believe that it depends much on circumstances into what "spawn" turns—sometimes fish, sometimes locusts.

(3) The Director-General of the Yellow River, Li Hé-niën, and the Governor of Honan, Tu Tsung-ying, request permission to issue honorary tablets to those members of the gentry of the Three Kiang who have subscribed towards the relief of the famine in Honan and who requested that they might not be recommended for formal reward.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(4) Memorial by the same officers reporting the funds subscribed for the work of relief in Honan by certain officials, and requesting that they may receive reward—Rescript: Let the rewards due according to regulation be conferred.

(5) Memorial by the same officers reporting a donation by a lady towards the Honan relief fund, and requesting that His Majesty will be pleased to order the issue to her of an honorary tablet.—Rescript: Granted.

(6) Memorial by the same officials reporting the meritorious conduct of a District Magistrate during the famine, and recommending him for advancement.—Rescript: Granted.

July 18th.—(1) Rescript. We appoint Ming Nyan (銘安) Manchu General-in-chief of Kirin.

(2) Yen Ching-ming, Relief Commissioner in Shansi, has presented a memorial in which he states that Ngên Ch'êng (恩承) and T'ung Hua (童華), whom we sent on duty into Szechuan last year, cost the officials and people of the districts in Shansi through which they passed more than a thousand taels a day, in entertainments and contributions levied by their retinue. The Commissioner hears that when they reached Shansi their demands became still more extravagant. The Commissioner begs to enclose accounts of Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hua's cost to the various districts through which they passed from the Ngan-yi district in Shansi to Huachow in Shensi, etc., etc. Officials sent on duty should, at the best of times, be most careful to cause the least possible trouble and expense to the districts through which they pass. In the present case the provinces traversed were suffering all the throes of famine, and particular anxiety should have been shown to press as lightly as possible upon the stricken district. Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hua's extravagance and neglect to control their followers are inexcusable. Let the

Board report on their offence and its due punishment.*

The rest of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by two long reports on criminal cases.

July 19th.—(1) A Decree. The Relief Commissioner in Shansi, Yen Ching-ming, has addressed to Us a memorial in which he calls attention to the misery caused to the people of Shansi and other provinces by enforced assistance in the entertainment of officers who are travelling at the public expense towards their place of employment. A reasonable demand on the people's assistance in the case of officials travelling on service is necessary and right; but according to the Commissioner the demands on the people of Shansi in this respect have lately been so serious as to cause the utmost distress—a most discreditable state of things. The Commissioner's suggestions on this subject are not devoid of value. The abuses practised by subordinates travelling on public service, are of many kinds. Sometimes advantage is taken by the officer concerned of a journey on the public service to visit his home; sometimes a servant is sent along the route with his master's passport, under the authority of which he impresses carts, horses, &c., and then compounds with the owners for a cash payment instead. Let the Governors and Governors-General of the Provinces take steps to secure the people against imposition of this sort.

(2) A Decree. We appoint Oh'i Hsiu (啟秀) Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Moukden; and Wên Ch'êng (文澄) Assistant Vice-President; while the latter is absent on duty as Chief Examiner let Sung Sên act for him. We appoint Shih Tsêng (師曾) Vice-President of the Board of Works at Moukden.

(3) A Decree. Some weeks ago when the districts around the capital and the province of Shansi were threatened with drought We sent officers to escort the Iron Tablet from the Dragon Temple in the Han-tan District in Chihli to the Takwang-ming Hall within Our Palace, that supplications for rain might daily be made before it. Afterwards when rain had fallen in the city before the arrival of the sacred Tablet, We directed that the Tablet should be conveyed to the capital of Shansi. We now hear that an abundant rain has fallen in Shansi, and it is therefore unnecessary

* [Note.—These officials are both Presidents of a Board in the Capital. They were sent to investigate the Tung Hsiang District case in Szechuan (see *Gazette* of 5th March last) on account of which Wên Kê, the late Governor of Shantung and others were degraded.]

to escort the Tablet thither. We decree that the Tablet be reverently conveyed back to the Dragon Temple; and that a further honorary distinction be granted to the Spirit which it signifies. Let the Governor-General Li see that a suitable official is appointed to escort the Tablet back, and let ten sticks of Thibetan incense be sent to the Dragon Temple to be burnt before the Tablet.

July 20th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Ngan-huei, Yü Lu, and Judicial Commissioner of Kiang-su, Hsu Ying-jung (許應鑠), had audience.

(1) A Decree. The acting Military Governor of Urumtsi, Kung T'ang (恭鏗, †) reports on the result of a further investigation of the case of some officials, who were killed at their posts in the year 1864 by the Mahometan rebels in the West. Amongst others the then Commandant at Kurkarausiu in Songaria, Wên Yung (文永), while on his way to the relief of Ku-che (庫車), was attacked by rebels and slain. His end was a noble one and deserving of sympathy. Let the Board consider what honors and rewards should be conferred upon him.

(2) A memorial. The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, reports on the difficulties resulting from the great number of those who purchased rank during the last few months before the system was abolished, and requesting that a further period of three months may be allowed before the accounts need be sent in to the Board of Revenue. During this period purchase of rank by new applicants is not to be allowed. It is only an extension of the time by which the accounts are to be made out and forwarded to head-quarters.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note.

July 21st.—(1) A memorial. The Governor-General of the Two Hu Provinces, Li Han-chang, reports that the Taotai at Ichang, Sun Chia-ku, having been appointed Judicial Commissioner for Chêkiang, it was necessary to appoint an official to carry on the work of Sun's office. The Prefect of Wu-ch'ang Fu, Fang Ta-shih (方大澗), an upright officer, has been ordered to undertake the duties of the office in question temporarily.—Rescript: Approved.

[† This official is a brother of the new Taotai at Wubu, and the sixth son of Ch'i-shan 琦善, who was thirty years ago one of the most distinguished officials of the Empire.]

(2) A memorial. Li Han-chang recommends an addition of Taels 3,000 to the anti-extortion allowance of the Governor of Peking. This officer's allowance is at present Taels 400, a sum altogether inadequate for the expenses of his office. The sum of Taels 3,000 per annum is to come out of the funds raised by *lekin*. If in the future the *lekin* tax should be abolished, another source for obtaining the money must be found.—Rescript: Approved. Let the Board take note.

July 22nd.—(1) Rescript. We appoint Chung Chün-shêng (鍾駿聲) Senior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, and Chu Yu-jan (朱道然) Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction.

(2) A memorial. The Governor of Huipei, P'an Wei, reports a case of robbery with violence. Six burglars broke into the dwelling house of Lin Kuei-fên, situated in the Ching-shan district. They threatened the inmates with violence, and carried off all the ready money, jewellery, clothes, etc. that they could lay their hands on. Fortunately no one in the house received bodily injury. The burglary occurred in 1877, but until the present time no trace could be found of the perpetrators. Out of the six concerned, two have been arrested and executed on account of other crimes, three have been now captured and one has as yet escaped justice. In accordance with regulations the three men taken were executed as soon as their trial was completed.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

(3) A memorial. The Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chekiang, Ho Ching, reports the arrival in Foochow of seven men belonging to a Loochoo junk that had met with bad weather and had been relieved by a Government war-vessel. According to the account given of themselves by the seven men in question, they had started with a cargo of sugar for a place called Ssü-man, and having met with very bad weather they had been carried towards Foochow. They were taken, on their arrival in Foochow, to the House of Relief, and were carefully provided with all that they could require. A large Loochoo junk happened to be about to start on its return journey at the time, and the seven men in question were handed over to their fellow countrymen to be conveyed home, after each man had been given a month's provision of rice according to regulation. They started on 14th June last.—Rescript: Noted.

July 23rd.—A memorial. The acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang Provinces, Wu Yuan-ping, and the acting Governor of Kiangsu, Lê Fang-ch'i, report a case of smuggling opium on board a Customs cruiser by two of the officers.—Rescript: Let the two sergeants guilty of this offence be banished, one to the Amoor and the other to convict settlements in the West.

There are no documents of interest in this day's *Gazette*.

July 24th.—(1) Rescript. We appoint Wên Hsing (文興) a Reader of the Grand Secretariat; Ch'un P'u (春溥) Groom of the Library; and Hsü K'è-kang (徐克剛) Censor for the Shantung Circuit.

(2) A Decree. The Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, Mu T'u-shan, impeaches four officers of the Ch'ahar tribe in respect of negligence and carelessness in the discharge of their duties, and requests that two may be dismissed and two handed over to the Board of Punishment.—We approve the recommendations.

(3) A memorial. The Governor of Kiangsu, Wu Yuan-ping, reports the present state of the accounts and returns in respect of the money that has been received since October, 1871, when the system was adopted in his province, from the sale of office. At that time the Board directed that the money received from this source should be apportioned as follows, viz:—

$\frac{2}{30}$ to Kansu (for the purposes of the war in the West.)

$\frac{2}{30}$ to Kueichow (for the purposes of the war against Mahometan Rebels.)

$\frac{2}{30}$ to Ngan-huei.

The accounts of the whole amount received during this period are not yet ready, but the Governor will soon be enabled to forward them to the Board, when they can be compared with the accounts of Kansu, Kueichow, and Ngan-huei, to which provinces all the funds thus received have been sent.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

July 25th.—(1) A Decree. Some months ago We issued a decree upon the report of Ting Pao-chên on the action of the General-in-chief in Yünnan, Hu Chung-ho, who had dismissed a part of his force because the grain required to pay them was not forthcoming, his real reason being [according to Ting Pao-chên] that he wished to stand well with the soldiery and people. The General asked that a fresh enquiry might be made into his conduct on this occasion, and We instructed Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hua, while in Szechuan, to report upon

this case with the several others that required investigation. We have now received their report, from which it would seem that the General was not to blame in the matter. Let the Riding Cape be restored to him. The punishment meted out to the other officials concerned in this case is reduced.

(2) A Decree. The Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, Mu T'u-shan, reports a deficiency of 350 horses in the Imperial herds, under the charge of the Ch'ahar tribe. A complaint was made to the Governor by one of the officers who had been charged with the care of the herds, that several of the said officers practised cunning arts by which the Government was defrauded of good horses, and they were replaced by bad ones, when it became necessary to make up the number. Let the twenty-five of the officers guilty of this offence be deprived of their rank and receive each one hundred blows with the whip, and the ten others be deprived of their rank only. They must all continue to perform the duties of their office.

(3) Rescript. We appoint Ho Shou-tz'ü Senior Vice-President of the Censurate.

[Note.—This was the official degraded in May last for a questionable connection with a Peking bookseller.]

(4) The Governor of Chékiang, Mei Chichao, reports that according to the instructions received with regard to the funds to be remitted by his province for the expenditure of the Central Government during 1880, half the amount of the regular subsidy was sent last month and the other half is to be delivered in Peking without fail by the end of the year. Further, Taels 100,000 were apportioned to the purposes of the Central Government out of the *lekin* revenue of the province. The Governor now reports that Taels 30,000 of the latter amount has been despatched to Peking from Shanghai under the charge of an officer, named Hua Ch'êng-yün, who took a passage by steamer as usual.—Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(5) The Governor of Kiangsi, Li Wên-min, reports on the addition which has been made to the sum payable out of the receipt of the Kiukiang Foreign Customs to the revenue of the Central Government, and requests that the payment of the additional amount may be postponed until next year. The Governor has received a communication from the Grand Council informing him that on 7th of May last a decree was issued, in reply to a memorial from the Board of Revenue, ordering some additions to the sums payable by the provinces to the Ex-

chequer of the Central Government. On the receipt of this despatch, the Governor gave the necessary instruction, but he has since received a communication from the late Superintendent of Customs at Kiukiang, Shên Pao-ching, in which the latter says that although the requirements of the Central Government are paramount, every effort must of course be made to fulfil them, it is not easy to see how the present demand can possibly be met. During the last five years the average receipts of the Foreign Customs at Chünkiang have ranged from 670,000 to 750,000 Taels. Of this sum, $\frac{4}{10}$ of the amount received from foreign shipping and $\frac{5.2}{100}$ of that received from the vessels of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. is sent to the Treasury of the Board of Revenue. Besides, there are the expenses of the establishment to be met and various other charges, viz., surplus remitted to cover difference in weights, the cost of missions abroad, and travelling expenses of the officers remitting money to Peking, and the expense of the Foreign Customs staff, amounting to 72,000 Taels; pay of officials and underlings of the Customs establishment 14,000 Taels; the private allowance of the Superintendent 2,800 Taels; amounting in all, including fixed tribute and payments, to 500,000 Taels a year. Even granting that during the present year the receipts will be somewhat larger than the above estimate, the balance after deduction of the last-named sum will only amount to some 200,000 Taels. Before the receipt of the present Decree, the Board of Revenue had ordered that the sum of 300,000 Taels [in addition to the fixed proportion of receipts referred to above] should be sent as tribute to the capital, thus completely sweeping away the whole balance. The Superintendent does not see any other source from which the additional 100,000 Taels can be raised. The Governor begs therefore that the payment of this 100,000 Taels may be postponed until next year.—Rescript: Let the Board report on the subject.

July 26th.—(1) The Governor of Shansi, Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, has requested that an example may be made of certain bad characters in his province, guilty of trading in young girls, and other evil practices. A tramp, named Chan Wangnan, previously a "brave," and a woman named Wang, née Chang, have been engaged in the purchase and sale of women and girls. They have further been guilty of great cruelty in their treatment of

young girls, scorching them with hot irons, &c. A man named Yang Kuo-jun has been for years a leader of roughs in the provincial capital, and has given great trouble. No crime is too great for him, and he holds the law in utter contempt. An example should be made of him, that others may take warning. Let Chan Wan-ngan and Yang Kuo-jun be beheaded; and let the woman be imprisoned for life in her native district in Honan. In other respects the Governor's recommendations are approved.

(2) A memorial. The Court of Sacrificial Worship reports that on the 10th of August next service should be performed in worship of the God Fire.—Rescript: Let Ngên-ying perform the necessary ceremonies.

The same Officer reports that the 15th August being His Imperial Majesty's most auspicious birthday, an officer should be appointed to superintend the service [to the former Emperors of the Dynasty] which should be performed in the back chapel of the Imperial Temple on the day in question.—Rescript: We appoint Ch'ing Ngên to perform this duty.

(3) A memorial. A Censor on the Shansi Circuit, K'ung Hsien-ku, presents a memorial in which he represents that men of sterling worth should not be kept at a distance from the Throne, lest the Sovereign lose the advantage to be derived from their advice and support, and prays that the late appointment of Ch'ung Ch'i to be Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jehoh may be cancelled. When Your servant read in a recent *Gazette* that Ch'ung Ch'i was appointed Governor of Jehoh, he marvelled at the Imperial discretion in selecting an able man for a post which involves the superintendence of the colonization (of the Southern part of the Great Hunting Ground), and the control of a population, amongst whom brigandage has become a profession. At the same time, when Your servant considered the difficulties which at present beset the Government, and that an able man employed at a distance can only benefit a corner of the Empire; while if at the Court his talents and integrity are constantly at his master's service, so that he becomes a support in the present and a source of benefit to untold generations. When Your servant considers all this his mind went back to the time of the Han Dynasty, and he remembered how when the righteous Hsi Ngan was sent forth to rule Huai-yang, the unprincipled Chang Hsi got a footing at Court, and how, at the time of the Sung Dynasty, when Fan Chung was sent to inspect the troops in the West,

false opinions became rife [Buddhism probably meant.] And although the talents of our present Rulers spare Us the apprehension of so great dangers, still Your servant cannot but remember how in the first year of the reign of His late Majesty (1862), Wo Jên and Wêng Hsin-ts'un were summoned to the Court, and how perhaps not a little of the peace and prosperity (?) of the thirteen years of T'ung Chih's reign was due to their wise counsels. It would indeed seem that the advantages that would result from the employment at Court of a man of Ch'ung Ch'i tried integrity and talents must far exceed those that could be expected from his rule at Jehoh. Your servant would therefore beg that Ch'ung Ch'i's appointment as Governor of Jehoh may be cancelled, and that he may continue to be employed at Court. Your servant begs, moreover, to suggest that Ch'ung Ch'i should be employed in immediate relations with the Emperor, who will then have the full benefit of his character and talents. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 16th July.)

July 27th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Liang Chün has addressed to Us a representation with regard to Our decree of the 17th July, handing over the General-in-chief in Hunan, Lo Ta-ch'an, to the Board for punishment. The Censor points out that the Governor-General, Li Hanchang, and the Governor, Shao Hêng-yü, joined their recommendations to that of the General on the first occasion when the addition of the Camp was suggested, and he requests that the Governor-General and Governor may also be handed over to the Board for punishment. We do not know whether the General-in-chief showed the draft of his memorial to the Governor-General and Governor before or after its despatch.—Let the latter officials make a truthful report to Us on this-head.

(2) The Censor, Têng Ch'ing-lin, reports certain defalcations and malpractices on the part of officials belonging to the Treasury of the Royal Household. Let Kuang-shou and P'an Tsu-yin hold an enquiry and report to the Throne.

(3) A Reader in the Hanlin College, Pao-t'ing makes a representation on the subject of the recent appointment of Ho Shon-tz'ü to be Senior Vice-President of the Censorate. Ho Shon-tz'ü was degraded some weeks ago in consequence of his connection with the bookseller Li Chung-ming. The reason why We appointed him to the Vice-Presidentship was that his name was the first on the list submitted to Us by the Board of Office. It would appear that his

appointment has met with general disapprobation, and that his age and infirmities unfit him for the office in question.—Let Ho Shon-tz'ü vacate the Vice-Presidentship of the Censorate.

With regard to the Censor's accusations against the officers of the Grand Council, that they lightened Ho's punishment after the recent enquiry, and that they endeavoured to bring about his reappointment, We cannot see that they are guilty in these respects.—Let them, however, be doubly careful in the future.

July 28th.—(1) A memorial. The Superintendent of Live-stock and House Duty for the Eastern Division of Peking, Ngan Tê, reports on the receipts of duty from the above sources during the year from 12th July, 1878, to 1st July, 1879 (counting the intercalary 3rd month of this year, exactly twelve Chinese months.)

The receipts during this period have been :—

Live-stock duty	Taels 17,981
House duty	„ 5,179

Taels...23,160

while the amounts of duty required from Your servant by Regulation are :—

Live-stock duty	Taels 10,008
House duty	„ 5,179

Taels...15,187

thus giving a balance of Taels 7,973. From this sum, however, Taels 6,145 must be deducted to cover expenses of various descriptions, sanctioned by regulation, thus reducing the balance to Taels 1,828. But besides the amounts of duty required from Your servant as above, his office is estimated for an additional return of Taels 18,000, leaving after full payment of regular duty, a deficit of 16,172 Taels.* The reasons which the Superintendent gives for the deficiency are precisely the same as those given last year, viz., drought and famine, the poverty of the Peking people, and the distrust of importers on account of the fluctuations in exchange.—Decree: Let the Board report. (See *Gazette* of 15th July, 1879.)

No other documents of interest.

July 29th.—(1) A Decree. A Compiler in the Han-lin College, Ho Chin-shou, has presented a memorial in which he reviews at length the various evils from which the State is suffering. In the Government of the State all means possible are taken to secure a just administration. To this end We labour ourselves; and the High Officers

* The deficit last year was Taels 16,212.

of the Central and Provincial Governments are men to whom We believe the interests of Our subjects can safely be intrusted. As abuses become known, they must be corrected; but it is against the spirit of Our rule to be for ever engaged in discovering small delinquencies.

The cases to which Ho Chin-shou calls attention are the following :—

1.—The late deficit of rice in the Peking Granaries, for which the Superintendent of Grain, Pi Tao-yuan, and others, were, on the recommendation of the Board, held responsible. They were further degraded one step. The Compiler is wrong when he states that they were only punished by the forfeiture of three months' pay.

2.—The case of robbery with violence outside the Tung-hua Mén in Peking. With the exception of their leader, the perpetrators of this outrage have all been tried and banished. Let the officers responsible not rest until they have captured the leader of the gang.

3.—The burglary committed at the residence of the President of the Board of War, Kuang-shou, the perpetrators of which have not yet been captured. Let a date be fixed by which the officers responsible must produce these men, under pain of severe punishment.

4.—The case of a Secretary in the Board of Punishments, Chu Yin-ku, who being charged with the trial of the Liu Chin-hua case, was accused of certain malpractices in connection therewith, and who, according to the Compiler, has not been punished. In this he is wrong, Chu Yin-ku has been dismissed from his office.

5.—The case of the Censor Têng Ching-lin, who tried under false pretences to lighten the punishment of a criminal named Chan Ch'i-lun, who has since been strangled. Let an enquiry be at once held and this case settled.

6.—An Inspector of Police in the capital, Han Shih-chün, whom the Compiler accuses of extortion, &c., has not been impeached by the officers under whom he serves. Let them report upon his conduct.

7.—A timber merchant and builder, Wang Hai, was engaged in erecting His late Majesty's Tomb, and was therefore recommended for an honorary distinction. He is a trader and not a man of low origin, and there was no reason why he should not be recommended. The Compiler is wrong in this case.

8.—In selecting men for advancement, attention should be paid only to their diligence in the discharge of their duties,

and the accident of birth should neither tell for or against an aspirant.

9.—The case of Hu Kuang-ying (Hu Taotai), who having purchased foreign weapons for use in the West, and thereby rendered as good service as if he had been fighting in the vanguard, was allowed to wear the Yellow Riding Cape. Subsequently he was recommended to Our notice as having rendered material assistance, together with the Prefect Li Chin-yung, in the work of famine relief. He, however, suggested to the Governor-General and Governor of Kiangsu, that Li Chin-yung should be granted audience (and consequently promotion); and the Governor-General and Governor followed his suggestion, and requested that Li Chin-yung might be granted audience, to which We assented. The Board has since recommended that audience should be refused to Li Chin-yung, and that punishment should be inflicted on the Governor-General, Governor and Hu Kuang-ying; the latter because he offered a suggestion which he had no right to make, and the others because they followed it.

10.—The case of the woman named Lin, née Tai, of Fuhkien, which has been pending for eight years and is not yet settled. We issued a decree a few days ago ordering the trial of this case. We now fix a period of three months for its settlement; if at the expiration of this time it be not concluded, punishment will be inflicted on the Fuhkien authorities.

11.—During last year the Censor, T'ang Shu-nan, called attention to the trouble that was being given in Hunan by the proceedings of certain worthless persons. We at that time directed the authorities to look into the matter, and they have since reported that the people are now quiet and orderly.

12.—With regard to the application of the General-in-chief of Hunan, Lo Ta-ch'ün, that an additional camp should be formed in that province, We have issued a Decree directing the Governor-General and Governor of Hunan to report on their share in the transaction.

13.—The case of Li Yang-ts'ai, the rebel, who while yet in Our service, stated in an official report that in the Tartar General's despatches mention is made of his having been deceived by the Governor and one of the Intendants of the province. On this, the Governor-General Liu K'un-yi reported that the only foundation for Li's allegation was that the Governor of Kwangsi had declined to recommend that he should be kept in that province. Li cannot say that he

had been forced to rebel by the action of the Governor. When the Compiler says that the Governor-General should have impeached the Governor and General-in-chief because they have done nothing in the matter of Li's rebellion, he is certainly ignorant that the General Fêng Tze-ts'ai on several occasions followed the rebels into their dens of retreat and has captured Li Yang-ts'ai's family, a not insignificant success.

14.—In the case of the General-in-chief in Yünnan, Hu Chung-ho, We directed Ngên Ch'êng, &c., to report to Us on the matter, and the result was that the General was acquitted of blame and We decreed the return to him of the Riding Cape.

15.—The case of the murder of a Prefect in Yünnan, settled in the year 1874. The Compiler alleges that an official named Yang Yu-k'é bribed a Peking official to keep things quiet in the capital with regard to his connection with this case. Let the Compiler report to Us to whom it was that the bribe was given.

16.—The General-in-chief, Wang Chao-nan, is one of those punished under the Szechuan Tung-hsiang district case. As soon as the Decree (published to-day) reaches the province, let the General be forwarded to his place of banishment on the Amoor.

17.—The Brigade-General at Chü-chou in Chekiang, Yü Chün-ming, although he has his own duties to look after, has been appointed by the Governor, Mei Chi-chao, to the Hang-chia-hu naval command. Let the Governor report to Us why he thought it necessary to appoint this officer to the duties in question.

With regard to the Compiler's strictures on the conduct of the various officials of the Empire—that in appointments there is favoritism, and on all sides a disposition to shield the guilty; that the truth is often withheld from Our notice and that the Censors have yet not the courage to speak out—in all this We fear there is some truth. Let the servants of the Crown remember the responsibilities which attach to office and strive to fulfil them.

(2) The Board of Office has reported on the punishment to be inflicted on the two officials who allowed their servants to practise extortion in Shansi, in the early part of this year. The Board recommends that they should be degraded three steps. We consider this punishment too light to meet the requirements of the case. That a warning may be given to others. Let Ngên Ch'êng, President of the Board of Ceremonies, and T'ung Hua, President of

the Censorate, be deprived of their rank, but retained at their posts.

(3) A Decree. Ch'ên Ci, Literary Chancellor in Shensi, retires in ill-health, and P'an Kung-hsü is appointed in his place.

(4) A Decree. The Board of Revenue has reported of the Governor of Shansi's proposition that the sale of office should be continued for six months longer and the proceeds devoted to the relief of the distress caused in his province by the famine. The sale of office can no longer be allowed, but in view of the necessities of Shansi We decree that the following grants of money shall be made to that province, and We command the Governor to exercise the greatest vigilance that the people get the full benefit from the sums in question:—

The Board of Revenue to forward from this Exchequer	200,000	Taels.
„ the land-tax of Shansi	30,000	„
„ the <i>lekin</i> of Ngan-huei	30,000	„
„ „ „ Kiangsi ...	30,000	„
„ „ <i>lekin</i> and salt-tax of Hupei	40,000	„
„ <i>lekin</i> of Hunan	20,000	„
„ salt-tax of Szechuan ...	30,000	„
From the funds owing by Chekiang, Kwangtung, Fuhkien, Kiangsu, each 30,000 Taels.....	120,000	„
Total, Taels...	500,000	

(5) The Board of Punishments reports on the Tung-lsiang district case in Szechuan, and the punishment to which the persons concerned have rendered themselves liable. It will be remembered that in consequence of a false report made by the Magistrate of this district, a number of the peaceable inhabitants were killed by a band of soldiers who were sent against them under the belief that they were rebels. The following are the punishments inflicted:—The District Magistrate and the General-in-chief to be beheaded after the autumn assize; two Prefects banished to Kashgaria for life; two acting Generals-in-chief and a Brigade-General banished to the Amoor; a Brigade-General banished to Convict Stations in the West; a Prefect and a district Magistrate dismissed; three Licentiates and a Major banished to the Convict Settlements in the West; the late Governor-General Wên Kê and the present Governor-General Ting Pao chên handed over to the Board for punishment.

(6) A Memorial. The Superintendent of Live-stock and House duty for the Western Division of Peking, Jung Ch'üan, reports on the receipts of his office during

the period from 12th July, 1878, to 1st July, 1879. The result is a deficit on the whole estimate, including the extra assessment of Tls. 5,897*.—Decree: Let the Board report. (See *Gazette* of 15th July, 1879.)

July 30th.—(1) A memorial. The Famine Commissioner of Shansi, Yen Ching-ming, reports the conduct of two high officers who, on their way through Shansi, neglected to control their servants, and although the province was suffering from one of the most dreadful famines on record, were the cause of additional misery to the unfortunate inhabitants of the districts through which they passed. The grounds of this accusation will be found in the translation of the Decree printed in the *Gazette* of 18th July. The officials accused, Ngên Ch'êng, and T'ung Hua, were degraded by a Decree in the *Gazette* 29th July.

The only noticeable feature in this memorial is an incidental reference to the assistance rendered by foreigners in the relief of the stricken districts. The Commissioner's words are:—外國洋人亦

且携款來施, “and even foreigners of the outer nations brought money to distribute in charity.”

August 1st.—(1) A memorial from Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, requesting the bestowal of honorary rewards according to the usual scale upon a number of officials and gentry who have contributed Tls. 15,600 towards the repair of the wall of the district town of Lung-yu, that was almost destroyed on the occasion of its recapture from the rebels; the restitution of an important sluice, reconstruction of the horse archery ground, etc., etc.—No other documents of importance.

August 2nd.—(1) Memorial from Yên Ching-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, reporting that the import of grain into the province from the South has now been brought to a conclusion, and praying for permission to return to his home to recruit his health. At the end of 1877 he was ordered to go to Shansi to superintend the distribution of relief, and, though in bad health at the time, he did not venture to disobey His Majesty's commands. His labours were considerably lightened by the assistance afforded him by the Governor Tseng Kuo-ch'üan, who shared memorialist's task and arranged that he should reside at Yün Ch'êng in the

(*) The deficit last year was Tls. 6,000 (see *Gazette* of 9th August, 1878).

southern portion of the province. The amounts of grain it was proposed respectively to allot to the various departments and districts have now been supplied, and the wheat harvest being on the point of being gathered, the people are in a position to secure a scanty subsistence, and relief has accordingly ceased. Careful supervision has reduced fraud in distribution and receipts of relief to a minimum, but the numbers dealt with were so large that it has been impossible to secure absolute freedom from irregularity, and the fluctuating number of those relieved, owing to deaths on the one hand, and increase of applicants for aid on the other, rendered it difficult to guarantee the absence of all fraud on the part of the villagers relieved. Memorialist, being powerless himself to check the distribution, availed himself of the aid of the officials and gentry, and any detected frauds on their part have all been punished by the Governor. The following return is submitted:—Grain of every kind purchased in the South and imported into Shansi, 67,760 piculs; distributed, 7,295 piculs at a cost of Tls. 46,611, or Tls. 6.3.8.9.2 per picul; issued for sale at reduced rates in 16 departments and districts, 60,465 piculs, which realised Tls. 114,894, being a loss of Tls. 1.9 per picul. The total cost of the grain gratuitously distributed and that sold at reduced rates amounted to Tls. 161,505. With regard to the question of excessive land tax, *corvée*, &c., to which the attention of the Governor was called on the representation of the Censor Kuo Ts'ung-chü, this matter has already been taken in hand by the Governor. The state of memorialist's health, moreover, renders him incapable of rendering much assistance even if it were required, and as the Governor can dispense with his aid, memorialist would humbly crave His Majesty's permission to return home to recruit his health. By His Majesty's bounty he has been allowed to remain thirteen years in his native place, and he is earnestly desirous of presenting himself once more at Court, but his old maladies are too deep seated and his cough and asthma are still persistent, in spite of the short periods of leave that were granted him last winter. He is so weak that he is compelled to move about his room with the aid of a stick and is unfit to travel in a cart.—Rescript: It is noted. The Vice-President in question has endured fatigue and unpopularity, and his complaint is not yet cured. Let him recruit himself with a quiet mind, and as soon as he has

recovered let him come to the capital and present himself before Us.

(2) Memorial from the Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, reporting that he has sent forty-seven Loochooans to Foochow, their vessel having been driven by stress of weather on to the Kwangtung coast at Hsü-wên Hsien, while returning to the island of Pa-chung-shan from the capital of Loochoo, where they had been to pay tribute. Their original number was fifty-three, but three died on the road from Hsü-wên Hsien to Canton and were buried at the place of their decease. On their arrival at Canton, quarters were rented for the fifty survivors by the district Magistrate, and the Financial Commissioner was instructed to serve out to each man a daily allowance of one pint of rice and one candareen of silver for the purchase of salt and vegetables, arrangements being made in accordance with precedent for their being forwarded to Foochow. During their stay in Canton three of them died, and as their comrades stated in writing that they did not wish to convey the remains to their own country, these were buried in Government ground at Canton. The forty-seven survivors were, in due course, sent to Hongkong under charge of a *wei-yuan*, to be forwarded by steamer to Foochow. At Hongkong another of them fell sick and was taken to the Wên Hua Hospital, where he died. The body was buried in a shallow grave and a board put up to mark the place, so that the relatives of the deceased might, if they liked, go to Hongkong and take the body back. A return of the expenditure incurred in the relief of these shipwrecked people is forwarded to the Board of Revenue.—Rescript: Noted.

August 3rd.—(1) A decree sentencing Ts'ai Fâng-nien, Intendant of the tea and salt duty collectorate in Szechuen, to dismissal for irregularities and malfeasance in office.

(2) Sung Fan 恭蕃 is appointed to the vacancy created above.

(3) Ch'ing Ch'un, Tartar General at Foochow, is permitted to vacate his post, on the ground of ill-health.

(4) The following appeal case is reported by the Court of Censors:—Kuo Kao-ch'êng, a traitor in a district town in Szechuen, had some clothes brought to him to alter, which, unknown to himself, had been stolen. They were found in his shop by the police, who arrested him and took him before the Magistrate. He gave the name of the person who had left the clothes with him, and on this individual being summoned he

acknowledged the theft and exonerated the tailor, who was released with a present of 1,000 *cash* from the Magistrate. Some relatives of the thief being men of position, they bailed him out, and got the tailor arrested again on a false charge of being the actual thief after all, when the accusation again broke down and the tailor was released from custody and placed in an inn to await the presence of his accusers in Court. These, afraid of the consequence of their calumny, prevailed upon certain of the official runners to torture the tailor to death in order that his evidence might be suppressed. They did so, and the brother of deceased, failing to obtain redress for the murder of his brother, appealed to Peking.

(5) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang and the Governors of Shansi and Honan conjointly. Ch'ao-chow and Formosa are distant places on the seaboard, very far from Shansi and Honan, while, although the inhabitants of the ports in the Southern Ocean are all natives of Kwangtung or Fuhkien, in the case of California a distance of nearly 80,000 or 90,000 *li* has to be traversed in going and returning, and even Annam, Siam, Manila, and Singapore are distant some 20,000 or 30,000 *li*. When they heard of the untoward drought in Shansi and Honan which was causing their Sacred Master anxiety by day and night, there were none of the gentry and common people whose conscience was not aroused, and they contributed money to repay [the debt they owed to their country] and do her gratuitous service. In this way about Tls. 30,000 were contributed, for which the subscribers did not venture to ask for reward. So great an anxiety for the public good, and such a love of patriotism, must certainly have been prompted by sincere motives. Although application is now being made for the bestowal of honorary rewards upon those concerned, as the sums contributed towards the famine amount in the aggregate to over a million, and a comparatively large number of individuals have been energetic in the matter, while the time for the cessation of the purchase system is close at hand, those officials and gentry in the more distant parts cannot well be discovered and recommended to His Majesty within the given time, and the result will be that the names of the majority will be left out. At the same time, if their efforts are allowed to sink into oblivion, it seems to memorialists that an insufficient stimulus will be afforded for future energy in a similar direction. It occurs to them that the bygone acts of charitable and benevolent gentry are invariably noted for

future record in the topographical annals of all the prefectures and districts throughout the Empire, that they may be read and enjoyed hereafter. After careful consideration, therefore, they propose, with His Majesty's permission, in the case of the omission of the names of individuals who have been energetic in heading subscription lists with large amounts, provided that the lives of these men are such as to warrant their being set forth as a pattern to others, to write to the high authorities and local officials of the provinces to which these people respectively belong, and request them to place their services on record. When in course of time the period for the revision of the topography arrives, the names and deeds of these individuals can be severally inserted therein, as a stimulus to others hereafter.—Rescript: Noted.

August 4th.—(1) Mu T'u-shan 穆圖善 is appointed Tartar General at Foochow, and Ching Fêng 景豐 is ordered to succeed him as Governor of Ch'ahar.

(2) Decree in answer to a memorial from Wang Hsien-ch'ien, Reader of the Han-lin, who represents that care should be taken that the privilege of addressing the Throne should not be abused, and prays that a decree in this sense may be issued, in order to maintain the integrity of the constitution. The Government has afforded great facilities for the submission of remarks [by its officers], and representations on any subject never fail to meet with attention and to be given effect to when such is called for. This privilege has been much abused of late by those who possess it, but, in consideration of the courage that prompted these representations, a patient hearing has been accorded to all, and such action taken as occasion called for. A doubt, however, arises lest ignorant persons may conclude that the Court will accept any reproof that may be offered, with the result that individual opinions are submitted at random, to the utter subversion and confusion of right and wrong, and an opening is gradually afforded for [mutual recrimination and] attack; or, even worse, for "this man to sing and the other to cap his rhyme" until the burden of their song becomes matter of common talk, and party divisions arise to the great detriment of public morality. In the 8th year of the reign of Ch'ien Lung, the Censor Tsou Yi-kuei called attention to the unwarranted interference in matters under the consideration of different Boards that was displayed by Censors and the like

before the decision of the Board was received, and a decree was issued ordering [a cessation of this practice], which, naturally, should be obeyed for all time. In future, therefore, those officers who are allowed to speak, will confine their attention to constitutional defects and matters affecting the interests or well-being of the people. They are likewise prohibited from hasty or ill-advised interference in questions that are committed to the Board for consideration when these are no business of their own, and they are forbidden to follow suit one after the other [on any subject that may be broached by any of their colleagues.]

(2) The Court of Censors report the following appeal case:—Hê Ngên-chien, a native of Shantung holding the title of *Yün Ch'i Yü* (the 8th grade of hereditary rank) complains as follows:—"I am 32 years of age, and come from Lin-ch'ing Chou in Shantung. In the year 1854 my father, who was a trainband captain, lost his life at the attack on Lin-ch'ing made by the rebels, and so distinguished himself that he was created a *Yün Ch'i Yü*. As his eldest son I succeeded to the title, and in the year 1871 I joined the garrison at Lin-ch'ing to learn my military duties. The Major in command, whose one idea was self-enrichment, paid me only Tls. 11 at the end of nearly a year's service, instead of the Tls. 19.2.1, to which I was entitled; and, again, only paid me Tls. 12.3 as my salary for the spring and autumn. A fellow *Yün Chi Yü* was treated in the same manner, and we made a joint complaint to the Major, who took a dislike to us in consequence and falsely declared that as our *Lü-li*, or papers, had not arrived, he was not allowed to issue full pay to us. The mother of my colleague complained to the Financial Commissioner of these deductions in her son's pay, and he referred the matter to the Prefect of Chinan. The Major, knowing well that his excuses were false, got hold of my colleague and kept him in hiding so that he could not appear at the enquiry, and, finally, forced him to poison himself. The Major again issued reduced pay to me in the year 1874, and finally, turned me out of the garrison on the ground that I delayed to present myself at a certain military inspection ordered by Imperial Decree."—Referred in the usual manner.

August 5th.—(1) A decree refusing an application from the Governor of Jeh-ho for the bestowal of a button of the 2nd grade upon the Taotai of Jeh-ho, who has been painstaking in the performance of his

duties. The Taotai in question was allowed a second term of office on the recommendation of the Governor. The capture of mounted robbers and work of a like nature by the Taotai during his incumbency was a part of the duties he had to perform. There is no occasion to consider his claim to the bestowal of a button of the 2nd grade.

(2-3) Decrees remitting the penalties to which the Superintendents of Live-stock and House duty have rendered themselves liable by their failure to render the full amount of their respective surplus assessments. (See *Gazette* of 28th July.)

(4) Hwang Shao-c'hun, Commander-in-chief in Chêkiang, reports having given over charge of his duties to his temporary successor.

(5) Yü Chün-ming, General of the Ch'ü-chou Brigade, reports his arrival at Ningpo, and his assumption of the acting post of Commander-in-chief in Chêkiang on the 29th June.

August 6th.—(1) A decree in answer to a Censor who complains of the amount of theft that goes on in the Government Granaries at Peking and T'ungchow, and points out the necessity of exercising stricter supervision over the underlings employed there. The Superintendents of the Granaries are called upon to keep a careful watch and to deal with any dishonesty in a summary and severe manner. The clerks employed at the Granaries are to be secured, as provided by the regulations, by a bond from their neighbours.

(2) A decree dismissing a Police Magistrate in the northern division of the metropolis who has been denounced by the Court of Censors for exaggerating the importance of matters that come under his control, exacting money from people in his jurisdiction for the construction of a honorary tablet to himself and a complimentary umbrella, and summoning titular officials by warrant.

(3) A long memorial from Ngôn Ch'êng and T'ung Hua, the High Commissioners who have been engaged in investigating a series of charges in Szechuen against the Governor-General. On their way to Szechuen they received a decree instructing them to go to Yünnan on the completion of their mission in Szechuen, and make enquiry in the former province into a charge brought against the Governor by the Censor P'au Tung-sin, of showing favour to Hunan braves, and sheltering them from the consequences of their misdoings. At the conclusion of their work in Szechuen they went to Yünnan Fu, which city they reached on the 16th June, and set to work

with the aid of their secretaries to go carefully through the documents connected with the case. In the first instance, the Governor-General Ting Pao-chêng had been called upon to investigate the Censor's charges, and on the strength of his report the Commander-in-chief was deprived of his Yellow Riding Jacket, and the Salt Intendant ordered to Peking. (See *Gazette* of 10th July, 1878.) These officers protested against the injustice of the penalties inflicted on them, and the High Commissioners were directed to make further enquiries. These have resulted in confirming the Governor-General's report. The statements of the Governor-General with regard to these officers are gone into at length, and their accuracy established by memorialists, who have made them the subject of personal enquiry.

August 7th.—(1) A decree acknowledging receipt of a supplementary list of names of officers who lost their lives in the defence of various towns in Ili during the years 1864-1866, for whom posthumous honors are solicited by Tso Tsung-t'ang. There are eighty-three names in all, and the list is headed by those of Sa Ling-ah, Imperial Agent at Kuché, and T'ok'otonai, Commandant of the Oelöts or Kalmucks.

(2) A decree consenting to the compilation of the official biography of Lin Tach'üan, late acting Prefect of T'ai-pei Fu in Formosa, and Li Ping-show, late Prefect of Lu-chow Fu in Anhui.

(3) Memorial from Tséng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, praying that permission may be granted to extend the sale of substantive appointments to assistant Magistracies and minor metropolitan offices with feathers and the like decorations, for a further period of six months. On receipt of the decree ordering abolition of purchase, it was of course given effect to, but at that time the tribute grain forwarded from Shantung had not been all distributed, and final contributions from different provinces were continually coming in, so that the starving people could depend upon these sources for preservation from death, and the "puckered brow could be relaxed" for a while. Memorialist and his staff engaged in daily exercise of prayer, and instructed the various district and department Magistrates to urge the farmers to sow their corn with extra care, in the hope that with the aid of a good harvest of "second wheat," the food supply of the people might be slightly enriched, and some prospect entertained of commencing taxation at the first *man*, or period,

so that all sources of income might not be cut off. It would seem, however, that memorialist's moral worth was so scanty, and his good fortune so shallow, that he could not move Heaven to conciliation; for from the commencement of Spring drought prevailed as badly as ever in the four prefectures of T'ai-yuan, Fên-hsi, P'ing-yang and Ho-chow; the second crop of wheat has withered, and all hope of a harvest is nearly lost. In the five prefectures of Tsê-chow, Lu-an, P'u-chow, Chiang-chow and Chieh-chow, waste land abounds, but has not been cultivated to any extent, so that although a small amount of rain has been obtained, the quantity sown does not equal 30 per cent. of ordinary years, while there is only three, four or five tenths, as the case may be, of a full crop. As wheat is not in the habit of being grown in the country to the north of T'ai-yuan Fu, no spring harvest is gathered in that part. This accurately represents the fact that, although taxation has been renewed for the first period throughout the whole of the province of Shansi, the receipts have not been large. On the 28th and 30th June and following days, rain fell throughout the T'ai-yuan prefecture to a saturation of five or six inches, but the summer solstice having already past, it came too late. When the various departments and districts set to work to plant a supplementary autumn crop, the question of the provision of plough oxen and seed corn by the Government came under consideration, but, alas! the treasury was clean empty and no means of raising funds could be devised. If memorialist were to sit quietly down and watch the people sink down from exhaustion [without putting out a hand to help them] or taking thought for their great need, this would be a poor return for the gracious preservation that has been accorded them by His Majesty for years in succession, and the people would lose all hope of a harvest for the present year, a state of things that His Majesty would not endure to see nor the memorialist venture to permit. Last year over eighty departments and districts were in receipt of relief, and the houses of the inhabitants were long ago completely bare; so that even if the means were afforded them of planting a supplementary crop they would still have to go through a long interval between summer and autumn, with the additional uncertainty as to the weather and the harvest that would be gathered. Last year, for instance, in spite of a heavy fall of rain in the month of May, a great drought ensued, which caused all previous efforts at cultivation to be

utterly thrown away, for not a grain of harvest was gathered. The rain of the 28th June has given the people great consolation and hope, but no one can venture to predict a good harvest because a chance fall of rain has been obtained. Granted even that their hopes are realised, the people are in such a state of present distress, that if they are suffered to wait with empty bellies until their crops are ripened under the westerly winds of autumn, there is every reason to fear that many lives will be sacrificed during the months that intervene. Hence it will be seen that a necessity exists for the further provision of relief. Again, matters of re-organisation, such as re-occupation of deserted lands, purchase of plough oxen, supply of seed corn, and restitution of grain to storehouses, each and all require the expenditure of large sums; while the maintenance of the provincial army, the carrying on of the postal service, and the like, the funds for which are derived from the land tax, have also to be considered. Since relief commenced, receipts have become but a shadow (or figure of speech), and, when pressure arises, there is nothing for it but to draw upon the contribution funds now that the purchase system has been abolished and exterior sources of income have been cut off; and as it is impossible to hope for half the land tax due, internal prospects are gloomier than ever. The memorialist goes on to say that he can think of no other means of supplying the wants of the province than by the sale of office. While recognising the excellence of the motives which prompted Their Majesties to order its abolition, and admitting his obligation to carry out these orders, he would submit that it is in the higher grades of provincial officials, such as Taotais, Prefects and Magistrates, that purity and integrity is more particularly required, and any scheme for the purification of the administration these grades would require especial attention. The case of assistant Magistrates and miscellaneous officers in the lower grades is different, as these have no territorial jurisdiction, and are not on the same footing as officers who are entrusted with an official seal, and hold a regular appointment. He would propose, therefore, that permission be accorded to allow these appointments, with minor posts in the Court of Imperial Entertainment, with the decoration of the feather, to be disposed of by sale for a further period of half a year. The memorialist has a further request to make, and that is, that the present rates charged for the transfer of expectants of office from

one class to another, which are really prohibitive, may be so modified as to induce expectants to purchase the privilege. Also that the permission formerly granted to Taotais, Prefects and Magistrates to purchase the privilege of selecting a province in which to serve, may be restored for six months and the proceeds handed over to the Shansi relief fund.—Rescript is appended, directing the Board of Revenue to consider these proposals and report on them with all despatch.

August 8th.—(Court Circular.) The Board of Civil Office submits a copy of the autumn official list.

(1) A second decree on the subject of representations by Censors and the like, in reply to a suggestion from the Censor Li Jui-fên that penalties shall be inflicted on any who by misleading statements induce confusion of the administration. Expressions of opinion have been freely invited from those whose privilege it is to submit with such a multiplicity of matters as daily come under the notice of the Court, it is quite possible that omissions or errors may occur of late, there have not been wanting many to avail of themselves of this privilege, amongst whom some have been hasty and ill-advised. The Court is of course able to discriminate between the accuracy and inaccuracy, the expediency or the reverse, of all remarks or suggestions, but it may happen that different versions may be given of one story, and a diversity of arguments brought forward; that one person may make a statement and another annoy the Court by following the same tune, giving rise to much talk and gossip. Fortunately, the tendency to banded attack upon [one individual] that existed in the Ming dynasty has not displayed itself during the present one, but at the same time precautions against the gradual introduction of such a tendency cannot be neglected. The remarks of the Censor Wang Hsien-lien upon the necessity of guarding against abuse of the privilege not being without reason We lately issued a decree on the subject—(See *Gazette* of 7th August.)

Li Jui-fên, in stating that Wang Hsien-lien had been guilty by specious words and begging that he may at once be dismissed, has exceeded the bounds of what is right, and has introduced that system of personal attack the gradual [rise of which it is so necessary to guard against.] Wang Hsien-lien's memorial is ignorant and presumptuous and need not be taken notice of. Censors and the like will continue to speak out plainly when anything occurs to call forth remarks. They are neither to indulge in easy silence,

the furthering of private interests, nor the representation of what is false or improper.

(2) A decree referring to the posthumous honors recently granted to the officers who fell in the defence of towns in Lii during the rebel invasion. Amongst the names then mentioned was that of T'o-k'o-t'o-pu, commandant of forces at Yingishar. Ming Ch'un, Imperial Agent at Hami, now reports that at the siege upon Yingishar by the rebels in the month of July, 1864, it was held by T'o-k'o-t'o-pu for nine months until his provisions had entirely given out. When his troops forced their way out of the town [through the besieging lines], he got his wife, children, grandchildren, and women servants together, and destroyed himself and them by fire. The Board is commanded to bestow the highest possible honors upon him in recognition of his loyalty and devotion.

(3) The Superintendent of Customs at Canton forwards the following return of duties collected by him during the years 1875-1876:—

	Tls.
Duties collected at the native Custom-houses, Canton and Swatow	168,994
Balance of funds in hand.....	11,507
	<hr/> 180,501
Disbursements	98,589
Net Receipts	Tls. 81,912
	<hr/> Tls.
Pakhoi (native Customs ?)	23,001
Disbursements	9,870
Net Receipts	Tls. 13,131
	<hr/> Tls.
Opium duties at Chi-shui-mên (Cap-sui-moon)	322,317
Disbursements	324,395
Deficit	Tls. 2,078

August 9th.—(1) A decree directing that a votive tablet be placed in the temple to the Dragon Spirit at Jên-ch'iu Hsien in Ho-chien Fu, Chihli.

(2) Postscript memorial from the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin denouncing An Hsing-ah, acting keeper of the seals and keys of the Treasury of the Office of the Imperial Household. There is a standing rule that the two Secretaries in charge of this Treasury shall not hold office for a longer term than three years, and shall not be

eligible for re-appointment until ten years have expired. Memorialist has learnt that a former Secretary who was dismissed for some offence, bribed the keeper of the vaults, Sa Lung-ah by name, to try and secure for him in a roundabout way a vacancy in connection with the Treasury. It happened at the time that Kuang Shou, one of the Comptrollers, was engaged upon certain enquiries, and the keeper of the vaults agreed with him that a present of Tls. 4,000 should be sent to An Hsing-ah, acting keeper of the seals, with the result that the officer above referred to was nominated to an appointment. An Hsing-ah is so notoriously corrupt in his conduct of matters connected with the Banner Corps, that he has obtained the nickname of An Ta-chia, or "An the high priced" one, to which has lately been added the soubriquet of An Ssü-ch'ien, or "An the four thousand tael man." The fact that these nicknames have been given him shows that the stories told about him are not devoid of origin. It is further currently reported that when any articles are applied for from the departments under An Hsing-ah's control, his son and a gatekeeper called Fêng make the most extortionate demands from the high officers entrusted with the management of the particular business in connection with which these supplies are drawn. The drafts are never signed unless a discount of twenty or thirty per cent. is agreed to, and any demur to this arrangement is certain to provoke the creation of all sorts of delays and difficulties. A sort of triumvirate has been formed, consisting of three officers of the Household who are in constant communication with An Hsing-ah, and they have so monopolised the business of the department that their advice alone is listened to. The memorialist brings forward several instances in support of this statement, and further accuses An Hsing-ah of withholding minor appointments to those who are entitled to them. He prays that an enquiry may be instituted in order to put a stop to the comments to which these irregularities give rise.

August 10th.—(1) A decree from Their Majesties the Empresses, granting the Prince of Ch'un (the father of the Emperor) leave to retire on the ground of ill-health. As soon as he has somewhat recovered he is to present a memorial paying his respects.

(2) A decree acknowledging a list of the penalties adjudged by the Board of Civil Office upon the high officials responsible for the recent outrages at Tung-hsiang, in Szechuen. Wên Ko, formerly in charge of the Governor-General's duties in Szechuen,

for carelessly deciding the case, and refraining from denouncing the officers who allowed their soldiers to burn and pillage, with Ting Pao-chêng, the present Governor-General of Szechuen, degraded but retained at his post, who passed a light sentence upon the offenders, and directed the two Commissioners to alter the original report, are sentenced to dismissal from the public service. Li Tsung-hsi, late Governor-General of the Two Kiang, who was instructed to enquire into the case and failed to give a succinct account of the result of his investigations, is to lose one step of rank, for which he will not be allowed to substitute a commutative grade. Ting Pao-chêng is ordinarily energetic in the performance of his duties and conducts himself well upon the whole, but he is somewhat narrow-minded and impetuous, and his shortcoming consists in the hastiness with which he acts. The Government of Szechuen had become very lax, and the character of the people runs in an extravagant groove. When the Governor-General in question arrived at his post he set to work with all his energy to bring about a reform in this respect, regardless of dislike and unpopularity. He further strenuously set aside the common arguments as to the manner in which the salt trade should be conducted, and by the compromise he effected once more reduced the salt trade of Yünnan and Kueichow to a proper system, and so restored the Huai-ngan trade. As the conduct of this enterprise should naturally be entrusted to one hand, with a view to securing successful results, We command that, as a special act of grace, a button of the 4th grade be bestowed upon Ting Pao-chêng, and he be allowed to act as Governor-General of Szechuen. He will be careful to identify himself with the motive which prompts Us to set aside his shortcomings and select him for further employment, and, while he continues to devote his energies to the work of reform, he will avoid undue impetuosity or haste. He will be careful, whether in the employment of individuals or the administration of Government, to inform himself by careful and thorough enquiry of actual conditions and facts, and apply his agents or measures in a proper and fitting manner. He must positively cause his administration to be carried on in a thorough manner, and enable the trading classes and common people to pursue their avocations happily and cheerfully, that he may not prove himself unworthy of the office to which he is appointed. If his efforts are unattended with success, and he shows himself un-

appreciative of the great bounty displayed towards him, he will assuredly be punished with heavy penalties.—Let him tremble! Let him obey!

(3) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from the Prince of Tun and those associated with him announcing the completion of the Mausolea prepared for the present Empresses. The energy and care bestowed upon this undertaking by the Princes and High Ministers concerned is commended by Their Majesties, and the Imperial Clan Court and Board of Civil Office are to determine the marks of special approbation that should be severally bestowed upon them.

(4) A memorial from the Board of Civil Office submitting the penalties which they consider should be inflicted on Ngên Ch'êng and Tung Hua, high Commissioners to Szechuen, for permitting acts of extortion on the part of their following while passing through Shansi. (See *Gazettes* of July 18th, 29th and 30th.)

August 11th.—(Court Circular.) At 7 o'clock a.m., to-morrow, His Majesty will ascend the dais, and witness a theatrical performance.*

(1) A long decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Kuang Show and P'an Tsu-ying, who were directed to investigate the charges brought against An Hsing-ah, high officer of the Imperial Household, by the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin. (See *Gazette* of 8th August.) Upon reference to An Hsing-ah he stated that Lien Yin, who was said to have obtained a second appointment by bribery, although he had been dismissed and was not yet eligible for re-appointment, had only held office for two years, and not three, so that he did not complete his full period of service; that he was not among the first class of Assistant Secretaries; and that he was dismissed for sending in a false report in connection with the issue of money from the Treasury. He justified the re-nomination of this officer by the explanation that he could find no one of the first class to take the post as they were already in charge of important departments, and declared that there was no one among the keepers of the vaults of the name of Sa Lung-ah. The memorialists further directed An Hsing-ah to keep a watch over his gatekeeper called F'êng, against whom an accusation had been brought by the Censor, writing at the same time to the office of the Imperial Household to send for the man. After a long interval

* The 12th of August is the *Show-jit*, or the day preceding the birthday of His Majesty. Theatrical performances will be held on the 12th, 13th and 14th inst.

An Hsing-ah replied that the man Fêng went mad last year and relinquished his post, and that he could not now be found, while he wrote to the office of the Imperial Household to say that since the receipt of orders to keep the man in custody, he had disappeared. The memorialists find that he did pass over a man as stated by the Censor, who was entitled by an appointment as first class private, but his captain explained that the man was ill and could not walk. The office of Imperial Household is directed to ascertain whether such a man as Sa Lung-ah really does exist or not, and An Hsing-ah is ordered to explain his reasons for neglecting so long to report the departure of the man Fêng when called upon to produce him. The other explanations given by An Hsing-ah are considered unsatisfactory, and he is called upon for a detailed answer to the charges brought against him. He is to produce his gatekeeper without delay; and his son Sên-pn, with Lieu-yin the re-appointed Secretary, and others, are to be cashiered pending the clearing up of the case.

(2) A decree ordering votive tablets to be prepared by the Imperial College of Inscriptions for suspension in certain temples, at which Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, offered up prayers for rain. On the arrival of the grain junks at the entrance into the Yellow River from the Canal in the month of June last, there was not a sufficient head of water to float them through, so Wên Pin went to the various temples to the Ta Wang Chiang-chün, or gods of the Yellow River, and prayed earnestly for aid with the result that continuous showers of rain promptly descended, and the junks were quickly enabled to float through. The question of the bestowal of additional titles upon the gods in question is referred to the Board for an opinion.

August 12th.—(Court Circular.) To-morrow at 6 a.m. His Majesty will receive birthday congratulations, and at 7 a.m. will witness a theatrical performance.

(1) A decree. Li Hung-chang and others have represented that the whole of the large sum contributed by a certain notable has been remitted, and pray that exceptional honors may be bestowed upon him. Lin Wei-yuan, an Expectant Taotai holding brevet rank of the 3rd grade, a notable of Fuhkien, and others agreed to contribute \$500,000 towards the experimental opening of mines and other undertakings of a like nature in Formosa. Subsequently, in consequence of the need of relief funds in Shansi and Honan, he collected the money

and forwarded it in instalments for the aid of the provinces in question. The contribution of such large funds by this officer and others is undoubtedly patriotic and public-spirited in the extreme, and it is naturally right that restrictions should be broken through [in an instance of this kind] and special favour shown, as an incentive and inducement to others. We command that brevet rank of a Director of a Minor Court of the 3rd degree of rank, and a Patent of the first grade, be bestowed upon Lin Chao-yuan, and that Lin Erh-ch'ang and the rest be rewarded as requested.

(2) The Director-General of Grain Transport reports that the fleet of tribute junks has crossed the Yellow River.

(3) The same officer prays for the bestowal of rewards to the officers to whose energy this successful passage is due. Rescript: He may recommend a few officers, but he must not do so in a wholesale manner, nor must this permission be considered as constituting a precedent.

(4) The only document of importance in this day's *Gazette* is a long memorial from Ho Chin-show, Compiler of the Han-lin, denouncing Yang Yü-k'ê, Brigade-General of Kao-chow, who formerly held a similar post at T'eng-yüeh in Yünnan. (A summary of this memorial will be found in the *Gazette* of the 27th July.)

August 13th.—This being the birthday of His Majesty, there was not the usual attendance of officials at Court.

(1-2) Decrees granting votive tablets to temples in Honan, the presiding deities of which have been prompt to vouchsafe answers to prayers for rain.

(3) Postscript memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi. The distress caused by the famine in Shansi having given rise to a large traffic in children of both sexes, numerous refuges for the support of destitute children were established by memorialist at which they might be deposited until a return of better times enabled their parents to take them back. In Honan, this traffic in human beings had become so great an evil that the Governor of that province applied to His Majesty for permission to inflict summary decapitation upon any persons offending in this manner, and memorialist caused secret enquiries to be made with a view to discovering crime of a like nature in Shansi. These enquiries led to the detection of a case in which a native of Szzechuen, a disbanded irregular called Chang Wan-an, was concerned. He was residing in T'ai-yuan Fu, in the house of a woman called Wang,

a native of Honan, with whom he was carrying on a trade in young girls. It was also discovered that he had caused the woman Wang to burn the legs of a girl whom he had bought, with a red hot iron poker. He was further charged with going about armed, and extorting money from different people; and, lastly, with trying to marry a widow under false pretences. The pair having been arrested and placed on their trial, the man stated that he was a native of Szechuen and had served some twenty years ago as a brave, or irregular, under Ch'ên Kuo-juí, and by successive recommendations for good service had attained the grade of expectant Brigadier-General. On the disbanding of the irregulars he had come to Shansi and volunteered for service in the Pao-t'ou garrison; but when that corps had been drafted to Kansuh he had not accompanied it, and after wandering about at Pao-t'ou for a time with nothing to do, he had surreptitiously made his way to T'ai-yuan Fu to try and make a living there, taking up his lodging with the woman Wang. Hearing that one Wang in the district of Hsü-kom wished to marry his grandson's widow to some one, he had supplied the woman Wang with head ornaments and money to the value of several lacs of taels, and commissioned her to negotiate a marriage between himself and the widow. An engagement had been entered into, but the marriage had not yet been effected. He positively denied having engaged in the sale of children, having caused the burning of a girl with a red hot iron, or annoyed and defrauded anyone. Although the man denied that he was guilty of the crimes with which he was charged, as there are no means of finding out whether he actually was recommended or not for appointment to the post of Brigadier-General, he comes under the category of a "wandering brave." Under these circumstances, and with a view to making an example for the benefit of others, the memorialist recommends that he and another bad character, who has reappeared in the provincial capital, after being sent to his native place to be put under official restraint, shall be summarily decapitated. He suggests that the woman Wang, who, by her infamous traffic in human beings and the cruelties she has practised upon young girls, has earned the sobriquet of the "wooden tiger," shall be sent back to Honan, and there imprisoned for life, that she may not again have a chance of misbehaving in this manner. It has been ascertained that the girl who was burnt is the daughter of a

man in P'ing-yao. Steps will be taken to find out her relatives, to whom she will be restored. (See *Gazette* of 26th July.)

August 14th.—(1) The Tartar General and Governor-General of Szechuen in a joint memorial report the death of Lien Chang, Brigade-General of Ch'ung K'ing, and acting Commander-in-chief of the province. He has held this post for three years, and by his integrity and uprightness of character had earned for himself the sobriquet among the soldiers of *min-wéng*, or father of the people. He had been in failing health for some time, but he never allowed his bodily ailments to interfere in the least with the performance of his duties, and when urged by memorialists to pay some attention to himself, refused to take any rest, saying that he dare not do so while entrusted by His Majesty with such grave and important responsibilities. At last his illness assumed more grave proportions, and having sent his official seal to the Governor's yamén for safe custody, he "vacated his post" on the night of the 22nd July. The memorialists then proceeded to give the usual summary of the deceased officer's career, which had been most distinguished.

No other documents of importance.

August 15th.—(In consequence of the festivities attendant upon the birthday of His Majesty, the officers on the list for duty at Court on the 14th instant did not attend.)

(1) The Court of Censors report the second attendance of a woman called P'êng, to complain that she could not get justice done for the death of her husband. Her husband had fled with his family during the T'ai-ping rebellion from Shang-yuan Hsien, his native place, in Kiangnan, to the Shang-yuan district in the same province, where he got his living as a porter. On one occasion he was engaged to carry sycee by the captain of a gunboat, and got into a dispute with one of the men, whereupon the captain ordered him to be beaten, and the punishment was carried out with such severity that he fainted away. He was carried off by a friend, and when he came to himself he crawled home in great pain, complaining that his intestines had been injured, and died two days afterwards. The woman lodged a complaint with the *ti-pao*, but he was bribed not to report the case, and forced her to bury the body. She was told that nothing could be done in the case until the New Year holidays had passed by, as the seals were locked up. Being a woman, and therefore ignorant of official procedure, she accordingly waited

at home until she should be summoned to attend at the trial, but in consequence of the bribery of the captain nothing was done by the Magistrate. After waiting several months she applied to the Prefect, but was turned back time after time, and, finally, imprisoned for twenty days. She then went to Peking and lodged a complaint at that Censorate. Her case was referred to the provincial capital, and a hearing was at last accorded, upon which occasion the captain admitted that he had ordered her husband to be beaten; but no witnesses were called, and she herself was imprisoned for six months, being only released at the end of the year. After this she repeatedly pressed for the punishment of her husband's murderer, but she was only insulted by the Prefect's deputy, who wanted to beat her on the palms of her hands. The captain is now in custody, but the case has never been investigated, so she came once more to Peking to lodge a complaint. Referred in the usual manner.

(2) The Governor-General of Szechuen reports his return from a tour of military inspection, which included the garrisons at Chien-ch'ang, Sung-fan and other places. The troops were put through the usual evolutions, and the Governor-General reports well of their general efficiency and equipment. With the exception of two memorials on matters of routine, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with another memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the receipt of an appeal from a man whose sister's younger son has got into trouble owing to the suicide of his wife. She had been betrothed to another man who had died, and committed suicide because she did not wish to marry anyone else. The relations of the girl then brought infamous charges against petitioner, which they supported by wholesale bribery, and he had been beaten and tortured in different Yaméns until, driven to extremity, he had sent an agent to appeal for justice at Peking.

August 16th.—(1) A long memorial from Ting Pao-ch'eng, Governor-General of Szechuen, denouncing Ts'ai F'eng-nien, Salt Intendant of the province, for extortion, squeezing and dishonesty, to the great detriment of the revenue and the embarrassment of officers under him. The nature and extent of his misconduct is entered into at great length by the memorialist, who, having suspicions of his honesty on his arrival in the province, kept a careful watch upon him. The result is a series of indictments which are summarised as follows at the close of the memorial. The Taotai in question was

granted an allowance of Tls. 3 on every *yin* of salt sold, and as during the year 1878 over 10,600 *yin* were disposed of, this rate ought to have satisfied his avarice. Exclusive of this percentage he had perquisites from other sources, but he was insatiable, declaring that he was in default, and complaining of his poverty. He accordingly levied charges at will upon each license sold, which he tried to conceal, and exacted presents and fees from the *lekin* weiyuan, until everyone was in fear of him. If the man be allowed to go on in this way, the example will be most pernicious, and the memorialist accordingly prays that he may be summarily dismissed. — Granted by decree earlier issued.

(2) Joint memorial from the Superintendents of the Imperial Manufactories at Nanking and Soochow, praying His Majesty to allow them to purchase the materials required for the manufacture of silk fabrics for palace use during the present year at the market rates, and not to restrict them to the annual amount fixed by statute for the purchase of these materials. Of late years, owing to the increased value of the raw material, the Superintendents of the Imperial Manufactories have not been restricted to the usual allowance, but in the autumn of last year the Board of Revenue wrote to say that the privilege would not be extended to the present year, and that memorialists must make their allowance suffice, and not again trouble His Majesty with an application for permission to exceed it. In the face of these instructions, which have received the Imperial sanction, the memorialists hardly venture to trouble His Majesty on the subject, but the impossibility of executing their order is so overwhelming that they are compelled to apply once more for an extension of the old privilege, and beg to submit the following justification for this request:—

1st.—The present condition of affairs is very different to that existing in earlier days when the country was in a prosperous state. The effects of the rebellion have not yet passed away, and both population and products have been so reduced that prices are very high.

2nd.—A *lekin* tax on raw silk has to be paid, which did not formerly exist.

3rd.—In former days there was a local demand only. Now, foreign merchants have entered the field and directly a new crop is put on the market, there is a competition amongst the brokers who buy at high rates, and prices at once rise.

4th.—Formerly, it was possible to supplement the Imperial grant to a small extent from the Salt and Customs' revenue, but the sale of the former is now conducted under different regulations, and the Customs' receipts have not regained the footing they held previous to the rebellion.

Directly the silk market opened this year, the memorialist made careful enquiries amongst silk merchants and the people [who reared the cocoons], all of whom un-animously declared that the snow white wool silk would cost this year something over Tl. 0.2.9. per catty, or about the same rate reported by the Governor of Chêkiang in 1874. From this it will be seen that there is a wide divergence between present rates and those fixed by law in former days. The producers could not possibly supply the raw material at the old rates, and it would be inconsistent with the principles of mercy and compassion that characterise the treatment of its subjects, whether traders or common people, by the State, to compel them to do so at a loss.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

August 17th.—(1) Ts'êng Kuo-chüan, Governor of Shansi, prays that His Majesty will bestow patents of honour upon Duke Chow Chung-wu of the Ming Dynasty, and Marquis Chi Jên of the Sung Dynasty, the temples to whom are situated in the prefecture of Ning-wu and the district of Yü-h'siang respectively. Also that he will bestow tablets upon certain temples in Chieh-chow, Fên-hsi Hsien and Yang-kao Hsien; prayers for rain offered to the presiding spirits of these temples having met with a ready response.

(2) Memorial from Ch'i Yuan, Military Governor of Shêngking. The Maritime sub-Prefect with judicial powers at Ying-k'ou (Newchwang) having been promoted to the post of Prefect of Wu-ting in Shantung, it becomes necessary to move an officer down to take his place. The importance of Ying-k'ou as the port of Fêng-t'ien and a place of foreign trade where foreigners and Chinese are assembled, and international questions may occur, renders it necessary that selection should be made of an intelligent and experienced officer to perform the duties of the post. Amongst the Sub-prefects, department and district Magistrates holding substantive appointments in the province, there is no one, in memorialist's opinion, more suited for the vacancy in question than Lien Yü 廉隅, Sub-prefect of Hsin-min with judicial powers, who has been acting as Sub-prefect of Ying-k'ou. He is a Mongol

Bannerman, fifty-seven years of age, who commenced his career as a licentiate, and successively obtained the degrees of provincial and metropolitan graduate in the years 1851 and 1856 respectively, being appointed Magistrate for immediate employment in the latter year, when he paid for the privilege of selecting Shansi as the province in which he would serve. He reported himself at T'ai-yuan Fu at the end of 1856, and was appointed, provisional* Magistrate of T'ai-p'ing, and subsequently, acted as Magistrate of Hsing Hsien. He then purchased the brevet rank of Sub prefect, and in 1863 retired into mourning for his mother. At the expiration of his term of mourning, which was passed at the head-quarters of his corps, he was again sent to Shansi to await employment. In 1866 he acted as Magistrate of Yung-h'o, and in 1867 as Magistrate of Tso-yün. In 1860 he went into mourning for his father, and in the following year, before his mourning had expired, he obtained employment by lot in the Imperial Academy. At the expiration of his mourning, he reported himself at the Board as awaiting selection to the post of Magistrate, and in 1871 he was appointed by Imperial decree Magistrate of the T'ieh-ling district in Fêng-t'ien. He took up this post in August, 1872, and in April, 1877, was promoted to the post of judicial Sub-prefect of Hsin-min, being transferred to the acting post of Maritime Sub-prefect of Ying-k'ou, with judicial powers, on the 5th March, 1878. He has recently obtained the decoration of the peacock's feather for a contribution to the Shansi famine fund. During the time that this officer has acted at Newchwang he has performed his duties satisfactorily, and has materially assisted the Customs' Taotai with advice in the conduct of questions of an international character. In neglecting to apply for a certificate to the Board recommending him for presentation to His Majesty upon his promotion to the Sub-prefecture of Hsin-min, he has been guilty of a slight want of conformity with statutory regulations; but at he is suited both to the people and place, it is hoped that this slight omission may not be a bar to his appointment to Newchwang. If this appointment is sanctioned,

* [Note.—No expectants of office can be appointed to an acting post (署理) until they have been a year in the province in which they have to serve. Any office they may hold previous to that time being provisional or vicarious (代理.)

Lien Yü will, on receipt of the Board's reply, be directed to apply at once for a certificate, and report himself to the Board for presentation to His Majesty.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

(3) Memorial from Tsáng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi. In the month of April last an officer was sent to Han-tan Hsien in Chihli to bring the "Iron Tablet" to Shansi, and upon its arrival an altar was erected for its reception and prayers were constantly offered before it. On the 28th of June and 12th and 13th of July heavy rain fell to the extent of sufficient saturation, as has already been reported to His Majesty. Reports having subsequently arrived from all the other departments and districts that rain had fallen to the extent of complete saturation, there was no further necessity for offering up prayers, and memorialist accordingly returned the "Iron Tablet" by the hands of an expectant Prefect to Han-tan Hsien, who was directed to escort it with due respect, and replace it in the well at Shêng-ching-kang, with reverent demonstrations of thankful gratitude.

August 18th.—(1) Memorial from Wang Hsien-ch'ien, Expositor of the Han-lin, on the subject of the license that has of late been allowed to Censors and others who have the privilege of addressing His Majesty. While recognising the great benefits accruing from the extensive facilities that are now afforded for bringing matters of importance to the notice of His Majesty, memorialist is of opinion that the abuse of the privilege should be guarded against. This principle was enunciated in decrees of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung, forbidding the discussion of subjects under the consideration of the Board before their decision had been made public, and, on another occasion, censuring a Censor for so doing. Decrees promulgated by the Imperial Ancestry should of course be given effect to for all time. Nevertheless, Censors have greatly exceeded their functions of late, and have intruded their remarks upon His Majesty on many occasions upon which they were uncalled for. He further calls attention to the practice that has sprung up of working a subject to death. One Censor represents a certain matter to His Majesty, and another follows suit, as in the case of Li Chung-ming, the Peking bookseller, a petty trader who ought certainly to have been punished, but was not worth all the words that were expended upon his denunciation.

(2) Memorial from Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, requesting permission to

detach the sub-prefect of T'ai-chow-fu, and place him in command of certain standing garrisons in the province of Chêkiang, Chêkiang is a maritime province of great importance, and includes in its jurisdiction the islands of which Yü-lwan and Ting-hai are the sub-prefectures, as well as that of Nan-t'ien, which, since the embargo against occupation was removed by Imperial decree, has become a centre of commerce. This island, which lies to the east of Shih-p'u, forms a triangle with Ting-hai and Yü-kwan. There is, further, a coast line of over 1,000 li, extending from Chapp'u, by Hai-yên, Hai-ning, Ningpo and T'ai-chow, to Wênchow Fu, in which there are numerous rivers and creeks, each and all of which derive importance from the elements of danger they afford. The garrisons of Hunan irregulars that were left for the defence of the province [after the rebellion] have been repeatedly reduced, until they now number 3,500 sailors and 5,000 infantry. The naval forces, as already reported to His Majesty, are distributed over the Ch'ien Chiang and the inner waters of the Hang Chia Hu circuit, and placed under the command of the Brigadier General of Ch'ü Chow. The land forces, which are distributed over the eleven prefectures in the East of the province, should also be placed under one head, who must of necessity be a man of special experience and bravery. The present sub-prefect of T'ai-chow, an expectant Prefect who has been retained at this post [on account of his capabilities] although inferior to the position his rank entitles him to hold, is the officer the memorialist begs to recommend. The memorial concludes with the usual account of the nominee's official career and antecedents.—Granted by Rescript.

August 19th.—(1) Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the result of their enquiries into the case of Han Shih-chün, Assistant Police Magistrate in Peking, who was quoted by Ho Chin-shou in a recent memorial illustrating the depravity of the times as an instance of the license on the part of the official body that was allowed to pass unchecked. The graver charges brought against him by Ho Chin-shou have not been substantiated, but secret enquiry on the part of several members of the Censorate has led to the discovery of certain misdemeanours on the part of Han Shih-chün which deserve dismissal from the public service. Before he had been at his post for any length of time he had been guilty of two acts of extortion of irregular fees from shopkeepers, with which he had made an honorary tablet for

himself and a complimentary umbrella. He had further been guilty of inviting friends to a theatrical performance during the time that the official body were prohibited by the Imperial decree from witnessing theatrical performances; and, lastly, while holding substantive employment he had tried to obtain a post at the Imperial Mausolea.

(2) Memorial from Tuan Fu-ch'ang, Censor of the Fuhkien Circuit, submitting the necessity of exercising a stricter supervision over the underlings employed in the Imperial granaries at Peking and T'ungchow, in order to the prevention of theft. (For summary see decree earlier issued.)

(3) Wên Hwui, Intendant of the Kuang, Yao, Chin, Nan Circuit in Kiangsi, and Superintendent of Customs at Kiukiang, reports his assumption of the duties of that post in succession to Shên Pao-ching, who has been promoted to be Judge of Kiangsi, and returns thanks for his appointment. After the usual formal expressions of self-depreciation, the memorialist recognises the responsibility of the post, as an important centre, involving administrative duties of a grave nature, and the conduct of matters affecting international relations. The obligations connected with the collection of a large Customs revenue are also heavy, while the fact that the foreign Customs has since its establishment absorbed the greater part of the regular duties that were formerly collected by the Custom House, involves the exercise of redoubled care and attention.—Rescript: Noted.

[*Note.*—The presentation of a memorial by a Taotai is a matter of such rare occurrence that it is worthy of remark. The right of officers of this grade to address the Throne direct is established by a decree issued in the reign of the Emperor Yung Chêng authorising Taotais, Prefects and Sub-Prefects to address secret memorials to His Majesty. A subsequent decree in the reign of Chia Ch'ing withdraw this privilege from Prefects and Sub-Prefects, but continued it to Taotais, who were placed on the same footing in this respect as Financial and Judicial Commissioners. The only two officers who have taken advantage of the privilege for many years, however, are the Taotais at Newchwang and Taiwan, both of whom are invested with specially important functions. The resumption, therefore, of what has come to be recognised as an obsolete privilege has caused some comment in certain circles.]

August 20th.—(1) A decree. The Censor T'ien Han-ch'ih prays that officials may be strictly forbidden to go beyond the limits of their jurisdiction to meet or accompany their superiors. He states that of late, whenever a high authority or their own superiors pass through their several jurisdictions, the territorial authorities of Chihli have been in the habit of going beyond the limits of the districts under their control to meet these high officials or see them on their way, and he expresses apprehension lest this habit of struggling to curry favour should gradually engender a spirit of sycophancy. The Governor-General of Chihli will give strict orders to his subordinates that, henceforward, when high officers or their provincial chiefs pass through their jurisdictions they will not be allowed to go beyond the limits of the districts under their control to meet these high officers or escort them on their way. Adherence to the old habit will be uncompromisingly punished. The Governors-General and Governors of other provinces will instruct their subordinates in the same sense.

(2) Tun-chu-to-pu-chieh 頓往多布緒, late *ju-pêng* of Anterior Tibet, is appointed Commandant in Ulterior Tibet.

(3) Postscript memorial from Ming Ch'un, Imperial Agent at Hami. Chiang Hsing-han, a domestic servant of the late T'o-k'o-t'o-pu, Commandant of the Forces in Yingishar, had come to Hami and made the following statement:—"I am a native of the Hai-yang district of the Têng chow prefecture in the province of Shantung, and am 54 years of age. In March of the year 1861, I left Peking with my master, who reached his post in October of the same year. In the month of July, 1864, the Mahommedan rebels of the New Dominion laid siege to the city of Yingishar, and my master put himself at the head of his officers and men, stoutly defending the walls at every point. He held the city for several months until his provisions were exhausted, his hopes of rescue were cut off, and half his men had died of hunger, and at last, after holding out until the 30th March, 1865, his strength being expended and the garrison reduced to extremities, the rebels gained possession of the moat and took the city. My master, bearing in mind the fact that there was still a large supply of powder in store, which he feared would be left for the rebels to make use of, collected the baskets in which it was packed, and placed them in the great hall of his yamén. He then assembled his family

and, dressed in his official robes, calmly and deliberately put fire to the powder. There were in the Yamên my master, his wife, one son, one daughter (a widow), and two grandsons, making seven members of the family, besides women and other domestic servants to the number of over twenty, all of whom perished simultaneously. There being no witnesses to so tragic and glorious an act, I felt that unless it could be reported in some manner it would certainly become involved in oblivion after a lapse of time. I accordingly made my escape in the confusion that followed and fled to Kashgar, and when this town was lost, I drifted in amongst the rebels. When the great army reconquered the southern towns of the New Dominion last winter, and garrisons were placed in them, the remaining troops were sent back to their respective depôts. I accompanied these to Hami, and now respectfully beg to report the actual circumstances under which my master met his fate." The memorialist, commenting on this report, states that no means having been afforded of ascertaining what had become of T'o-k'o-t'o-pu since the loss of the southern towns of the New Dominion, he had sent officers to Kashgar, Yingishar, and other places last summer to make enquiries, and their report corresponds with the story now told by the late Commandant's domestic servant. He begs, therefore, to lay the facts before His Majesty and leave to him the decision as to the propriety of investing the deceased officer with the highest marks of posthumous distinction. (See *Gazette* of 8th August.)

August 21st.—(1) Ch'ung Li 崇 is appointed sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank of vice-President of the Board of Revenue.

(2) Memorial from Li Jui-fên, Censor of the Shênsi Circuit, on the subject of the restrictions that should be placed upon the privilege of addressing His Majesty, in order to put a stop to the danger to the administration that mischievous advice and counsel are apt to cause. (For decree see *Gazette* of August 18th.)

(3) Li Hung-chang reports that the Iron Tablet has been returned to Han-fan from Ho-chien Fu with expressions of thankful recognition for the rain that was obtained through its influence.

(4) A further memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, on the subject of the salt trade in that province. The paper is full of technicalities and deals with details of no interest.

No other documents of importance.

August 22nd.—(1) The following appointments are gazetted:—Deputy Lieut.-General Bordered White Banner, Chih Ho 志和. Deputy Lieut.-General Plain Yellow *Han-chün* Banner, Hsi Chên 錫珍. Deputy Lieut.-General of Hu-lan, Yi-k'o-t'ang-ah 伊克唐阿. Deputy Lieut.-General Hé Luug-chiang, Wên Hsiü 文希甫.

(2) Memorial from the Board of Civil Office in reply to an Imperial Decree of the 28th July, directing them to consider the penalties that should be imposed upon Ting Pao-chêng, Li Tsung-hsi and Wên Ko, for their shortcomings in connection with the Tung-hsiang riots in Szechuen. After quoting the decree at length, in which the penalties are awarded to the principal actors in these outrages, the memorialists refer to the following clauses in the Statutes of the Empire:—

1.—Any officers who shall conduct a trial with such carelessness as to condemn a man wrongfully to decapitation or *ling ch'ih* shall be dismissed.

2.—Governors-General or Governors who shall refrain from denouncing any commandant of forces or higher officers who permits the force under his command to set fire to the houses of the people, and carry off their children and property, shall be dismissed.

3.—A provincial Judge who shall alter the reports submitted to him by department or district Magistrates, or shall call upon the officers to do so, shall be dismissed.

4.—In the event of a Governor-General or Governor declining to alter a decision to which the Board of Punishments may object, shall, if he adhere to his refusal after the case has been referred to him three times, be subject to a penalty in the same manner as if he had neglected to place the criminal in the proper category of offenders to which he belongs.

5.—Any officers charged with the trial of a case who shall apply the law to such case in an improper manner, and wrongfully pass sentence of *ling ch'ih* or decapitation upon those who should be punished by banishment or some lighter penalty, shall, if such sentence has been carried out, be dismissed.

6.—Any officer appointed by Imperial decree to investigate a matter who shall be guilty of reservation in his report to the Throne, shall be deprived of one step of commutative rank.

The memorialists now find that Wên Ko, while acting as Governor-General of Szechuen, used the words 痛加剿洗, "destroy them utterly and wipe them out" in his letter of instructions, and, further, neglected to associate the Brigadier-General Hsieh Ssü-yu, who reported that he had ascertained there had been no seditious movement, with those who were managing the affair. They therefore consider him guilty of carelessness, and subject to dismissal under the first and second extracts quoted above. Ting Pao-chêng passed too light a sentence upon the people responsible for outrage, and ordered the Commissioners to strike out a certain passage in the original report. He also did not give careful consideration to the matter when called upon to report to His Majesty. They place him therefore in the third and fifth categories of offenders and recommend his dismissal. Li Tsung-tai's offence comes under the sixth category, and they recommend that he be punished in the manner therein laid down. (See *Gazette* of 10th August.)

August 23rd.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang reports the occurrence of an earthquake in the departments and districts in the South-east of Kansu, and the measures he has now taken for the relief of the sufferers. In Chieh Chow and other departments and districts in Kansu the earth shook from the 19th of June until the 1st of July, during which time slight shocks occurred at intervals of two days, or [in some places], daily. But on the 1st of July a violent shock accompanied with noise, occurred at Chieh Chow, Wên Hsien, Hsi-ho, and other places, throwing down the earthen walls of these towns, and destroying the greater part of the temples, public offices, and dwelling houses, besides killing or injuring numbers of people. On perusal of this memorial Our pity and sympathy were indeed profound. Let Tso Tsung-t'ang depute an officer to make careful inspection and enquiry, and duly minister to the wants of the sufferers in such wise that no one shall lose his home. Let him at once ascertain in what manner Lu Tsun-k'ung, Director of Studies, and Li Yü-yin, sub-Director of Studies at Chieh Chow were swallowed up with their whole households, and apply to Us for marks of compassion to be bestowed upon them. Tso Tsung-t'ang, in praying that a decree may be issued bestowing instant dismissal upon him for his failure to carry out properly the duties with the performance of which he has been honoured,

has manifested a proper spirit of self-examination when afflicted with a calamitous visitation. It behoves him, then, in the deepest spirit of true reverence and awe, to devote his whole mind to the interests of the people, that peace may be restored to the [suffering] region and the village population pursue their industries with joyful hearts. Thus will he fitly second [the intent] with which he was sent to his post. His prayer for immediate dismissal need not be considered. As regards the other matters, let action be taken as proposed.

(2) Your Majesties' Servant Yi Hwan (the Prince of Ch'un) humbly prays upon his knees that he may be allowed to retire to his home and attend to his maladies, which of late years have returned upon him on repeated occasions and left his constitution impaired in spite of special care in the application of remedies. On his return from duty at the Mausolea in the month of April last he was again seized with pains in the legs, which brought on an affection of the spleen, that cannot show an improvement in a short space of time. The works at the P'u T'o Yü having now been completed, Your servant would humbly pray Your Majesties to permit him to stay at home and nurse himself. As soon as he has recovered, it will at once be his duty respectfully to enquire after the sacred welfare; he would not venture on any account to study his own repose or ease.—Granted by decree of 10th August.

(3) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, reports that the whole of the fleet of junks bearing tribute grain from the Kiangpêh region has crossed the Yellow River and re-entered the Grand Canal. On the 22nd of June the memorialist went to Pa-li-miao near Chang-ch'inchên, to see the condition of the current of the Yellow River in the northern channel to the Canal, and found it was too weak. From Shih-chia-ch'iao northwards to Pa-li-miao at the mouth of the Canal, a distance of twenty *li*, there were five shallow places. At all these places were submerged villages that had been washed away by the current, and the walls, foundations and other stonework, as well as tombs, stone tablets, &c., stood in the bed of the river. When the water was high, boats could pass over these ruins, but when it fell they struck upon them and were injured. The people on the river's bank declared that it was in consequence of this that in the 4th and 5th moons the bed of the river was exposed. As, however, the fleet of

grain junks had already entered the Yellow River, if a freshet was waited for it would take over ten days to drag the whole five hundred boats up against the stream, and as the freshet only lasted for seven days at the most, it would be a great pity to see so much time wasted. Memorialist accordingly directed his executive to use every possible means to get the boats along. Heavy rain providentially fell for half a month from the date of his arrival on seven occasions, but he only succeeded in getting some fifty or more of the junks to Pa-li-miao. Impatient to a degree at this failure, memorialist gave orders that the remaining five detachments should be towed up the southern channel for a distance of fifty *li* to the Sun-chia landing, at which point the northern and southern channels diverge, and there anchor, in order that they might drop down with the stream to Pa-li-miao directly the freshet came. Further heavy rain fell from the 8th to the 16th of July, and on the latter date the whole fleet were enabled to anchor near the mouth of the Canal. Heavy rain fell again on the 18th, and the water suddenly rose eight feet. As there is no feeder to the Grand Canal from Pa-li-miao to Lin-ch'ing, a distance of over 200 *li*, it is necessary to wait until the Yellow River has risen five feet above the bed of the Canal before the sluice can be opened, and there is always a danger that the water may fall before the boats can all get in. This year, therefore, memorialist gave orders to all the district and department authorities along the Canal to keep their sluices rigidly shut, so that, in consequence of the heavy rain, an accumulation was secured of three to four feet in the deeper parts, and a little over a foot in the very shallowest places. When, therefore, the Yellow River had risen one or two feet above the bed of the Canal it would be possible to open the sluices. When memorialist heard that the river was rising rapidly, he at once went with his staff to look, and finding it had already risen two feet above the surface of the Canal, he got all the men together he could and ordered them to open the sluice as fast as possible. This took four hours to accomplish, when, everything being clear, the boats were admitted, and the work of passing them through was carried on day and night. The Yellow River began to fall on the 19th, and the entrance of the Canal shallowed, so that the work was stopped for a time. Measures however were taken to dredge the shallow places inside the mouth of the Canal, and water from neighbouring dykes was led

into it, so that, when the river again rose on the 27th, the sluice was opened a second time and over a hundred more vessels admitted. The channel then again became impassable, and dredging was once more resorted to, until a third rise in the River on the 3rd August enabled the sluice again to be opened and the remainder of the junks were floated in.—Rescript: Noted.

August 24th.—With the exception of a few memorials on matters of official routine, this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the report of Kuang Shou and P'an Tsu-yin, the high officers appointed to investigate the charges brought against An Hsing-ah, officer of the Imperial Household, by the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin. A full summary of this memorial will be found in the *Gazette* of 11th August.

August 25th.—(1) Memorial from Wên Pin, Director-General of Grain Transport. He has already reported the successful passage of the Yellow River by the fleet of grain junks, and their entrance into the northern branch of the Grand Canal. So rapid a passage as has this year been effected is a matter of rare occurrence, and is attributable to the spiritual aid afforded by the river deities. When the first detachment of junks reached Wên-shang Hsten, there was not much more than a foot of water there, but the depth was increased by some three feet and more in consequence of the timely rain that fell, by which the junks were enabled to enter the Yellow River. Memorialist having learnt from enquiry among the people that in consequence of the drought last year in the province of Shansi, there had only been a foot or two of water in the Yellow River during the period of the summer freshet, and it was only in the autumn that there was a heavy one, he came to the conclusion that as the spring and summer rains had failed this year, too, in Shansi, the summer freshet would not occur at its proper season. Feeling, therefore, that it would be a great pity that time should be lost in waiting for an opportunity [that might not come], the boatmen were called upon to put forth all their energies in dragging the boats up stream. The only danger that vessels have to fear in the Yellow River is wind, and never in memorialist's experience have the boatmen shirked the toil of tracking against the stream. He has, moreover, found that when obstacles present themselves which are beyond the power of man to overcome, if he has repaired to the temples of the Ta Wang and the Chiang Chüu (two of the gods of the Yellow River) a single heartfelt prayer

will evoke the manifestation of their power, and heavy rain is sure to fall. The prayers that he offered during the present year at the various temples to the gods of the Yellow River, resulted in a succession of downpours of heavy rain from the 22nd June to the end of July, which called forth the gratitude and respect of all beholders. The memorial concludes with a list of deities for whom tablets or other marks of Imperial distinction are solicited.

(2) Memorial from Ming An, Governor of Shêngking. The Imperial sanction having been obtained last year to a survey being made of the region of Ma-yên Ho in the jurisdiction of Alchuké, with a view to placing the Manchus and Chinese squatters who had established themselves there under taxation, an officer was deputed to make the necessary survey. This officer now reports that over 5,700 people of both sexes were settled in this region over an area of one 25,000 *mu*, and that some 200,000 *mu* of vacant land situated on the other side of the mountains might advantageously be brought under cultivation, as there were a number of people ready to take it up. In reply, memorialist gave orders that the people in possession of land inside the mountain range should first be called upon to pay upon the assessed value of the land they were occupying, and that the occupation of the region beyond the mountain should be the subject of further consideration. On referring the question to the Deputy Lieut.-General of San Hsing, that officer objected to the occupation of the land on the ground that it adjoined the region from whence the birch rods for arrow shafts and the bark for bows which was sent as tribute to Peking was procured. The matter having been referred to His Majesty, the Lieut.-General and others were called upon to survey the region themselves and report further. This report is now before the memorialist. They state that the squatters who have now been brought under taxation are the residue of ginseng gatherers who managed to evade expulsion after the prohibition against the gathering of ginseng was promulgated in the reign of the Emperor Hsien Fêng. They had taken to farming as a livelihood, and as they have now been in possession of the land for some time and are orderly and quiet, it would be inexpedient to attempt their expulsion. The Lieut.-General, is, however, still of opinion that the cultivation of the region beyond the mountains, which adjoins the hills from whence the birchwood

and bark for arrows is obtained, would be inadvisable. The area in question is a large one, being 2,000 *li* in breadth by 3,000 *li* in length, but the greater part consists of watercourses, low land, or tracts which are flooded with rain, leaving barely 20,000 *mu* available for cultivation.—*Re-script*: Noted.

August 26th.—(1) A decree. Li Hung-chang requests that tribute grain may be appropriated for the relief of certain districts in Chihli, where floods have occurred and all hope of a harvest is gone. At the junction of summer and autumn of the present year rain fell in excess, and the crops were submerged in An-chow, Hung-hsien, and other places; in consequence of which the people were being scattered and driven from their homes. Such a condition of things is truly pitiable, and as a special act of grace, We command that, in accordance with his request, Li Hung-chang be authorised to detain 60,000 piculs of the Kiang-peh tribute grain of the present year, which he will cause to be distributed in instalments amongst the suffering districts proportionately to the amount of the distress in each that is ascertained to exist. The Grain Intendant of Chiang-an will also deduct the sum allowed for various expenditure in connection with the transport, etc., of this grain, and forward it to Chihli to meet the expense of transport.

(2) In accordance with the decision of the Board of War, Lo Ta-ch'un, Commander-in-chief in Hunan, is dismissed the public service. (See *Gazette* of 27th July.)

(3) A decree directing the Governor of Hunan to order Ch'en Shih-chieh, formerly Judge of Fuhkien, now degraded to the rank of Taotai, to proceed at once to Fuhkien and place himself under the orders of the Governor-General, who has applied for his services in connection with the defence of Formosa.

(4) Joint memorial from Li Hung-chang, Ho Ching, Ting Jih-ch'ang, and Li Ming-ch'ih, reporting the payment in full of the sum of \$500,000 contributed by Lin Wei-yuan, a notable in Formosa, and suggesting the exceptional reward that should be bestowed upon him. This sum was contributed by Lin Wei-yuan and his brother in the year 1877 towards defraying the expense of an experimental opening of mines, laying down a railway, and other undertakings. This was reported by the memorialist Ting at the time, who applied for the highest marks of distinction for the contributors and perpetual immunity for them from further contributions. The

Imperial consent was given, but in consequence of the urgent and wide distress caused by the famine last year, His Majesty was applied to for permission to borrow this sum for application to the relief of the sufferers, and the Board of Revenue, on being referred to, decided that Lin Wei-yuan should be rewarded in an exceptional manner as soon as the contribution was paid in full. The whole amount was paid in in April last, as reported to His Majesty, and the memorialists now suggest that the brevet rank of Director of a minor Court, with a button of the third grade, be bestowed upon Lin Wei-yuan, with a patent of the first grade for his wife. His brother, Lin Wei-jang, being dead, they suggest that his son Lin Erh-ch'ang be made a *Chien Shêng*, or literary graduate of the lowest grade, and placed on the list of Taotais for selection in any month, whether it be an even or an odd number. To the younger brother of the above, Lin Wei-lien, Senior Secretary of a Board, to be hereafter drawn for, they suggest that an appointment as Taotai with priority of selection shall be given, and that a peacock's feather shall be bestowed upon both of them, with patents of the first grade for their wives. To Lin Erh-chia and Lin Erh-hsi, son and nephew of Lin Wei-yuan respectively, they suggest that the appointment of Prefects to be relegated to the Board for selection and employment shall be given. (For decree see *Gazette* of 12th August.)

(5) Memorial from Ho Ching and Li Ming-ch'ih. In the year 1854 the late Lin Kuo-fang, the adopted father of Lin Wei-yuan, obtained the post of expectant Taotai for immediate selection as a reward for his exertions in promoting contributions of grain for use at Tientsin, but he was cashiered in 1861 in consequence of a riot caused by his eviction of certain landholders. Lin Wei-yuan has now petitioned to the effect that although favours already conferred upon him by His Majesty in consenting to the bestowal of exceptional marks of distinction upon him, and absolving him for ever from the obligation to contribute money to the State, are so great that he ought not to invite any further reward, still, if his father's rank could be restored and the stain upon his memory washed away, the measure of his heart's desire would then be full. The memorialists observe that the riot that was created by Lin Kuo-fang occurred nineteen years ago, and the two parties to the suit having not yet been confronted, the case is still pending. As, however, the intentions of

Lin Wei-yuan, who, in a public-spirited and patriotic way, has readily contributed large sums in the hope of cloaking his father's fault, is indeed commendable, instructions have been sent to the Taotai of Taiwan to close the case as soon as possible; and if he finds that it is unnecessary to consider the culpability of Lin Kuo-fang, or that his transgression was such as might be treated with indulgence, the memorialists will then apply to His Majesty to exert His heavenly clemency, and by the restoration of his father's rank grant Lin Wei-yuan the boon upon which his mind is bent.—Rescript: Noted.

August 27th.—(1) A Decree. Kuo Sung-tao memorialises that he is unable to effect a speedy cure of his ailment, and prays that he may be allowed to vacate his post. Let Kuo Sung-tao, Vice-President of the Board of War, vacate his post and attend to his complaint.

(2) Li Ch'ang-lo 李長樂 is appointed Commander-in-chief in Hunan, and Kuo Sung-lin 郭松林 is promoted to be Commander-in-chief in Hupeh.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang requests permission for the erection of temples to the late Li Hui-wu, Commander-in-chief in Kansu and acting General of the Han-chung Brigade in Shên-si, at Han-chung Fu, in the latter province, and at Ho-chi Hsien in Kansu. The application is made in consequence of numerous signed petitions from the officials and gentry of both places eulogising the deceased officer in the highest terms for his bravery in action, the ready assistance he has rendered in times of flood and drought, and his charity, liberality, and geniality of disposition.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Memorial from Shên Pao-ch'ang announcing the receipt of a report from Sung Ch'un, Grain Intendant of Chiang-an, recently appointed Judge of Shansi, detailing the steps he has taken for deepening the channel by which the grain junks cross the Yellow River to Pa-li-miao, the entrance to the northern section of the Grand Canal.

No other documents of importance.

August 28th.—A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from the Board of Punishments who were called upon to investigate certain charges brought against Yang Yü-k'o, General of the Kao Chow Brigade in Kwangtung, by Ho Chin-show, Compiler of the Han-lin. These charges were to the effect that the said Yang Yü-k'ê had by means of heavy payments come to an understanding with certain metropolitan

authorities that they should say a good word for him in the murder of K'ung Chao-fên, Prefect in Yünnan; also that he had established a bank in Peking, and had monetary relations with Kao Wei-kuang, a second Secretary of the Board of Ceremonies. The manager of the bank, Li Chung-ming, the Peking bookseller under sentence of banishment, who was also implicated, and the second Secretary were summoned before the Board, but they denied in toto the statements of Ho Chin-show. The Board further state with reference to the charge that in the matter of the murder of the Prefect K'ung Chao-fên when he attempted to arrest certain bad characters, Yang Yü-k'o and Yang Yu-chi had set the law at defiance and the Governor-General and Governor had, in a roundabout manner, extricated these two individuals from the difficulty they were in, that Ho Chin-show's statements are at variance with the facts of the case. They also request that an investigation may be held into the charge of bribing metropolitan officials with a view to getting him off, that is brought by Ho Chin-show against Yang Yü-k'o. Liu Ch'ang-yo and Tu Jui-lien, the Governor-General of Yün-kuei and the Governor of Yünnan respectively, not having been previously entrusted with the enquiry that was formerly held into this matter, have no interest in screening Yang Yü-k'o. They are accordingly commanded to ascertain the true particulars of the murder of K'ung Chao-fên, and whether or no Yang Yü-k'o was mixed up in the matter, directly or indirectly or bribed the metropolitan authorities to get him off the penalties to which he was liable.

(2) Hsü Ying-k'uei 許應騷 is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, vice Kuo Sung-tao retired.

(3) A long memorial from Tsêng Kuoch'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting the result of an enquiry into the conduct of the Magistrate of the Chi-shan district, who was reputed to have been very lax in his efforts for the relief and comfort of the people during successive years of famine, with having levied a forced contribution from the people for the repair of his Yamén, besides other grievous extortions, and with mismanagement in the distribution of seed corn. The enquiry showed that the officer in question had not been guilty of extortion, but that he had, in effect, been guilty of mismanagement in refusing to issue seed corn to certain landholders, who, themselves indigent, had substantial relatives in a position to

aid them, but that this mismanagement did not amount to actual dishonesty. It was further established that he did levy a forced contribution for the repair of his Yamén. This fact alone brings him within the reach of the law against extortion for expenditure on the public account, the penalty for which is one half in severity of that allotted for private extortion. The amount extorted was Tls. 160. The half of this is Tls. 80, the penalty for the extortion of which is 100 blows. As, however, the official in question has been cashiered, the sentence need not be carried out.

August 29th.—(1) Yang Chung-ya, late Governor of Kwangsi, who was ordered to Peking to await other employment, reports that he has handed over charge of the seals of office and the duties of his post to Chang Shu-shêng, Governor of Kwangtung, who has been ordered to succeed him. The memorialist concludes with an acknowledgment of his incapacity, as shown in his failure to put down the rebel Li Yang-ts'ai with a speedy hand.

(2) Chang Shu-shêng reports that he took over the seals of office of the Governor of Kwangsi, and entered on the duties of his new post on the 29th June. He had left Canton and was travelling [leisurely] towards his new place of residence, when, at Ch'üan-chow, in Kwangsi, he was overtaken by a Council despatch embodying an Imperial decree ordering him to hurry to his post, which he accordingly did regardless of the weather. The memorialist concludes with the usual acknowledgment of the importance of the duties with which the memorialist has been entrusted, more particularly in connection with the suppression of Li Yang-ts'ai.

(3) Hsieh Yün-shêng, Financial Commissioner of Shantung, reports the assumption of the duties of his office.

(4) Sung Kuei, Imperial Resident in Tibet, memorialises as follows:—On the 5th of June his memorial reporting the selection of a day for the enthronement of the Dalai Lama's re-embodiment, and the manner in which his father had been invested with an order of nobility and official rank, with a request to be favoured with the Imperial commands, was returned to him with a decree appended. In reverent obedience to this decree a translation thereof was made and forwarded to the Treasury, which, accordingly on the 14th of June, the date selected by this department, sent civil and military officers with soldiers, interpreters, etc., to take charge of the Imperial gifts which were placed by them under a yellow canopy and sent to the Samatan temple at

Jochia (?), where they will be received by the re-embodiment as he kneels upon his knees and prostrates himself with his face to the Palace in thanks for the Heavenly bounty. After the ceremony of enthronement has been performed, memorialist will present, on behalf of the *hubilhan*, the memorial of thanks that he is required to prepare. The memorialist ventures to think that, as the father of the last generation of the Dalai Lamas had, by the Imperial grace, the rank of *kung*, or noble of the first order, bestowed upon him, and was permitted to wear a button of precious stone, with a peacock's feather, and that Kung Ka-jên-ch'ing, the father of the present Dalai Lama, has already been invested with the title of *kung*, he also might, as in former instances, be permitted to wear a button of precious stone and a peacock's feather. Rescript.—Let him be permitted to wear a button of precious stone and a peacock's feather.*

August 30th.—The only document of importance in this day's *Gazette* is a long explanatory memorial from An Hsing-ah, keeper of the Treasury of the Imperial Household, endeavouring to justify his conduct in certain matters for which he was denounced by a Censor. He was called upon (1) to explain why he was so long in stating that his servant had left his service when called upon to produce him. He states that the man having gone mad and left his service, he thought it would look suspicious if he sent in an abrupt report to this effect; and that he had accordingly made endeavours to find him, but without success. (2). In answer to the charge of having made an irregular appointment to a department under his control, he states that he had selected the officer in question in consequence of a dearth of competent persons to undertake the special duties required, and that he was actuated solely by a desire to serve the interests of the public service. (3). He justifies his having passed over a certain individual when filling up a vacancy of Manchu Sub-Lieutenant, on the ground that the individual in question had come and knelt before him praying to be appointed before he had made his selection, and his bearing on that occasion was so loutish and unseemly, showing so gross an ignorance of rules and customs, that he sent him back

to his Captain to learn his duties. The man was promised an appointment when the next vacancy occurred. (See *Gazettes* of 9th, 11th, and 24th August.)

August 31st.—(1) Memorial from the Censor T'ien Han-ch'ih praying that the practice of going out to meet or escort their superiors beyond the limits of their respective jurisdictions, to which local provincial authorities have become addicted, may be strictly prohibited. There is a law to the effect that the local authority of any place may go to the distance of one or two *li* from the town at which he is stationed, either to meet or escort upon his way the Governor-General or Governor of a neighbouring province who may pass through his jurisdiction. Provincial Commissioners and Intendants of Circuit, again, are permitted to send an escort as far as the boundary of the province to meet a newly appointed Governor-General or Governor to the province in which they are serving; and Prefects, Sub-Prefects, department and district Magistrates, are permitted to go ten *li* from their *yaméns*, provided they remain in the limits of their own jurisdiction, to meet their provincial chief. In spite of these positive regulations, to which the most strict obedience should be paid, the memorialist has heard that whenever a high official passes through Chili, the Commissioners and the Head Intendant of Circuit go to meet them with a staff of officers from the provincial capital as far as Ta-chi Tien, 25 *li* westwards from the provincial capital, to Ts'ao-ho Tien, 25 *li* in a northerly direction, or eastwards, to Pan-ch'iao Tsun, 40 *li*. The example set by these officers is emulated by the lower territorial authorities, all of whom go beyond the limits of their jurisdictions to meet high officials or speed them on their way. When the Governor-General Li Hung-chang returns annually from Tientsin to Pao-ting Fu, the military authorities of the later city come out to meet him to a distance even of one, or some cases, two hundred *li*, while the expectant Taotais, Prefects and Magistrates even go as far as Tientsin to meet him, to the neglect of their public duties and the utter disregard of the postal horses that are worn out in these long journeys. (For decree see *Gazette* of 21st August.)

(2) Wu Tsan-ch'êng, Superintendent of the Arsenal at Foochow, reports the death of Brigadier General Wu Shih-chung, Captain of the steam war vessel *Yang Wu*, while on board the steam vessel *Mei Yün* at sea. The deceased officer had gone out in the latter vessel on the 13th March to the rescue of a government salt junk that had anchored

* [Note. The **寶石頂戴** is worn only by Princes, or, in rare instances, by *Beileh* or *Beitzu*, upon whom they have been specially conferred. The title of *kung* carries with it, under ordinary circumstances, a coral button only.]

off Sung Hsia Ao 松下澳 in a leaking condition, in too shallow water for the *Yang Wu* to get to her. On the arrival of the *Mei Yün* a heavy fog came on, and for a number of days she could not return. At last, on the 19th, seeing the critical position in which the junk was lying, Wu Shih-chung prayed to the spirits for clear weather, which he was waiting for with his anchor up, when he was suddenly struck down by apoplexy (?) 中惡風, became insensible, and died. The Lieutenant of the *Mei Yün*, having reported the circumstance to memorialist, he ordered the vessel back, and directed the relatives of Wu Shih-chung to give him a fit and proper burial. A short history of the career of the deceased is given. His first command was the steam vessel *Ch'ang Shêng*, on board of which he did good service in the capture of pirates. In 1869 he was sent to Siam by Shên Pao-chêng to buy spars, and, subsequently, was placed in command of the *Mei-yün* and sent to cruise in the Chêkiang waters. He was then transferred to the *Fei-yün* and stationed at Chefoo for a while, being, in course of time recalled to the arsenal by Ting Jih-ch'ang to superintend the steamship building department, and to go out to the rescue of native and foreign vessels. In 1876 he was transferred to the *Yang Wu* and created superintendent of naval drill. During the last ten years he has endured much hardship, and, although he never complained, his constitution had become gradually impaired. Before starting to the rescue of the salt junk, he had just returned from Taiwan with the steamer *Hai-ching* that had been disabled, in tow.* The posthumous honors allotted to a provincial Commander-in-chief, who dies on his station after a distinguished career, are solicited for the deceased and granted by Rescript.

(3) Memorial from Sung Kuoi, Imperial Resident in Tibet. The T'ungshang-chilung 'Hut'uh'kt'u Awang panctiench'ü-chichientsan, President of the Shangshang, or Treasury, has petitioned memorialist to the following effect:—"The former Dalai Lamas have all received the Imperial permission after their enthronement to send Abbots by way of Szech'uan to Peking with tribute, as a slight manifestation of the sincerity of their devotion. His Majesty has indeed extended His vast

* [Note.—The Chinese Government steamer *Hai-ching*, whilst on a voyage to the south-west with troops, struck on a rock in Liang-kiao Bay, and was so damaged that she had to be towed into Foochow for repairs.]

bounty in an exceptional degree towards the present Dalai Lama in graciously permitting him to be enthroned upon the 31st of July, and it will naturally be his duty, after the conclusion of the ceremony, in accordance with statute, respectfully to prepare articles of tribute, and reverently enquire after the Sacred welfare, with prostrations of thankful recognition of the Heavenly bounty, that he may display to the utmost the sincerity of his simple-minded attachment. As he could not venture to be dilatory in this service, it is proposed that the mission shall start from Tibet in the month of May next year, and he would pray His Majesty, as on former occasions, to permit the mission to proceed to Peking by the high road through Szech'uan, in order to guard against possible mishaps." The application, being in accordance with precedent, is supported by the memorialist. Rescript: Let the Dalai Lama be permitted to send a special mission to Peking by way of Szech'uan with articles of tribute.

(4) Postscript memorial from Wu Tsan-ch'êng, under regulations drawn up by Wêng Yü, former Acting Governor-General of Min Chê, and Ting Jih-ch'ang, then Governor of Fukkien, officers on the sea coast, whether civil or military, who should be the means of salving cargo to the value of Tls. 10,000 or upwards, or lives, whether foreign or native, to the number of ten or upwards, should have their names recorded for meritorious service. Three such records were to entitle the officer to an honorary reward bestowed by the provincial government, and when five such records were obtained the officer was to be recommended to His Majesty for promotion. Hsü Show-shan, an expectant Lieutenant, with a button of the 5th grade given for military service, having fulfilled the conditions enumerated above, is recommended by the memorialist to His Majesty for promotion. Amongst other rescues that he effected was that of Captain Woishikola (? Westcott) and the crew, eighteen in number, of the American sailing vessel [(?) Folanpaili] *Forest Belle*, which foundered off the Pescadores (?) in the month of September, 1877. He supplied them with food and drink and sent them safely to Foochow, thereby earning the infinite gratitude of the Consul Delano, who conveyed his thanks in an official letter. Sanctioned by Rescript.

September 1st.—Memorial from Liu Chao-yuan, acting Governor of Kweichow, reporting the success that has attended the adoption of certain reforms in the course of education pursued at the provincial college,

in which the study of the Classics and ancient writings has been substituted for that of verse and prose composition. In his humble opinion, the appreciation of the fundamental principles [of conduct] and their application consist in attaching equal importance to classical and historical writings. The source of talents that are displayed in public lies in their cultivation in the privacy of home. The people derive their morality from that of the lettered class, and it is study that serves as the compass of personal rectitude. The importance therefore of establishing a sound basis upon which to commence and a good method of pursuing a course of education is far from insignificant. Colleges are the instruments by which the talents and scholarship of the lettered class are developed. In Kweichow there are three colleges in which the course of study hitherto pursued has been the preparation of prose compositions, the subject of which is furnished from the four books, and the result is that the knowledge of the scholars is chiefly confined to the compass of these works, and their acquaintance with the Thirteen Classics and historical writings is far from complete. The memorialist has accordingly substituted these latter works as the course of study to be pursued in one of the three colleges, to which he has given the name of the *Hsio Ku Shu Yuan*, or "College for the study of ancient authors." A number of classical and historical works have been supplied to the college, and the progress that has been made by the students has been so satisfactory, that the *literati* of the province are anxious that the system should be given permanence to, and have accordingly requested that His Majesty may be solicited to grant permission for the name and objects of the institution to be placed on record in the Board of Ceremonies.

The memorial is written in a very literary style, and is exceedingly difficult to translate, or even understand, for the first portion consists of a series of those compact parallel sentences which form the distinguishing characteristic of Chinese prose composition. It is often impossible in a translation to preserve the original terseness, a sentence of four words requiring in many instances a page of explanation before the rendering will convey any idea to the mind of the foreign reader.

(2) Memorial from Wu Tsan-ch'ing, Director of the Foochow Arsenal, praying His Majesty to encourage the officers and artificers employed in the construction of steam vessels after the foreign model, by the bestowal of marks of approbation. The task

that they have had to carry out is not an easy one, requiring, as it does, the expenditure of much thought and energy. Western nations, in the construction of vessels, require that each part should be made in a particular way, while contrivances, admirable in execution, are involved and complicated in design. They pride themselves on the novelty of their inventions, and make a boast of having things different from other people, with the result that they make some change at every step. Hence, while it is easy to retain the knowledge of the systems that are first learnt, it is impossible quickly to get the clue to each new discovery and make it at once one's own. Since the construction of iron vessels after the foreign model has been undertaken at the Foochow Arsenal, the designers have drawn out their plans with laborious care, the Superintendents of work have been keen in their endeavours to arrive at the secret of construction, while the mathematicians have been able by a process of deduction to apply one principle to several conditions. The workmen were stimulated by the difficulty of the designs to the discovery of their excellence and worth, and brought their intelligence to bear upon the application of "the circle and the square." The inspectors were ever ready for their work in all weathers, and those entrusted with the purchase of material exercised due discretion, while they always took care that it should be imported in due time. Everyone, in fact, exerted himself, and the result was that a great undertaking was able to be set in motion. This undertaking, it may be said, was an imitative one, but it was nevertheless new to them, and by the resolute study of the work they had to do that was displayed by all, their proficiency in the craft progressed from shallow to deep, and so by their united efforts they were able to show successful results. Lists of officers and workmen who have been specially diligent, numbering 67 and 70 respectively, is submitted to His Majesty, who is entreated to bestow upon them honorary distinctions, both as a reward for their exertions and a stimulus to future energy.—Rescript: Let honorary rewards be bestowed, as requested, upon Hsü Ch'ien-shên and the rest.

September 2nd.—Yi Jung, Imperial Agent at Urga, requests his parting instructions.

(1) A decree. Let Yü Hsing, the member of the Household Division who yesterday presented a petition outside the Shên Wu gate, be handed over to the Board of Punishments and rigorously questioned.

(2) A decree acknowledging a memorial from the Censor Wu Shun-tuan, impressing upon His Majesty the necessity of laying by grain in years of plenty as a provision against time of dearth. Since the commencement of summer, saturating rain has fallen in Shansi and Honan, while in the other provinces the weather has been such as to permit of the prediction that a good autumn harvest will be obtained. As fruitful seasons, however, are not of constant occurrence, timely measures should be taken by all the provinces to lay by a store of grain in readiness for emergency. Governors-General and Governors are accordingly directed to cause collections of grain to be made at the places in which the harvest is good. These collections are to be made by the people and superintended by the people, and when an appreciable quantity has been raised it is to be stored with some substantial person or persons. The agency of official underlings is not to be employed, and the people are in no way to be vexatiously taxed.

(3) A decree acknowledging a second memorial from the same Censor, who protests against the annoyance experienced by candidates for the forthcoming examination on their entrance into the gates of Peking, where fees are extorted from them by the underlings on duty and they are subjected to detention and hardship. The Superintendent of the Ch'ung Wên gate Customs is directed to issue a proclamation distinctly enunciating afresh the old regulations laying down the number of boxes that candidates for examination are allowed to bring with them. Duty will be paid on all dutiable articles, but if their boxes be found to contain nothing of a contraband nature, they must be at once released and no fees exacted. With the exception, also, of the regular tariff on dutiable articles that may be found in the baggage of ordinary travellers, no fees must be levied. Any disregard of this prohibition will be visited upon the offending *wei-yuan* and underlings.

(4) The Governor of Honan reports the following murder case:—Chao Chang-shih and her husband lived in a village in the Hua district, and had for their neighbour one Kao Shang-ch'ing, who was on terms of such intimacy with them that the woman did not retire when he came to their house. One day in the month of October last year, Kao came to Chang's house to pay him a casual visit, and finding the wife alone, made familiar advances towards her which resulted in the establishment of improper relations between the two. At the New-year, the

woman Chao went to pay a congratulatory call at Kao's house, and, finding Kao's wife away from home, went on as usual with him. The wife returned and surprised them, but on her objecting to the relations that she discovered to exist between the two, she was warned to hold her tongue. The husband came in the evening to fetch his wife, and, his suspicions being aroused by her confusion of manner, he forbade her to continue communications with the Kao family. Some two months afterwards, her husband and her father-in-law Chao Wên-ping went away to see some relations, and Kao Shang-ching happening to pass the door as she was standing there, she told him how matters stood, and he proposed that they should elope together. She consented, and at midnight of the same day, he came to her door, which she opened, and they went together to his house. He tried to persuade his wife to go with him, but she refused, and Kao then wheeled off the woman Chao in a wheelbarrow and eloped with her. The husband and father-in-law returned the following day, and, having missed the woman Chao, they made enquiries about her and learned from a man who had seen them together that she was with Kao Shang-ching. They went to the house, and Kao's wife, finding concealment impossible, told them what had happened. Search was made for the runaway pair, but they could not be traced until some two months afterwards, when the father-in-law found the man and his paramour at a village in a neighbouring district, and announced his intention of having them arrested by the headman and sent for trial. Kao Shang-ch'ing went on his knees and prayed the father-in-law to let them off, promising to send the woman home, but Chao Wên-ching insisted that he would bring an action against him as soon as he returned. Kao Shang-ch'ing, afraid of the consequences of an application to the authorities, determined to kill the old man, and having imparted his intentions to the woman, she agreed to help him, and it was arranged that after the murder they should elope to another place. In pursuance of this plan, when resting for the night in a deserted temple while on their way homewards with the father-in-law, the woman went into the old man's room with a bludgeon and struck him over the head while he was fast asleep. He jumped up and called out for help, when the man Kao rushed in and hit him behind the ear with a brickbat, which felled him to the ground; after which, throwing aside the brick he stabbed him

with a knife in the ear and other places. He then sat astride of the old man and pinched his windpipe, while the woman pressed the bludgeon upon his throat with both her hands, until he died from suffocation. The pair then ran away, but they were caught, and a trial having been held at which the above facts were elicited, the woman was executed by *ling ch'ih* and the man was decapitated. The husband has been exposed in the cangue as a punishment for his neglect to exercise proper control over his wife.

September 3rd.—(1) A Decree. Chang-Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, reverently sets forth his views in a memorial advocating [the benefits of] self-examination and reformation as a means whereby providential visitations of a calamitous nature may be averted. Since 6th moon of the present year the Golden Star has been seen by day, and in the middle decade of the 5th moon a disastrous earthquake occurred in Kansu, the adjoining districts in the province of Shên-si being afflicted simultaneously with a like disaster. It is right therefore that, in fear and trembling, self-examination and rectification of conduct should be practised, in order to prevent providential visitations of a calamitous description caused by the confusion [of the elements of nature.] We command all officers at Court who are charged with the duty of speaking on matters [to which our attention should be drawn,] in reverent obedience to successive decrees, earnestly to submit to Us their views upon any points in which the constitution fails, or to suggest in what manner the people are suffering injury and may be advantaged, that We may have a supply of advice from which to draw. Officials, both metropolitan and provincial, must positively brace up their energies, and pursue what is right by actual [instead of spurious] means, avoiding the beaten path of carelessness and matter-of-fact. Governors-General and Governors must not recommend the transfer to their respective jurisdictions of any official who has incurred penalties for misdemeanour, unless his reputation as a public servant is particularly high; nor must they solicit the Imperial clemency for the release of any that may be banished. The Court has no desire to go contrary to the plans of those high officers who, when they are brought to the capital to await other employment, bring forward bodily ailments as an excuse for returning to their homes. But these officers have been the recipients of such great bounty that it is their immediate

duty upon recovery to repair to the palace gate and await selection to another post. How can they [with propriety] study their own comfort and ease in the slightest degree, thus disregarding the return that they owe for the bounty for which they are indebted for life and advancement in their career? It is upon the purity of the official body that the people are entirely dependent for the means of subsistence; and it is the duty of the former to aid and support them as occasion demands. Of late, the ranks of the official class have been filled with a very mixed company, and purity of administration is rarely heard of, some even carrying their dishonesty to the extent of injuring the interests of the State for the enrichment of themselves and their families, or fleeing the people to provide the wherewithal to curry favour with the great, with the result that the lower orders are troubled more and more each day as to how they shall manage to exist. We call upon Governors-General and Governors to be zealous in enquiry and in search, and exercise strict justice in the recommendation of the upright and the denunciation of the bad. If, amongst their subordinates, there shall be any pre-eminent for purity and self-restraint, they should at once honestly recommend them for the bestowal of honors or promotion, that the ardour of the rest may be fanned. Although the requirements of military expenditure preclude the withdrawal of *lekin* stations throughout the provinces, petty and vexatious extortion at these barriers should be sternly prohibited, that due compassion may be displayed towards the trader and the lower orders. With reference to the remarks of the said Tutor on the necessity of exercising greater liberality in the drawing of distinction of quantity [when levy ingtaxes upon dutiable commodities]; of being careful as to what agents are employed [for the collection of these taxes]; and of vesting the supervision of these agents in the Prefects, Sub-prefects and Magistrates; We command the Governors-General and Governors whom the matter concerns to give the subject due consideration and to devise a suitable course of action. He further states that the freshet of the Yellow River has this year been exceedingly violent, and that some of the protective works outside the capital of Honan are in danger [of giving way.] He accordingly requests that works may be constructed and the channels of derivation dredged and deepened. Let the Director-General of the Yellow River and the Governor of Honan take counsel together and give due effect to his suggestions. The

memorial states that the effects of the earthquake were felt eastward as far as Si-an Fu, and south-eastward to the southward of Ch'eng-tu. How comes it that We have seen no report from Ting Pao-ch'ang on this matter? Let the Governor-General aforesaid ascertain the true state of the case and report to Us.

(2) Chang Hsien 張銓先 is appointed Judge of Kwang-tung.

September 4th.—(1) A decree appointing Lu Fu-lin 鹿傅霖 to the Taotai-ship of the Hui, Ch'ao, Chia Circuit, Kwangtung (Taotai at Ch'ao-chow Fu near Swatow.)

(2) A Decree. During the famine last year in Shansi and Honan, Ting Jih-ch'ang, former Governor of Fuhkien, having in view the present sufferings that were being undergone, widely encouraged contributions in aid, and [was instrumental in] the collection of large sums which were severally remitted for the relief of those in distress. In so doing Ting Jih-ch'ang has truly shown an appreciation of great and important interests, and We command that he be handed to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of honorary distinction.

(3) Sun Yi-yên 孫衣言 is appointed Director of the Court of the Imperial Stud.

(4) The only other document of any importance in this day's *Gazette* is a memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the result of an enquiry into certain charges made at the Court of Censors by Ho T'ing-yü and others against the Magistrate of the Jên-ch'iu district, whom he accused of extorting taxes when they had been remitted by Imperial Decree, and committing other irregularities. The memorialist caused enquiry to be made, and finds that the man's charges are incorrect, and arose from a misapprehension of the whole question. He proceeds to give a complicated explanation of the different kinds of taxes on land levied in the province, which are divided into two general categories, *chéng*, or regular, and *tsa*, or miscellaneous. To the former category belong the *ti-t'ing* or regular land tax, and the right descriptions of rents applied to the maintenance of members of the Banner forces. To the second category belong the rents on Government land applied to maritime defence, the expenditure incurred on account of river works, military levies, and education, with the tax on salt boilers. The above being all Government taxes, would come under the heading of taxes remitted in times of calamity whether from failure of harvests

or other causes. Rents on account of the Imperial Mausolea, the Board of War stables, the State Carriage Department, the Office of the Imperial Household, etc., are paid on land purchased by the several Yaméns by which the above departments are controlled, or on confiscated lands allotted to them. These rents are collected for the various departments by the Sub-prefects and Magistrates in whose jurisdiction the lands are situated, or else by *weiyuan* deputed by the departments, and, as they do not come under the heading of regular State taxes, are not included in the general remission occasionally granted. The taxes complained of by the appellant Ho T'ing-yü came under the category of Yamén and other rents, and the Magistrate of Jên-ch'iu Hsien was therefore in order in compelling him to pay them. The offence committed by the appellant in complaining [to his own authorities] is, owing to his ignorance of the circumstances of the case, a venial one, but his hasty and ill-advised application to the Court of Censors is a breach of law and merits the penalty of fifty blows with the usual reduction of one half, which the memorialist has caused to be inflicted upon him.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note. (See *Gazette* of 24th June.)

September 5th.—(1) Su P'si-hsün 蘇佩訓 is appointed Prefect of Lien-chow in Kwangtung.

(2) A Decree. Shên Pao-ch'ang reports that he has inflicted capital punishment on an officer who has threatened murder, and prays that his commanding officer may be cashiered. Hu Yi-lin, a Lieutenant in the Ch'ang-chow garrison in Kiangnan, was withdrawn from certain duties in consequence of carelessness displayed by him. He attributed his dismissal to a certain Major, whom he suspected of having secretly reported him, and dared to abuse his superior officer, thinking that he had him in his power, having the audacity in addition to carry a foreign musket with intent to fight with him *à l'outrance*. He has been deservedly punished by death for so murderous a design. The Major, under whose command he was, has displayed such gross cowardice and incapacity in being afraid to report so worthless a man, that he is not fit to set an example of leadership, and is forthwith dismissed.

(3) Hsia Hsien-lun, Taotai of Taiwan, is committed to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of distinction as a reward for his energy in the promotion of contributions to the famine fund.

(4) Lu Shih-chieh 盧士杰 is appointed Financial Commissioner at Nanking, and Chên Shih-chieh 陳士杰, Judge of Fukkien.

(5) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Hu Pin-chih, who brings to His Majesty's notice the state of lawlessness that exists at Chung-hsiang, T'ien-mên and Ching-shan, places in the prefecture of An-lu in Hupeh, where kidnapping of women and girls is carried on to a disgraceful extent. In some instances females have been carried off by gangs of ruffians and held to ransom, being sold if the money claimed is not forthcoming. The provincial authorities concerned are positively instructed to effect the speedy capture of all these evildoers, and to punish them with the utmost severity of the law.

(6) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shênsi and Kansu, submits a memorial reporting the occurrence of an earthquake in the South-eastern districts of the province of Kansu, and the measures of relief at present adopted. He has been informed by Ch'ung Pao, the Financial Commissioner of the province, that reports announcing the occurrence of an earthquake lasting from 29th June to 11th July have been received from the following districts:—Chieh Chow, Wên Hsien, Ch'êng Hsien, Hsi-ku Chow, Ch'in-an, Ch'ing-shui, Li Hsien, Hui Hsien, Liang-tang, San-ch'a, Ching Chow, Ch'ung-hsien, Ling-t'ai, An-hua, Ning-chow, Ku-yuan, Hai-ch'êng, P'ing-liang, Ching-ning, Lung-tê, Hua-p'ing, Hsi-ho, T'ao Chow, Lung-hsi, Hui-ning and An-ting.

During the interval between the 19th June and the 1st July slight shocks were felt nearly every day, but this was all. On the 1st of July, however, at about 4 a.m., a violent shock occurred in Chieh Chow, Wên Hsien and Hsi-ho, making a noise like thunder and causing the ground to open and water to rush out. The city walls, as well as the public offices, ancestral and other temples, and private houses were either levelled to the ground or split and rent asunder. The number of persons crushed to death varied from 10 in some places to 200 or 300 in others, in addition to which a large quantity of cattle was destroyed. On receipt of the information, the Financial Commissioner sent off agents to ascertain the extent of the damage, in order that relief must be sent, and at the same time reported the circumstances to the Governor-General. The latter observes that, in consequence of the thickness of the crust of the earth and the

depth of the water in Kansu, there is constantly an accumulation of subterranean gases and sub-aqueous vapours which find a vent in frequent earthquakes; but as a rule these are very slight, and all is over in a moment. In the present instance, both Shênsi and Kansu have simultaneously reported disastrous results from the earthquake, which has been particularly severe in the east of Kansu, though the amount of damage done varies in different departments and districts. In some places one shock only was felt; in others, several in succession; while in others, again, they continued for the whole ten days, causing the people to live in constant dread of being crushed. Many of them passed their nights in the open, and at moments when the danger was imminent their cries of distress were truly piteous to hear. There being no one to attend to the animals, even more of these than of human beings were injured or crushed to death, while most of the city walls, temples, public offices and private dwellings were destroyed, and havoc wrought of far greater extent than in disasters of an ordinary kind. Providentially, it so happened that the summer harvest had just been gathered, and this being a plentiful one, the measures of relief required were easily carried out. The sums necessary for repairs to buildings will, with the exception of those places in which the damage has been very severe, be raised locally, and there will be no necessity to apply for large sums from the Government for this purpose. The memorialist has already taken counsel with Yang Ch'ang-chün, and the provincial Commissioners have been instructed to send officers to the places that have suffered, to ascertain the amount of damage done and to unite with the duly accredited authorities in each place in taking the various necessary steps. As soon as the task shall have been completed and a report drawn up, the memorialist will again address His Majesty. The fate of Lu Tsun-k'ung, Director of studies, and Li Yü-yin, Sub-Director of studies, at Chieh Chow, who with their whole households, have been swallowed up and disappeared, is specially deplorable, and the provincial Commissioners have been directed to be particularly careful to render the necessary compassionate offices. The Board has also been communicated with announcing the vacancies that have thus been created, and requesting that fresh officers may be selected to fill them. The memorialist begs to submit this report of the disaster conjointly with Yang Ch'ang-chün, Assistant High Commissioner for the

reorganisation of Kansu and the New Dominion.

As regards the responsibility incurred by memorialist, who, awaiting the punishment of his shortcomings upon the frontier of the Empire, has had the shamefacedness to filch honors that are not his due, and has now brought down misfortune by the unseemly performance of the functions with which he has been entrusted, it becomes his duty humbly to implore His Majesty of His heavenly grace immediately to bestow dismissal upon him, as a warning and deterrent to others. He submits this request on his personal account. (For decree see *Gazette* of 23rd August.)

September 6th.—(1) A decree directing the Board of Revenue to consider in concert with the Captains-General of the eight Banner corps a suggestion by the Censor Huang Yuan-shan that some of the waste land that abounds in Shansi, Kiangsu, and other provinces, should be made over in allotments to members of the Banner forces.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the destruction of the autumn harvest by flood in many places in the province of Chihli, and soliciting permission to appropriate some of the tribute grain *en route* to Peking for the relief of the sufferers. Owing to the want of sufficient rain in the spring the first harvest was a poor one, and by His Majesty's permission relief was granted to certain districts in which, owing to the accumulation of water, no wheat was able to be sown. In July rain fell everywhere in sufficient quantity, and crops were universally sown, even a moiety of the low-lying country which was under water being planted with rice. Towards the end of the month rain fell continuously, and the water from the mountains on the north-western frontier came down with a rush, filling the rivers which were swollen to overflowing on repeated occasions. Towards the middle of August heavy and continuous rain again fell, and there was such an extraordinary rush of water that An Chow, Hung Hsien, Jên-ch'iu, Su-ning, with [parts of] Pao-ting, Wu-ch'ing and other places in the Shun-t'ien prefecture, were converted into one vast sea. Wên-an, which from its low-lying condition forms the centre into which all the waters drain, has suffered worse than anywhere, and not a grain of autumn harvest will be collected there. The memorialist has instructed the authorities of the afflicted districts to do their best to drain the water off and to apply the surplus of the grain and money raised for the relief

of the sufferers by famine to the temporary aid of those in most urgent need of help, but with so large an area to be provided for, and such a number of people whose wants must be supplied, the quantity is insufficient, further funds must be raised even if, under the most favourable conditions, the waters quickly subside and the people are able to sow a spring crop next year, for there will still be an interval of nearly eleven months before the people are able to support themselves. Embankments and dykes that have broken down or burst must also be repaired, and funds are wanted to carry out these schemes, which the provincial treasury, the receipts of which do not meet the expenditure, is quite unable to supply, in consequence of the necessity that has existed for several years in succession of remitting the taxes on land in many districts. The expenditure on account of the recent obsequies has, further, been a heavy drain on the provincial funds, and has necessitated the diversion of large sums which cannot possibly be replaced from the receipts on account of land tax for the first period of the present year, while the floods that have now occurred render the probability of full receipts from the second period of taxation still more remote. It is impossible yet to say whether the autumn and winter contributions to the Mausolea, and the pay for the banner forces and Chinese army can be provided at due date. The exigencies of famine expenditure have hitherto been met for the most part by the sale of offices and titles, but now that the purchase system has been abolished, no special means of raising funds remain. In view, therefore, of the value of human life, it only remains once more to apply for a grant of grain. The tribute grain from Kiangpoh that has been forwarded by way of the Grand Canal, amounting to something over 160,000 piculs, has now reached Tientsin, and of this quantity the memorialist would crave His Majesty's permission to attach 60,000 piculs for distribution in the suffering districts. (For decree see *Gazette* of 26th August.)

September 7th.—(1) Jên Lan-shêng, Superintendent of the Fêng-yang Customs station in Anhui, submits a return of duties collected during the year ending 19th June, 1879. This station is credited with Tls. 90,159 regular assessment, and Tls. 17,000 additional assessment, being a total of Tls. 107,159. The result of the year's collection is only Tls. 47,236, being considerably in arrear of the sum at which the Custom House is rated; and though more

than the receipts of the first period since the establishment of the station in 1876, is less than the collection of the year before last. Grain is the chief staple from which the income of the Fêng-yang Customs is derived, and next to this come the receipts from taxes on miscellaneous goods carried by land. Prices have been so even everywhere during the past year that merchants have not been able to make any profit out of the grain trade, and but few cargoes have passed the barrier, while the greater part of the foreign goods inwards and native produce outwards have been carried under transit pass, which frees them from further taxation *en route*. The miscellaneous articles conveyed by land that pass the barrier are in small lots, and carried for the most part by petty traders, and the receipts from this class of goods have been insignificant.

(2) Memorial from Kuo Sung-tao, Vice-President of the Board of War, praying His Majesty graciously to permit him to vacate his post by reason of his ailments, from which it is impossible for him speedily to recover. On the 14th May the memorialist reported his arrival at his home, and on the 2nd July his memorial was returned to him by the Tsung-li Yamên with a decree of the 17th June to the following effect:—"It is noted. The Vice-President in question has worked with genuine zeal, and has not shrunk from toil and fatigue. As soon as his infirmities are slightly improved let him at once come to the capital to perform his duties." As the memorialist read this decree while kneeling upon his knees, he was filled with unutterable gratitude, and he felt that he had no right, by reason of his feeble and vile carcass, to give anxiety to the Imperial heart and receive consolatory commands. He looks earnestly forward to the day when his complaint shall have been taken away, that he may try by slow degrees to repay in some way the debt of gratitude he owes. Alas! full of years and broken down in health, with faculties impaired and mental energy relaxed, his food for some time past has returned, and he is gradually developing symptoms of biliary calculus, while the nervous agitation to which he has long been subject renders him dizzy and confused to double the extent that it used to do. He is continually changing his doctors, but to no avail, and his progress is retarded by impatience for recovery. As he thinks upon himself, he greatly fears that for the rest of his life, which should be spent as that of a dog or a horse in his master's service, he will lapse into a paralytic state by gradual stages; and as

he reflects upon the difficulties of the times, he is filled with shame at the thought that he cannot mend matters even in an infinitesimal degree, while an ailing person like himself is allowed in vain to hold the seals of military sway. As he puts the question to himself as to what he ought to do, his fears increase, and he bears the consciousness of wrong upon his mind. After turning the matter over and over in his mind he has come to the conclusion that it is his duty to implore the Heavenly grace to bestow upon him permission to vacate the post of Vice-President of the Board of War, that he may attend to his ailments with a quiet mind. It may then providentially happen that, having no duties to perform, his care of himself may be attended with success, and as long as he has a breath to live he will still hope that he may be able to offer himself to be used as a horse to be driven by the whip wherever his master will. As soon as he has recovered he will hasten to the Court and pray that employment may be bestowed upon him. He will not venture to consult his ease or comfort in the slightest degree. (For decree see *Gazette* of 27th August.

September 8th.—(1) Ch'ing Lin 慶麟 is appointed Chief Supervisor of Instruction.

(2) Memorial from the Board of Punishments reporting the result of their enquiry, in obedience to Imperial decree, into the charges brought against Yang Yü-k'o, General of the Kao Chow Brigade in Kwangtung, by Ho Chin-show, Compiler of the Han Lin. He was accused of paying heavy bribes to metropolitan officials to say a good word for him in the matter of the murder of the Prefect of Tung-ch'uan in Yünnan, whereby he escaped denunciation to the Throne. Upon being called upon to be more explicit in his statements, Ho Chin-show declared that Yang Yü-k'o had opened a bank called the Yün Fêng-t'ai in Peking, had lodged several lacs of taels in the shop of Li Chung-ming, the bookseller, with whom he had contracted a sworn friendship, and had acknowledged a relationship with Kao Wei-kuang, a second class assistant Secretary in the Board of Ceremonies. The Board at once communicated with the Board of Ceremonies and requested them to direct Kao Wei-kuang, who is an expectant second class Secretary, not assistant Secretary, to present himself before the Board. The Prefect of Shun-t'ien produced the prisoner Li Chung-ming, who is under sentence of banishment, and the Polico

Magistrate of the Eastern division produced the Manager of the Yün Fêng-t'ai bank. Secretaries were ordered to examine these witnesses carefully upon each point brought forward by Ho Chin-show. Wang T'i-chien, the banker, deposed that the Yün Fêng-t'ai was established in 1875 by Yang Yü-k'o with a capital of Tls. 150,000, and that he has branches for the sale of bills and remission of money in Shanghai, Hankow, Hsiang-t'an in Hunan, Ping-yao in Shaansi, and Yunnan Fu. The bank was a commercial undertaking and no money had been offered in presents to metropolitan officials. Kao Wei-kuang, the second class Secretary, deposed that Yang Yü-k'o visited Peking in the year 1874 and that a fellow townsman had acted as a go-between in arranging a marriage between Yang Yü-k'o's son and his, the Secretary's daughter, but the marriage had not yet taken place. He was ready to produce the certificates of age that had been interchanged in support of his statements. The impending marriage had led to a considerable correspondence during the past few years between himself and Yang Yü-k'o, from whom he had borrowed, at one time or another, Taels 8,000, but this was a loan applied for and granted in consideration of the close relationship that was about to be formed, and he had in no way exerted his influence on behalf of Yang Yü-k'o. Li Chung-ming, the criminal undergoing a sentence of banishment, stated that he became acquainted with Yang Yü-k'o on his first visit to Peking, when he came to the deponent's shop to purchase books. In 1878 he again visited Peking and took lodgings close to deponent's shop, which he frequently visited. In the month of September he proposed to purchase a copy of the *T'u Shu Chi Ch'êng*, or Encyclopedia of Literature, that was for sale in the shop, and for which Tls. 12,000 were asked. Yang Yü-k'o deposited an order for that amount on the Yün Fêng-t'ai bank with the deponent, but he afterwards declared that the price was too high and called in his order, only purchasing a copy of the *Hui Tien*, or "Dynastic Institutes," and several medical works, for Tls. 600. He deposited no money in the shop, neither did deponent contract a sworn alliance with him, nor enter into relations with any metropolitan authorities on his account. The statements of these witnesses could not be shaken under the most careful and repeated questioning, and none of them would admit the truth of Ho Chin-show's statements regarding the bribery practised by Ho Chin-show to save himself from de-

nunciation for the murder of K'ung Chao-fêng, Prefect of Tung-ch'uan Fu. Under these circumstances the memorialists have no evidence before them upon which to determine accuracy or the reverse of Ho Chin-show's charges:—The facts of the murder of Kung Chao-fêng, as elicited at the enquiry held at the time of the occurrence, were as follows. In 1874, Yang Yü-lin, uncle of Yang Yü-k'o, was beaten to death by the underlings of the Prefect of Tung-ch'uan, and Yang Ju-chi, son of Yang Yü-lin, and cousin to Yang Yü-k'o, having brought a charge to this effect against Kung Chao-fêng, he was removed from his post and brought to Yunnan Fu to be put on his trial. While he was awaiting this enquiry, Yang Ju-chi went to the house in which he was lodging and killed him. It was ascertained that Yang Yü-k'o was in no way privy to the crime, and Yang Ju-chi, having been sentenced to summary decapitation, his sentence was modified by Imperial decree to decapitation after the usual autumn revision, but he was not executed, as his name was not marked for execution on two successive revisions of the lists of condemned criminals. This is the settlement of the case as reported to His Majesty. Ho Chin-show now states that Yang Yü-k'o supplied his cousin with a body of braves and set him on to kill K'ung Chao-fêng, but that Ts'ên Yü-ying, the Governor, got him off in a roundabout way. These charges being of a serious nature, it would be inexpedient to disregard them on the ground that the case has already been closed, and as the present Governor-General of Yün Kwei and the Governor of Yunnan were not connected with the original enquiry, His Majesty is requested to direct them to hold a joint investigation of the facts. (See *Gazette* of 28th Aug.)

September 9th.—(1) A long decree summarising the result of the enquiry instituted by Kuang Show and P'an Tsu-yin, under Imperial decree, into the charges brought against An Hsing-ah, one of the comptrollers of the Imperial Household, by the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin. (See *Gazettes* of August 9th, 11th, 24th and 30th.) An Hsing-ah having been found guilty, in a certain degree, of the acts with which he is charged, and having prevaricated and kept back the truth when called upon for an explanation, is certainly deserving of punishment. He is, accordingly, committed to the Board for the determination of a penalty. Various other penalties are inflicted upon different officials in connection with the same case, and some are

ordered to be placed on their trial as soon as the missing gateman and one Ja Lung-ah, who is a personage under a fictitious name, have been discovered.

(2) A formal decree authorising the usual procedure in the case of a number of minor territorial officials in Kiangai, whose accounts show defalcations.

(3) A decree calling for an explanation from the Court of Censors. Jung Lu and others are accused by the Censor Kan T'i-ming of favouritism and want of openness in their report of the examination of a Police Magistrate, one Han Shih-chün, who was tried on a charge of extortion. (See *Gazette* of 16th August.)

(4) Hung Hsü 洪緒 is appointed Taotai at Kinkiang.

(5) A decree ordering the Board of Punishments to be careful in future to send the minutes of evidence upon which the list of condemned prisoners is revised to the different Yamens at due date, a Censor having complained that they are frequently forwarded only the day previous to that upon which officers are told off to revise them, instead of fifteen days before, as laid down by law.

No other documents of importance.

September 10th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Chu Ch'iang (Superintendent of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company) reports that dredging apparatus is not particularly suitable for use in the Grand Canal.

(1) Chang Mêng-yuan 張夢元 is directed to act as Taotai of T'aiwan.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the announcement of the death of Hsia Hsien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan, by the Governor-General of Min Chéh. The deceased officer rendered valuable assistance to Tso Tsung-t'ang in the work of military organisation in the province of Fuhkien, and both as acting Taotai of the Ting-chang-lung circuit and Taotai of T'aiwan his rule was beneficent and generous, while in the work of maritime defence and the *exploitation* of mines he was unsparing of personal fatigue and inconvenience. In accordance with the Governor-General's request he is to be granted the highest posthumous honors that can be allotted to officers of his rank upon decease after distinguished military service.

(3) The Governor of Shantung reports that the fleet of grain junks, numbering 530 sail, have passed beyond the frontier of Shantung on their way northwards. The memorialist describes the difficulties of the passage of the Yellow River and the

entrance into the Grand Canal in much the same manner as other and earlier reports.

(4) Chou Hêng-ch'i, Governor of Shantung, forwards a return of the receipts at the Chefoo Custom House from 20th January, 1878, to 9th January, 1879. This Custom House is rated by the Board of Revenue at Tls. 50,000 regular assessment, and Tls. 20,000 surplus assessment. The receipts for the year under review were as follows:—

	Taela.
Duties collected at Chefoo and the twenty-three ports under the jurisdiction of the Chefoo Customs	56,017
Waste allowance	5,601
Duties on grain tribute carried by sea (remitted by order).....	1,100
Duty on foreign opium	6,819
Waste allowance on opium	1,060
	70,597
Deduct duty on foreign opium which has to be forwarded <i>in toto</i> to the capital, as well as waste allowances, and a balance remains of	13,480
	57,117

This leaves a deficit of Tls. 4,881 on the total rating of the Custom House by the Board. The deficit is accounted for by the explanation that the receipts at the Custom Houses are dependent upon the agricultural prosperity, or the reverse, of the year. Since the establishment of the Chefoo Customs, between ten and twenty years ago, the receipts, even in good years, have never reached Tls. 70,000, the amount at which the establishment is rated by the Board. Of late years trade has decreased, while the famines in Shansi and Honan have had their effect upon commerce, and local disasters from flood and drought have added to the general depression. Careful and diligent supervision has enabled the Taotai to show a larger income than during the previous twelve months, and as the deficit occurs only in the additional surplus assessment, the first surplus assessment having been collected in full, the memorialist begs, on behalf of Fang Ju-yi, the Customs Taotai, that he may not be called upon to make this deficit good.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

September 11th.—(1) Ling Kuei 靈桂 and Ch'êng Lin 成林 are appointed Chief and Deputy High Commissioners respectively of the Customs and octroi of Peking.

(2) A decree ordering tablets to be prepared by the Imperial College of Inscriptions for suspension in the temples to the God of War and the tutelary deity in the district town of Tê-p'ing in Shantung. These deities have shown themselves ready in granting response to prayers for rain, and to the protection of the God of War the safety of the town was due when surrounded by the *Nienfei* in 1868.

(3) Memorial from the Censor Wu Shun-ku suggesting the establishment of people's granaries for the storage of contributions of grain offered in times of plenty as a provision against famine in time of drought. (For summary see decree of 2nd Sept.)

(4) The same Censor complains of the treatment to which candidates for the approaching examinations are treated by the underlings at the Ch'i Hua and Tung Pien gates upon their entry into Peking. The floods that are out in the neighbourhood of the great roads to the east and west, compel most of the candidates to come up by boat from Tientsin to T'ungchow. On their arrival at the Ch'i Hua or Tung Pien gates of Peking, the clerks and underlings on duty fleece them at will, charging as much in some instances as Tls. 8 for each box they carry, and never less than Tls. 4. They demand a fine, too, of ten times the value upon certain common necessities that they find in the baggage of the candidates, although these are not dutiable; and if this is not paid they are sent to the office of the Customs and detained there to await further investigation. Again, these underlings are not prompt in searching baggage, &c., with the result that there is a block of carts and animals at the gates, and the students are kept from the rest they need after a long and arduous journey. (For decree see *Gazette* of 2nd Sept.)

(5) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang recommends Liu Ch'i-lin, an expectant Prefect, for the post of maritime Sub-prefect of Sung-kiang Cu. This is a post requiring an officer of experience and ability, and the memorialist is satisfied that his nominee is well suited to the appointment. The usual account of his antecedents is given.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

(6) Wu Ch'i-hsün, General of the Haitan division in Fuhkien, reports his arrival at his post.

September 12th.—(Court Circular.) The Board of Ceremonies prays that a date may be fixed for the substitution of the winter official hat for the summer one now worn. The decree was received, "Let the change be made on the 6th October." The greater

part of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, who makes the occurrence of the recent earthquake in Kansu a text for the inculcation of administrative reform. Since the end of July last, the "golden star" (the planet Venus) has been visible by day, and the clouds have presented a strange appearance, while in the month of June a disastrous earthquake occurred in Kansu, which affected the provinces of Shên-si and Szechuen simultaneously, the shocks being felt eastwards as far as Si-an in the former province and in the South-east as far as Ch'eng-fu Fu, an area of over 2,000 *li* in width. The golden star does not, like other planets, augur prosperity or good things to come. The Book of History and the Records of the Han dynasty both assert that the mountain and river systems of China have their centre in Shên-si and Szechuen, and although the declaration of the soothsayers with regard to the extensive and protracted earthquake that has now occurred cannot be absolutely accepted, still the conspicuous appearance of the heavens, and the unquestionable physical phenomena [that have been recently witnessed] cannot be considered otherwise than as a warning from heaven. A reference to antecedent records discloses the fact that in the 7th year of the reign of K'angsi the appearance of the golden star by day was also accompanied by an earthquake, and His Sacred Majesty thereupon issued a decree calling for general self-examination and reform, and inviting his officers to point out what was amiss in the administration, after which His Majesty's illustrious successors followed the example thus set them upon occasions of the occurrence of natural phenomena; and history contains records of innumerable occasions upon which this course was followed. In pursuance of this custom, the memorialist avails himself of his privileges, and submits his views upon certain administrative questions in which, in his opinion, reform is needed. A summary of these suggestions has already appeared in a decree of the 3rd of September. He argues each point at great length, but space will not admit of an attempt even to reduce his arguments within a reasonable compass, but as the matters touched upon have already been entered into time after time by himself and many others, a list of the headings into which he divides his criticisms will be sufficient to indicate the line he adopts. These are four in number, viz:—(1) The desirability of affording greater facilities

for the communication of their views by Ministers high and low to their Sovereign. (2) Purity of official administration. (3) Improvement of the condition of the lower classes. (4) The institution of greater precautionary measures against inundation from the Yellow River. He introduces quotations from the Shoo-king, the Book of Changes, and numerous historical works, in support of his arguments, and his whole memorial is full of the literary pedantries that are affected by so large a class of Chinese scholars.

September 13th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Wên-chüeh, who, declares that the supplementary Courts established in the provinces for the clearing off of judicial arrears and the settlement of the accounts of retiring officials have lately come to be presided over by Taotais and Prefects who have obtained their rank by military service or purchase, while the subordinates are for the most part private secretaries or friends of the higher officials who have purchased rank, and whose respective chiefs avail themselves of the patronage afforded by these supplementary Courts to give them a helping hand. These minor officials, looking upon their connection with the Courts in question merely as a means of advancement, allow the work to get into arrear, while the system of their appointment gives rise to bribery, the exercise of undue influence, and numerous abuses of a like nature. The Censor accordingly advocates the abolition of these Courts, but as this would defeat the object with which they were originally established, viz., the furtherance of the public interests, his suggestion is not adopted. Provincial high authorities are, however, positively instructed to put a stop to the abuses to which the Censor calls attention; and to see that improper persons are not employed.

(2) A decree in answer to a second memorial from this Censor, who states that he has been informed that members of the official class have established gambling houses in Peking which are supported by the percentage deducted from winnings, and that numbers of people are invited to assemble there, gambling being carried on in the most open way. The metropolitan executive are directed to make careful search for establishments of the kind, and to arrest any persons engaged in gambling, whether as principals or clients, irrespective of whatever rank they may hold, and to punish them as the law demands.

(3) A decree also in answer to the Censor Wên-chüeh, who prays that that princes

and dukes may be ordered to keep their sons under due restraint and control. The children of the nobility are all personally related to the Imperial House, and it is their natural duty to maintain in their own persons the principles of law and propriety, that they may not be unworthy of the gracious favour of the Court that has set them up. If, as the Censor declares, the younger generation of the nobility do indeed frequent temples and fairs in private dress, wandering about in pursuit of unlawful pleasure, and do take delight in the company of play actors, they display an undoubted want of dignity. Let the princes, *beileh*, *beitzü* and dukes keep their sons under strict discipline and control. They must positively enforce particular obedience to the laws of propriety, and the teaching of their elders, and not permit the slightest freedom or license.

(4) Postscript memorial from T'au Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi. At 3 a.m. on the 1st of July, the earth began to shake in the capital of Shênsi, causing door-handles to rattle, and the paper in the windows to rustle, while the sensation experienced was similar to that of sitting in a lightly laden boat that is rocked by a gentle breeze, but the shock was over in a moment, and no disastrous effects were experienced. The memorialist immediately instructed his subordinates by circular to ascertain by careful enquiries the extent of the movement, and to be careful to afford relief where damage had been done. Reports were received in due course from the various districts under his jurisdiction, showing that the movement extended eastwards as far as the Tung barrier, and northward to Yên-an, under similar conditions to those experienced in the provincial capital; but in the southwest the shock was more severe, bridges having been broken asunder and roads having collapsed in Pin Chou and Ch'ang-wu, while Ning-ch'iang, Lio-yang, Pao-ch'êng, Liu Pa and Feng Hsien in the prefecture of Han-chung, were visited with still more disastrous effects. The authorities in these places report that at 1 p.m. on the 29th June a slight movement took place which was not noticed by most people, but at 3 a.m. on the 1st July a violent shock occurred accompanied by loud noise, shaking down some of the crenelated battlements of the walls of the towns, and causing hoardings and earthen walls to fall. The authorities of these places all stated that no injuries resulted. At Yên-lung and Lin-yu, in the Fêng-hsiang prefecture, the shock was slighter, but at Pao-chi four

persons were crushed to death, and one also at Ch'ien Chow. At Lan-t'ien two children were injured. The above accidents were caused by the falling in of the caves in which the people lived, before they had time to escape. [Reflection on the cause of this disaster has led the memorialist] respectfully to form the following conclusions:—Earth is the female principle of nature [which is also] the governing principle of Ministers [of the Sovereign, whose governing principle is Yang, or Heaven.] At the time of the summer solstice, when [the digram of] one [broken line or] the *Yin*, principle, [and two whole lines or Yang principles] is first evolved (1), in the proper order of things quiet and tranquillity should prevail, and from such a disturbance as this may be gathered the fact that the administration of the official class has failed in some respect. Memorialist, unworthy of the trust, has been charged with the Government of a western frontier province, and the disparity between his talents and his responsibilities have caused the frequent appearance of disastrous phenomena. The burden of his shortcomings is truly heavy to bear, and all that he can do is to direct his official subordinates with mutual reverence and awe each to make personal resolves in a reverential spirit [to amend their ways], in the hope of putting a stop to strange revolutions [of the laws of nature.]—Rescript: Let him at once direct his subordinates to take effective measures for the comfort and consolation of the sufferers, that not a single individual be allowed to lose his home.

September 14th.—(1) A decree committing Jung Lu, Commandant of the Gendarmerie, to the Board for the determination of a penalty for having employed Han Shih-chün, the police Magistrate in Peking, who has lately been denounced by a Censor for extortion and other malpractices, at the Imperial Mausolea while he was already holding a substantive post in the capital. (See *Gazette* of 19th August.)

(2) An appeal by Sung Ta-kwei, expectant Sub-prefect in Szechuen lately cashiered, who brings a charge of false imprisonment against the Governor-General Ting Pao-chêng, is referred by decree to that officer for an explanation.

(3) The Superintendent of Customs at Sha-hu K'ou forwards a return of duties collected at that station during the year ending 16th October, 1878. The total amounts to Tls. 27,886.

(4) Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, reports the death, upon the 1st of August, of Chin Kwo-ch'ên, Judge

of Kwangtung. The deceased officer was on the point of making arrangements to go to Peking for audience. Chang Hsien-chêng, Taotai of the Hui Ch'ao Kiu circuit (Ch'ao-chow Fu), is suggested as a fit officer to perform the acting duties of provincial Judge.—Granted by earlier decree.

(5) Memorial from Yên Hsü, Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho, reporting the result of the rehearing of an appeal case, in which the appellant Li K'o-sin, a bannerman of the Kh'orchin Mongol tribe, had been induced by one Kuan to charge Sung-chi-cha-pa, a *tabunang* or noble, with having caused the death of his uncle. The facts are as follows:—Li Ko-sin was a Manchu, and a *pao-i* or bondservant of the prince of Kuo. His great grandfather had accompanied the *koko*, or daughter, of the prince of Kuo to the house of the *tabunang* Sung-chi-cha-pa, to whom she had been given in marriage, and the family had been attached to the *tabunang's* household for four generations. The present Sung-chi-cha-pa, the descendant of this princess, was constantly in the habit of extorting money from Li Lien-kuei, the uncle of Li K'o-sin, and beating him when he refused to supply his wants. In the month of February, 1878, one of these periodical demands for money was made, and Li Lien-kuei being unable to meet it, and fearing that a beating would follow, went away and hid himself. Li K'o-sin, who went to enquire for his uncle, was falsely told by Sung-chi-cha-pa that he had beaten Li Lien-kuei to death; and, believing the statement, was induced by one Kuan who wrote out a petition for him, to appeal to the Censorate at Peking. On proceeding to pass sentence, a difficulty presented itself to the memorialist, from the fact that there is nothing on record to establish the status of a *p'ei-chia*, or servant who accompanies his mistress to her husband's home, and he does not know whether or no he should be punished in the same manner as a Mongol slave. He prays therefore that the Yaméns concerned may be directed to take the case into consideration and inform His Majesty of the course that should be adopted in the present instance, which will afford a precedent for future cases.—Referred by rescript to the Yaméns concerned. (See *Gazette* of 18th July, 1878.)

September 15th.—(1) A decree. Fêng Shên and his colleague solicit the release of a degraded official who was ordered into banishment, and who has performed the duties imposed upon him with diligence and zeal. Miu Ching-sên, expectant Magistrate in Szechuen, while employed on

military service in Annam, went beyond the frontier with his concubine and got into trouble. He subsequently falsely declared that some subsidies for the pay of the troops had been stolen, and was the means thereby of nearly causing a disturbance, the General of the brigade having detached troops to arrest the so-called thieves. For these offences he was banished to the Amur, and his crimes being of a comparatively serious nature, We cannot sanction the request of Fêng Shên and his colleague for his release.

(2) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang. Ho T'ing-chao, expectant Prefect in Hupeh, reports that he was sent by the Governor of that province in charge of a subsidy of Tls. 170,000 on its way to Peking, the silver being packed in seventy-one cases. He left Hupeh on the 11th July, and reached An-yang Hsien in Honan on the 10th August, where he was detained for two days by the rain. On the 13th August he was provided by the Magistrate of An-yang with an escort, and reached the Chang River on the borders of Chihli on the same day. The silver was sent across the river in detachments, and just as the boats were nearing the northern bank a freshet suddenly came down. Every effort was made to rescue the boats, but in a moment so great a rush of water came down that the hinder boat with two carts of treasure was carried away, as well as the men in charge of them. Efforts were immediately made by the Magistrate of An-yang and the Sub-prefect of Tz'ü-chow, on the Chihli side of the river, to recover the money, and they succeeded in fishing up eight cases of treasure from the river as well as one from the mud on the shore, leaving still eleven missing, which contained Tls. 11,000 of sycee. The river at this point is very wide, and the mud and sand of which the bed is composed is very deep [and soft] so that efforts for the recovery of the balance, which had been continued for days in succession, had not, so far, been attended with success. The Sub-prefect of Tz'ü-chow sent in a report to much the same effect, adding that the Chang River had its source in Shansi, and the rise and fall of the current was most uncertain. When it rose, the river was seven or eight *li* in width, and when it subsided a waste of sand and muddy deposit was left behind. Of late the main stream has flowed in a southerly direction, causing a bank of sand to rise in the middle, so that treasure or other articles coming up from the south have to cross the sand bank to reach the northern shore. The

southern half of the river is in the jurisdiction of An-yang, and the northern half in that of Tz'ü-chow, so the custom has hitherto been for the latter place to escort official cortèges travelling southward as far as the southern bank of the river, and for the former place to perform a similar service for those travelling northward. On learning of the approach of the silver with its convoy, the Sub-prefect of Tz'ü-chow sent runners to the north bank to receive it, and as the accident occurred before these men had taken charge, he was not literally responsible. Nevertheless, he felt it his duty to superintend the efforts for the recovery of the money, which were continued day and night. The men who accompanied the carts that were washed away were picked up alive some 5 *li* lower down. The memorialist, while admitting that the mishap was beyond the power of human effort to prevent, considers that the officers in charge and the local authorities should be directed to do their best to recover the money, which is a considerable item, and has given orders accordingly.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

September 16th.—(1) A decree announcing the following appointments to the post of Literary Chancellor, the period during which the posts are held expiring this year:—

Kiangsi	Wang Hung-luan	汪鳴鑾
Chêkiang	Chang Yün-ch'ing	張湮卿
Fuhkien	K'ung Kang	崑岡
Hupeh	Tsang Chi-ch'ên	臧濟臣
Hunan	T'ao Fang-ch'i	陶方琦
Shantung	Tsai Hung-tz'ü	戴鴻慈
Shansi	Huang Yü-tang	黃玉堂
Kansu	Chen Yên-hsi	鄭衍熙
Szechuen	Ch'ên Fan-hou	陳懋侯
Kuangtung ...	Fêng Erh-ch'ang	馮爾昌
Kuangsi	Ch'in Shu-ch'un	秦澍春
Yünnan	Lu Yin	盧崱
Kueichow	Lin Kuo-chu	林國柱
Feng-t'ien Fu.	P'an Ssü-lien	潘斯濂

The following officers having only recently been appointed, are not required to vacate their respective posts:—

Anhui	Sun Yü-wên	孫毓汶
Shênsi	Fan Kung-hsü	樊恭煦

Shun-t'ien ...Chêng Hsü-chih 政徐致
 KiangsüHsia T'ung-shan 夏同善
 HonanChêng Liao-shou 政廖壽

(2) The following appointments are gazetted:—Financial Commissioner, Ché-kiang, Tô Ch'ing 德馨. Judge of Honan, Yü Shan 豫山.

(3) The Board of Revenue are instructed to take into consideration an application from the Superintendent of Customs at Chang-chia-k'ou (Kalgan) for permission to make good the deficiency on his additional assessment in a decreased ratio.

(4) A decree dismissing an application from the Censor Liang Chün for the punishment of the Governor-General of the Hukwang provinces, and Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hunan, who appended their names to a memorial of Lo Ta-ch'un, Commander-in-chief in Hunan, who should have allowed the memorial to emanate from the former high authorities. The Governor-General and Governor explain that the Commander-in-chief sent them a copy of the memorial only after the original had been despatched.

(5) Ch'en Lan-pin (Minister to the United States, etc.) is appointed a senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors.

(6) Postscript memorial from Ting Pao-chêng requesting authority for the removal of Jui Ling, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Manchu garrison at Chinkiang, and sending him back to his dépôt. Chinkiang being a port open to foreign trade, where a mixed population is assembled from all quarters, requires the presence of a watchful and capable officer. The Lieutenant-Colonel has always performed his duties with care and attention, but the maintenance of careful supervision is not his point, so that he cannot possibly exercise proper restraint over his subordinates.—Granted by Rescript.

September 17th.—(1) A decree granting a tablet to a temple outside the Eastern gate of Kia-hing Fu in Chékiang, the presiding deity of which exercised his divine powers when appealed to for protection against locusts, and drove them all away.

(2) Memorial from the Censor Hu Pin-chih on the kidnapping of women and girls in An-lu Fu in the province of Hupeh. The memorial is quoted almost verbatim in the decree of 5th September, q. v.

(3) Memorial from the same Censor calling attention to an abuse that exists at the Superior Provincial Courts, where it is the practice of the underlings to refuse to accept

any petition that has not been copied out and stamped by them for which service they charge fees ranging from a score or so of strings of *cash* up to as many taels. The result is that the impecunious are unable to appeal to the higher Provincial Courts, and are forced to bring their plaints to Peking. (The provincial governments are directed to put a stop to this abuse, in a decree of 5th September.)

(4) Memorial from Shên Pao-chêng. Hu Yi-lin, a Lieutenant in the left division of the Ch'ang Chou Brigade, who was stationed at Wu-hsi, was removed from his command for carelessness and inattention to his duties. Enraged at this treatment, he went to see the captain of the central division two days afterwards, and begged him to use his influence in getting his post restored to him. The Captain, named Chu Chi-jui, refused. On the first day of the New-year, the civil and military authorities of the town had repaired to the Imperial temple to perform the usual congratulatory ceremonies, and on the conclusion of the offices the Lieutenant, without taking the trouble even to put on uniform, went to the temple to find Ho T'ien-lin, a major whom he suspected of having been the cause of his losing his appointment. Ho T'ien-lin, however, was away on leave, so he again importuned Chu Chi-jui to use his influence in getting him restored. Chu Chi-jui rebuked him, whereupon in a loud voice he spoke of the Major Ho T'ien-lin by his personal name and made abusive and insulting remarks about him. Upon being placed on his trial, the Lieutenant admitted his fault, and then saying, "there are still proofs," pulled out something from the breast of his coat and proceeded to swallow it. The underlings promptly rushed forward and snatched it from him, when they found it to be a piece of opium. A revolver was found upon his person, and although his original idea was only to frighten his superior officer and not to offer violence, still, if this class of person is allowed to escape capital punishment, the laws of the Empire will come to be regarded as insignificant in the extreme. Under the circumstances, therefore, the memorialist did not venture to allow himself to be constrained by conventionality in the slightest degree, and had him summarily executed in accordance with martial law. (For decree see *Gazette* of 15th September.)

September 18th.—(1) Postscript memorial from Ting Pao-chêng. The memorialist has already reported to His Majesty the impatience and anxiety that he was

experiencing in consequence of the falling off in the number of applicants for salt licences during the first four months of the present year, owing to the existence of a rumour that the system of Government transport was about to be abolished. He feared that all his previous efforts, that were attended last year with so much success, would be thrown away, but since the receipt of His Majesty's decree directing him to continue to conduct the supervision of the salt trade, which decree he promptly embodied in a proclamation, the salt merchants at once came gladly forward, and a brisker sale of licences has resulted. Inspection of the returns for the fourth and fifth moons shows a gradual resumption of activity, and if no further disturbing rumours get spread abroad, sales will improve, as each day goes on, and the regular taxes and *lekin* are certainly eventually to be more abundant even than they were before. Knowing His Majesty's anxiety that this matter affords His Majesty, the memorialist respectfully forwards the above report for his information.

(2) Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, submits a list of officers that have been specially energetic in the superintendence of the transport of grain into Shansi, for whom he solicits the bestowal of honorary rewards. From the year 1877, 700,000 piculs of grain for relief purposes have been sent into Shansi. This grain started from Tientsin or Tê Chow, and was forwarded thence by branch establishment into Shansi by one of three routes; the northern, or Chihli route, the central, or Shantung route, and the southern, or Honan route. Huai-lu was the head transport depôt for the northern route with six agencies at Shih-t'ieh, T'ai-yuan, P'ing-yao, Ling-shih, Ho-chow and Ping-yang Fu. The central depôt for the middle route was Kuan-t'ao, with agencies at Su-ts'ao, Tung-yang, and Liang-ma. The central depôt for the southern route was at Tao-k'ou, with agencies at Yang-shu Wan, Ch'ing-hua, Chou Ts'un, Yi Ch'êng Mêng Hsien, Tieh-hsieh, Hui-tien and Mao-chin. There were, therefore, twenty depôts and agencies in all, irrespective of local depôts for receipt and distribution of grain established by district Magistrates, etc. The memorial concludes with a tribute of praise to the officers who were engaged in the superintendence of the transport of this large quantity of grain. Their untiring energy and the promptitude of their efforts contributed to the saving of numbers of lives which would otherwise have undoubtedly been sacrificed. The list of officers contains forty-four names.—Re-

ferred by Rescript to the consideration of the proper Board.

September 19th.—No documents of importance.

September 20th.—(1) Hsia Chia-kao (one of the Ministers of the Tsung-li yamên) is directed to act as senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors during the absence of Ch'ên Lan-pin, Minister to the United States &c., newly appointed to that post.

(2) Memorial from the Censor Huang Yuan-shan, suggesting that bannermen from Peking shall be sent to occupy the large tracts of land in Shansi rendered waste and ownerless by the death or dispersion caused by the recent famine. Their numbers are increasing daily, and since their pay has been reduced they find it harder than ever to live, the addition, making it up to two-fifths of the original amount, that has recently been given them being still insufficient for their wants. The whole region of Petuné on the northern frontier has, the memorialist gathers from a report of Ming An, Governor of Kirin, been reserved at the wish of the Board of Revenue as a place to which the bannermen may hereafter be moved. In the opinion of memorialist, as the Manchus form the root or foundation of the State, it would be better to consider the disposition of the surplus population of Peking in the Empire itself when opportunity presents, before planting them far away on its outskirts, where cultivation would be attended with many more difficulties than in the case of land that had lain waste for a comparatively short period. It is probable that the waste lands in the province of Shansi, which the Governor proposes to offer to anyone who will cultivate them, cannot be all taken up by natives of the province, while the adjoining provinces of Shên-si, Honan and Chihli, having suffered simultaneously from a like visitation, it is improbable that they either will be able to furnish cultivators. Several objections might be raised to the memorialist's scheme. The first, possibly, that bannermen have been so long rooted in Peking that a sudden change to a different climate and soil would be inexpedient. The same argument holds good in a greater degree of the region of Petuné with its inhospitable climate, to which they would find it almost impossible to accustom themselves, or, again, it may be argued that bannermen are so accustomed to being gratuitously supported by the State that they will never be able to work, and certainly no work of an agricultural kind, for they have had no experience whatever in this branch of

industry, not to mention the fact that being accustomed to having enough to eat without doing anything for it, they are likely to prefer their ease to toil. The fallacy of this objection—and a third, that the Manchus and Chinese cannot live peaceably together—is proved by the fact that the majority of Manchus engaged in the pursuit of agriculture in the districts and departments round the capital have been on good terms with their Chinese neighbours for the past two hundred years and more. There is, therefore, no reason to suppose that their relations with the natives of Shansi would be different in any way. To meet the possible objection that they would fail for want of means, the memorialist would suggest the pay they would now be drawing should be continued to them for the space of ten years, in addition to the bonus they would receive as a capital wherewith to commence. (For decree see *Gazette* of 6th September.)

(3) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of the Hukwang provinces. Wu Yuan-han, expectant Taotai and Superintendent of the Ichang central salt office, reports as follows:—On the 10th of March last, he sent two subordinate officers of the salt department, viz., Ma Lien-ch'üan and Wu Yu-shan, to Wuch'ang Fu, in charge of the tax receipts on salt for the month of February, amounting to Tls. 10,000 in silver and 10,000 strings of cash. They hired a boat and went down by the great river. On the 28th of March they reached the Wench'ang gorge in the Kiang-ling district, and anchored there. During the night a strong northerly wind got up and the vessel dragged her anchors, whereupon the waves broke into the boat and she sunk at once. A gunboat that was anchored close by went promptly to rescue the occupants of the boat, and succeeded in saving Wu Yu-shan, but Ma Lien-ch'üan and three servants were drowned. Upon the matter being reported to the district authority, he hired men to get up the treasure, and after working for several days in succession the whole of it, cash and sycee, was recovered. The bodies of the drowned officer and his three servants have not been found. The memorialist applies for the bestowal upon the deceased officer of the highest posthumous honors that can be allotted to one of his rank. Granted by Rescript.

(4) The superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow reports that he has completed and forwarded the following silk fabrics for Imperial use in Peking:—

Satin and gauze made up	
or in the piece	370 pieces.
Silk and silk lining	3,400 „
Large handkerchiefs	600 „
Sewing silk	600 catties.
Silk thread	10 „
White raw silk	500 „
Fine cotton cloth	3,000 pieces.

At a cost of over Tls. 50,000. The balance of the funds at his disposal has been expended in the manufacture of satin brocade, Court robes, satin, and crêpe.

(5) Postscript memorial from Shên Pao-chêng. He has received a communication from the Board of Revenue stating that they have had under consideration the proposals for the simultaneous carriage of tribute grain by sea and canal, submitted by the expectant Taotai Chu Ch'i-ang (Superintendent of the China Merchants' Co.), and have reported to His Majesty their objections to those portions of his scheme which are attended with drawbacks. They consider, however, that the Ministers Superintendent of Trade for the North and South should consider the economical advantages or the reverse attendant upon the use of dredging machinery upon the Grand Canal, &c., &c. The memorialist begs to observe with reference to this matter that the difficulty attendant upon the restoration of the Canal route consists in the disposal of the earth that is taken out of it, and not in the dredging itself, for if the earth that is taken out is placed on the edge of the river, it slips back again as it is gradually piled up, and the dredging might as well be left alone. If the earth is to be taken to some place beyond the embankments where it will do no harm, it will have to be carried a considerable distance, and the operation cannot keep pace with the rapid supply furnished by dredging, which will be more rapid still if a steam dredger is employed; so that unless double the number of porters are set to work, the machinery will have to be stopped until the accumulations are carried off. A general estimate of expenditure shows that the cost of portage will equal the expenditure for coal, etc., for it must be remembered that the conditions of inland waters are different from those adjacent to the coast, where the dredgings can be placed in boats and quickly carried to the sea.

The Hun Chiang Lung 混江龍, or pilot dredger, which is used by the officers in charge of grain flotilla to open a channel of a few *li* when they come to shallow places, is on the same principle, though in a small degree, as the machine dredger,

but all they aim at is to get over a shallow place without troubling themselves whether it silts up afterwards or not. When the Yellow River rises above the roof-shaped shallows that are found in its bed, the water can be pent up and the boats be carried over with a rush on its release, carrying away the sand and mud at the same time. The Canal, however, cannot be compared with the Yellow River, for in the former there is a uniform height of water and a weak stream, and it seems to memorialist that the best plan is to direct the various district Magistrates and river authorities each to deepen his own section. By this distribution of labour the undertaking will be easier, and will be the means of affording [constant] employment to the people. Re-script: Noted.

September 21st.—(1) Hsü T'ung 徐同, President of the Board of Ceremonies, is appointed Chief Examiner for the *Hsiang Shih*, or metropolitan examination for the degree of provincial graduate, to be held in Peking on the 23rd inst.

(2-5) Decrees appointing other officials to various offices in connection with the above examination.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials of little interest or importance.

September 22nd.—(1) The Governor-General of Hukwang and the Governor of Hupeh are directed to select one of the Prefects holding a substantive appointment in the latter province, to fill the post of Prefect of Wu-ch'ang Fu. The post vacated by the officer selected is to be filled by one Kêng Ying-pu.

(2) The Court of Censors report that a native of the Huang-p'i district of the Hanyang prefecture in the province of Hupeh has appealed to them under the following circumstances. The appellant, who keeps a shop for the sale of rice, was robbed last year by a gang of desperadoes, one of whom, Wu Ya, was caught, and agreed to return the plunder, but part of it was kept back by Liu Yuan-tzū, one of his accomplices, and Wu Ya was consequently detained in prison, where he died. Liu Yuan-tzū bore a grudge against the petitioner in consequence, and as a pretext for a quarrel, tried in the beginning of the year to extort money from petitioner, which he refused to pay, whereupon he picked a quarrel with petitioner's elder brother, a partner in the shop. In the fight that ensued, petitioner's brother was hurt, as well as one Liu Hung-yi, a member of the gang by whom Liu Yuan-tzū was supported. Liu Ssū, another

of the gang, then determined to wreak his vengeance on the petitioner by killing Liu Hung-yi, who had been sold to the Liu family and was not actually a member of it, and declaring that he had died of the wounds received in his fight with petitioner's brother. He could not put his design into immediate execution, and in the meantime Liu Hung-yi had recovered from his injuries, but still no opportunity presented itself for some days, when Hung-yi's wife and adopted mother having gone out, Liu Ssū poisoned him. A petition was then presented, charging petitioner's brother with the murder, and false witnesses were suborned to testify against him, success being further secured by the administration of bribes, with the result that the Magistrate would accept none but the plaintiff's evidence. Referred in the usual manner.

(3) The Literary Chancellor of Shansi reports the conclusion of a tour through the province for the purpose of holding examinations. These have been conducted at a somewhat later time than usual this year, owing in the first place, to an application from the various towns and cities he was about to visit that a little more time might be given them; and next by illness on the part of memorialist, which detained him some weeks at Fên Chou. The tour lasted over three months, during which time some ten examinations were held. He did not find the standard of education very high, but this is to be attributed to the omission of the annual examination last year, in consequence of the distress having interfered with the pursuit of study. He is happy to inform His Majesty that he found the crops in a flourishing condition everywhere he went.

September 23rd.—(1) A Decree. Some time since, by reason of the numerous difficulties of the time, the demand for talented [administrators] was urgent in the extreme. On repeated occasions, We directed Governors-General and Governors of provinces by decree to recommend men of talent from time to time [as these should come under their notice], that their names might be recorded for official employment. At the present time, although there is no lack of persons to whom positions can be assigned commensurate to their abilities, there is, nevertheless, reason to doubt whether the observation [of these Governors-General and Governors] has been exercised as thoroughly as it is capable of being exercised, and that they have not yet exhausted the list of persons they can recommend. There must be a number of persons whose consideration of the question of administration for many

years in succession, and whose acquaintance with military matters and military organisation, with the practical experience in civil and military matters that they have gained, render them ready to be employed in an official capacity. Let provincial high authorities give particular attention to this matter, and honestly recommend all such persons awaiting our orders as to their selection and employment. The levy of *iqhān* is [countenanced] only in the face of the most absolute necessity by reason of the insufficiency of funds for the pay of the soldiery, and if the officers in each province deputed to superintend the levy of this tax acquit themselves of their duty in an unworthy manner, searching for dutiable articles and demanding payment in a vexatious and petty way, they will be very far from carrying out the intentions of the Court. Let Governors-General and Governors, then, make zealous enquiry, and see that all miscellaneous and petty articles are exempted from taxation, and where the stations are planted too thickly let them also consider the practicability of the withdrawal of some of them; the object they must keep particularly in view being the reinforcement of military supplies in such wise that it shall not become too great a burden upon the people. The whole [secret of success] rests entirely in the securing of proper agents, and it is therefore specially incumbent on Governors-General and Governors to select these agents with care, avoiding the slightest approach to make-shift expedients that result in embarrassment to the people. It is impossible to abolish altogether the local contributions levied in various departments and districts, but there are so many of them that the pure and honest official finds himself beset with drawbacks and difficulties in the conduct of public business [if he attempts to do without them], while the corrupt one makes them a pretext for vexatious exactions, and numerous abuses spring up in consequence. We command Governors-General and Governors, therefore, to make careful scrutiny from time to time, and consider in what direction these taxes can be reduced or distributed with more equal incidence. Assistant magistrates and district police masters hold, comparatively speaking, a humble position, and though there are cleanhanded and conscientious men amongst them, it is impossible but there should be some who under a pretence of serving the public ends further their private interests and prey on the people in their covetousness and greed. Such persons will be unsparingly denounced by their provincial

chiefs, who are to be ever on the watch for them.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, reports the embankments and works for the control of the waters of the Tu-kiang have been repaired in such a way as to be thoroughly strong and safe. They have been put to a fairly severe test during the summer freshet, and have stood the strain throughout, not having given way as they did during the previous summer although the water was quite as high.

(3) Memorial from P'au Tsu-yin and Kuang Show, the high officers appointed to investigate the conduct of An Hsing-ah, keeper of the seals of the Treasury of the Imperial Household, against whom various charges had been brought by a Censor. (See *Gazettes* of 30th August and 9th September.

September 24th.—(1) Li Hung-mo 李宏謨 is appointed Reader of the Grand Secretariat.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the guardians of the Yung-chi-k'ü, or Treasury for the issue of funds for expenditure in connection with the Imperial Mausolea, reporting that their debts have accumulated to over Tls. 70,000 exclusive of earlier loans, and requesting that the Tls. 60,000 earlier borrowed may be considered as regular expenditure [and the debt cancelled]; also that a sum of Tls. 80,000 may be supplied them from the rents on lands in Chihli for the maintenance of the banner corps, in order to clear off later debts. Jung Yi and Ching Jui, the Guardians of this Treasury, are to be censured for their temerity in submitting so ill-advised a proposal, involving as it does the repudiation of the early loan and a further appropriation of Tls. 80,000 to pay off later obligations, and their request is refused. The Governor-General of Chihli is, however, directed to pay the rents due by the province to the treasury in question.

(3) Ch'ing Yü, Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, reports that he assumed charge of his duties on the 18th August.

(No other documents of importance.)

September 25th.—The following are the passages selected from the Four Books as the subjects for the first course at the examination for provincial graduate now being conducted in Peking:—

1.—Tzū Kung said—"Suppose the case of a man extensively conferring benefits on the people, and able to assist all, what would

you say of him? Might he be called perfectly virtuous?" The Master said, "Why speak only of virtue in connection with him? Must he not have the qualities of a sage?" (See Legge's Classics, Vol. I., p. 58.)

2.—His virtue was that of a sage; his dignity was the Imperial Throne; his riches were all within the four seas. (See Legge's Classics, Vol. I., p. 262.)

3.—Confucius was the timeous one. (See Legge's Classics, Vol. II., p. 248.)

4.—Subject for verse composition. The lines to be five characters in length, and eight of every sixteen lines to rhyme with the character 晴 Ch'ing.

"Beyond the suburbs may be seen afar
The brilliant freshness that succeeds the rain."

(2) A decree directing Sung Ch'ing, Commander-in-chief in Szechuen, and Ts'ui T'ing-kuei, General of the Ho-pei Brigade, to be committed to the Board for the determination of distinguished rewards in recognition of the service they have rendered in averting dangers that threatened the embankments of the Yellow River.

(3) Memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, submitting his views on a proposal of the Superintendents of the Imperial Granaries at Peking and T'ungchow, that a certain portion of the annual grant for the transport of grain by the Canal should be applied to the restoration of the Canal itself, and that a portion of the tribute grain should hereafter be forwarded by the Canal route. He commences by recognising the utility of the Canal, and the importance of maintaining it in proper order. Formerly, millions of taels were annually spent in its preservation, for the valid reason that this important highway was indispensable as far as the Imperial Granaries were concerned, in consequence of the dangers and uncertainties of the sea route. The present financial condition of the Empire will, however, bear no comparison with that of former years; several provinces have to be laid under contribution to provide the expenses of transport, and if these were in a position to come forward with the necessary funds, one great effort might put the Canal into so thorough and lasting a condition of repair that the annual expenditure required to maintain its efficiency might not be spent in vain. If, as is at present the system pursued, the Canal is repaired each year solely with a view to the transport of grain for that single year, apart altogether from the question whether the necessary funds are forthcoming or no, the defects are increasing

daily with such rapidity, that it will be impossible to maintain it permanently even in its present condition. He then proceeds to give his reasons for this conclusion, considering seriatim each proposal brought forward by the Superintendent of the Granaries. The first of these is that each province interested in the grain transport should be called upon to provide a given amount of the transport funds it is compelled to supply for the maintenance and repair of the Canal. To apply this proposal to the region in the jurisdiction of Nanking, a large deficit was shown by every district, in some cases of several lacs of taels, in others of several thousands, owing to the expense of transshipment, dredging, etc., etc., in the years 1875 and 1876, when the grain was despatched northwards. In the following year, by the exercise of the most rigid economy, a saving of Tls. 20,000 was made and the money devoted to the relief of the sufferers in Shansi and Honan, and this saving was effected by the temporary resumption of the sea transport. In Kiangsu, also, there is an annual deficit in the expenditure on account of transport, and large appropriations have to be made from other accounts to make it good, so that any attempt to set apart a certain amount of the transport grant for the repairs of the Canal would not only interfere with the due carrying out of the river transport, but would also put a stop to the transport by sea. The province of Anhui, which is also interested in the grain transport, has a surplus each year, out of its annual grant, but out of this surplus the levies for the pay of the troops in the capital, supplementary military levies, and the pay of the provincial troops, have to be provided; and so far from an actual balance existing it is difficult to make the surplus meet the calls for its application. The people cannot bear the extra burden that an appropriation for repairs to the Canal would entail, and any attempt to deduct the amount from the levies for the capital would meet with denunciation [from the Board of Revenue], and the infliction of [severe] penalties. The only way, therefore, of raising the requisite amount is to reduce the number of irregular troops in the provinces. As long as prosperous years continue, this might be done, but any reverse would be the signal for the starting up of hosts of bad characters, and the experiment would be a dangerous one.

The second proposal of the Superintendents is to the effect that the provinces of Chêkiang and Kiangsu should

send by the Canal route some hundreds of thousands of piculs of the tribute rice that at present is shipped by sea; that Anhui should send a certain amount also on the next occasion; and that extra vessels should be hired. It is with great difficulty that Kiangsu is able to provide funds for the sea route even, and if she be called upon to abandon a comparatively economical line for a much more costly one, where, it may be asked, are the funds to come from? Anhui is in a still more poverty-stricken condition than Kiangsu. The junks laden with the Kiangpeh tribute rice had not all crossed the Yellow River even in August last, and it is impossible to say when they will get back after discharging their cargoes, a good half of them will be frozen in and rot, and the junk owners have the experience of former essays to convince them of the danger of attempting to return by sea.

The third proposal that the Superintendents put forward is that the condition of the Canal should be ascertained throughout its length by careful inspection, and proposals submitted for the dredging and repair thereof. Memorialist has not travelled along the whole length of the Canal, and is not therefore in a position to go into this question in detail, but arguing from general grounds, he comes to the conclusion that the Canal route was only adopted under the compulsion of circumstances. In the Han and T'ang dynasties, the capital of the Empire was Ch'ang-an in Shên-si, and, in the Sung dynasty, K'ai-fêng Fu; so that if the transport by Canal had then been abandoned, there was no alternative to fall back on. But it was retained in the face of risks and dangers oft repeated, to the embarrassment and suffering of officials and people, and, in the end, granaries had to be erected half way, and the grain forwarded when opportunity offered. By this means accidents from carelessness, mistakes, or otherwise, were rarer. In the Yuan dynasty (when Peking was the capital), the sea route alone was used, and so throughout this dynasty no "river disasters" occurred. On the accession of the Ming they were all for the Canal route, and this being so, a corresponding attention had to be paid to precautions against accidents. Just as regulations had been drawn up, however, the Yellow River suddenly changed its course, and was so constantly shifting its direction, that the grain transport had to be modified to suit its constant vagaries [instead of being conducted under the regulations above referred to.] The pre-

sent dynasty has followed the example of the Ming, and the expenses incurred grew correspondingly with the increase of contingencies that called them forth, while a class of vagrant and worthless adventurers were created [who make their living out of the speculation that is to be got out of the vast sums expended.] The increase of this vagabond class was a cause of such anxiety to T'ao Shu, a former Governor-General of the Two Kiang, that he proposed the resumption of the sea route, nominally on the ground of economy, but actually to get rid of a dangerous class of people. His suggestion was approved by the Emperor Tao Kwang, and so at a time when the Canal was in a hopeless condition of inefficiency, the resumption of the sea route prevented a general break-down. When the T'aping rebellion occurred, this host of vagabonds joined them, and were greatly reduced in numbers during the process of restoration of order. The faction names of these gangs of ruffians, such as the *ch'ing p'i tang*, the "black faced gang," etc., still exists, but they have no central place of collection, and on rare occasions can muster only some ten or fifteen at once, so that a competent official can easily keep them in order. Thus it may be seen that expense is not the only argument against the resumption of the Canal route. With regard to the remarks of the Superintendents as to the agricultural advantages of the Canal as an irrigating medium, the memorialist would observe that irrigation is just as important in the provinces through which the Canal does not pass, and the preservation of irrigating canals is not neglected there. It would be easy to reduce the Canal to an irrigating water way, but to combine the advantages of irrigation and traffic would be a matter of extreme difficulty; and for the following reasons:— It is the nature of water to flow downwards, and if the Canal is forced to connect the north and south, it cannot be allowed [as when the route was abandoned] to flow in its natural direction. If it is not allowed to take its natural course, artificial means must be used to prevent its doing so, at a great expense, and at the sacrifice of a considerable reduction of its usefulness. Agricultural interests are, moreover, irreconcilable with the maintenance of the Canal as a highway. When no rain has fallen for a considerable time, the farmers would want to open the sluices and let the water on to their fields, but the authorities would most certainly keep them shut in order to preserve sufficient water for the passage of boats, and even

draw from other springs and sources of supply to supplement the deficiency; so that, regarded in the light of an irrigating medium, the Canal while preserved as a highway would be a drawback rather than an advantage. On the other hand it may happen that there is such a head of water on that it is absolutely necessary to let it off to ease the pressure on the banks and dykes. On these occasions women and children lie along the top of the dykes entreating the authorities in piteous accents to put off the opening of the sluices, until, when delay is no longer possible, the opening has to be effected at night, and large tracts of arable land on the other side of the dykes are submerged. The Governor of Shantung is constantly giving orders for the dredging of the Canal in his province. It cannot be that all the local authorities are without conscience, and neglect to carry out his orders; but the fact is that as soon as they dredge the bed it silts up again in consequence of letting in the water from the Yellow River to help [the boats through.] Before the silt accumulated during one passage is removed, the next lot of boats come, and the difference in the level of the River and the Canal renders it impossible for the junks to enter. Consequently, although perfectly aware that it is not the right plan to use the water of the River to aid the junks in getting in, they are obliged to avail themselves of this expedient in the absence of any other. The result is that the effort to force the water to flow in a contrary direction to that which it would naturally take renders the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of the Canal perfectly useless. The annual dredging recommended by the Board shows that they understand where the difficulty lies, but they are mistaken, in memorialist's opinion, in attributing the want of success to the insufficiency of funds and scarcity of boats. Given the funds that were forthcoming, and the fleet of boats that existed, in the reign of Tao Kwang, failure would still ensue, for the Canal would still silt up, and the boats that are now hired really draw less water than the old craft.

The memorialist then points out the danger and inconvenience that would arise in years when the water of the Yellow River are high, in forcing it either northwards or southwards; for in the one case Chihli would suffer, and in the other the country round Hsü Chow and Huai-ngan would suffer. He humbly hopes, therefore, that His Majesty will follow the example of the Yuan dynasty, and identify himself

with the intentions of the Emperor Tao Kwang, by adopting the sea-route, in order to secure the advantages that are so spontaneously offered by the employment of steamers. The signatures of the Governor of Kiangsu and the officiating Governor of Anhui are appended to the memorial.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

September 26th.—(Court Circular.) Hsü T'ung and his colleagues in the examination enclosure present a special memorial enquiring after the Imperial welfare.

(1) A decree. The Boards of Civil Office and of War report the penalties they have decided should be inflicted on certain persons. Let An Hsing-ah, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, in accordance with the finding of the Board of Civil Office, be at once dismissed, and let the three steps of commutative rank which the Board of War determine he should lose be recorded against him. Let Lien Yin lose three steps of commutative rank and be transferred elsewhere; let the Captain Ching Ngên be fined nine months' pay. Ch'êng Lin and Shih Tsêng, who, in concert with An Hsing-ah, when selecting Lien Yin as keeper of the seals, failed to notice that he was described on the list of expectant officials as an officer who had been dismissed and restored to rank, are committed to the Board for the determination of a penalty. The decree concludes with a censure to the Under-Secretaries of the Board of Civil Office, who displayed a great want of intelligence in putting a liberal construction on the conduct of these officers, and basing their decision accordingly.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the intelligence of the death of Shan Mao-ch'ien, retired Grand Secretary, who is characterised as a man of sound learning, deep research, and high personal rectitude. A brevet as Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent is bestowed upon him, and he is to be accorded the posthumous honors allotted to Grand Secretaries, while all official penalties recorded against him are to be cancelled and the honors he was deprived of restored to him. His son, Shan Ta-ching, is to be made a Prefect awaiting selection, and his grandson, Shan Ch'i-fan, is to have the degree of provincial graduate bestowed upon him with permission to compete at the examination for the degree of *Chiu-shih* or metropolitan graduate.

(3) A decree referring to the loss of twelve cases of treasure and a *wei-yuan* by a sudden freshet in the Chang River, which forms the boundary between Honan and Chihli.

(See *Gazette* of 15th Sept.) Li Hung-chang declared that as the treasure had been lost before it had reached the northern bank of this river, the Governor of Honan should be responsible. The Governor of Honan now requests that as the boat had already crossed over to the northern side of the river when it was washed away, the Governor-General of Chihli may be directed to send a deputy to hold a joint investigation into the circumstances with an agent from Honan. In accordance with this request, Li Hung-chang is ordered to send a deputy at once, and both high authorities are to see that the enquiry is properly conducted.

(4) Memorial from the Censor Kan T'i-ming calling attention to the late hour at which the lists of criminals under sentence of death are forwarded to the Grand Secretariat, the nine Chief Ministries of State, and the Censorate, for inspection at the usual autumn revision. By a decree of the 28th year of Ch'ien Lung, these lists should be sent to a committee composed of the above-mentioned offices some fifteen days before the date of the winter solstice, but of late years they have only been forwarded on the day previous to the revision, which allows no time for a careful consideration of the respective merits of each case, and the provincial lists are never scrutinised at all.

September 27th.—(Court Circular.) Ch'êng Lin requests leave of absence for five days.

(1) Memorial from Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hunan. For the past twenty years the grain tribute due by Honan has been commuted for a payment in money. The heads of the Board of Revenue have of late years repeatedly urged the resumption of payment in grain, in order that the Peking granaries may actually contain the stocks they are supposed to hold. Wang Wang-shao, the late Governor, now promoted, went into the matter, and ascertained that the forwarding of grain from so great a distance was attended with many difficulties, and he laid a statement of the drawbacks and impossibilities of the scheme before His Majesty. The memorialist entered upon his present duties last year, and after careful enquiry he has now come to the conclusion that no abrupt resumption of payments in grain can be effected, and in making this statement he is not attempting to stave off the question by vague excuses. In consequence of the opinion he had formed, he prayed that, in accordance with precedent, he might be allowed to forward a money commutation in lieu of the grain

due as a winter instalment for the year 1878. The Board of Revenue have again pressed His Majesty to order the high authorities of the provinces that are under an obligation to supply grain tribute to take into consideration the possibility of forwarding this tribute in grain. His Majesty having consented to this proposition, the memorialist was communicated with in due course, and he at once directed the provincial committee to take the matter into consideration and report. The reply of the Grain Taotai and the Financial Commissioner is now before him. They state that, after an investigation into local conditions, they are of opinion that it will be impossible to forward the quota of grain for the year 1879 in kind, and are obliged to request that, as heretofore, a monetary commutation may be accepted, all of which will be forwarded, as in the case of the previous two years, in two instalments, that is to say, Tls. 20,000 within the year, and the balance in instalments at the beginning of next year. The allowance for expenses of the transport of grain is not large, and the balance saved on each instalment does not amount to more than Tls. 1,400 odd, Tls. 1,000 of this being remitted to the Board, and they would solicit permission, as before, to forward this sum with the last instalment of the money commutation.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

September 28th.—The following are the selections from the five Classics given as subjects for composition at the second course of the *hsiang shih* examination:—

1.—First nine. Pulling up reeds and dragging other roots of the same species with them (they are so entangled together); advancing is now attended with good luck. (Yi-king. McClatchie's translation, p. 62.)

2.—To tranquillise the people, this is benevolence, which the black haired race will cherish in their hearts. (Shoo-king.) Heaven enlightens the people.

3.—As the bamboo flute responds to the porcelain whistle; as two half maces form a whole (She-king. Legge, vol. II., pt. 2, p. 502.)

4.—There was a meeting in Seou-yu (Tso-chuan. Legge, vol. V., pt. 2pt., p. 451.)

5.—He burnt a record of his successes during the year in the presence of Heaven, and the Phoenix descended. The Tortoise and the Dragon received his offerings in the suburbs, and the wind and rain came in their season; the cold and heat succeeded at proper intervals (Lü-ki.)

(1) Sun Yü-wên 孫毓汶 is appointed sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank of Vice-President of the Board of Revenue.

(2) Ho-ching, Governor-General of Min-chih, reports the death of Hsia Hsienlun, Taotai of Taiwan. On the 6th August the deceased officer left Foochow, where he had been on business, on his return to Taiwan. He got a feverish attack on the voyage, which was a very rough one, the wind blowing boisterously and the waves running mountains high, with the result that the vessel tossed about considerably and he got dizzy and asthmatic, while his whole body burned with fever. They were detained for four days by the weather at Peng Hu, which prevented him obtaining prompt medical assistance, and, finally, when the ship reached An-ping, he had to go ashore on a bamboo raft at great personal risk, for the waves came seething up above his throat, and his clothes and shoes got wet. On landing he at once called in medical aid, but his heart had long been weak, and the malaria had got so thoroughly into his system that internal complications were apprehended. The Prefect and Magistrate waited upon him, and he managed to summon them to his bedside and tell them many things in broken sentences about the defences in the northern and southern ports, but not a word did he say about himself. From this time he became worse, and medicines had no effect, until, after lingering on to the 10th of August, he died. The memorialist expresses his profound regret at the loss of so distinguished an officer, who held the post of Taotai of Taiwan for nearly seven years. He hopes that His Majesty will be graciously pleased speedily to select a competent officer to fill this important post.

(3) Postscript memorial from the same officer, giving a sketch of the career of the late Taotai of Taiwan, and praying that the honors allotted to those who have seen distinguished military service may be allotted to him.

(4) The same officer solicits permission to appoint Chang Meng-yuan, Prefect of Taiwan Fu, Acting Taotai of Taiwan.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) The Board of Revenue remind His Majesty that the term of office of Tsai Ling, Superintendent of Customs and Octroi in Peking, expired on the 18th September, and request that a successor may be appointed.

(6) The Comptrollers of the Office of the Imperial Household similarly request that

His Majesty will be pleased to signify what two Secretaries from their Board, to whom the appointment is always given, shall be selected as Deputy Superintendents of Customs and Octroi at Peking for the coming year. (See Gazette of 11th September.)

(7) A long memorial from Ting Pao-chêng with reference to the salt trade of Szechuen. For the last thirty years the number of unsaleable licences has been annually increasing, and the accounts have been getting more complicated day by day. Last year in the provinces of Kueichow and Yunnan, which had become obsolete areas, the trade was revived, and separate offices were established, under special regulations, for its conduct and maintenance. For several years past, however, the Yamén of the Szechuen Salt Intendant has been issuing licences without due regard to the limits of the area, many permits for places beyond these limits being indiscriminately mixed with the others; licences dating back to the reigns of Hsien Fêng and T'ung Chih being also issued at the same time with those of the present reign, in such an indiscriminate manner that great confusion has resulted, while the substitution of one licence for another, etc., etc., has given rise to numerous abuses to the eminent satisfaction of dishonest clerks, runners, and traders. After describing the inextricable confusion that has resulted from the alteration of these licences, which are for different weights and different destinations, and pointing out the difficulty of disentangling this huge mass of confusion in consequence of the numbers of departments and districts interested, the memorialist goes on to explain that he has now drawn up a code of regulations under which a committee consisting of the two Commissioners, the Salt Intendant, and the Prefect of Ch'eng-fu Fu, shall ascertain the number of licences issued each year, their several destinations and the amounts realised. He has also appointed an expectant Taotai, who is to be president of another committee composed of prefects and department and district magistrates, who are to form a department of the Salt Intendancy, with the special object of scrutinising the books and ascertaining the number of licences that were, or should have been, taken out in each particular year; how many remain in store; how many have been issued; and how many remain uncanceled; also, how many have been transferred from one area to another. In short, to make out a statement of the accounts and transactions of the office, with

a view to ascertaining whether these correspond with the licences issued, and establishing a basis for a readjustment of the whole system. Rescript:—Noted.

September 29th.—(1) A Decree. Ch'êng Lin, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, was promoted by recommendation from the grade of Secretary to that of Vice-President, and did duty in the Tsung-li Yamén. He was also a Comptroller of the Office of the Imperial Household, and a Senior Police Provost, performing his duties in these various departments with intelligence, diligence, and ability. The news of his decease has filled Us with profound regret, and as an act of special grace We command that the brevet of Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent be bestowed upon him, and that he be granted the posthumous marks of compassion that the law allots to Vice-Presidents of Boards. All official penalties recorded against his name are to be withdrawn, and his son Huai Ch'ing, second-class Assistant and Secretary of a Board, is to have the post of second-class Secretary bestowed upon him as an act of special grace, and to be sent to one of the Boards to learn his duties so soon as he shall have attained the necessary age.

(2-4) The following appointments are made in consequence of the vacancies caused by the death of Ch'êng Lin:—Senior Police Provost, Lin Shu 麟書. Deputy Lieutenant-General Bordered White Banner Corps, Mu Lung-ah 穆隆阿 (with other changes in several corps.) Comptroller of the Imperial Household, Chih Ho 志和, and Kuang Shun 廣順. Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Octroi, Peking, 照祥 (the brother of the Junior Empress.) Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, Chih Ho. Junior Vice-President of the same Board, Wu-lahsi-ch'ung-ah 烏拉喜崇阿. Junior Vice-President, Board of War, Ngên Lin.

(5) Memorial from the Censor Wên Chüeh, suggesting that the offices established in the provinces for the scrutiny and adjustment of the accounts of officials when leaving their posts, and the clearing up of judicial arrears, may be abolished. Each province contains a Financial and Judicial Commissioner, the special duties of the former being the superintendence of financial matters and the appointment of officials, while the latter has the

supreme control of offences against law and the protection of life and property. The adjustment of the accounts of outgoing officials and the control of litigation and superintendence of prisons, etc., are part of the functions which these officers are in duty bound to perform, and are not at liberty to delegate to others. The memorialist understands that in almost every province special offices for the scrutiny of balance of outgoing officials, and the clearing up of judicial arrears have been established, presided over by expectant Taotais and Prefects with a staff of expectants of minor offices as secretaries and clerks, for whose maintenance a monthly grant is allotted from the public funds. The establishment of these offices was proposed by certain Governors-General and Governors at a time when the Commissioners were so occupied in military matters and the necessary arrangements connected therewith, that they had no leisure to attend to other duties as well, and they were sanctioned by His Majesty as a temporary expedient, as a means of preventing the accumulation of arrears of work. Their continuation for a long period has, however, given rise to numerous abuses. Most of the Taotais or Prefects in charge have obtained the appointment by purchase or military service, and take little interest in their work, while at least half the secretaries were originally private secretaries to officials who purchased a rank, and, if not actually related to the Taotais and Prefects in charge, are at least their personal friends. The chiefs look upon the establishments as a sort of nursery for their friends, and the clerks regard them as a road by which they can worm themselves upwards on the official road, and as for the so-called "clearing up" it is really nothing more than such in name. The employés are said to wait upon every local authority who visits the capital, and to bribe them with dinners and presents at the festivals and on their respective birthdays, the approval or the reverse of the action of these offices depending upon the amount of the presents given. The memorialist finds it stated in the "Statute of Penalties" that any chief who shall employ a subordinate as private Secretary, and allow him to transact any official business in his Yamén, shall be dismissed, as well as the subordinate so employed. The clerks in the offices above referred to, though not in name subordinates acting as private Secretaries, do, as a matter of fact, transact official business in the Yaméns of their chiefs [under similar conditions to those for which a penalty is laid down.] The memorial concludes with

a request for the abolition of the offices in question. (See *Gazette* of 13th Sept.)

September 30th.—(1) A decree ordering a Major and a Lieutenant serving in the province of Shêng-king to be dismissed the service and banished to the Amur, where they are to be put to painful and laborious work. These officers were privy to the fact that a cavalry soldier under their command, in direct disobedience to the rules of the garrison, left his barracks and collected people together for the purpose of gambling. They, nevertheless, took no steps to have him punished, and intentionally screened him [when called upon for a report.] The soldier has been summarily executed, and the decree approves entirely of the sentence inflicted.

(2) Memorial from Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, reporting on the condition of the Canal southwards to Tsing-kiang P'u from the Yellow River. After despatching his memorial announcing the passage of the Yellow River by the fleet of grain junks, which was dated from Chang-ch'iu Chên in Shantung, he left for the south, travelling by the Canal and inspecting the works as he went along, reaching Ts'in-kiang P'u on the 4th of August. The water in the Kiang-peh section of the Grand Canal has risen since the summer from ten to twenty feet in different places, washing the embankments to the very top, so that their safety has been endangered to more than an ordinary degree. A good half of the works at the Pei-su entrance to the Canal and the An-hsün Salt Channel, which are rather low, are on a level with the water, and in some places are even under water, while at some of the bends where the force of the current is met, a number of breaches have been made. Portions of the long dykes on either side of the Canal have fallen in or been reduced to the condition of simple banks that are saturated with water and leak. Fortunately, the sections that were injured last year have been repaired at the most important points, and are in a position to stand the strain to which they are now subjected. Although the sluices at Liu-lao-chien in the Su-ch'ien Hsien division have been opened as required by regulation, the water has not fallen to any extent, but the drainage below Yang-chuang in the old bed of the Yellow River has been more effective than usual, and the banks that were erected last year, in combination with the dredging that was carried out, have had successful results. The Intendant of the Huai Yang Hai Circuit has constructed two dams or sluices after the former model, by which the

water is forced in an easterly direction, dredging the bed of the river where he thought it advisable, in order to reduce the height of the water, and his efforts have been attended with more than usual success. The time of the autumn freshets is still distant, but the works at Hsü-chow and Huai-an are very extensive, and there are still a number of dangerous points in addition to those that were repaired in the spring, and the slightest carelessness may result in disastrous consequences. The memorialist has accordingly directed his staff to divide their numbers and carefully inspect the different sections, effecting speedy repairs at the points they may consider dangerous. The Governor-General has set about the necessary repairs in the Yang-chow jurisdiction, and though the western bank has not yet been placed in thorough order, the eastern bank can now be depended upon. As regards the condition of the country through which memorialist passed, he found the autumn crop in a very flourishing condition on the high lying land in Shantung, and there were still more satisfactory prospects in the Kiang-peh region, so that His Majesty need have no anxiety on that score. He begs to add that the despatch of this memorial has been slightly delayed in consequence of a cold he caught, which retarded its preparation.—Rescript: Noted.

October 1st.—Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the receipt of a petition from Sung Ta-k'uei, degraded expectant Sub-prefect in Szechuen, to the following effect:—H.E. Ting, Governor-General of the province, put great faith in one T'ang Ching, a Taotai, whom he suffered to enter into collusion with a district Magistrate, one Ting 'tao-liang, who has now had to withdraw from the province on account of one of his relations being appointed to serve in the same province in a higher capacity, and the pair committed all sorts of abuses. The petitioner presented a report in person to the Governor-General exposing certain abuses, and when H.E. had perused his remarks on the salt trade and missionary questions, he spoke in an angry way and looked displeased. Petitioner could do nothing but bow his head in submission and keep silence. When the petitioner was acting as Magistrate of the Ming-shan district, his successor appropriated to his sole use the fees paid by [salt merchants], so that it was impossible to clear the accounts when the latter handed over charge, and petitioner went to the magistracy to try and get them clear, when it was found that he had expended

some of the supplementary taxes during his tenure of office. A joint report on the subject was drawn up by himself and the Magistrate Li, his remplaçant's successor, and forwarded to the Governor-General. On his return to the provincial capital, he learned that Ting Tao-liang and his party had assumed the monopoly of powers to which they had no claim, and were not following the old regulations in the course of action they adopted. The petitioner continued to take his turn at special duty, hoping in time to obtain an appointment when a vacancy occurred, when suddenly he was denounced with eleven others and dismissed. Now, there are over eighty officials in Szechuen who are defaulters, and whose defalcations are many times larger in amount than that of petitioner, which were, moreover, incurred in the interests of the public service. All he could do under the circumstances, however, was to apply for permission, in accordance with earlier precedents, to allow this excess of expenditure to be passed into the public account. His request was refused. He then asked that it might be settled in accordance with the new regulations for the supplementing of travelling expenses of officials, but this was refused. He next requested to be allowed to set off a number of munitions of war belonging to a friend, that he had borrowed, against his debt, but this was refused also; and, finally, he offered to pay it off partly in money and partly in treasury bills, but this again was refused. The vexation and wrong of this business killed petitioner's father and mother, and the gentry, out of compassion for petitioner, then and there took steps to raise the necessary amount by annual instalments, but even this proposition was refused. A careful enquiry into the cause of these repeated refusals led to the discovery that Ting Tao-liang and the others were working against him with the Governor-General. On the 30th March, the Financial Commissioner issued an order giving petitioner three months in which to make good his debt, and two days afterwards petitioner applied for permission to leave the capital, going to Tzū-liu-ching to try and borrow the money of a relation there. In course of time, news reached him that an execution had been levied on his property, which so worried and excited him that boils broke out upon him, which he could not get rid of. On the 22nd of November he was arrested by some braves sent by the Magistrate of the Fu-shun district, and he was taken under custody to the Magistrate's Yamên, where he

learned that a warrant had been issued for his arrest by the Governor-General. On demanding to see the warrant, he found that it was to the effect that "the petitioner had told one Wang Yü-chao, a cashiered official, to bribe the Censor Wu Chên with Tls. 20,000 to get an Imperial Commissioner sent to Szechuen to hold an enquiry." He was then sent under arrest to Ch'eng-tu, and when he sought an interview with the Governor-General it was refused him. On the departure of the Imperial Commissioners for Yunnan, the petitioner, to his surprise, was removed to the chief prison. If, as he was accused of doing, he had bribed anyone to get a commission sent, why was his evidence not taken? If he is imprisoned on the charge of defalcations, why is the seven millions in the Financial Commissioner's Treasury which cannot be accounted for ignored? The fact that large defalcation like this are taken no notice of, while haste is made to denounce the petitioner to His Majesty for having expended a small amount, which he should not have spent, on the public account, shows plainly that Ting Tao-liang and the others set the Governor against him. Petitioner's property having now been distrained, if it is said that he is imprisoned on account of the sums still due by him, why are not the others imprisoned who were denounced with him?—and the fact that he was only imprisoned after the departure of the Commissioners shows that he owes his incarceration to the slanders of the Fu-shun Magistrate. The petitioner has served twenty years in Szechuen, and when in charge of a *lekin* station some time ago, he collected Tls. 15,000 over the average amount. He afterwards was short some Tls. 3,000 in connection with a military appointment he held, but this is a very different matter from enriching himself at the public expense. His memorandum on the salt and missionary questions provoked the Governor-General's severe displeasure. In the regulations [lately drawn up by the Governor-General] for the scrutiny of the official class, there is a clause relating to the "appreciation of matters of the day" which almost drives the people to embrace [the foreign] religion from the levity of the language employed. The petition then goes on to summarise the abuses of the salt trade as at present conducted, which have already been entered into at length in numerous memorials. It concludes with the following remarks:— "At a time like the present, when the exchequer is unable to meet the expenditure of the province, it is right and fitting to

exercise the strictest economy in any manner in which the smallest gain to the public funds can be secured. How is it, then, that no expense is spared in providing machinery, constructing river works, enlisting braves, and then disbanding them? The problem is one that it is difficult to fathom."—Referred in the usual manner. (See *Gazette* of 14th September.)

(2) Kuang Lin, Superintendent of Customs at the Huai-an barrier in Kiangsu, reports that he has forwarded the sum of Tls. 19,849, being the amount of duty collected on foreign opium during the year ended 20th August, 1879. This is a slight improvement on former years.

October 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Some time since, Ho Chin-shou, Compiler of the Han Lin, stated, with reference to the murder of K'ung Chao-fên, a Prefect in Yunnan, that Yang Yü-k'o had entered into relations with a metropolitan official to get him off from the penalties he had incurred in consequence of his connection with the murder. We thereupon directed Liu Ch'ang-yo and Tu Jui-lien to hold a joint investigation into the circumstances of the case, and come to a decision thereon. The Court of Censors this day further report that K'ung Hsien-ying, son of K'ung Chao-fên, had sent an agent to state that there is clear evidence that it was Yang Yü-k'o who planned the death of his father, and managed by his wealth and influence artfully to escape the consequences of his crime. Let Liu Ch'ang-yo and Tu Jui-lien combine these charges with the other they have been called on to investigate.

(2) A Decree. Some time since Ho Chin-shou pointed out that Yü Chün-ming, General of the Ch'ü-chow brigade in Ché-kiang, could not properly combine with this post the duties of Admiral of the Hang-kia Hu Naval brigade. We thereupon directed Mei Ch'i-chao to take the matter into consideration and report. He now memorialises to the effect that the General in question has performed his dual duties with great success, and that his object in recommending him for the double post was the selection of a competent officer. We command that Yü Hou-ling be permitted to continue to perform the extra duties of Admiral of the Hang Kia Hu naval brigade. The Governor will as heretofore keep a careful watch continually over him, and should he find that he is really incapable of performing the double duty, he will select another officer to relieve him.

(3) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Ou-yang Chuchên, a native of the Chang-yi district in

Hunan, who complains that one Ou-yang Yü and others having, in 1875, opened a coal mine in the ditch which forms the boundary to his ancestral grave-yard, which mine encroached upon and disturbed his ancestors' bones, he obtained an injunction from the Magistrate against the further working of the mine. In the following year, however, these individuals insisted upon resuming their excavations, and built an earthen wall round the mine, within which they constructed a fort, and, having laid in a stock of arms, kept several hundred ruffians to guard it, entrenching the work with a moat. A second appeal to the Magistrate was disregarded, and some of petitioner's relatives who went with him to the cemetery were fired upon by Ou-yang Hsiang, eight of their number being wounded by shot and three by sword cuts. Two of Ou-yang Hsiang's party were killed by himself, but he falsely declared that they were killed by petitioner's relatives, Ou-yang Kuei-ch'i. Ou-yang Kuei-ch'i did kill four of the other party and was taken before the Magistrate, the wounded men being also inspected; but Ou-yang Hsiang and his faction declared that the fight was got up by Ou-yang Kuei-ch'i. The suit was carried to the higher courts, but the evidence was falsified, and petitioner having been accused of instigating the fight was sentenced to immediate strangulation, four others of his parties who had killed their antagonists being sentenced to banishment, while the other faction, whose guilt was greater, had no sentence passed upon them whatever.—Referred in the usual manner.

October 3rd.—(1) A Decree. Ming An requests that a Sub-prefect transferred to his jurisdiction for military service may be detained in Kirin to be employed on special duty. Let the expectant Sub-prefect Kao T'ung-shan be sent to Urumtsi and handed over to Kung T'ang to be employed by him as he may think fit.

(2) Memorial from the Governor-General of the Hu-kwang provinces explaining that Lo Ta-ch'un, Commander-in-chief of Hunan, who has lately been dismissed for increasing the number of troops in his province without authority, forwarded the memorial reporting this step, to which the Governor-General's name was attached, without his authority. A Censor being requested that he and the Governor might be punished for appending their names to this memorial, and an explanation having been demanded from them, the memorialist begs to state that the Governor of Hunan supplied the Commander-in-chief with a copy of decree forbidding the increase of the

provincial army on the ground that the present force was sufficient to maintain peace and order in the province. In reply to this decree, Lo Ta-ch'un wrote in very positive terms on the subject to memorialist, who, after some consideration, replied to the effect that the pay of regular troops being different to that of irregulars, he would be acting contrary to regulation if he tried to increase his number of regular troops and place them on the irregular pay, and as the Imperial decree now received was couched in such positive terms, he could not venture to adhere to his original idea, and must at once disband the force he had enrolled. A letter was also sent to the Governor informing him of the terms of memorialist's reply to the Commander-in-chief. The next thing he received was an abrupt letter from Lo Ta-ch'un stating that he had forwarded by express a memorial to the Throne saying that the provincial army was too weak, and that additional troops must be enrolled. A copy of the memorial was enclosed, but there was no request that memorialist should memorialise for him. The memorialist would humbly submit that, hitherto, when a memorial has to be presented in the joint names of the Governor-General, Governor, and Commander-in-chief, it has been the custom in all the provinces, where the subject matter of the memorial is one of ordinary regulation routine, to despatch the memorial first and to communicate a copy of it afterwards to the persons whose names are used. But when the question is one of grave importance, a consultation is always held by letter, and when a draft memorial has been drawn up it is forwarded to the Governor-General with a request to submit it to His Majesty, and it is then copied out fair and despatched. Now, Lo Ta-ch'un's scheme for the increase of his forces having been disapproved by Imperial decree, he wrote to consult the memorialist, who distinctly refused his assent to his proposals, and then, instead of waiting for memorialist's reply, he hastily sends off the memorial, and does not supply the memorialist with a copy of the draft to which his name was attached, for many days afterwards, and never asked him to lay the matter before His Majesty. This was truly an astounding proceeding, and the memorialist was in the act of laying a statement of the facts before His Majesty when the decree appeared committing Lo Ta-ch'un to the Board for the determination of a penalty. His calm assumption and wrougheadedness having attracted the notice of His Majesty, there is no occasion

for the memorialist to dilate upon them further. He begs therefore to offer this explanation for the information of Their Majesties. (See *Gazettes* of 17th July and 17th September.)

October 4th.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office report that a high official on the frontier proposes to establish an office in the capital for the transmission of stores, and has sent two officers to conduct the working thereof; and that he has written to the Board to apply for Our sanction to the undertaking. Ch'un Fu, Military Governor of Uliasutai, and his colleagues propose to establish a forwarding agency in Peking for the purchase and transmission of fur garments and munitions of war, and to take delivery of powder, &c., from the Government stores, but before applying for the Imperial permission they have appointed two Senior Assistant-Secretaries of the Board of War to undertake the superintendence of this establishment in addition to their regular duties. No such method of doing business has hitherto prevailed, and the conduct of these high officers is indeed free and improper in the extreme. Let Ch'un Fu, Military Governor of Uliasutai, and Ch'ô-lin-to-erh-chi and Tuka-rh, Military Assistant Governors, be committed to the Board for the determination of a severe form of penalty. The office they propose will not be permitted to be established.

(2) Memorial from the three high officers whose names are given in the preceding decree reporting that they have held the usual triennial inspection of the Imperial stud of brood mares. By precedent afforded during many years past the stud of brood mares under the charge of a Mongol high officer is inspected once every three years, and if ten mares have during that time cast five foals or upwards, while the loss by death in the herd does not exceed a given number, the Mongolian high official in charge has an "honorable record" bestowed upon him by His Majesty, and the clerks and soldiers in charge of the herd are severally rewarded with honorary titles or presents of money; while if the number of foals thrown is under the average, these persons have, similarly, penalties imposed upon them. Three years having now elapsed since the last inspection, stock has again been taken, and it is found that 1,263 foals have been bred during that period, making an average of over five foals to every ten mares, while the mortality has not been excessive. Under these circumstances the memorialists venture to suggest that an "honorable

record" be bestowed upon Prince Ch'e-lin-to-erh-chi, the high officer in charge of the herd, and that the secretaries, stockmen, etc., have flowered satin, hand-made cloth, tea, and tobacco, severally bestowed upon them. A list of the number of stallions, mares, and foals had been forwarded to the Board of Revenue and the Mongolian Superintendency respectively. — Granted by Rescript.

October 5th.—(1) Wên Sui, Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan, reports that he has collected during the year ended 21st April, 1879, duties to the amount of Taels 35,776, and 3,191 strings of *cash*. From this latter date to the 9th of September, when his term of office expired, he collected Taels 17,384 and 1,003 strings of *cash*, which he has handed over to his successor. The Customs Station at Kalgan is rated at Taels 60,561. Estimating the 3,191 strings of *cash* at Taels 2,127, his total collection for the year under review was Taels 37,804. Deducting from this sum Taels 20,004 regular assessment, a deficit is shown on the additional assessment of Taels 20,256. Of this deficit the memorialist's predecessor is responsible for Taels 5,865, so that memorialist's liabilities are reduced to Tls. 17,391. The two great staples upon which duties are collected at Kalgan are tea from the South and furs and wool from Kiachta. After these the tax on animals comes next in importance. The quantity of goods imported depends entirely upon the export of tea. The business done at Kiachta is one of barter, so that without tea no exchange can be effected. Hence, tea is an important factor both as regards import and export duties, which depend entirely upon the briskness of the market at this station. Formerly the revenue from this source was a good one, but since Russia has [been allowed] to trade, tea, the great staple, has been purchased and exported entirely by Russian merchants, and as all of it is free from duty, under the tariff regulations, the traders and dealers established at Kalgan are one by one abandoning the business, with the result that a deficit is shown by each successive incumbent. Since the memorialist entered upon the duties of this post, he has tried hard to reorganise to system of collection, and to endeavour by personal inspection of the collectorates to cause trade to flourish, in the hope that he might succeed in restoring the revenue to its original amount. Unfortunately, the amount of tea exported by Russian merchants increases every day, while native trade is decreasing, with a corresponding

effect upon the revenue. The drought during the previous year or so in the neighbouring provinces caused a large mortality amongst the horses, camels, oxen and sheep, and there was, comparatively, so large a business done last year in these animals, that the cattle beyond the Wall were nearly all sold off, and a small stock only has been bred this year, causing a falling off also in the duties upon live stock. Memorialist in his anxiety and vexation at this depreciation, has personally visited the various stations under his control and has done his very best to carry out reforms where they were needed, and to keep a careful watch upon the collection; but circumstances are against him, and there are no means of attracting a larger trade. He has forwarded a return of the tea and goods exported and imported by Russian merchants both to the Tsung-li Yamên and the Board of Revenue. Of late years the Board of Revenue has invariably determined that the two-fifths only of the deficit shall be made good by the several Superintendents responsible, and His Majesty has always consented to this arrangement. The memorialist has, therefore, no alternative but to pray His Majesty to direct the Board of Revenue to take the matter into consideration and recommend as liberal a treatment of him as they can, giving him a certain time within which to make good the balance he is called upon to pay. (Referred to the Board of Revenue by decree of 16th September.)

October 6th.—(Court Circular.) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shên-si, paid his respects on reaching the capital. Lo Fang-ch'i, Governor of Fuhkien, requested his parting instructions and had audience of leave.

(1) Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Kweichow, reports his assumption of the duties of that office. He left Peking on the 1st of June, reached Ch'ang-sha on the 15th of July, and Chên-yuan Fu on the Kweichow frontier on the 12th August, at which place officers met him with the seals of office, the Imperial warrant and banner authorising him to inflict capital punishment, etc., which he then and there took charge of after performing the usual prostrations, in front of a table duly laid out, with his face towards the palace.

(2) The Governor of Chêkiang reports the death upon the 24th of August of Tsêng Shou, Financial Commissioner of that province. He died of a fever brought on by worry and excess of anxiety caused by the cares of office, his end being hastened by profuse perspiration brought on by sudorifics.

(3) In a postscript memorial the Governor reports that he has appointed Wén Chung-han, Taotai at Wénchow, acting Financial Commissioner.

October 7th.—(1) Wén Pin, Director-General of grain transport, is ordered to Peking to have audience, Hsieh Yün-shên being instructed to act as Director-General during his absence.

(2) The Court of Censors report that a Mongolian woman called Ch'ntamani, the daughter of Sétipala, a *daiji* of the 4th grade belonging to the Tumed tribe, has presented a petition to the effect that at the end of 1875 a gang of burglars broke into her home one night, killed her uncle, a lama called Taerimapala, and wounded her father, mother, brother and sister, clearing the house of everything that it contained. The petitioner recognised by the glare of the torches one Sun Fu-shêng, who was calling out to the others to "kill," but at the time she hardly dare breathe for fright. Some neighbours came to the rescue and the robbers made off, but information was at once laid at the nearest garrison, news of the outrage being also sent to Ch'ao-yang Hsien in Jeh-ho, the district town. Four of the robbers were caught, and admitted that they belonged to a gang of twenty-nine headed by Sun Fu-shêng and his father Jun Chiu-mo. The pair were arrested, and the Magistrate, although he held an inquest on the uncle's body and examined the wounds of the others, let the prisoners go. Petitioner then went to Jeh-ho and laid a complaint, when she was lodged in a Customs station preparatory to being had up for examination, but the acting Magistrate of Ch'ao-yang took her away, and four years elapsed without any further steps being taken. The prisoners, nine in number, all admitted that Sun Chiu-mo had led them on, but the villain Sun spent money in bribes and got the case remitted to the judicial committee, when the acting Magistrate tried to force petitioner to sign a bond exonerating Sun Chiu-mo. She refused to alter her evidence, so the Magistrate, in order to insult her, put her to live in the same room with a common runner, beating her with whips and rods, and trying to force her to yield to his demand.—Referred in the usual manner.

(3) Memorial from Mei Ch'ichao, Governor of Chékiang, forwarding in a separate enclosure a report of the repairs executed on the Hangchow sea wall during the year 1878, with an account of the expenditure incurred. Many places in this wall had been washed away owing to

the force of the tides, the unusual amount of rain during the "plum days," which caused floods to come rushing down, and the summer and autumn freshets, which, coupled with extraordinarily high tides, raised huge surging waves several tens of feet in height which added to the mischief already done in many places. The memorial then proceeds to describe in detail the repairs that have been executed in each section respectively, under the supervision of the several Taotais of the Hang-kia-hoo circuit who were on duty during the year. (See *Gazette* of 29th October, 1877.)

October 8th.—(1) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, who states that a certain Taotai, Lao Wén-t'ao, did not, as was charged against him, appropriate public monies to his private use while in charge of a military expenditure office; nor did the acting Sub-prefect of Lu Chow have dishonest dealings with his gatekeeper. Under these circumstances, the Taotai in question, having already lost his appointment, is absolved from all further penalties, as is also the Sub-prefect, who is, however, to be detained in the provincial capital under the eye of the Governor-General. The gatekeeper referred to is to be expelled.

(2) A decree also in answer to a report from Ting Pao-chêng, who states that the suggested putting back of the Ch'êng-tu river works which stand at the entrance or "fish's mouth" by which its waters are distributed over fourteen districts, is inadvisable. Ngén Ch'êng and Tung Hwa inspected the works in the winter time when the water was low, so that they have not seen the state of the river when the current is swollen. Their plan will probably result in the carrying away of another embankment, and the gentry have unanimously protested against the scheme. Under these circumstances the Governor-General is authorised to abandon the project.—No other documents of importance.

October 9th.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a numerously signed petition presented by one Tai Hsi-tien, a native of the Lu-yi district in Honan, who stated that for some score of years past it had been the custom in his district invariably to reckon the tael in payment of land tax at 2,600 *cash*. In the year 1870 the Magistrate raised the rate to 2,850 *cash*, and increased the duty on title deeds a thousand per cent. The carts and horses required for Government purposes used to be hired and paid for by the officials themselves, but, subsequently, some disreputable notables monopolised the engagement

of these carts and animals, and not only did not issue the Government rate of pay, but even charged ordinary rates [when a money commutation was given.] Such a state of things was unendurable, and, last year, the Governor of Honan having received an Imperial decree ordering him to enquire into numerous abuses, the gentry and elders of the whole district represented to His Excellency the abuses that existed in connection with the land tax, the requisition of carts and horses, and fees on title deeds, praying him to draw up regulations for their prevention. His Excellency and the Financial Commissioner were good enough to decide, in consultation with the acting Prefect, that for each tael of land tax Tls. 1.5.2 should be paid, and that if it was not convenient to pay in silver, the old rate of 2,600 *cash* would be accepted. The duty on title deeds was reduced to seven hundred per cent., and it was decided that each cart in the district should pay 2,200 *cash* per annum to the military clerk or commissary, who would then undertake this compulsory service for them, by which means both public and private interests would be served. In the month of February last proclamations were issued by the Governor stating that the land tax, requisitions for carts and horses, and duty on title deeds, would be severally levied or conducted under these new regulations, and this proclamation was posted everywhere. In spite of this, a notorious pettifogging litigant, one Ho Hsin-t'an, got into relations with the gatemen and clerks at the magistracy, who, seeing that the reform of the abuses above referred to would deprive them of their source of wealth, entered into collusion with certain choice spirits, and befooled and deceived the Magistrate in such wise that the excessive rate of 2,850 per tael was levied as before, and a more extortionate charge than ever for providing carts and horses was exacted. The petitioner and others protested against this infringement of their rights as laid down in the proclamation referred to, but Ho Hsiu-t'an and his fraternity, in spite of repeated injunctions issued from the Governor's Yamên, called upon the grain tax collectors to continue to exact the old rate, and enjoined upon the military clerk to demand larger fees than ever in commutation of the service of carts and horses, whether these were actually required or no for the public service. In May last, His Excellency the Governor passed through the district on his tour of military inspection, and only made use of six or seven carts and eight or nine horses. There are only about 250

villages in the Lu-yi district, and Ho Hsin-t'an ordered the military clerk to call upon sixty or so of them to provide carts, etc., the service of two or three carts and two or three horses being demanded from each village, or a money commutation of twenty-six or twenty-seven strings of *cash* per cart, and sixteen or seventeen strings per horse. The people, not daring to dispute this extortionate demand, paid what they were told. The greed of Ho Hsin-t'an and the rest was still unsatisfied, and they accordingly declared that the number of villages they had placed under contribution for the visit of the Governor had not been sufficient, and that thirty more must be called upon each to provide a commutation for three horses at the rate of sixteen and seventeen strings of *cash* per horse, threatening those who objected with the penalties attaching to refusal to perform compulsory service. The money was raised with difficulty, but even there they did not stop, for, bearing a grudge against petitioner and the others who had earlier protested against their extortions, they prevailed on the Magistrate to have petitioner and more than fifty others arrested, in order to wreak their spite. The petition corresponded in its main particulars with the story of Tai Hsi-t'ien.—Referred in the usual manner.

October 10th.—(1) The first four memorials in this day's *Gazette* are announcements of the temporary charges that have taken place in the provincial Government of Shên-si, owing to the departure of T'an Chung-jiu, the Governor, for Peking, where he has been summoned to audience. The Governor reports his departure on the 24th August, and (2) recommends Pien Pao-ch'üan, provincial Judge, for the post of acting Financial Commissioner; Wang Ssü-yi, the Financial Commissioner, having been ordered by Imperial decree to act as Governor; (3) Wang Ssü-yi reports that he has taken charge; (4) Pien Pao-ch'üan reports that he has succeeded to the duties of Financial Commissioner; and, finally, (5) Shên Ying-kwei, Taotai of the Shên-an circuit, announces that he has assumed the duties of acting Judge.

(6) Tso Tsung-t'ang recommends one Ho Shêng-yün for the vacant post of Magistrate of the Ling-t'ai district. The usual account of the nominee's career and antecedents is given, and covers some eight pages of the *Gazette*.

October 11th.—(1) Tsai Ling and Shih Tsêng, Superintendents of Customs and Octroi at Peking, submit a return of duties collected by them during the year ended

17th September, 1879. Immediately on receipt of their appointment, the memorialists despatched deputies to keep a careful watch over the collection, in the hope that by the institution of rigorous reforms the revenue might be raised to a flourishing condition. Unfortunately, drought and failure of harvests were met with in several provinces last year, while the spring rains this year failed in their season, so that, although as summer advanced abundance of rain was secured in the neighbourhood of Peking, prices continued high, and traders were losing on their capital, all of which things tended to hamper business and keep it below its ordinary level. *Shao-chiu*, the spirit distilled from *Sorghum*, has hitherto been the great staple of taxation at Peking; but although the prohibition against distillation has now been relaxed, the price of grain has not fallen sufficiently to admit of a resumption of the trade in all its former activity. To this drawback must be added the fact that double duties cannot be levied on foreign goods, so that receipts continue to fall off. A former Superintendent of Customs, Temuch'uk'o-ch'apu, obtained His Majesty's consent to pay into the Treasury the amount that he actually collected, and not that at which the collectorate was assessed, but the Board of Revenue objected to this plan, and prevailed on His Majesty to sanction a resumption of the old order of things. During the memorialists' year of office they have collected altogether Tls. 175,193, leaving a deficit of Tls. 148,307.—Rescript: Tsai Ling and his colleague report that they have been unable to collect the full amount of the surplus assessment on the Peking Customs. Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

(2) Memorial from Jung Yi and Tsai Po, officers in charge of the Eastern Mausolea, and Ching Jui, General of the Ma-lan-chên Brigade and chief of the troops stationed at the Mausolea. They state that from the 7th year of Yung Chêng to the 8th year of Tao Kwang continual grants of money were made to the Yung-chi-k'u or treasury for the maintenance of repairs to the Imperial Mausolea. With these grants land was purchased in Tsun-hua Chou and four other sub-prefectures and districts in Chihli, which yielded an annual rental of something over Tls. 10,600, and this sum was devoted to the repair of the different Mausolea, the expenses incurred in connection with the Mausolea by the Banner Corps, Board of Works, Office of the Imperial Household, and Chinese guard, etc., etc. On the construction of the tomb of the

Emperor Hsien Fêng, the expenditure which this rental was called upon to meet was considerably increased, while in some instances the rents did not come in with any regularity, arrears of payments being thus accumulated. A loan of Tls. 30,000 was borrowed from the Banner Corps rents by Tsai Ch'isu, a former Superintendent, the intention being to repay the debt by instalments realised out of the economies he hoped to effect. It has never been possible, however, to repay this loan, and the expenses attendant upon the preparations for the final obsequies last year of the Emperor T'ung Chih, necessitated a further loan of Tls. 30,000, which has now all been spent, leaving the first debt still unpaid. As they have no means of repaying this sum, the memorialists beg that it may be considered an item of regular expenditure and the debt cancelled. Also, that the sum of Tls. 80,000 may be supplied them from the Banner Corps rents to enable them to pay off more recent debts. (For decree censuring the audacity of these proposals see *Gazette* of 24th September.)

(3) Ch'i Yuan, acting Military Governor of Shêng-king, and his colleague Ch'ing K'ai, report the completion of the annual patrol of the Korean frontier. Their memorial is of the stereotyped kind, a specimen of which has been supplied in earlier volumes of the *Gazette*.

(4) Tsai Ling and Shih Tsêng submit a separate return of the duties collected on foreign opium imported into Peking during the year ended 17th of September, 1879. These amounted to Tls. 8,341, to which has to be added "subsistence money" derived from the "turn of the scale" amounting to Tls. 352. The fines and confiscations, after deducting rewards to informers, &c., amount to Tls. 26. In other duties an extra amount known by the name of *Chia-p'ing-yin*, or over-weight charged to supply possible deficiencies, has to be accounted for, but the opium duties coming under a special heading, and the expenses of collection being comparatively so large in consequence of the extra number of watchers that have to be employed to check the extensive smuggling that is carried on, the *Chia-p'ing-yin* levied have all been expended, and in accordance with a decree of the 9th year of Hsien Fêng sanctioning the omission, no return of them is supplied.

October 12th.—(1) A Decree. Ming An and his colleague represent that they have not a sufficient number of troops at their disposal to detach any for the annual winter hunt, and accordingly once more request that it may be temporarily abandoned.

We sanction their request. The omission to insert the month of the year at the close of their memorial is a gross piece of carelessness. Let Ming An and Yü Liang both be committed to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

(2) A decree ordering an allowance of 500 piculs of millet, being 200 piculs over the customary grant, to be respectively issued to the gruel kitchens in Peking known as the P'u Chi T'ang and Kung Tê Lin. The ordinary allowance of 400 piculs and 300 piculs respectively is allotted to the gruel kitchen at Lu Kon Ch'iao and the night refuge for casuals in Peking.

(3) Lin K'un-yi, acting Governor-General of the Two Kwang Provinces, reports the murder by a maniac of his mother, and his execution by the *ling ch'ih* process. The circumstances are detailed as follows:—Huang Tê-chi, a schoolmaster, lived in the Shih-ch'êng district in Kwangtung, of which place he was a native. His father, Huang Kuo-hung, his mother Huang Lai shih, and his wife Hsieh shih, lived in the same house. He had always been a dutiful son, and the whole family were on the best of terms. Towards the close of last year, however, Huang Tê-chi suddenly went mad, and continued to be insane with lucid intervals. Being an only son, and neither filthy nor troublesome in his fits of mania, his father was loth to send him to the authorities to be put in custody, as is the proper practice, and so locked him up at home, begging his relatives to keep the fact of his son's madness quiet. In the month of November, 1878, the father went to Lien Chow, and a few weeks afterwards the son had a fresh fit of mania, during which he wrenched off his chains and got out of the outhouse in which he was confined, and, picking up a vegetable chopper, began to dance and brandish it about. His wife saw him in this condition and rushed to snatch the knife away from him, whereupon he attacked her and wounded her right ear and left wrist. She screamed for help, and her mother-in-law came running out from her bedroom and called out to her son to stop. The madman then attacked his mother and dealt her a blow over the temples with the chopper which felled her to the ground, after which he threw the weapon down and ran laughing down the road. He was followed by some neighbours who heard the women's cries of distress, caught him, and once more secured him. His mother died a few days afterwards, and his wife, being alone and still suffering from her wounds, did not send news of the murder to the district town, which was some way

off, but she wrote to her father-in-law to hurry back, and buried her mother-in-law in the meantime. On the father's return he sent the maniac to the Magistrate, but he was so mad that it was impossible to extract a statement from him. The relatives of the deceased and other witnesses were, however, summoned, and their testimony as to the cause of the mother's death being sufficient, at the husband's request the body was not disturbed, as he objected to the process that a formal inquest would necessitate. The wife was also examined on her recovery from the wounds she had received, and the fact that the crime was committed during a fit of insanity was established beyond all doubt. As the law does not recognise any extenuating circumstances where the crime of parricide is concerned, the man Huang Tê-chi has been put to death by the *ling ch'ih* process, and his head sent to the scene of the crime to be there exposed. The father of the maniac, and his relatives, who, aware of the lunatic's condition, concealed the same from the authorities, with the result that a great social crime has been committed, have each been punished by the infliction of forty blows, being the usual mitigation of the penalty of 100 blows to which they are liable by law.

October 13th.—(1) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, forwarding a list of officials employed in his province for whom he solicits the bestowal of marks of distinction in consideration of their efforts during the time that the country was suffering from famine over. Eighty departments and districts in Shansi were in receipt of relief which, naturally, was entirely supplied from other places. It was, nevertheless, upon the local authorities that the responsibility devolved of distributing this relief among the poor people, in an even and equitable manner. The memorialist has on repeated occasions submitted to His Majesty the names of those officers from neighbouring provinces who have been particularly active in assisting the cause with contributions of money, or have been energetic in getting the grain sent forward, and His Majesty has, as often, graciously accorded the marks of distinction that were solicited on behalf of these officers. The local authorities and gentry were, it is true, but fulfilling their bounden duty in doing what they did, and "meritorious service" cannot be mentioned in connection with their labours, but when memorialist comes to reflect upon the way in which they have worked for the past two years—how a population of as many as six

million people has had to be passed under inspection, and grain to the extent of more than two million piculs has been distributed amongst them—how they have given themselves heart and soul to the arrangement of schemes [for the relief of suffering], and the careful execution of the same; establishing kitchens for the issue of gruel to fill the bellies of the hungry crowd, dispensing medicines in times of epidemic sickness, or opening places for the sale of grain at moderate rates; or, again, providing refuges for the maintenance of destitute children; burying the bodies and bones of those who died; supplying wadded garments to the poorly clad, and contriving to get plough oxen and seed corn for those who wanted it; disposing of the deserted lands, and [diminishing] forced labour, etc., etc., he sees that there was not one of these undertakings but which was dependent for success upon the unanimous sympathy and united energies of these same officials and gentry, who carried them out in the most satisfactory manner. Numbers amongst them, more even than can be counted, fell victims to the labours they underwent, and the memorialist has noticed a careworn and anxious expression on the faces of those who have waited upon him at the provincial capital that was most distressing to see. He invariably consoled them all with words of kindness [for the troubles they had undergone], and took occasion to exhort them to continue their efforts in the work of reorganisation, that they might continue steadfast to the end. But, as from first to last, several thousand officials, titular and other, and notables, have displayed meritorious zeal in the performances of these duties, it is impossible that they should all have honorary rewards conferred upon them. The memorialist has accordingly instructed the Re-organization Office to direct the department and district magistrate to reduce their lists of deserving individuals, that these may be brought within reasonable limits. This has now been done, and a first list has been submitted by the Re-organisation Committee who will send a second when answers have been received from the various authorities concerned. The former is respectfully laid before His Majesty with a humble request that he will be pleased to bestow marks of distinction upon the officials and gentry named therein. A list of the Lieutenants and Ensigns recommended will be sent to the Board of War.—Referred to the proper Board.

October 14th.—A decree directing the Governor of Hunan to investigate a counter-

charge brought at the Office of Gendarmerie in Peking against Ou-yang Siang and others by Ou-yang Kuang-hung, a member of the same clan. Ou-yang Siang had accused Ou-yang Kuang-hung and others of having encroached upon the family burying ground with a mine they were working, in consequence of which a faction fight arose, in the course of which several persons were killed. Ou-yang Siang appealed against the partial decision that had been given by the local authorities, when the matter was brought before them, and Ou-yang Kuang-hung now declares that Ou-yang Siang's story is false, as he was the one to make the attack which led to loss of life. (See *Gazette* of 1st October.)

(1) Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, is ordered to Peking to await other employment, and T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, is commanded to succeed him, the latter post being given to Fêng Yü-ch'i
馮譽驥.

(2) Ch'ien Pao-lien **錢寶廉** is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Hsieh Yün-shêng **薛允升** Junior Vice-President of the same Board. The latter is to continue to act as Director-General of Grain Transport until the return of Wên Pin, who is now in Peking.

(3) Postscript memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, reporting the loss of the treasure in the Chang River, that forms the boundary between the provinces of Honan and Chihli, as has already been announced by the Governor of the latter province. The Governor gives much the same version of the story as Li Hung-chang, except that he states that the Magistrate of An-yang declared the loss of the money happened in the Tz'ü-chow jurisdiction and not in his, the carts having already been ferried across the river and gone for about two *li* on the other bank, when they were overtaken by a freshet that suddenly came down and caught the two hinder carts, which were carried away. The Governor goes on to state that he has received a letter from Li Hung-chang to the effect that the Sub-prefect of Tz'ü Chow equally denies that the mishap occurred in his jurisdiction, so that the An-yang Magistrate should be called upon to recover the money, though the Sub-prefect will be directed to afford him every assistance. The dispute is easily settled. The Chang river forms the boundary between the district and the sub-prefecture. It the accident occurred while the carts were on the ferry boat, the

An-yang Magistrate cannot plead irresponsibility; if, on the other hand, they had been landed from the boat, it is evident that they must have reached the opposite shore, and it was the duty of the Tz'ü Chow Sub-prefect's underling to have met them and taken charge of them at the river's edge, and they cannot excuse themselves by the plea that as they had not been in time to receive the carts, the agents from the southern bank had not been relieved of their charge and were still therefore on duty. The only way of settling the facts in dispute is to despatch officers to the spot to hold a joint enquiry into the matter. The memorialist therefore prays that Li Hung-chang may be instructed to appoint an officer to meet memorialist's deputy at the scene of accident, and hold a searching enquiry with him into the circumstances of the case.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(4) Memorial from Lin Chang-yo, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, and Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yünnan, submitting a scheme for the re-distribution of the army of the latter province, by which a more efficient control of the frontier will be maintained without extra cost to the provincial exchequer. The original number, of *lien chün* (練軍), or additional drilled troops enrolled in excess of the standing force, in Yünnan was 7,300, but in 1876 these were reduced to 4,500 and divided into twelve regiments, which, with the three battalions of irregulars obtained from other provinces or locally raised, were distributed over the most important centres in the province to maintain order and do police duty. When active military operations were nearly at an end, it was decided, in consequence of the irregularity with which remittances for the pay of the troops arrived, to disband two of the battalions referred to above, stationing the remaining one at Chao-t'ung Fu, until the necessity for precaution against further risings was not so great, when it also would be disbanded. The Committee of Reorganisation now report that the *lien chün* in Yünnan were originally established to supplement the regular army (制兵.) These *lien chün* were now distributed throughout the province as a guard in readiness against emergency, and if the Hunan irregulars were all to be disbanded there would be no force to meet a possible call for aid [in any direction] at any given time. It had further to be borne in mind that Chên-hiung-chow, in Chao-tung Fu, was on the borders of Szechuen, where the banditti known as

kang-fei, or the club rebels, and *hui-fei*, or affiliated rebels, have their lurking places and retreats, while Yün Chow in the Shun-ning prefecture adjoins the Burmese frontier, where fugitive outlaws band together with the savages and local chieftains, and are continually giving trouble, sometimes rising, and at others hiding [in the recesses of the retreats.] All these neighbourhoods require the presence of troops, The two regiments re-established at T'eng-yueh (Momein) were able to look after the Shun-ning neighbourhood as well, but when the Commander-in-chief's corps of Hunan braves were disbanded, one of these regiments was sent to supplement the garrison at Ta-li Fu. There is a regiment of *lien chün* at Chao-t'ung Fu, but it is stationed too far from Chên-hsiung-chow to be of practical service in that neighbourhood, and it is also charged with the duty of guarding the river. The remaining *lien chün* only just suffice to protect the other places where precautions are necessary, and none of them can possibly be withdrawn, but the committee propose to disband the remaining regiment of Hunan braves referred to above that was stationed at Chao-t'ung Fu, and after putting down a rising at Ta-kwan in that prefecture was sent on to quell an insurrection amongst the aborigines at Pa [Chiang?], as they have succeeded in reducing these two neighbourhoods to a condition that admits of a slight relaxation of precautionary measures. With the pay thus saved they purpose establishing two additional regiments of *lien chün*, numbering 750 men, to be stationed at Chên-hsiung and Yün-chow respectively.—Granted by Rescript.

October 15th.—(1) Ch'ung Pao 崇保 is appointed Financial Commissioner of Shantung. Yang Ch'ang-chün has a button of the third grade bestowed upon him and is promoted to the post of Financial Commissioner of Kansuh, vacated by Ch'ung Pao. He is directed to continue to act as Assistant Administrator of Reorganisation for the New Dominion.

(2) A Decree. Tsêng Kuo-ch'ün submits a report setting forth a plan he had devised for making periodical purchases of grain to be restored to the public granaries. He states that during the famine from which the province of Shansi has lately suffered, it was found that a sudden import of grain from other provinces could not managed, and that in many instances the local granaries had to be depended upon for the maintenance of uninterrupted supplies. Now that the question of reorganisation

has to be considered, a most important measure in this connection is the purchase of grain to make good the supplies that have been drawn from local granaries, and he proposes to devote the appropriations granted by the Board of Revenue, as well as those which Shantung and other provinces have been called upon to supply, amounting in all to Tls. 500,000, with a loan of Tls. 500,000 to be raised in instalments by the province itself, to the purchase of grain to be stored in the local granaries. He anticipates that the stock will be complete in three years. The object being to provide against years of dearth, We naturally sanction his proposal, but as the purchase of this grain is likely to give rise to many abuses, he must, at a time like the present, when the financial condition of the Empire is sorely embarrassed, be particularly careful to use every endeavour to secure the actual expenditure of the money on the object for which it is given, and to this end he must positively be careful to make selection of men of good character to carry out the measure in a proper manner, that Government money may not be wasted.

(3) A memorial from two of the metropolitan Censors reporting the capture of four highwaymen, who, after committing several robberies in the neighbourhood of the capital, came to Peking and were caught in the neighbourhood of the western division of the Chinese city. Foreign revolvers, powder and bullets were found upon them, and they had in their possession clothes, money, watches, opium, etc., etc., that formed part of the booty they had taken. On being examined, they admitted that they had, after taking counsel together, decided to commit highway robbery in the country to the East of Peking. That on the 22nd of July last, they had robbed two carts containing opium, etc., near Changchia-wan, and a month later had stopped two carts near Sun-ho, from the occupants of which they took money and watches. They further owned to a robbery of a house in Peking, from which they took fur jackets, Court beads, and other things. Lists of the property stolen having been obtained from the victims of these robberies, the articles found were restored to their respective owners upon identification. The criminals have been handed to the Board of Punishments to be tried and sentenced as the law requires, and orders have been given for a careful watch to be kept in case there should be other of their associates still abroad.

October 16th.—(1) A long and uninteresting memorial from Pao Yün, President of the Board of Civil Office, and his

colleagues, reporting the result of their deliberations on the penalties they were directed to determine in the case of An Hsing-ah, Comptroller of the Office of the Imperial Household, and others. (For particulars of this case see *Gazettes* of September 9th, 23rd, 26th, &c., &c.)

(2) P'an Wei, Governor of Hupeh, reports the receipt of the testamentary memorial of Shan Mou-chien, ex-Grand Secretary, that was delivered to him by deceased's servant with a request that it might be transmitted to His Majesty. The ex-Grand Secretary, who was living in retirement at Hsiang-yang Hsien, his native place, died on the 9th of August last. (See *Gazette* of 26th September.)

(3) Postscript memorial from Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, requesting permission to deprive certain petty officials of their buttons preparatory to placing them on their trial for offences committed against law and order. One of these individuals, a Lieutenant under the jurisdiction of the Prefect of Chinking, who was blind, was in the habit of demanding money from various shops, and whenever his requests were not met to the fullest extent he would bring a number of women to the shop to stop there and make a noise until he forced the proprietor to indemnify him.

(4) A memorial from Tu Jui-lien, Tartar General at Sui-yuan in Shansi, reporting the trial and capture of four members of a gang of mounted brigands who had just before attacked a camel driver and robbed him of some shirtings with which his animals were loaded. The captured brigands were at once beheaded and their heads exposed. Orders have also been given for the capture of the rest of the gang.

October 17th.—Wên Kuei, Superintendent of Imperial Manufactories at Hangchow, forwards a return of fabrics prepared and forwarded to Peking, with the expenditure incurred in their manufacture, during the year 1878. The following is the list submitted:—

	Tls.
Red silk trappings and clothes for Imperial pageants, 2,353 pieces;	
Green silk, 36 pieces.....	16,806
Trappings for use at the Imperial obsequies, 6,000 pieces; Green silk for the Imperial obsequies, 600 pieces	42,840
Red silk clothes and trappings for bearers of the Imperial chair, 382 pieces; Red gauze for bearers of the Imperial chair, 372 pieces; Green silk for bearers of the Imperial chair, 75 pieces	4,926

Red silk trappings and clothes for eunuchs who carry the Imperial chair, 500 pieces; Green silk, 50 pieces	3,571
Red gauze trappings and clothes, 96 pieces; Red silk trappings and clothes, 96 pieces; Green silk, 20 pieces	1,277
Ordered by the Imperial Manufactory Department:—Flowered satin, 250 pieces; Plain satin, 200 pieces; Thin silk, 1,500 pieces	29,534
Ordered by the Commission Office of the Imperial Household:—Flowered satin, 338 pieces; thin silk, 712 pieces	14,859
Sacrificial silk, 500 rolls.....	22,533
Brocaded gauze, 20 pieces.....	888
Ordered by Board of Revenue, Hangchow silk, (1st instalment of 2,500 pieces.).....	36,922
Velvet, 500 catties	76,187
Orders transferred from the Soochow Manufactory:—Satin for issue in part payment of salaries in Kansuh, 75 pieces.....	1,030
Red paper slips ordered by a department of the Office of Works, 200 sheets; red gilt paper slips ordered by the Office of Works, 200 sheets; Hu-chow pencils, 350.	2,905
Grand total (including fractional parts of a tael which have not been entered)	<u>254,286</u>

Tls.

This amount has been raised in the following manner:—From the Chékiang land tax of 1878	120,319
From miscellaneous levies under the same heading	11,955
From the land tax of 1879,	11,277
Borrowed from the [grain (?)] transport department.....	20,000
From the <i>lekin</i> collection.....	90,638
Balance from last account.....	2,598
Total received (with fractions of a tael)	256,789
Deduct expenditure	254,268
Balance in hand.....	<u>2,502</u>

No other documents of importance.

October 18th.—(1) The Court of Censors report the receipt of the following petition from K'ung Hsien-ying, a literary graduate: "Petitioner's father was Prefect of Tung-ch'uan Fu in Yunnan. Yang Yu-chi, the son of Yang Yü-lin, in consequence of his interference in certain lawsuits, had a fight

with the Magistrate's runners, and the Magistrate to get clear of the disturbance withdrew into the Prefect's yamèn, whereupon Yang Yü-lin came to this yamèn, accompanied by a number of armed braves, and began to storm and bluster. The Prefect's runners, driven to extremities, commenced to fight with them, and they then forced their way inside armed with hoes and porter's poles, which they brandished about in the most violent way. Petitioner's father, the Prefect, managed to restore order after the expenditure of much exertion, and handed Yang Yü-lin over to the Magistrate to be detained in custody. On the road thither Yang Ju-chi shot a peasant, whereupon the fight broke out afresh, but the parties were eventually separated. Yang Yü-lin died on the following day from the injuries he had received in the fight, and, the matter having been reported to the proper authorities, the case was removed for hearing to the provincial capital. Before it had been settled Yang Yü-k'o returned to Yunnan Fu, and there instigated Yang Ju-chi to create a disturbance in the Judge's yamèn, where he cut the proclamation board with his sword and then murdered petitioner's father, delivering himself up at the Governor's yamèn after doing so, in the hope of getting his punishment subsequently mitigated. Yang Yü-k'o, however, succeeded most artfully, by means of his wealth, in evading all responsibility for the murder. The case happened as long since as six years ago, but, owing to the dispersion of the family, no opportunity had hitherto presented itself for laying the matter before the proper authorities, until, by reason of his return to his native place, Hsien Hsien, in Chihli, to present himself for examination, the petitioner was enabled to lay this appeal before the Censurate." (For decree see *Gazette* of 8th September and 1st October.)

(2) Li Hung-chang reports the receipt last year from Yang Hsin-kuei and Yang Hsiang-shih, the parents of Yang Yo-pin, late Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, of Tls. 1,000 as a contribution towards the Famine Relief Fund in Chihli. Yang Hsin-kuei, who was formerly Tartar General at Tu Shih K'ou, is now ninety years of age, and his wife is eighty-one. They have both received a patent of the first grade, and being in comparatively poor circumstances, their donation is a liberal one. Contributions to Honan, Shensi and Shansi have also been given by them, and the memorialist understands that an Imperial Memorial Board has been

bestowed upon them at the instance of the Governor of Shansi. He would therefore further solicit for them permission to erect an honorary portal, for which he would suggest that a tablet be given them with the characters 樂善好施 inscribed upon it.—Granted by Rescript.

(3) With the exception of a second memorial from Li Hung-chang praying for the bestowal of a tablet, similar to the one applied for above, upon the widowed mother of the Salt Commissioner of the Ch'ang-lu area, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is most uninteresting.

(4) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from a native of Hu-peh, whose house was entered by a gang of burglars who robbed him of everything he had, bound his servant and threw him into the river, wounded himself and carried off his wife and child.

(5) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the capture and execution of certain disbanded braves who had committed robbery with violence.

October 19th.—(1) The first memorial in this day's *Gazette* consists of a long report from the Court of Censors announcing the receipt of a petition from a native of Ning-yuan Hsien in Hunan, complaining of the action of a number of people in a neighbouring village with whom his village had had a long-standing dispute about the ownership of some land, which had, after considerable litigation, been decided to be Government property. The petitioner had rented this land, but the people of the neighbouring village would not allow him to cultivate it, as they wanted it for themselves, and accordingly proceeded to destroy his crops, steal his cattle, and injure his trees, finally killing a number of his family.

(2) Memorial from Ch'i Yuan, Military Governor of Shêng-king. The spirit of brigandage is still latent in this province, and is in many instances fostered by the vice of gambling which induces people to take to robbery to pay their losses. It is essential, therefore, to make the prohibition of gambling a primary step towards the suppression of brigandage. It is not difficult to keep a watch over the common people and see that they do not offend in this particular, but when the soldiery and yamen underlings themselves indulge in the vice, they naturally screen others who are addicted to it, and it is consequently not easy to discover the existence of this habit and arrest the offenders when these are in collusion with the agents through whom the intelligence should be

obtained. The memorialist has accordingly given positive orders to the civil and military authorities to keep a secret watch upon their subordinates, and report any infringement of the prohibition on their part. He now hears from Liu Ching-fang, commandant of the Chih-tzü garrison, that Wang Yung-ching, a cavalry soldier, had absented himself without leave, and had assembled a number of persons outside the barracks for the purpose of gambling, thereby infringing the rules of the garrison. This infraction of the rules was known to the commandant's coadjutor, an expectant Major, who screened the man and did not report him, while a Lieutenant in the garrison was in collusion with the soldier and gave him the signal whenever an inspection was ordered. On receipt of this report an enquiry was held by memorialist's orders, and the facts, as reported, were found to be true. In accordance with martial law, therefore, the soldier was forthwith led bound to a public place and then and there executed. The memorialist has now to request that the expectant Major and the Lieutenant referred to above may be cashiered and banished to the New Dominion to be put to laborious and painful duties. (For decree see earlier *Gazette*.)

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with formal reports of an uninteresting nature.

October 20th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from Chung P'ei-hsien, President of the Court of the Imperial Stud, calling attention to the extortions that are levied by the retainers of High Commissioners and provincial high authorities when these are travelling on public service. When these extortions are made the subject of denunciation to the Throne, their masters are liable to the infliction of penalties under statute, but the servants manage to escape punishment, so that, having no fear of consequences, they are emboldened to give the rein to their evil propensities, to the annoyance and embarrassment of the districts through which they pass. In future, local authorities are called upon unsparingly to arrest and punish such persons, reporting their conduct to their superiors under pain of the infliction of penalties if they fail to do so.

(2) A Decree. Li Hung-chang reports that the floods in Chihli have been, comparatively speaking, of so serious a nature that the tribute grain already detained en route for the relief of the sufferers has proved insufficient for that purpose. He accordingly requests that a portion of the

tribute grain due from Hupeh for next year may be bestowed upon him to supplement this insufficiency. There has been an excess of rain this year in the prefecture of Shun-t'ien in Chihli during the period intervening between the wheat harvest and the autumn, flooding the low-lying country to an extent that has prevented the gathering of an autumn crop, while it is impossible to sow the wheat for the spring of next year. The visitation that the people have suffered in consequence is most severe, and there is reason to fear that the 60,000 piculs of tribute rice detained for their relief on a former occasion will be insufficient to supply their wants. In accordance, therefore, with the request of the Governor-General in question, We command the Governor-General of the Hukwang provinces and the Governor of Hupeh to provide, before it is due, 30,000 piculs of the Hupeh tribute rice that has to be remitted during the coming year, and to send it up to Tientsin by steamer before the river closes.

(3) A decree refusing the Imperial assent to a proposal from Li Hung-chang that Jên Tao-jung, the newly-appointed Financial Commissioner, who has now arrived at Tientsin, may postpone his visit to Peking to have audience of His Majesty until he has put the various business he has to perform into better train. There is no business of a specially important nature in Chihli, at this present moment, that imperatively demands the presence of the Commissioner at his post previous to visiting Peking, which is so near to Tientsin that this visit will not require an absence of more than a few days.

(4) A decree ordering the Governor of Anhui to direct one Liu Shêng-ts'ao, an expectant Judge now residing at his native place in that province, to come to Peking that he may be presented at Court by the Board of Civil Office preparatory to being sent to Tientsin and placed at the disposal of Li Hung-chang, who has applied for his services.

(5) A decree directing the Board of Punishments to reconsider the case of one Li Chin-mu, a criminal under sentence of death, whom that Board have relegated to the class of criminals the execution of whose sentence is deferred. Chung P'ei-hsien, Director of the Court of the Imperial Stud, has called attention to the fact that the Board have acted illegally in treating this case in the manner they have, as the circumstances are so grave that the law is really inadequate to meet them.

(6) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Censor Kuo Tseng-chü, who states that the present distress in Chihli has caused a widespread increase of brigandage, and that the local authorities, in order to escape the penalties that the commission of the crime of brigandage in their jurisdictions entails upon them, frequently report acts of burglary or robbery with violence as petty thefts, and take no pains to arrest the guilty parties, in some instances going so far as to liberate them even after they have been captured. Li Hung-chang is called upon to denounce any officials whom he shall discover to be acting in the manner indicated.

(7) Yang Yü-k'o, newly appointed General of the Kao Chow Brigade, in Kuang-tung, reports his arrival at his post and the assumption of the duties of his office.

October 21st.—(1) A decree appointing certain high officers to inspect some buildings at the Imperial Mausolea that are reported by the officials in charge to be in need of repair.

(2) A joint memorial from Li Hung-chang and the Governors of Shansi soliciting the bestowal of honorary rewards upon certain officials who have been active in the forwarding of supplies of money and grain to the famine districts during the past two years. The establishment of forwarding agencies in connection with the relief afforded being an imperative necessity, the memorialist Li Hung-chang applied for permission to found a central office at Tientsin for that purpose, and posted agents at Pao-t'ing Fu, in addition to establishing branch offices in Kiang-su, Chê-kiang and Fêng-tien, which, as well as the agencies established by Ting Jih-ch'ang at Ch'ao-chow and other places, with the contribution agencies under the control of the Taotai T'ang Chên-ch'üan, were, as far as the application for rewards were concerned, under the authority of the central office at Tientsin. Official agents were further sent across the sea to the Southern provinces and Fêng-tien to purchase grain for transmission to Shansi, for gratuitous distribution or sale at reduced rates. The Tientsin office [as already stated] was the central agency for the receipt and forwarding of these supplies, having under it branch establishments at Pao-t'ing, Po-t'ou, Chên-chia-k'ou, Pai-t'assü, etc., etc., for their transmission, when they left the boats and had to be sent on overland, via Huai-lu into Shansi. Similar arrangements were made as regarded the central and Southern routes via Shantung and Honan. The collection of the contributions necessary to carry out this work,

was, in view of the distress caused in various provinces, whether from drought or flood, combined with the active canvassing for subscriptions by the Yünnan and Kueichow purchase offices, by no means an easy task, and the officers engaged were zealous in the execution of their work whether in the way of urging others to contribute or in active personal labour, braving heat, cold, and the dangers of infectious diseases, in such wise as to call forth genuine admiration for the sincerity with which they set to work. Exclusive of the amounts collected by Ting Jih-ch'ang and T'ang Chên-ch'üan to the amount of upwards of three million taels, for which rewards were solicited at the time, more than 400,000 piculs of grain and upwards of 300,000 taels of silver have been forwarded to Tientsin, and from thence transmitted to Shansi. The officers entrusted with its transport to and from the Central Agency have braved the dangers of the ocean, have broken their way through frozen rivers, and carried their burdens on their backs over mountain roads. Neither the blazing heat of summer, nor the rains of autumn, have deterred them, and they have not allowed the impossibilities of finding means of transport to check their way. In short, it is to their efforts from first to last that the success attending the promotion of contributions and the transport of supplies is to be attributed, and in accordance with His Majesty's orders a list of the most deserving is herewith submitted, the names of those whose merits are not quite so prominent being, in view of the number interested, omitted from the category.—Referred by Rescript to the proper Board.

(3) Postscript memorial from Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu. The memorialist is in receipt of the following report from Liu Jui-fen, Taotai at Shanghai:—P'ang Pao-ch'ang, a Lieutenant with a button of the 5th grade in command of the *Chih Yuan* Government steamer, received orders in the month of April last to go with his vessel to the frontier of Kiangsu on official business. At dawn on the 23rd of that month he met the China Merchants' Steamer *Hung K'uan* off Chan-tzü T'ou, near Chinkiang, and, being unable to make way for her, his steamer was run into by that vessel, which made a hole in her and sank her, T'ang Pao-ch'ang and some sailors being drowned. There was a high wind blowing at the time, which, in combination with the strong stream that was running, rendered rescue impossible, but the Tan-t'u Magistrate, assisted by the various humane

societies' boats, managed to recover the bodies of the captain and one of the sailors, which were placed in appropriate coffins. The records show that in the year 1874, P'eng Kuang-lieh and others connected with the grain transport service by sea were drowned at sea, and the Imperial sanction was applied for and obtained to the bestowal upon them of the compassionate marks of distinction allotted by law to men [of their respective grades] who fall upon the field of battle, tablets to their honor being erected both at Tientsin and Shanghai. The Lieutenant in question had always borne a high character for zeal and energy, and his death while engaged in the performance of his official duties is truly deserving of pity. As therefore the circumstances of his case were similar to those of P'eng Kuang-lieh, the Taotai respectfully begged that the matter might be laid before His Majesty." The memorialist supports the Taotai's application, and in addition to soliciting the bestowal of the highest marks of posthumous distinction upon the deceased Lieutenant, begs that permission may be accorded for the erection of a tablet to his memory and that of the sailors who perished with him, in the special temple erected to P'eng Kuang-lieh and the rest at Shanghai, that libations may be offered before them, and the ghosts of the departed be consoled. Granted by Rescript.

October 22nd.—(1) A decree announcing the receipt of the report of the Board of Punishments on the case of the man Li Chin-mu, to which attention was called by Chung P'ei-hsien, President of the Court of the Imperial Stud. As notified in the *Gazette* of the 20th instant, this officer had taken exception to the grounds on which the Board of Punishments had relegated the criminal in question to the class of condemned persons whose execution is deferred. Li Chin-mu had murdered his nephew, a child of five years of age, and this criminal had, the Board now explain, been relegated to the class of those whose sentence is deferred by reason of the fact that in crimes of this particular kind no distinction is made by law between principals and accessories [and he had accordingly been given the benefit of the immunities accorded to the latter.] The decree reverses the decision of the Board, and orders that the sentence allotted by law in instances where the circumstances are unmistakably established be carried out upon the person of Li Chin-mu. The Vice-presidents of the Board, who are responsible for this error of

judgment, are to be committed to the proper Bureau for the determination of a penalty.

(2) Li Chao-t'ang, Judge of Chihli, has a button of the third grade bestowed upon him, and is appointed Superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal.

(3) Wu Tsan-ch'eng, Superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal, is allowed to retire on the ground of ill-health.

(4) Yü K'uan, newly appointed Governor of Kwangtung, reports his arrival at Canton and the assumption of the duties of his post.

(5) A report from Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, on the capacity of Yü Chün-ming, General of the Ch'ü Chow Brigade, for the performance of the duties of the Hang Kia-hu Naval Brigade in addition to his particular functions. Ho Chin-shou, Compiler of the Han-lin, had called attention to this fact, and objected to the arrangement on the ground that Ch'ü Chow, the General's headquarters, were too far from the Hang Kia-hu circuit to admit of his exercising proper supervision over the Brigade in question. The memorialist observes that the Compiler was no doubt actuated by a desire to secure efficient administration, but facts show the fallacy of his objections. Chü-chow is distant 560 *li* from Hangchow, but there is direct water communication between the two places, so that the provincial capital can be reached in four or five days. Kia-hing and Hu-chow are each 180 *li* distant from Hangchow, and as there are numerous creeks between the two places, the residence of the Admiral at either one places him at a disadvantage as regards the other. The memorialist had therefore long since contemplated the selection of a competent officer, who could be transferred from one station to the other as required, and he was so well satisfied with the condition of the troops at Ch'ü-chow when he inspected them the year before last, that after consultation with P'eng Yü-liu (Admiral of the Yangtze) who gave him a very good character, he determined to give the appointment to Yü Chin-min, whom he recommended to His Majesty accordingly. He was actuated by the best of motives in the selection of this officer, whose appointment had the further advantage of enabling a saving of expenditure to be effected, for although the emoluments of the post of Admiral of this brigade are Tls. 200 *per mensem* he only allotted Tls. 50 to Yü Chün-min, as he was already drawing pay on other accounts. (See decree of 1st October.)

October 23rd.—(1) A decree ordering three Magistrates in Shantung, whose accounts show large deficits, to be cashiered and their property confiscated to make these deficiencies good.

(2) A memorial from Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu. During the past two years the military and civil officials holding substantive appointments in the province of Kiangsu, with expectants of office, and in particular those who are natives of Honan, have contributed sums amounting to a large total towards the relief of the sufferers from famine in Shansi and Honan. Military officers in charge of garrisons and battalions have not failed, either, to stimulate by the force of personal example those under their control to contribute [according to their means] towards the same object. Fearing also that the pains of cold as well as hunger would likewise press hardly upon them, these same individuals caused cotton garments to be made for distribution amongst those who needed them, subscribing also for the cost of transporting these supplies to their destination; whereby many have been rescued from [the jaws of] death. The officers and gentry in question have deprecated the solicitation of any rewards for their efforts, but the memorialist feels that it would not be right to withhold from His Majesty the knowledge of the manner in which they have identified themselves with the Imperial benevolence, and, regardless of the distinction between the immediate neighbours and those afar off, have treated the sufferings of others as if they were their own. He has accordingly prepared a list of the names of these persons, omitting therefrom those which have already appeared in the lists submitted by the Governor of Honan. By a Rescript appended to the memorial, the Board of Revenue are directed to consider the rewards that should severally be bestowed upon the persons whose names are given.

(3) Memorial from Ming Ch'un, Imperial Agent at Hami. He states that the turbaned Mussulmen and Mahommedan tribes are to be found in every part of the Hami region, and as the northern and southern roads of the New Dominions everywhere afford special facilities for the concealment of seditious characters, the memorialist has made it a constant practice to depute agents to inspect the various routes from time to time. He hears from these agents that of late the travellers along these routes have more than doubled in number, all of whom are ostensibly engaged in trade, but though this may be actually the case, in view of

the disbandment and withdrawal of the troops in pursuance of the policy of re-organisation, the fact has caused the memorialist much consideration, lest by any remote possibility a relaxation of precautions should result in fresh troubles, for, as the admixture of lawless characters amongst them is a certain contingency, the responsibility [of keeping a check upon the population, migratory or otherwise,] involves interests of no mean importance. He has accordingly instructed the commandants of brigades and garrisons to be particularly careful in the maintenance of a strict watch, and has written to the acting Governor and General at Barkul to issue similar orders to the officers under their command. He has further determined to visit all the stations in the Hami jurisdiction, leaving his head-quarters for that purpose on the 18th of the present moon (? August.) His journey will probably occupy half a month, and he purposes leaving the administration of his local duties during his absence in the hands of his colleague K'ochina.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the receipt of a petition from the Taotai of the Chang Wei Huai circuit, Wu Ta-chêng by name, and Wu Ta-hêng, Bachelor of the Han-lin, to the effect that their grandfather Wu Ching-k'un, an expectant Sub-prefect of the fourth grade of official rank, a man of a noble and generous disposition, was in the habit of acting most charitably towards orphans, widows or other poor members of his clan, and had the intention of leaving several hundred acres of land, the proceeds of which were, after the manner of the celebrated Fan of history, to be devoted to the benefit of those of this clan who needed help. He died, however, before he could accomplish his design, and the petitioner's father was anxious to carry out their grandfather's plan, but his resources were exhausted in the revision of the genealogical register, and, much to his regret, he was not able to do so. The petitioners, in pursuance of the commands transmitted to them from their grandfather and father, have at various intervals purchased land in Changchow Hsien and other places, to the extent of 762 acres odd, at a cost of Tls. 12,530, to which they have added 502 acres contributed by their great uncle and valued at Tls. 3,382, exclusive of the buildings upon it. The annual proceeds of this land, after deducting taxes, the cost of libations at ancestral tombs, &c., are devoted to the relief of the orphans, widows and poor members of the clan. The peti-

tioners would not venture to solicit the bestowal of marks of distinction upon their grandfather for this legacy, but as they have reason to fear what in course of time the object to which it is devoted may fall into oblivion, and hence into discontinuance, they beg that the fact may be reported to His Majesty in order that the bequest may be recorded.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

October 24th.—(1) Chang Chih-tung is appointed "Groom of the Library."

(2) The only document of interest in this day's *Gazette* is a long memorial from Shên Pao-chêng reporting the re-hearing of an appeal case under the following circumstances:—Yên Yuan-shu, *alias* Yên Ts'ui-hua, is a native of the Mu-yang district. Yên Jui-hua, *alias* Yên Yuan-tsê, who has suffered the extreme penalty of the law, is own brother to the former, who took as his wife the wife of a man called Lü Ch'ing-lo. The woman had, previous to this, been seduced by one Pao Hsiao-mei, and Lü Ch'ing-lo brought an action in the Magistrate's Court and recovered possession of his wife, a writ being issued for the arrest of Pao Hsiao-mei, who was not, however, captured. Lü Ch'ing-lo subsequently deserted his wife, and it was then that Yên Yuan-shu took her to live with him. When Pao Hsiao-mei heard of this he objected, and in the year 1874 attacked Yên Yuan-shu's house upon repeated occasions, setting fire to it and robbing it, besides abducting Yên's younger sister, who was ransomed by her husband. Yên Yuan-shu's father, Yên Ju-tung, then laid a charge at the magistracy against Pao Hsiao-mei, whom he accused of robbing him, and Pao was arrested in consequence. In the following year a party of soldiers were sent out to arrest a band of robbers, amongst the list of whom the names of Yên Jui-hua and Yên Ts'ui-hua were included. They were arrested, but it having been proved that they had not been guilty of the robberies in question, they were sent back to their homes and released on bail. Again, in 1877, Yên Jui-hua and nine others committed a burglary, and were arrested. Their guilt having been conclusively proved, he and a man called Ku Pao were executed. Yên Ju-tung then laid a complaint at the Yamên of the Director-General of grain transport to the effect that his son Yên Jui-hua had been beaten unmercifully by the Magistrate's underlings, and knew nothing of the matters with which he was charged. The other son Yên Yuan-shu was away from home when all this happened, and was told the story

of his brother's wrongs by his wife on his return. Moved to indignation at the supposed injustice of his brother's treatment, he got up a story about Pao Hsiao-mei's robbery of his father's house, which he embellished with many additions to the effect that Pao Hsiao-mei had been allowed to escape, and had falsely implicated his brother in a charge of burglary. Having got a stranger to put this story into the form of a petition, he took it to Peking and laid it before the Censorate, with the result that the case was referred to the province by Imperial decree in the usual manner, and the circumstances as above detailed were elicited. The memorialist then proceeds to quote a law under which any person travelling beyond the jurisdiction of the authorities to whom he is subject to bring false charges against anyone, shall, when the persons so falsely implicated reach the number of ten or upwards, be banished to a distant frontier. In accordance with this law sentence of banishment has been passed upon Yén Yuan-shu, who will receive the usual modified chastisement of 100 blows upon arrival at the place of his banishment.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

(3) A report of an ordinary case of burglary from the Governor of Hupeh occupies, with the exception of two memorials on matter of routine, the remainder of this day's *Gazette*.

October 25th.—(1) Li Hung-chang reports the result of the re-hearing of an appeal case. Sun Ch'ih-shih was the second wife of one Sun Chan-t'ing, who had also a concubine called Tso, whom he had bought previous to his second marriage, and the two women did not agree. The wife's father, Ch'ih Wên-ch'ang, and her brother Ch'ih Pa lived in her husband's house, and helped him in his business. The two were constantly inciting the wife to quarrel with the concubine, and Sun Chan-t'ing became disgusted with them in consequence. The concubine's sister's husband happened to call one day to take leave of Sun previous to going away elsewhere, and he took occasion to advise Ch'ih and his son not to live constantly at Sun's house. Ch'ih Wên-chang took offence at his remark, and a quarrel ensued which resulted in Ch'ih and his son tricing Tso up off the ground and leaving him hanging there, but he was taken down by the neighbours, who had heard of the treatment to which he was being subjected. A large number of people had collected on the occasion, and the result was that the money the brother-in-law Wang Fa-kuei

had collected for his journey, and his baggage, were lost. This loss gave rise to a lawsuit, and Sun Chan-t'ing sent his nephew with a petition to the Sub-prefect charging Ch'ih Wên-ch'ang with disturbing the peace of his household, while he himself went to live away from home in an inn outside the town of Ts'ang Chow, taking with him the title deeds of his house and land, until the trial should come off. He fell sick, however, and could not present himself at the Court. His elder brother, who had been adopted into another family, went to see him, and found him so ill that he begged the Sub-prefect to let him return home, [and postpone the trial] until he was better. On his way home he died. His brother and the latter's adopted father carried the body home, but kept back the title deeds of the house and land that he had taken away with him. The wife, in the first instance, suspecting that her husband had met with foul play, applied to the Sub-prefect to hold an inquest, but being afterwards satisfied that he had died a natural death, she stayed proceedings and begged that the inquest might not be held. The Sub-prefect, having enquired into the circumstances of the case, and finding that Ch'ih Wên-ch'ang, by tricing up Wang Fa-kuei had been the cause of his losing his money and effects, decided that Ch'ih was to make these good and pay all legal expenses connected with the case. Sun Chan-ngao, brother of the deceased, raised the necessary amount for Ch'ih, as he had no means of paying it himself, and the case was thus closed. Sun Chan-t'ing having no children, his brother wished to give his own son to the wife Ch'ih Shih as an adopted son, and his nephew to Tso Shih the concubine, as a grandson to this deceased. There being some dispute, however, as to the terms, the contract or deed of adoption was never signed. Sun Chan-t'ing then invited the head of the clan to draw up a list of names of children that might be adopted, and submit it to the Sub-prefect with a request that he would decide which one should be the adopted son of deceased, but the near relatives of deceased were in favour of the adoption of the nephew referred to above, as being more appropriate, and petitioned the Sub-prefect to that effect, who decided in favour of the last proposal. Sun Chan-ngao and his son, seeing that under these circumstances they would have no means of recovering either the money they raised on behalf of Ch'ih Wên-ch'ang to pay the claim of Wang Fa-kuei, or the expenses of Sun Chan-t'ing's funeral and their own travelling expenses to and from the prefectural town, pawned

portions of Sun Chan-t'ing's land and sold others, inviting owners of other portions upon which the deceased held mortgages to redeem them. They thus recouped themselves for the amount they had been out of pocket, and further appropriated the remainder of the property. Sun Ch'ih Shih when she heard of this complained to the Sub-prefect, who gave the case against Sun Chan-ngao, but the latter delayed restitution so long that the widow became impatient and sent an agent to lodge a petition at the Censorate in Peking. The woman has been sentenced to fifty blows for having gone beyond the jurisdiction to which she was subject to lay a complaint at the Censorate before applying to the higher provincial courts, but she is allowed to commute this penalty by a monetary payment. An officer has been sent to look into the matter in dispute, and see that proper restitution is made.

(2) Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Ché-kiang, reports the rescue of two Loochooan vessels which had been driven to the coast of that province by stress of weather. The first of these vessels had an official on board, and was bound for Foochow, where the official had affairs to discuss with the Loochooan official at that port; the second vessel was voyaging from Na-pa Fu to another port on Loochoo, and was driven out of her course by a gale. The vessels were put in repair and despatched to their respective destinations after the usual allowance of rations, etc., had been supplied to the crews.

October 26th.—(1) Ho Chin-show 何金壽 is appointed Prefect of Yang-chow in Kiangsu.

(2) Joint memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-kwang, and P'an Wei, Governor of Hupeh. The Board of Revenue having this year recommended that the tribute rice due to Peking should be forwarded wholly in kind, a decree was issued on the 26th of June sanctioning their request, and a copy was forwarded to memorialists by the Board. They at once communicated with the Grain Intendant Yün Yén-ch'i, directing him to take the matter into consideration and report. He has now sent a reply in conjunction with the Financial Commissioner, and this report has led the memorialists to submit the following conclusions. The commutation of tribute grain by a money payment was a temporary expedient, and in view of the scarcity of the supplies at present stored in the Peking granaries, they would not venture to apply for permission to com-

mute any portion of the tribute were they really able to restore the old system. After a careful consideration, however, of the whole question, they have come to the conclusion that it would be perfectly impossible to levy the tax entirely in kind, and for the following reasons:—The granaries in the tribute producing districts are all in ruins, and it would not be possible abruptly to supply funds for their restoration. The evils and abuses attendant upon the levy of the tax in kind or in money have been repeatedly explained to His Majesty by memorialists and their predecessors, who have further reported the satisfactory results of the commutation system which has now been long in force. The majority of the districts adjoining the great river and the lakes have been flooded this summer, and the people have not yet recovered from the effects of the damage thus sustained. To this has to be added the fact that the continued famine in Shansi and Honan led to large purchases of rice in Hupeh, which raised the price to such a height that the people found it hard to live. Under these circumstances the memorialists directed the Financial Commissioner and Grain Intendant to push forward the collection of the tax, as a sudden demand for payment in kind is certain to meet with strong objections on the part of the taxpayers, and delay will be the probable result. As, however, there is an urgent need for rice in the capital, and it is impossible to dispense with the commutation system, the memorialists would call attention to the practice which has been adopted on successive occasions of allowing agents of the China Merchants' Company to purchase rice [with the commutation money] and forwarding it to the capital. This plan has proved to be both rapid in execution and successful in operation, for although the commutation price for a picul of rice will not buy a picul [in the market], the deficit is made up by the different department and district Magistrates concerned, by which means the full amount of rice due to the capital is forwarded without a fraction of short weight. The memorialists propose, therefore, to adopt the same system this year. Rescript:—Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(3) The Office of the Imperial Household calls His Majesty's attention to the fact that the second term of office of Ming Hsün, Superintendent of Imperial Manufactories at Nanking, will expire on the 4th of December next.

(4) Wang Szü-yi, Acting Governor of Shénsi, reports the escape from prison of a

criminal under sentence of death and his recapture three days afterwards. The criminal in question had been found guilty of murdering the husband of his paramour, and was detained in the district prison until the execution of the sentence, which, being that of strangulation, would not be carried out until after the autumn revision of the condemned lists. The escape was effected under the stereotyped conditions of a dark and stormy night while the turnkeys were asleep. The prisoner wrenched off his manacles, and having divested himself of the red garments worn by criminals condemned to death, forced out one of the bars of the wooden cage in which he was confined. He then climbed on to the wall of the courtyard by the assistance of the bar of his cage, put aside the thorns that were placed on the top of the wall, and slid down on the other side, and, finally, climbed over the outer wall and made his escape into the open. He secreted himself in a retired place until dawn, when he got through the gate of the town. He then took a copper *cash* he had about him and ground it to an edge, imploring a beggar he met to shave his head with it for him. His flight was discovered the following morning, and he was captured four days afterwards.

October 27th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the erection of a special temple to Poérhuoso, late Commandant of Forces, who was killed at Tarbagatai, and fifty-six others, who lost their lives at the same place.

(2) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from a native of Hupeh, who sets forth his wrongs at interminable length. The whole grievance is one of disputed ownership of land, which led to continual quarrels between himself and the accused. The land was in the first instance purchased from a Buddhist priest, but, according to petitioner's statement, some litigious rascals came forward and declared that it had been wrongfully appropriated. In the course of the fights that ensued, petitioner's daughter and wife were killed on different occasions.

(3) Memorial from Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, requesting His Majesty to bestow a title upon the river God at Lin-ts'ing Chow, at the junction of the Grand Canal proper and the Wei River, by whose divine agency a sudden rise of five feet in the waters of the latter channel was obtained, whereby the fleet of grain junks was enabled to proceed on its way without hindrance.

(4) Memorial from Ming An, Governor of Kirin. The prevalence of brigandage

in the three provinces of Kwantung owes at least half its rise to the vice of gambling, to which the people of Kirin in particular are strongly addicted. In the year 1876, the memorialist obtained the punishment of the Colonel at Altchuka, who was tried and found guilty of accepting bribes to release certain persons who had been convicted of indulging in this vice, and His Majesty was pleased in the same year to order the acting Governor of Kirin to give strict injunctions to the officers in command of the banner forces engaged in the suppression of brigandage to be zealous in the arrest of any persons detected in the indulgence of the vice in question. The result has been a succession of arrests, and the punishment of numerous offenders in this particular, and the vice of gambling has been considerably checked in consequence. The memorialist and his colleague regret, however, to report that a certain Manchu Captain, invested with the order of the *Baturu*, has recently had the audacity to establish a gaming house inside the western gate of the city of Kirin itself, where people assembled for the purpose of gambling. The operations were conducted with the greatest secrecy, the gambling going on at night with closed doors, only associates being admitted into the room. This rendered the capture of the offenders a difficult task. Memorialist directed an officer who had given them the information to send one of his men in disguise to the place, which he was directed to visit with several spies at a late hour of the evening, and request admittance on the plea of wishing to play, giving as their names those of certain frequenters of the place. They did so, and on the door being opened, a body of officers and soldiers rushed after them into the room. The soldier and his confederates, knowing that the authorities were behind them, seized the gambling box, but it was snatched away from them by the gamblers assembled, who set upon them and beat them, forcing their way out of the room when the authorities appeared, and escaping over the wall in different directions. Six of them were caught by the soldiers as they were climbing over the wall, and the dice box, cards, and other paraphernalia were got possession of. An official enquiry was held, and the books of the gaming establishment secured, by which, and other evidence, it was found that five of the six people arrested were merely lodgers in the house and had not been actively engaged in gambling. They were accordingly released on bail with instructions to appear before the Court when called upon. The evidence

of one of the prisoners went to show that the Captain in question had taken lodgings in his house, and that, relying on the protection of the Captain, who was in charge of the police, he had opened a gaming establishment with the Captain's knowledge, which he had been enabled to carry on without detection, as the presence of the Captain in his house secured him against domiciliary visits from the police. The Captain, on being confronted with this evidence, could not contradict it, and finally admitted that he had not put a stop to the gaming out of personal goodwill to the proprietor of the establishment, but he strenuously denied, either that he had been bribed to silence, had received a share in the profits, or had been lodged and boarded for nothing. As, however, his testimony on this point cannot be accepted, it is requested that he may be at once cashiered with a view to being made to stand his trial on the charge of having, while entrusted with the execution of police duties, accepted bribes to connive at an offence which it was a part of these duties expressly to prevent.—Granted by Rescript.

October 28th.—(1) Hsia Chia-kaò, (Minister of the Tsungli Yamèn) is appointed Vice-Director of the Imperial Clan Court.

(2) A decree announcing the penalties to be inflicted on Ch'un Fu, Military Governor of Ulià-asut'ai, and Tukarh, Assistant Military Governor of the same region, for having taken on themselves to establish an agency in Peking for the forwarding of military supplies before applying for the necessary permission to do so. The question having been referred to the Board of War, that Bureau decided that Ch'un Fu should be deprived of four steps of commutative rank and transferred to another post; his sentence has been commuted, however, to deprivation of three steps of commutative rank, and removal to another post, with a fine of six months' salary. Tukarh, for whom the Board adjudged deprivation of four steps of commutative rank and removal to another post, is, as an act of special grace, only to lose six months' pay, while both officers, as allowed by law, are temporarily to defer the vacation of their respective posts Ch'è-lintorechi, a Khalka noble, also Assistant Military Governor, is to lose six months' salary as a *Djassak*. The establishment of the agency in question is forbidden. (See *Gazette* of 4th Oct.)

(3) A long memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, giving his reasons for his inability to comply with certain suggestions offered by the Imperial High Commissioners Ngên Chêng

and Tung Hua as to the alterations to be made in the works of the Tu Kiang at Ch'êng-tu Fu. (For summary of this memorial see *Gazette* of 8th October.)

(4) Memorial from Hsi Ch'ang, Imperial agent at Si-ning. Under an existing law it is compulsory for the memorialist's Yamèn to despatch a Secretary every three years to hold an inspection of the thirty-nine families or clans of the barbarian tribes under its jurisdiction. This Secretary, who is accompanied by a Captain of the Chinese army, with twenty Chinese cavalry soldiers, and fifty Mongol foot soldiers from Kokonor, assembles the heads of thousands and hundreds and Captain-Generals of leagues, and settles the lawsuits or disputes of the various classes or families, his approaching departure being always reported to His Majesty. On reference to the archives of his office, the memorialist finds that the practice has been discontinued for the past six years, so he has now directed Ch'ung-kwang, assistant Secretary and Captain Hu Chin-jung, who are to visit these tribes accompanied by an escort of twenty Chinese and fifty Mongol soldiers, with the usual staff of clerks and interpreters, to demand from the tribes in question the arrears of tribute in the shape of horses they are annually bound to supply, as well as the number due from them for the present year. He has further instructed the officers in question to fulfil their mission with exceeding caution, being careful not to harass the people by vexatious exactions, and thus create disturbances. They have been enjoined to settle all disputes with strict justice, in such wise as to give satisfaction, and they have further been instructed so to comfort and minister to these barbarians that they shall learn self-reliance and mutually protect one another. The presents will be provided out of the "donation fund," from which grant will be made for the purchase of satin, hand-made cloth, silver medals, pouches, pocket knives and packets of tea, which the officers will take with them as presents to the heads of thousands, hundreds and leagues. The local authorities will be called upon to provide the necessary grain, salt, and vegetables, as well as pack and riding animals for their escort. It is further customary for the heads of this Mission, when meeting the heads of the Mongol leagues, to avail themselves of the opportunity to offer libations at the source of the Yellow River and other places. The memorialist has accordingly instructed Ch'un Kuang to select Lamas at Ch'aitamu and other head quarters of Mongol tribes, who are well

versed in the Lamaist ritual, and take them with him to the places in question, that they may offer there the usual night sacrifices, recite the proper prayers in a spirit of reverence and sincerity, and so conduct their worship in such wise that that importance may be paid to the matter which its solemnity naturally demands. —Rescript: Noted.

October 29th.—(1) A Decree. Pao T'ing Assistant Supervisor of Instruction, present, a memorial on the subject of punishments as a guide to conduct, the application of which, he holds, should, in accordance with the teaching of canonical works be made capable of extension to the utmost limit allowed, or mitigated within the same limits, as circumstances require. From ancient times the application of punishments has had for its only object the manifestation of justice, and the spirit of the laws has for its object the illustration of this principle equally with that of the canonical writings. In the revision of the criminal lists at the autumn assize, the Board of Punishments and the other Yamens concerned determine the penalties to be inflicted in Council assembled after careful scrutiny of the cases under their notice, and the Court has still to apply careful and accurate scrutiny to each individual case before the decisions arrived at are severally given effect to. The sentence of Li Chin-mu was altered after a second consideration by the Board, which they were ordered to make at the request of Chung P'ei-hsien, and there was no desire whatever in his case to construe the law in its strictest sense. Hereafter all criminal Courts, whether in the capital or the provinces, must positively be careful to give minute and studious attention to the administration of criminal matters, giving just and equitable decisions, and there can then be no excess either on the side of lenity or severity. They are not to make the present case a precedent for hasty and harsh interpretation of the law, thereby annihilating a [grand] principle of law, which tends to the side of lenity in cases of doubt. (See *Gazette* of 22nd Oct.)

(2) Wang Ting-an, expectant Taotai in Chihli, is ordered to be sent to the Board of Civil Office for presentation at Court.

(3) Chang P'eng-yi, recently appointed Sub-reader of the Han-lin, solicits permission to retire, on the ground of ill-health. His memorial contains the customary minutiae of his complaint.

(4) Yen Hsin-fang, Mathematician of the Imperial Academy, prefers a similar request. His ailments consist of dizziness,

swollen eyes, and pains in the loins and legs.

(5) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Hek Lung Kiang, and his colleague T'ok'o-jui, report the capture of some mounted horse stealers, who have been summarily decapitated and their heads exposed at the scene of their crimes. A number of the gang are still at large, but orders have been given for their capture, and they will be severally dealt with when this is effected.

(6) An explanatory memorial from Ting Pao-chêng with reference to certain charges that were brought against Lao Wên-t'ao, Taotai in charge of the Military pay office at Ch'eng-tu Fu, who was accused of having transferred certain monies under his control to the account of the Governor-General. An investigation was ordered to be held, the Taotai in question having denied this charge, and in accordance with these instructions a report was called for from the Financial Commissioner and Judge. The purport of the result of their enquiry is a complete exoneration of the Taotai from the charges brought against him, the impossibility of his having been guilty of the frauds referred to being established by numerous proofs, while his personal character completely supports his innocence.

October 30th.—Hü T'ung pays his respects upon the completion of his duties in connection with the recent examinations.

(Abstracts of Memorial.) Ho Ching reports that the Chief Examiner having been taken ill, he was, in accordance with precedent, removed from the examination Hall at Foochow.

(1-4) Decrees appointing various officers to posts in connection with the examination for the *Chü-jên* degree, of Manchus qualifying as interpreters in the language of their race.

(5) A decree sentencing eight minor officials, acting district Magistrates and others, denounced by the Governor of Kuangsi for tyrannical conduct, incompetence, and other shortcomings, to dismissal in perpetuity, dismissing twelve others, and transferring two more to the ranks of officers of instruction.

(6) The acting Governor of Shên-si reports the receipt of a numerously signed petition from Shih Chang-yo, formerly Censor of the Szechuen Circuit, and others, praying that the Imperial sanction may be applied for to the erection of a temple in honour of the late Huang Ting, Taotai of the Shên An Circuit, an officer of the second grade of official rank, recorded for promotion to the office of Judge, and invested with the order of the *Baturu*, who

was killed while engaged in the work of defence among the northern mountains. The petition, which give a short biographical account of the deceased officer's career, and speaks in the highest terms of his bravery, prowess, and administrative capacity, more especially in the work of reorganisation, is supported by the memorialist.—By Rescript appended to the memorial the necessary authority is granted.

(7) A memorial from Wan Ch'ing-li, the Governor of Shun-t'ien, applying, in the usual terms, for a donation of rice for the gruel kitchens in the metropolis, which it is proposed to open on the 28th October, a month in advance of the ordinary date.

(8) A similar request is submitted by the Governor of the Shun-t'ien prefecture in connection with the gruel kitchens a Lu Kou *Chiao* to the westward of Peking.

(9) The Superintendent of Imperial Manufactories at Hangchow forwards a stereotyped application for permission to purchase raw silk for the manufacture of fabrics for the Imperial use at market rates, instead of being limited to the prices laid down by regulation, which are far below those that have ruled for some years past. Since the year 1874 the piece of white warp silk has stood with little variation at Tl. 0.2.9 per oz.—Granted by Rescript.

(10) Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, and his colleague Yü Liang, present their annual memorial requesting permission to forego the customary winter hunt, as the troops required for carrying it out are required for police purposes and cannot be spared. Another argument they bring forward in support of their application is the saving of expenditure that would thereby be effected, as the cost of cart hire and rations for such an undertaking would amount to not less than Tls. 14,000, which in these times of financial embarrassment it would be impossible to raise. They propose therefore to abandon the custom until the country shall be in so quiet and orderly a condition that the question of its resumption can be justifiably entertained. When this is the case they will not fail to let His Majesty know. (See *Gazette* of 12th Oct.)

October 31st.—(1) A Decree. Li Ho-nien reports that all the works on both banks of the Yellow River were put into thorough order by the time of the *Shuang Chiang* period. During the present year the waters in the Ch'in and Yellow Rivers rose to a great height, and the works were repeatedly threatened with dangerous contingencies, but Li Ho-nien at the head of his workmen and officers managed to secure them against accident. The period of *Shuang*

Chiang, or "hoar frost," has now arrived, and all the works have been put into so thorough a condition of efficiency that peace of mind and quietude everywhere prevail. We have perused his memorial with sincere feelings of gratitude, and We hereby command that ten large sticks of Tibetan incense be issued to Li Ho-nien, who will reverently repair to the Temple of the River God and offer them as a thanksgiving on Our behalf. The waters have not yet completely subsided, and the work of repair and the maintenance of these repairs are matters of the most vital importance. The Director-General in question must, therefore, give positive orders to the executive under his control to be truly energetic in the work of precaution and protection. Not the slightest carelessness must be displayed. In a postscript memorial he solicits the bestowal of honorary rewards upon two officers. Let Kuei Shan, Taotai of the K'ai Kuei, Ch'ên, Hsü Circuit, have a peacock's feather bestowed upon him, and let Wu Ta-chêng, Taotai of the Ho Pei Circuit, be given a button of the second grade.

(2) Ta Shih 大澁 is appointed Taotai of the An, Hsiang, Yün Circuit in Hupeh.

(3) A long memorial from Fêng Shên and T'o K'o-jui giving details of the manner in which they purpose to distribute the additional troops at Hu-lan, Pa-yên-su-su, Pei-t'uan-lin-tzū, and other places, in accordance with the sanction that was granted by Imperial decree in the earlier part of the year. In answer to a reference to their body, the Board of War approved of the addition to the number of troops in these regions, but suggested that the memorialists should be called upon to furnish details as to the manner of their disposition. A decree calling for this report was accordingly issued, and in respectful obedience thereto the memorialists now beg to submit the details demanded. These are entered into at great length, but are too technical to be of special interest.

(4) Ting Pao-chêng requests the dismissal in perpetuity of a subordinate officer employed in one of the branch offices of the Szechuen Salt Gabelle department. Granted by decree earlier issued.

(5) A further list of contributors in Kiangsi to the Shansi famine relief fund is submitted by Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, who solicits for them the bestowal of honors commensurate with the amounts of their respective subscriptions. The total of these contributions amounts to Tls. 656,000 odd for Honan and Shansi, of which the latter province received Tls. 538,600.

(6) The same officer reports that one Chang Yu-kung, a merchant of Kuei-hua Ch'êng, and others, contributed some time since six hundred horses to the province of Shansi. As, however, the value of these horses was not reported at the time, orders were given by the contribution agency for enquiries to be made on the subject, and the merchant in question now states that they were purchased in the Uliasutái region at a cost of Tls. 8 a piece, making a total of Tls. 4,800 exclusive of the cost of their keep and other expenses, which he could not venture to add to the estimate of the outlay. The memorialist has now to pray that the Board may be directed to compute the rewards to which each contributor is entitled, and severally to issue the necessary certificates to them.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

November 1st.—(Court Circular.) Jung Beileh returns thanks for the selection of a bride for him by Their Majesties.

(1) A Decree. The Court of Censors report that they have received a petition from Liao Shou-fêng, Compiler of the Han-lin, and others, forwarded through an agent, to the effect that the tribute grain tax in their respective native places has not been universally reduced. They state that in the districts of Chia-ting and Pao-shan in Kiangsu, the taxes being comparatively light, these two districts were not included in the scheme for the reduction of the tribute grain tax, and that while the quota of tribute grain due from them is nominally light, it is in reality so heavy that the people are exhausted by the burden. They pray, therefore, that they may be relieved from the necessity of supplying the additional amount demanded for the treasury of the Kiang-an Circuit, or that some other compassionate scheme may be devised for their relief. The universal reduction of the Kiangsu tribute grain tax was a special act of Imperial grace. How comes it then that the districts in question were omitted from the scheme, and that the regular taxes and tribute tax are respectively lighter and heavier in other districts. Let Shên Pao-chêng and Wu Yuan-ping consider in what manner the supplementary tax for the Taotai's treasury can be remitted, and what compassionate measures can be adopted to lighten the burden complained of. Their plan to be satisfactory must secure the revenues of the country from injury, and at the same time relieve the people from embarrassment.

(2) A memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, reporting at great length the result of an enquiry into

counter accusations brought the acting Sub-prefect of Yu-yang against his Jail Warden, and by the Jail Warden against the Sub-prefect. The story, which is uninteresting in the extreme, may be disposed of in a few words. The Sub-prefect, having reason to complain of his Jail Warden for having received petitions from litigants and others which his rank and status did not admit of his receiving, and giving decisions in the cases under dispute, which he had not the authority to do, dismissed a runner who had summoned the parties to the trial, as a hint to the Jail Warden that he was exceeding his functions, and afterwards denounced the Jail Warden to the Governor-General. The runner and the Jail Warden then brought counter-accusations against the Sub-prefect, charging him with fraud in connection with the levy of certain contributions towards defraying the expenses of the examinations for the degree of provincial graduate. These charges and the issues that they involved are gone into at great length, and the result of the enquiry is that the memorialist recommends that the acting Sub-prefect shall be dismissed, and that the Jail Warden shall also be dismissed with the addition of being debarred in perpetuity from ever again serving in an official capacity.—The question is referred for settlement to the Board which it concerns.

November 2nd.—(1) A Decree. The Office of Gendarmerie report that the mother of Li Yu-hêng, Commander-in-chief in Szechuen, has sent an agent to present a petition in which she states that the penalty to which her son is condemned is an injustice towards him. In the sixth moon of the present year, the Board of Punishments came to a decision on this case, and We thereupon issued a decree ordering Li Yu-hêng to be at once cashiered, and, in accordance with the penalty suggested by the Board, to be strangled after incarceration until the period of the autumn revision. The case has been gone into time after time, and a decision has now come to. Why, then, should it be reopened? Let the petition be dismissed. (See "Tung-hsiang outrage.")

(2) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'uan, Governor of Shansi. The memorialist begs permission to call His Majesty's attention to the following decree which he had the honour to receive some time ago:—"Upon the receipt of the appropriation of Tls. 200,000 from the Board of Revenue, and the draft amounting to Tls. 300,000 due from Shantung and other provinces, let the Governor-General consider the chief

points that should be embraced in the scheme for the reorganisation of his province, and direct his subordinates, working under his order, to set to work in earnest to carry them out." On receipt of this decree the memorialist and the whole of the officials and gentry in the province prostrated themselves in thankful recognition of the Heavenly bounty; while he sent deputies to Peking to take delivery of the money granted by the Board of Revenue, and wrote to the respective Governors of the provinces who had been ordered to send him grants begging them to remit these sums as soon as possible. He estimates therefore that by the winter of the present year the remittances with all have come to hand. He is humbly of opinion that the question of reorganisation is complicated in the extreme, comprising, as it does, schemes for ascertaining the amount of deserted land, the issue of plough oxen, the distribution of seed corn, the encouragement of immigration, etc. etc., the execution of which requires men, and men of ability, without whom they cannot be carried out. The aid, the advent of which at frequent intervals the province can, providentially, depend upon, will enable the memorialist to a slight extent to mature his plans and will relieve him of the grosser burden of anxiety under which he was labouring; but the main part of the expenditure of the province must undoubtedly be the restoration to the granaries of the stores of which they have been drained, and this is the pressing question of the moment. The million or more piculs of grain that were stored in the nine prefectures and ten departments of Shansi were the means of relieving the pressing anxiety of the moment when the province was visited with the unprecedented calamity of three successive years of famine and extraneous aid could not be momentarily afforded. By the time that these supplies were exhausted, grain from the South began to arrive in successive relays, so that, while it was to outside aid that the people of the province were indebted when relief was regularly organised, it was on local stores that they had to depend for existence when it first became necessary. The memorialist then proceeds to explain the scheme he proposes to adopt to accomplish the object in view, a summary of which will be found in a decree published in the *Gazette* of 15th October.

(3) The same officer calls His Majesty's attention to the fact that one Chin Fu-tsêng and others, gentry of Kiangsu and Ché-kiang, hearing of the distress that prevailed

in the southern portion of Shansi, raised the sum of Tls. 86,880, which they took to Shansi and personally distributed in P'ing-yang Fu and other localities in which the suffering was particularly severe, making a house to house visitation and giving to the needy after satisfying themselves as to the actual condition of the people whom they relieved, thereby securing to the people themselves the actual benefits of the charity. In their consideration for the miseries of the distant people of Shansi the gentry of the provinces above mentioned displayed an activity in well-doing and a love of what was right which can fitly be commended. The memorialist would therefore pray His Majesty, as a preliminary step, to direct the Board to make a note of the contribution of Tls. 86,000 by the gentry of Chékiang and Kiangsu, and if they should send any further remittances, he will report the same to His Majesty with a request that the customary patents and honors be awarded to the contributors.

November 3rd.—(Abstract of Memorials.) Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, is granted a month's congé on the score of ill-health.

(1) Ch'ung Ch'i, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-hoh, submits a long memorial on the subject of the commutation allowance hitherto granted to the troops in lieu of rice. In former days the troops were paid half in money and half in rice, a commutation allowance of Tls. 1.4 being granted them for each picul of rice that they were entitled to receive in kind. In the year 1854 this allowance was reduced by three-tenths, owing to the impoverished condition of the Imperial exchequer, and the merchants who supplied the grain then only issued seven-tenths of the full amount. This reduction led in time to numerous abuses, until, during the incumbency of the late Ch'ung Shih, the grain dealers submitted a statement of their grievances to him and begged that they might themselves be allowed to import the grain required for the granaries, in the interests of the petty officers and soldiers to whom it was served out. Ch'ung Shih and other Lieutenant-Governors tried their best to remedy the abuses complained of, but they never completely succeeded in doing so until Ch'ien Hsü, the last Lieutenant-Governor, requested permission to abolish the system of allowing the men to buy their own grain, and to issue the whole amount of their rations in kind. This was sanctioned by Imperial decree, the commutation allowance for the remainder, for which money was given, being fixed at Tls. 1.4

per picul, subject to a reduction of three-tenths on the four mace. On the assumption of the duties of this post by memorialist, a Colonel and sixteen captains addressed a petition to him to the effect that, in good years like the present, the commutation allowance was more than enough to purchase the quantity of rice it was supposed to represent, but when the price of silver fell and that of rice rose it was certain to cause embarrassment to the troops whose difficulties would be increased when, as might be the case, their allowances were not issued up to time. They prayed, therefore, that the old system of issuing rations in kind might be reverted to. The memorialist questioned the Colonel verbally on the subject, who declared that the facts, as represented, were strictly correct, an assertion which was corroborated by all the petitioners. He accordingly called upon the Taotai and Prefect to look into the matter, and they reported that the granary picul of rice issued to the troops at Jeh-hoh was equal to about three-fifths of the market scale, and that in good years a picul of rice outside the wall cost about 6,000 "Metropolitan" cash, so that the reduced allowance now granted was sufficient at such times to purchase the equivalent of the reduced amount of rice that was allowed under the regulations. But the price of grain fluctuated at Jeh-hoh, and in ordinary years the picul cost 8,000 "Metropolitan" cash, while in unfavourable seasons it cost as much as from 10,000 to 13,000 cash. Failures of harvest from flood or drought were of frequent occurrence, and if the price of rice rose to a slightly high figure, they feared the allowance granted to the troops would be insufficient to buy them enough to eat. They therefore strongly urged, upon this, as well as other grounds, the resumption of the system of purchasing grain and issuing it to the troops in kind. In view of this testimony, the memorialist, while alive to the possibility of abuses arising therefrom, feels it his duty to recommend the resumption of the old system.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

(2) The only other memorial in this day's *Gazette* is a report from Ting Pao-ch'eng, submitting the result of the rehearing of an appeal case in which one man charged another, with whom he had had a dispute about money matters, with pushing his wife down and causing injuries to her from the consequences of which she died. The enquiry shows that the woman, who was very ill at the time, died from natural causes, and was not assaulted by the defendant.

November 4th.—(1) Kuei Ch'èng 貴成 is appointed Taotai at Jeh-hoh with military control.

(2) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang. He has already reported to His Majesty, in a memorial dated 9th August, the fact of an earthquake having occurred in the south-east of Chihli. After the despatch of this memorial the Sub-prefect of Chieh Chow, Shih Pên-ch'ing by name, sent in a further report to the effect that after the earthquake had occurred the hills were rent and the water came rushing out, forcing the river and moat adjoining the prefectural town out of their ordinary channel and submerging the earthen and stone walls round the villages and towns further down the stream. On the 18th and 19th July rain fell in torrents, and the water accumulated in the valleys burst forth and spread in all directions, washing away a newly constructed weir in the south-western corner of the prefectural town and forcing its way inside the walls. The edifice over the southern gate was undermined and fell, while 7,000 to 8,000 yards of the eastern wall was submerged, as well as the Major's yamèn and several hundred private dwellings. As the town of Chieh Chow lies low, when the earthquake occurred the people had moved for refuge to higher land, so that few people were drowned by the inroad of the water, etc., etc. The Taotai of the Kuang Ch'in Chieh circuit had earlier reported that the effects of the earthquake were particularly disastrous in Chieh Chow and its dependencies of Hsi-ku Chow and Tung-wen Hsien, and that he had forwarded Tls. 1,000 from the *lekin* receipts to the Sub-prefect to be expended in relief of the sufferers. As the Sub-prefect was new to the post, he applied for the assistance of his predecessor the acting Sub-prefect, whom the memorialist accordingly sent to his aid, and, after consultation with Yang Ch'ang-chün, furnished him with a sum of Tls. 3,000, from the *lekin* receipts, to meet the expenditure that would be incurred. At Yang Ch'ang-chün's suggestion, Lung Hsi-ch'ing, who had recently been acting as Taotai at Ning-hsia, was also sent to the south of the province to superintend the necessary arrangements, that everything might be done to secure their effectual accomplishment. The officers engaged in this work have been instructed to make the relief of the people, whose dwellings have been destroyed, their first care, and as soon as the water has subsided to set to work to repair the damages that have resulted. On receipt

of the estimates they will draw up, the memorialist will consider how he may best provide the sum required.

(3) Ho Ching, Governor-General of Min-chên, solicits the bestowal of posthumous honors and marks of distinction respectively upon one Li Yang-hui, a titular official residing in the district town of P'u-ch'eng, and his wife and daughters. This individual, when the town was attacked by the rebels in the year 1857, put himself at the head of volunteers and soldiery and repulsed numerous assaults of the enemy, holding the town against them for several days, until, at last, a breach was effected by undermining the wall, and the enemy rushed in, killing Li Yang-hui and his wife, daughters and grand-daughters to the number of twelve in all.—Referred to the proper Board.

(4) Memorial from Hsi Lun, Commandant of Forces at Tarbagatai. In consequence of the scarcity of horses for the use of his troops last year, from death or other causes, and the urgent necessity for the soldiers being properly mounted, the memorialist bought 300 horses on credit from the Andjani traders at a cost of Tls. 12 a piece. He reported his action to His Majesty, who approved of what he had done, and in the month of April last, the Board of Revenue having forwarded a remittance, he paid off his debt for the horses in question. Hardly had he done so, however, when the Board wrote to say that they could not allow more than the statute price for the horses, viz., Tls. 8 apiece. While acknowledging the obligation he is under to adhere to the regulations thus enunciated by the Board, the memorialist would respectfully submit that the pressing nature of the circumstances last year was such that he could not venture to fetter his action by uncompromising adherence to regulation, and as at the time the market price of horses was high, and he had further to buy them on credit [he was obliged to contract for the sum specified.] He cannot possibly recover the money which has now been paid, and he therefore solicits His Majesty's permission to be allowed for this once to pay the market price, undertaking, in the event of future purchases being necessary, to adhere to the rates laid down by regulation.—Granted by Rescript under the conditions guaranteed.

November 5th.—(1) A decree directing the Imperial College of Inscriptions to prepare a votive tablet which is to be suspended in the temple to the Ta Wang, or River God, at Fai Hsien, in Shantung, that deity having averted dangers that were immin-

ent in consequence of the bursting of works at Kia-king and Pa-li Miao.

(2) Ten sticks of Tibetan incense are ordered to be issued to Chou Hêng-ch'i, Governor of Shantung, as a thanksgiving offering to the River God, to whose protecting care the safety of the works along the northern and southern banks of the Yellow River is to be attributed. The decree in which this order is conveyed mentions a number of officials by name to whom rewards of different kinds are granted for their exertions during the past season.

(3) A Decree. Some time since the Censor Chu Yi-tsêng denounced Ying P'u, Grain Intendant of Kiangsu, on various counts. We thereupon directed the high authorities of Chihli and Kiangsu to make careful and accurate enquiry into the matter and report. The Court of Censors now memorialise to the effect that the Sung Shêng Ch'ang bank and the Yü Fêng shop for the sale of gold and pearls, both in Peking, are conducted with capital supplied by Ying P'u; that the stage for theatrical performances in his private dwelling was put up by a builder in Peking, and that he himself had also constructed a wooden stage for the same purpose. That Ying P'u, a person holding substantive rank, should invest large sums of money in establishments and shops and compete with the common people for gain, indicates his utter ignorance of the obligations he is under. Let him, as a preliminary step, vacate his post, and await further enquiry and subsequent action. With reference to the charge of remaining in Peking, his servants state that he returned to the capital on account of sickness, and had obtained leave of absence for that purpose. Let the Superintendents of the Granaries and the Governor of Kiangsu state whether this is the fact or not. Let the remainder of the charges against him stand over until the receipt of the report that has been called for from the high authorities of Chihli and Kiangsu.

(4) A decree sanctioning a grant of Tls. 3,600 for the purchase of wadded jackets to be distributed amongst the destitute poor in Peking for use during the coming winter. The money is to be provided from the dividends on sums put out to interest by the Office of the Imperial Household in Chihli, and if the remittances due from Ch'ang-lu have not yet arrived, the necessary amount is to be advanced from the Treasury of the Privy Purse.

(5) A decree sanctioning the usual monthly grant of 330 piculs of rice for

distribution amongst the various gruel kitchens in the *Wai Ch'eng*, or Chinese quarter, of Peking. The kitchens will be opened on the 1st of the 10th moon (14th November.) 300 piculs are also granted to three night refuges, the same amount to a Mahomedan temple at which gruel is dispensed, with smaller grants to other establishments of a similar kind.

(6) The Censor Ko Ching requests sanction for the extension of the privilege of travelling at Government expense that was accorded in 1873 to senior licentiates from Kweichow going to Peking for examination, to scholars in the same category from Yunnan.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

[*Note.*—Ying P'u, Grain Intendant of Kiangsu, was sent to Tientsin in charge of the tribute grain from that province. On delivery of this grain at Tientsin or T'ungchow, he should have returned to his post, but he took the opportunity of being only a few miles from Peking, his native place, to return home for a few days. While there he was foolish enough to indulge in open festivities which attracted the notice of his denouncer.]

November 6th. — (1) Wang Yü-ts'ao 王毓藻 is appointed Grain Taotai of Soochow and Sungkiang in Kiangsu.

(2) Ling Shu 麟書, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Ch'ung Li 崇禮, Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, are appointed Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamèn.

(3) A decree directing the Board of Punishments to give an opinion in a case of homicide where the parties come within the limits of relationship. The law not being explicit on the point in question, Ch'ien Pao-lien, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, has applied to His Majesty to pass a special clause which shall meet the exigencies of the case.

(4) A Decree. Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yunnan, reports that Li Ching-hsing, Sub-Prefect on probation, who was deputed to get together some witnesses in a case in which the tribal chieftains were concerned, returned to the provincial capital before he had accomplished his mission and committed suicide. The Prefect of Lin-an, to which place he had been sent, states that there are reasons to suspect that the deceased officer accepted bribes to screen the guilty parties, and although his servants declare that their master committed suicide in consequence of mental depression brought on by illness, it is probable that he was

induced to destroy himself from fear of the penalties to which he had rendered himself liable. Let a searching enquiry be made into the circumstances, and the parties to the suit in question be summoned to the capital.

(5) A memorial from Chung P'ei-hsien, Director of the Imperial Stud Court, taking exception to the finding of the Board of Punishments in the case of Li Chin-mu, a man who had been guilty of murdering his nephew. The Board of Punishments had relegated him to the list of those, the execution of whose sentence of death is deferred, and the memorialist, on a careful perusal of the criminal's confession, found that the circumstances of the outrage were so grave that he wrote to the Board asking them for their reasons in coming to this decision. In reply he was informed that His Majesty had approved of their decision, and a copy of the Board's memorial was sent him for perusal. He finds that, in the case in question, Li Chin-mu was induced by Li Yung-fu, from motives of avarice, to compass the murder of his nephew, a child of only five years of age, and in accordance with the law on the subject, he was sentenced to decapitation after the usual term of incarceration, but he was relegated to the category of criminals whose sentence is deferred, in the condemned lists of the province (Honan) that were drawn up after the autumn assize. Memorialist would respectfully submit that in cases of murder for the sake of gain the law does not discriminate between principals and accessories, all being condemned alike to decapitation. When children within the third degree of relationship are murdered by their elders these latter are condemned by law to decapitation after the usual period of incarceration, and there is no specific clause by which latitude is allowed in the case of relatives, while no distinction either is made between principals and accessories, the crime being regarded in the same light as ordinary murders committed from avaricious motives. The Board of Punishments allege that as Li Chin-mu was not the originator of the murder, his crime was less grave than it would have been had he been the instigator of the murder of a child. They therefore endorse the decision of the provincial Government delaying the execution of the sentence. In doing so they have, in memorialists' humble opinion, made a mistake. The law makes no distinction between principals and accessories in cases of murder committed for the sake of gain, and in sentencing a murderer of a young relation to decapitation, after incarceration, the law has been

interpreted in its most lenient sense ; he cannot therefore understand how a further distinction of intent and non-intent can be made in the face of law so explicit in its enactments. He continues in the same strain for several pages, arguing the point in every possible way that will demonstrate the fallacy of the reasoning by which the Board have arrived at their decision, and, appealing to His Majesty's sense of justice and equity, prays that the Board may be instructed to reconsider the case. (See *Gazettes* of 22nd and 29th of October.)

November 7th.—(1) A Decree. A few days since, Ch'ien Pao-lien, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, memorialised to the effect that, at the autumn revision of the condemned lists, in the case of Li Chin-mu, a native of Honan, and his associates, in which sentence of decapitation after the usual term of incarceration had been passed by the most strict interpretation of the law, when the autumn revision took place it was not thought advisable to apply the law in its literal or strictest sense, and application was made for the enactment of a special clause to meet the particular conditions here met with. We thereupon issued a decree calling upon the Board of Punishments to consider the question, and the President of that Bureau now request that, as there is a divergence of opinion amongst them, a high officer may be deputed once more to look into the case. Li Chin-mu, the criminal condemned to be beheaded, was persuaded from avaricious motives to compass the death his nephew, a child just five years of age, and sentence was passed upon him in accordance with the law governing ordinary cases of murder, while, as the Board of Punishments have decided that the case is one [that is technically called] direct or actual participation, it is decidedly one that the law cannot pardon. In consideration, however, of the fact that the criminal in question was an accessory, while, in addition, the law is not explicit on the subject of those connected by ties of relationship, if the case be determined on the basis of an ordinary murder with the addition of the circumstance of the element of consanguinity, it would be quite right to pass sentence of strangulation after the usual term of incarceration. Let the sentence of the criminal Li Chin-mu, therefore, be commuted to strangulation after the usual term of incarceration. The time having now arrived for the "marking" of the lists, let the sentence be at once carried out. There is no occasion for a special high

officer to be separately deputed to consider the question, but the Board of Punishments will still be required, in accordance with Ch'ien Pao-lien's request, to consider the propriety of creating a special clause to meet cases of this nature.

(2) Memorial from Chou Hêng-ch'i, Governor of Shantung, submitting, in obedience to Imperial decree, schemes for removing the obstacles at present existing in the lower portion of the bed of the Yellow River, and protecting the walls of the district town of Li-chin. Some months ago a copy of an Imperial decree was sent him by the Grand Council with reference to the schemes proposed by Hsia T'ung-shan and Kuang Show for the dredging of the lower portion of the Yellow River and the measures necessary for the protection of the walls of the district town of Li-chin, [the safety of which was threatened by the encroachments of the river.] The correspondence and estimates in connection with this scheme having been forwarded to memorialist by Wên Ko, the late Governor, he left the provincial capital on the 24th of August, as has already been reported to His Majesty, on a tour of inspection of the lower waters of the Yellow River. He has now respectfully to observe that it is already more than twenty years since the Yellow River took a northerly course, and it was in view of the probability that the lower portion of the Ta-ch'ing river might gradually become silted up that Hsia T'ung-shan argued, as a precautionary measure, the advisability of clearing the channel. The memorialist, after consultation with Wên Ko, sent Chu Ts'ai, Prefect on probation, and Shêng Ts'an-hsi, Magistrate designate of the Li-chin district, to survey the river and obtain a general idea of the important requirements, and he has now just been himself to the river's bank and formed an idea of the general state of the case, availing himself extensively of the expressions of popular opinion on the subject, which lead to the conclusion that, at the moment the course of action to be pursued in connection with the lower portion of the stream admits of nothing more than the execution of repairs and precautionary measures at a few selected points of special importance. He now begs permission to lay the result of his investigations before His Majesty.

Hsia T'ung-shan's memorial contained these proposals, the first of which was the dredging of the seaport at the mouth of the river ; the second, the straightening of the bends in the river ; and the third, the clearing of the channels of derivation. As

regards the straightening of the bends, Kuang Show and [his fellow memorialists] discovered that the arable land, cottages, and graveyards embraced in the numerous bends that occur in the lower part of the stream were so numerous that it would be impossible to effect the removal of the two latter, while the straightening of these bends would involve such encroachment upon salt-flats and salt boiling furnaces that [their demolition] would cause injury to the revenue. The memorialist's subsequent investigations have led him to form the same opinion, while he has further to urge that the Yellow River [has a tendency to] form bends where it was straight before, these bends increasing in size [as time goes on], while it has such a faculty for changing its course that it has no fixed direction from one year to another. Hence this portion of the scheme becomes impracticable. As regards the clearing of the channels of derivation, Kuang Show came to the conclusion that it would be possible to dredge the *Yin-ho* and erect stone weirs by means of which the surplus waters of the Yellow River when it was high might be led into the T'u-hai river, but that as weirs were liable to carry away and break, it would be better to erect [minor] ones for reducing the head of water. The memorialist has to observe with reference to this scheme that the T'u-hai river was dredged in the year 1873, but though it is, for the most part, still clear throughout, it would hardly be capable of bearing a share of the waters of the Yellow River. The Taotai P'au Chün-wên made an estimate some time ago of the cost [of the works it would be necessary to undertake to carry out this project], and he concluded that for the 150 or 160 *li* in Hui-min Hsien, Pin-chow, and Chau-hua Hsien, an outlay of Tls. 30,000 or Tls. 40,000 would be required if [gratuitous] labour were employed, and that an additional sum of Tls. 70,000 or Tls. 80,000 would be needed if a channel of derivation were cut at the Pai-lung Bend, while a stone weir would cost Tls. 40,000 more, making a total for the execution of these works of Tls. 240,000 or Tls. 250,000. But, as each reduction of water entails a corresponding silting up, dredging has to be carried out each year, and the labour is endless; while the fact that the Yellow River is daily trending northwards renders it possible that a sudden move in that direction would carry away the stone-works and cause a disastrous overflow, which would convert the whole region to the north of the river into a vast lake, with consequences the calamitous nature of

which it is impossible to describe.—This was the opinion the Taotai formed, and the memorialist ventures to think that if only one draining weir were constructed in the length of 400 *li* between Lo-k'ou eastward to Li-chin, it would carry off very little water and would cost over Tls. 20,000, what with the necessary dredging, etc.; while the addition of extra weirs would necessitate the digging of more channels of derivation at a great increase of expense, and the drainage would be more than the T'u-hai River could carry away. A breach occurred last year at the Pai-lung Bend, and the water emptied into the T'u hai river, causing it to overflow its banks in many places, a fact that clearly establishes the correctness of memorialist's theory. The T'u-hai river is from 500 to 600 feet broad, and only 5, 6, or 7 feet deep, as the case may be, and so, even supposing that anyone set to work to dredge it, human power is limited [and the result would be small.] There are no substantial earthworks of any age, either, on the northern bank, and any pressure upon them would always cause much anxiety for their safety. Again, the waters from the three prefectures of Chi-nan, Tung-ch'ang and Wu-ting all drain into the T'u-hai, and if this latter got silted up through the proposed scheme for reducing the head of water in the Yellow River, the consequences to the above-named prefectures would be so serious that the notables and people of Wu-ting have protested against it in a body. The conditions of the soil and of the people seem to memorialist to offer many objections to the scheme, for, taking the Yellow River in its present state as a basis for argument, in the lower portion of its course, the banks are high and the bed low, so that the waters keep to their channel which is sufficient to contain them as long as they do not rise to an extraordinary extent. Where the land on either side is high no banks exist; where it is low, embankments varying from five to ten *li* in length are placed at different intervals; so that if the works erected by the people are repaired and strengthened by outer works in places at which they have carried away or are weak, they will be able to stand the pressure when the heavy freshets come down. The memorialist accordingly directed the former acting Magistrate of Ch'i-tung, and the former Magistrate of Hui-min to visit the works in their respective jurisdictions and allot supplementary grants for the repair of places that needed it. In the matter of

the deepening of the port at the mouth of the river, Kuang Show and the others found that there were only a few feet of water at the port of Hsin-ho Mên outside of the outlet at Li-chin Hsien called Mu-li Tsui, which precluded the entrance of steamers. They accordingly suggested the employment of ordinary dredging boats fitted with iron combs or rakes, as well as native dredgers known by the name of *hun-chiang-lung* (混江龍) which might be worked backwards and forwards in the harbour.] The plan is not without merit, and the Taotai referred to above suggested that the work of the dredgers might be supplemented by embankments below T'ieh-mên kuan, which would confine the waters of the river and cause them to carry away the deposit that had silted up. In connection with this subject the memorialist would remark that two modes of controlling the action of rivers have hitherto been employed—the one, dredging; the other, embankments. In the reign of K'ang Hi, when the port at the mouth of the southern channel of the Yellow River silted up, the Director-General, Chin Fu by name, requested His Majesty's permission to construct an earthwork 180,000 feet in length outside the Tun-t'i kuan, with the view to confining the water and counteracting the silting that was going on. The conditions at T'ieh-mên kuan are similar to those that existed at Yün-t'i kuan, and if a similar plan were adopted at the former place to that attempted in the reign of K'ang Hi at Yün-t'i, it could not fail to be of use. Unfortunately, the country between T'ieh-mên and the port, a distance of a hundred and several score of li, is one continuous stretch of reeds, and has always been uninhabited, so that there is no means of starting earthworks in this wide expanse of water, and even if they could be put in hand, the expense would be so great that the scheme is out of the question. The port of Hsin-hai-mên is divided into two channels running respectively east and west, each some 800 or 900 feet in width, the space between them consisting of hard sand known as t'ieh-pau-sha, or iron sand, which is as firm and hard as stone and is the growth of many years. This flat has about three feet of water upon it at low tide when there are no freshets in the river, and during the summer and autumn freshets there are upwards of ten feet of water in the two channels described above, and six or seven feet when the freshets are not on. Above Li-chin Hsien the channel is also quite clear, from which it can be seen that there

are no great obstructions at the port. As regards the dredging operations immediately necessary, the memorialist proposes to purchase several of the Yellow River boats and to direct the arsenal to fit them with dredgers constructed after the model of the *hun-chiang-lung* and other appliances with which the port can be cleared. As there is a probability that the dredging boats will not be handy in a high wind and heavy sea, he proposes to have the channel above the port first cleared of the fresh deposit that has accumulated there; by which means, although the operation will be somewhat slow, each foot cleared away will be a foot gained, though the sand that is thus stirred up will be forced only as far as the mouth of the port, beyond which point it will be met and kept back by the tide which is beyond human effort to control. The memorialist will formulate his plans when he has been able to judge of the success or otherwise of this tentative measure. The protection of the wall of the town of Li-chin is also a subject of remark in the memorial under consideration. Kuang Show suggests that a stone embankment should be constructed to the south-east to protect this wall, or that several breakwaters or buffers should be made at the point at which the stream meets the obstruction [offered by the wall of the town.] The memorialist visited the town, and he found that there was a bend in the river just outside the south-eastern gate, which threatened the safety of the eastern corner of the wall. Two small breakwaters of sunken junks filled with stones have been made by the people, but the backwash is forming a deep hole some forty feet deep at high water, and about thirty when the freshets have subsided. The old embankment consists of stones roughly piled up, and all that can be done with it is to continue it in the same fashion and raise it higher, for it would be impossible to extend it into the deeper water. Wooden piles will be driven down at the places in the embankment near the eastern suburbs that have fallen in, and a stone bank or wall constructed over them.—After describing a few more unimportant works he proposes to carry out for the protection of the wall, the memorialist concludes his report in the usual way.—A Rescript is appended directing him to continue to give the matter his careful attention, and to see that the works for the protection of the wall of Li-chin Hsien are properly carried out.

November 8th.—(1) A decree ordering Ch'ên Tsé-fu, late General of the Têng Chow Brigade in Shantung, to retire from

the service. He was directed to come to Peking to be presented at Court, but applied for two months' leave to return to his home in Kwangtung before doing so. He has now applied for further leave through the Governor-General of his province, and that high officer complains of his dilatoriness in obeying the summons to Peking, stigmatising his application for extension of leave as an unnecessary intrusion upon His Majesty's attention.

(2) A decree sanctioning the admission of 16 graduates of the first-class, 34 of the second, and 53 of the third, the successful competitors at the recent examination for *Chü-jên*, to the lists of competitors allowed to enter for the coming examination for the degree of *Chin-shih*. One of the successful competitors who failed to satisfy the examiners at the test examination in the palace is not permitted to compete for the degree of *Chin-shih* until the examination succeeding the one to be held next spring.—With the exception of a decree ordering a tablet to be prepared for a temple at Wei-hui Fu in Honan, the presiding deity of which has been responsive to prayers for rain whereby locusts were driven away, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* contains no other documents of importance but papers that have been summarised in earlier decrees.

November 9th.—(1) Memorial from Kuang Shou, President of the Board of War, and his colleagues, reporting the penalties they consider should be imposed upon the Commandant at Uliast'ai, and Ch'elintorchi and Tukarh, his colleagues, for having established a forwarding agency in Peking for the transmission of military stores before they had obtained the Imperial permission to do so. These penalties, and the modified form which has been substituted in their place, are chronicled in the *Gazette* of 28th Oct.

(2) Memorial from the President of the Board of Punishments and his colleagues in answer to the objections of Chung P'ei-hsien in the matter of the commutation of the sentence of Li Chin-mu, the man who murdered his nephew. (See *Gazettes* of 22nd, 29th Oct. and 6th Nov.)

November 10th.—(1) Wu Yü-lan (吳 毓蘭) is appointed Taotai at Tientsin.

(2) Kwang Show is directed to proceed with all despatch to the Eastern Mausolea to hold an enquiry into certain matters (not specified.) He and his Secretaries are to travel at Government expense.

(3) The Governor of Shantung reports the execution by *ling-ch'ih* of a maniac

who killed his mother and his grandmother in a fit of insanity. The usual story is told. The maniac, who had lucid intervals, was, when sane, a dutiful and obedient son. In his mad fits he was not dangerous or troublesome, so his relations shrunk from exposing him to the hardships he would undergo if he were placed under the charge of the authorities. During the absence of the male members of the family he had a return of his mania, and danced about the yard brandishing an iron rake with which he attacked his mother and his grandmother, and wounded them so severely that they died.—No other document of importance.

November 11th.—(1) Ho Ching, Governor-General of Min-ch'êh and acting Governor of Fuhkien, reports that on the 2nd of October last he received a communication from Sun Yeh-ching, acting as a substitute for the Literary Chancellor, to the effect that Wên Ch'êng, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and Chief Examiner at the examinations for the degree of provincial graduate in Fuhkien, had been most incoherent in his talk ever since he entered the examination enclosure on the 21st September. The writer directed the official doctor to see him, and the doctor stated that Wên Ch'êng had caught a fever on his journey to Fuhkien which was complicated by malarial accretion of mucus; that he had treated him with remedies to dissipate the mucus and relieve the fever, but they had been unsuccessful. As he was off his head at times, and his illness was growing more serious, it would be perfectly impossible for him to superintend the scrutiny of the papers. The writer, on referring to the regulations for the conduct of examinations, found an instance there recorded of a Chief Examiner having been taken ill during the progress of the examinations in the reign of Chia Ch'ing, and having been removed from the enclosure, and taken to his lodgings, the scrutiny of the papers being continued by the deputy Chief Examiner and the rest of the staff. In accordance with this precedent, Wên Ch'êng had been removed from the enclosure and the writer had directed the deputy Chief Examiner to continue the scrutiny of the papers. The memorialist went to visit Wên Ch'êng, and found that he was in a condition of apparent helplessness with recurring intervals of unconsciousness. He directed the Financial Commissioner to go constantly to see him and provide him at once with medical aid.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) The Governor of Shantung reports the death of Hsü Ssü-shu, late Financial Commissioner of Shantung, who was lately been degraded to the rank of Taotai. He was on his way to his native place, when he fell sick of fever and other complaints consequent upon it, and died at Chi-ning Chow.

November 12th.—(1) A decree directing a Major of the Kw'ei Chow garrison in Szechuen to be immediately cashiered and placed on his trial. He is accused by Ting Pao-chêng of having sold the lead in store, and of having made good the powder consumed, for which money was given him to purchase more from supplies deposited in the magazine by other garrisons. He was, further, unable to account for a quantity of sulphur, as well as some old guns and muskets that had been given into his charge.

(2) Li Hung-chang, in his capacity of Grand Secretary, memorialises in common with his colleagues, the members of the Grand Secretariat, reporting that they have held five sittings to revise the condemned lists sent up from the different provinces, and now submit a list of those cases which they have marked as calling for the summary infliction of the penalty of death, together with a memorandum showing the days that were selected by the Board of Astronomy for the revision of the lists in question.

(3) Li Ho-nien gives details of the repairs to works and additional weirs that have been constructed along the banks of the Yellow River. The memorial contains a long array of names of places with technical details regarding the nature of the works constructed.

(4) Shih Tsêng, Comptroller of the Office of the Imperial Household, reports the result of a survey he has held of various tombs at the Imperial Mausolea, the buildings connected with which had been represented as in need of repair. A list of the more urgent repairs that are necessary is appended, and it is requested that Hsü T'ung, whose duties in connection with the superintendence of other repairs are not yet an end, may be instructed to extend his supervision to those now about to be made.—Granted by earlier decree.

(5) Postscript memorial from Ch'un Fu, Commandant of the forces at Uliasut'ai. He is in receipt of a communication from the Board of Revenue informing him that the pay for the troops at Uliasut'ai will, by Imperial permission, be issued in three-monthly instalments, and that he will be expected to send a competent officer to the Board to take delivery of it. Formerly,

the money contributions from different provinces to Uliasut'ai used to be sent by these provinces respectively to Kalgan, where they were paid into a forwarding agency established there by the authorities of Uliasut'ai. Under the new arrangement, officers should of course be sent to the Board of Revenue, as commanded, to take charge of the remittances, but, since the contingent of Ch'ahar cavalry was withdrawn, memorialist has been so short of *wei-yuan*, all of the few he has, moreover, being entrusted with specific duties, so that unless some expedient is adopted, the plans cannot possibly be carried out. It will be necessary, therefore, to appoint a special agent in Peking to take delivery of the money, in the same manner as the Commander-in-chief in Ili has done, and to this end the memorialist begs to nominate Hsi Hsien and Ch'ang Ch'un, Secretaries of the Board of Punishments, as his agents in Peking for the receipt of the remittances in question.—Rescript: The Board of Civil Office having denounced the memorialist and his colleagues for his suggestions, We handed them over to the Board of War and other Bureaux for the determination of a penalty. These Boards have announced the penalties which the Commandant and the others should receive, and a decree was issued severally degrading them, transferring them, and fining them pay, the transfer being, however, temporarily deferred. In accordance with the decision of the Board, We decline to sanction their proposal to establish an agency. (See *Gazettes* of 28th Oct., 9th Nov., etc.)

(6) A memorial from Ho Ching, Governor-General of Fuhkien, with reference to the interminable case of Lin Tai *shih*, which has now been pending for ten years. The woman Lin Tai *shih* having again appealed to Peking, the memorialist was instructed to close the case in three months. He now states that it is impossible to do so, as he cannot get hold of Lin Wan-fê, the nephew of Lin Tai *shih*, and the most important in the case. He declares that Lin Tai *shih* is put forward by the occupiers of the land which formed the bone of contention, as their object is to gain time and keep the case open. As soon as Lin Wan-fê can be got hold of a day will be settled for the hearing of the case. (For an account of this case see *Gazettes* of 4th January, 1878, and 7th May, 1876.)

November 13th.—(1) A Decree. Some time since, in consequence of a complaint from the Censor Wu Chên to the effect that Ting Pao-chêng had, with intent to conceal the extent of the disaster, failed

to report the occurrence of an earthquake in Szechuen, that a disturbance had arisen at Nan-pu in consequence of an increase of taxation; and that riots had also occurred at P'eng-hsi owing to the establishment of a Customs' station there. We called for a report from the acting Governor-General. He now states that a slight shock of earthquake was felt at the provincial capital on the 1st of July last, and reports were subsequently received from Ch'ung-k'ing and other prefectures, as well as from Tzū-t'ung and other districts, nineteen jurisdictions in all, to the effect that shocks had been felt on the 29th of June, 1st of July, and other days, but the casualties were slight. Portions of the town walls of Lang-chung and seven other places fell down, but at Nan-p'ing [all] the walls of the town fell down, as well as a number of public offices and dwelling houses. Portions of the hills, also, were thrown into the Chu River and the Yang Ho Canal, which obstructed the bed for a time, until the force of the water having burst through the obstruction, the flood came rushing down, and submerged all the houses on the northern banks, doing immense injury to person and property. The Governor-General explained the delay in announcing these calamities to be owing to the fact that he was waiting for all the reports to come in before memorialising. The effect of the earthquake in Szechuen has varied in different places. Ting Pao-ch'eng speedily furnish a detailed report of the disasters caused, and raise funds for the relief of the sufferers in different places, in accordance with the extent of the mischief. As regards the levy of *lekin* at Nan-pu, he states that the tax has been levied for a number of years, and that the rates are lower than they used to be, instead of higher; that it is impossible to dispense with the station at P'eng-hsi, but that regulations are being drawn up for the exercise of proper supervision over the collectors, so that no further riots can occur. The abuses in connection with stations for the collection of *lekin* are very numerous, and it will be the duty of the acting Governor-General to keep a constant supervision over his agents and to give careful attention to the devising of measures that shall frustrate extortionate practices.

(2) The Governor-General of Hu-kwang reports that the examinations for the degree of military provincial graduate are in process of being held.

(3) The same memorialist recommends that Wang Yung-chang be allowed to act

as Provincial Commander-in-chief in the place of Lo Ta-ch'un lately dismissed.

(4) Also a memorial from the same officer reporting the conclusion of the works at the Fan-k'ou entrance that were ordered to be undertaken by Imperial decree. The money for the purpose was raised by the gentry, but as they could not produce sufficient at the moment, they borrowed 2,000 piculs of rice stored in Huang-kang Hsien as a provision for the pay of the troops, which was sold and the proceeds devoted to the work. The grain will be replaced after the harvest.

(5) Mu T'u-shan, Military Governor of Ch'ahar, reports that the secretary and clerk who are placed in charge of the Imperial flocks and herds have now served five years, and their period of office having expired, he recommends two other individuals for the post of secretary and clerk respectively.

November 14th.—(Court Circular.) The Board of Astronomy send in the Almanack for the coming year.

(1) Ch'un Hsiu 春岫 is appointed Prefect of Hui-chow Fu in Anhui.

(2) A decree ordering the immediate dismissal of a Captain in Anhui who had the audacity to change the silver given him to pay his men with into *cash*, and issue it to them in that form.

(3) The Governor of Kuangtung denounces a number of minor officials for incompetency and other shortcomings, and requests that they may be severally cashiered or transferred to the educational branch of the public service.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(4) Postscript memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan. The acting Magistrate of Chi Hsien reported to the memorialist that one Chung-ying, an expectant Sub-prefect who had been sent in charge of a consignment of silks and satins for the Palace, had on his return journey, after the fulfilment of his mission, committed suicide in an inn in the western suburbs of the district town. The Magistrate, on being informed of the fact, viewed the body and had it placed in a coffin, after which he inspected the quitance given to the deceased by the Yamèn to whom the silks were consigned, and made an inventory of his effects, none of which were missing. Upon questioning the servants of the deceased they stated that Chung Ying had received a fright from the upsetting of his cart which had caused the phlegm inside him to block up [the passages of his heart], while he had encountered

some evil essence or spirit which had caused him to stab himself. The memorialist, thinking it possible that there might be more behind, sent for the witnesses and documents in the case to the capital, and deputed the Prefect of K'ai-fêng Fu to hold a careful enquiry into the circumstances. He now reports that he has elicited the following facts:—Chung Ying, expectant Sub-prefect, was sent to the capital in charge of a consignment of silks and satins [for the Palace], and took a servant of his own to wait upon him on the journey. He delivered his goods over to the proper Yamên in Peking on the 17th of April, and hired a cart to bring him back to Honan. When he had reached the Pei-ho region, his mule took fright one day and upset the cart, frightening Chung Ying, who at the same time came across some malign vapour or influence. A doctor was consulted, who declared that he was suffering from stoppage [of the ventricles of the heart by the secretion] of phlegm. Chung Ying refused to take medicine, however, and his servant took him on, being extremely anxious to get him back to his lodgings in K'ai-fêng Fu as soon as he could. On the 28th April they reached Chi Hsien towards evening, and lodged in an inn in the western suburbs of the town. One of his attendants went into the town to get a doctor, and the other was ordered by his master to make haste and get some supper ready. He accordingly went to a restaurant to buy some flour, noticing nothing particular about his master's remarks, when he left him. When he had gone, Chung Ying took a small knife and stabbed himself in the chest below the pectoral bone. On his return from the restaurant, the servant saw his master lying on the ground and called for the innkeeper, with whose assistance he pulled the knife out, but life was already extinct. As the two servants could not have prevented the mishap they are held free from blame. His baggage has been sent under their charge to the relatives of the deceased, and the knife with which the suicide was effected has been placed in the official storehouse.

(6) T'u Tsung-ying reports that the Nepalese Mission entered the confines of Honan at Wên-hsiang Hsien, where an escort was waiting to receive them, on the 11th of September. They crossed the River at Mêng-chiu K'ou, and reached Tz'ü Chow on the 3rd of October, where they were passed on to the *wei-yuan* from Chihli who was deputed to escort them. The Mission was duly supplied with all

necessaries during its passage through Honan.

November 15th.—(1) A long memorial from Pao T'ing, Assistant Supervisor of Instruction, on the necessity of exercising discrimination in the respective application of the laws in their strictest or most liberal sense. The memorialist read as a boy that "punishment had for its object the doing away with the necessity for punishment," and that "where doubt existed as to the extent of guilt, [the tendency] should ever be towards leniency." He always imagined that these two sayings were contradictory until he grew older and began to explore their meaning, when he paid a tribute of admiration to the Sacred Sage who really made clemency and severity aid one another. Where severity was necessary he dared not lightly exercise clemency, but where clemency might be exercised he could not endure to be over severe. Truly [it might be said] that he carried the performance of duty to its fullest extent and charity to its utmost limit. The action of His Majesty in ordering the infliction of a penalty upon those officers of the Board of Punishments who determined the sentence of Li Chin-mu, has evoked the respect of memorialist for the manner in which the principle has been enunciated that punishment should be an aid to moral education and [not merely vindictive]. But the course adopted has raised apprehensions in his mind lest those who before erred on the side of leniency in the infliction of penalties should now be induced to go to the other extreme. The memorialist in his capacity of Supervisor of Instruction, has this year been enabled to take part in the deliberations upon the occasion of the condemned lists, and he noticed that in the confessions sent up from the different provinces, while a fair number of criminals had already been adjudged to be "actual offenders" (and as such beyond reprieve), the Board of Punishments changed the sentences of forty-one more and placed them also in this category. The memorialist knowing a little about criminal law, and not venturing therefore to hazard opinions which might be incorrect and thus nullify the law, followed the majority and signed his name with theirs, but his private feeling was one of pity, for while punishment is said to be "a means for doing away with punishment," and it is also said that "penalties cannot be relaxed," this does not mean that for so many more men punished this year there will be a corresponding diminution of crime in the next. He is humbly of opinion that the officers

of the Court who wield the law are bound to do so strictly, for if they are not strict the people will set it at naught; but, on the other hand, the Court could do no harm by exercising mercy, for without clemency the quality of regard for human life cannot be developed. Murder with intent and murder committed in the course of a fight are not identical, and yet if the latter crime be transferred to the *shih* category, (beyond reprieve), it will be constantly argued that the crime is nearly identical with intentional homicide. Now, the word "nearly" implies a doubt, and if a doubt exists whether it is intentional homicide or not, does not the principle of "clemency in cases of doubt" closely apply to such an instance? Again, resistance to his captors on the part of a thief or a robber is a grave offence, and yet it may happen that, resistance does not end in homicide, or that, although murder is committed, it is not the particular individual under sentence who actually did the deed, but some one else, and yet he is sentenced to death as a warning to others. When, therefore, criminals of the two categories instanced above are punished in the same manner as those who have actually committed murder in resisting their captors, is it not the case that different crimes are punished in the same way? The above example will serve as an illustration for numerous other instances. The memorialist then launches, after his usual style, into an elaborate disquisition couched in the most ornate language upon the necessity of tempering justice with mercy, and calls upon His Majesty to exercise the Imperial prerogative of leniency whenever this can be reasonably done. To this end he would suggest a closer personal scrutiny of the condemned lists sent up from the provinces, that, in all cases where there is the slightest room for doubt, the Imperial clemency may be exercised. (For decree in answer to this memorial see *Gazette* of 29th October).

November 16th.—(1) The Court of Censors reports the receipt of a petition from the gentry of the Chia-ting and Pao-shan districts in Kiangsu, praying for a release from a burden of excessive assessment for the tribute grain tax, which, though reduced in other districts in the province, has not been lowered in the two in question. (For summary of this complaint see decree of 1st Nov.)

(2) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the rehearing of an appeal case, the details of which are exceptionally uninteresting.

(3) The same officer prays that permission may be granted to Mu Shêng-wu, Prefect of Tientsin, to erect an honorary portal to his deceased father and his mother, the latter of whom had subscribed Tls. 2,000 to the Chihli Famine Fund.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) A similar application made on behalf of the late Ko Chi-jung, a Sub-Prefect in Shansi, who contributed a like amount, is also granted.

November 17th.—(1) A decree dismissing a complaint preferred by the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin to the effect that proper discrimination was not exercised in the distribution of relief amongst the villages in the Shun-t'ien prefecture. The Governor-General of Chihli and the Prefect of Shun-t'ien having been called upon for an explanation, the former now reports that the distribution of relief in the districts in question was made after personal inspection by officers specially appointed for the purpose, and due consideration was paid to the relative distress in different villages, as well as the number to be relieved. Each department and district was allotted 2,000 piculs.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from the Board of Revenue reporting that a *weiyuan* in charge of copper had sent in a petition to the effect that the clerks of the Board had endeavoured to extort money from him and place difficulties in the way of the delivery of his copper; he therefore prayed that a decree might be applied for ordering an enquiry to be held. The *weiyuan* charges the clerks with endeavouring to force him to sell some of the copper in his charge. If this be actually the case it is a most audacious proceeding, which must be sifted to the bottom. One of the individuals named in the petition is to be arrested by the metropolitan executive, and the *weiyuan*, who is either at Tientsin or in the capital, is to be sent to the Board to await examination. The copper is to be delivered to the proper office without the slightest delay.

No other documents of importance.

November 18th.—(1) Twenty-three pages of this day's *Gazette* are occupied with a list of officers and the rewards respectively conferred on them for their exertions in connection with the construction of the Mausoleum of the senior Empress Regent.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports that a maniac, who murdered twelve persons and wounded some four or five others, has been sentenced to decapitation. A fit came on him while his guardians were absent, and he went out into the village armed with a chopper, en-

tering the house of one Wên Lien-chung, nearly all the inmates of which he appears to have murdered. The man, who was somewhat injured during his capture, was locked up and tended until his wounds were well, but nothing could be got out of him, for he remained with staring eyes and mouth agape, giving incoherent and irrelevant answers to the questions put to him.

No other documents of importance.

November 19th.—(1) 800 piculs of rice are granted from the Imperial granaries at T'ung-chow, for the use of the soup kitchens in that place, at the request of the Superintendents of the Granaries and the Governor of Shun-t'ien.

(2) A long decree, occupying nine pages of the *Gazette*, containing the names of a number of officers upon whom rewards are conferred for their exertion in connection with the construction of the P'u-hsiang-yü, or Mausoleum for the junior Empress Regent.

(3) Wang Ssü-yi, Governor *ad interim* of Shênsi, requests the bestowal of a memorial board upon a temple to Chu Koliang, a statesman of the Han dynasty, to whom prayers for rain have constantly been attended with favourable results.—Granted by earlier decree.

(4) Wên Pin, Director-General of Grain Transport, reports the receipt of the following petition from Fang Chün-shih, Taotai of the Chao-yang-lo circuit in Kuangtung, who was on his way to the capital to be presented at Court, at the conclusion of his term of office, having obtained a high recommendation from his provincial chiefs. He was furnished with the necessary papers in the month of May last, and started for Peking, accompanied by his mother, an infirm and aged lady, eighty-one years old, who had lived with him at his late post. The fatigues of the northward journey had a visible effect upon her health, and she became so much worse that it was impossible to leave her. The writer was her only son, and it became therefore legally incumbent upon him to minister to her wants until the end came. He therefore prayed that the memorialist would apply to His Majesty for permission to vacate his post. He further stated that his post was not in the gift of the Board, but of the provincial Government. The memorialist supports the application, which is referred to the Board of Civil Office.

(5) The Governor of Shantung reports that the period of "Hoar Frost" has passed by without any mishap to the works on either bank of the Yellow River. His memorial is full of minor details and contains a list of names, measurements, &c.,

which are far from interesting. (For decree see *Gazette* of 31st Oct.)

(6) Memorial from Ch'i Yuan, Military Governor of Shêng-king, reporting the arrival of a fresh draft of troops, ninety-three in all, from Hêh Lung-kiang, to take the place of ninety-four officers and men who had been sent back on account of age, sickness, or infirmities. The new men are found on inspection to be strong and robust and are well mounted. They have been drafted accordingly into the Hêh Lung-kiang regiment.

November 20th.—(1) A Decree. Some time since, Wang Hsien-ch'ien, Reader of the Han-lin, prayed that in consideration of the grave nature of the offences of Hsü Chih-ming, late Governor of Yünnan, who was dismissed the public service, his official titles might be recalled, and his son might be forbidden to enter on an official career or present himself as a competitor at the examinations. We thereupon directed Liu Ch'ang-yu, Tu Jui-lin and Ts'ên Yü-ying, to make careful enquiries into the nature of the offences committed by Hsü Chih-ming, as set forth by the Reader in question. They now respectively report that the facts in the main correspond with the charges made. Hsü Chih-ming was entrusted with the charge of the frontier province, and when the Mahomedan rebellion broke out in Yünnan he was without any plans for its suppression, and displayed cowardice, timidity and incapacity. His offence therefore was without excuse. As regards the murder of Têng Erh-hêng, Governor of Shênsi, (while on his way from Yünnan to his new post, the circumstances of the outrage were enquired into at the time by P'an To, acting Governor-General of Yün Kwei, and, as the result, the Colonel Ho Yu-pao and others were decapitated, [the fact being established that] Hsü Chih-mei did not instigate the murder. With regard to the charge that Hsü Chih-ming tried to make terms for Ma Jung, a rebel chief, the former did, in effect, disguise himself and go to Ts'ên Yü-ying's camp to consult him upon this matter. Ts'ên Yü-ying, however, was all for advancing against the rebels, and Hsü Chih-ming then considered with him a plan of attack and defence which resulted in the restoration of order at the provincial capital; it was not of his own free will that he favoured the rebels. Hsü Chih-ming having already been cashiered, there is no occasion to consider the request of Wang Hsien-ch'ien that his son shall be prohibited from entering on an official career or presenting himself as a candidate at the examinations.

(2) A decree ordering that Pao Lung-shan, an expectant Colonel in the Liang Kiang provinces, be banished to the Amur and put to laborious and painful duties. The officer in question has been denounced by Shên Pao-chêng for sleeping with, and trading in, prostitutes; also with having incited people to litigation.

(3) The Grand Council had the honor to receive a verbal command from the Throne to the effect that there need be no attendance at Court on the 22nd and 23rd inst. (the latter date being the birthday of the senior Empress Regent.)

(4) T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, describes at great length the escape of a criminal under sentence of death from the prison at K'ai-fêng Fu, and his subsequent recapture in Huai-ning Hsien.

(5) Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yunnan, reports the suicide of an expectant sub-Prefect at Lin-an in that province, under circumstances detailed in an earlier decree.

November 21st.—(1) Yün Tsu-yi 惲祖貽, is appointed Grain Taotai of Chê-kiang.

(2) Yi Ching-ngo and other metropolitan Censors make their annual application for a grant of money from the interest, or the vested funds of the office of the Imperial Household, for the purchase of wadded jackets for the indigent poor. The annual grant used to be Tls. 3,600, but in the year 1854 *cash* payments were substituted, and the sum then allotted was 7,200 strings. It was found, however, that this amount at the rate of exchange prevailing, did not represent the weight of silver allotted, and on the application of a Censor in the year 1862 silver payments were resumed. The memorialists pray that in accordance with this final arrangement, the office of the Imperial Household may be ordered to issue to them the sum of Tls. 3,600. (Granted by decree of 5th November.)

(3) The only other document of importance in this day's *Gazette* is a long memorial from Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yunnan, reporting the result of his investigation of a charge and countercharge brought by a Salt Inspector against a sub-Prefect, and the sub-Prefect against the Salt Inspector. The details are uninteresting.

November 22nd.—(1) A Decree. Some time since the Censor K'ung Hsien-ch'ueh reported that one Hsieh Tuan, a notable of Yü-yao Hsien, in Chê-kiang, and his nephew Hsieh Hsi-ngên had arrogated to themselves the control of a whole district and had committed all sorts of villanies;

that an accusation having been brought against them, a *wei-yuan* was sent to Hsieh Hsi-ngên's house, where he discovered foreign muskets, and iron and brass ordnance to the number of at least a thousand; that Kao Tung, the Magistrate of the district had been bribed to hide away Hsieh Hsi-ngên; that these notables had taken possession of a sand flat, &c., &c. Mei Ch'in-chao was thereupon instructed to enquire into the matter, and he now reports that this case was brought to his notice before the receipt of the decree, and that a *wei-yuan* was sent privately to Hsieh Hsi-ngên's house to make enquiries, where he discovered some twenty or more pieces of old iron ordnance, foreign muskets, &c., besides a large number of iron spears, which Hsieh Ching-tsêng, Hsieh Hsi-ngên's brother, had obtained for the train bands organised by him and failed to return [when they were no longer wanted.] On the receipt of His Majesty's instructions further enquiries were made, and it was found that Hsieh Hsi-ngên had not taken possession of a sand-flat and brought it under cultivation; neither had he forced people to commit suicide, nor carried off women and girls. Nor had the Magistrate of Yü-yao accepted bribes for the protection of the individuals in question. We command Mei Ch'i-chao and Tan Chung-lin (his successor) to sift this matter to the bottom. When the people are supplied with arms they should return them as soon as the occasion for which they were required has passed away, as it is possible that similar instances of a failure to do so exist in other provinces. We hereby command Tartar Generals, Governors-General and Governors to instruct their subordinates to issue proclamations everywhere to that effect.

November 23rd.—(1) Memorial from Jung-lu, General Commandant of the Gendarmerie in Peking, and his colleagues. On the 29th of October the Grand Council communicated to memorialists the following decree:—"A certain person has reported to Us that he has heard that Ying-p'u, Grain Intendant in Kiangsu, surreptitiously visits the capital every year when he accompanies the tribute grain northwards, and holds theatrical representations in his private abode, giving entertainments as well to his friends, and only returning to his province in the early part of November. Secondly, that when he visits Shanghai to take delivery of the rice he goes about in pursuit of unlawful pleasure in a small chair dressed in plain clothes.

Thirdly, that he makes his underlings supply him with funds for his journey northwards from the public purse, and has drawn money from the Government funds for the erection of a theatrical stage, nominally for purposes of religious worship, which, however, he has removed to his private dwelling and uses for his own amusement. Fourthly, that he has opened Banks at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peking under the style Sung Shêng-chang in which he deposits Government money at interest. Fifthly, that he takes a discount off the pay of his subordinates; and, lastly, that he has opened a jeweller's shop in Peking under the style "Yü Fêng." The metropolitan executive, Li Hung-chang, Shên Pao-chêng, and Wu Yuan-ping are called upon to enquire into the various charges above set forth, and to report to Us."

The memorialists at once took counsel together, and beg to report, as the result of the steps they thereupon took, that the "Sung Shêng Chang" Bank, situated in street number 10 off the "grass market," is in the southern division of the metropolis; and that the "Yü Fêng" jeweller's shop is in the western "Precious stone market" which lies in the central division. [The necessary notices having being given], the Censor of the southern division wrote in the due course to say that he had given secret orders to his Police Master to send for the manager of the "Sung Shêng Ch'ang" Bank, who stated in answer to questions put to him that the establishment was conducted with a capital of Tls. 40,000, half of which was contributed by Ch'êng Hsü, and the other half by Ying P'u. The bank was opened in March last, and he was offered the managership by Ch'êng Hsü. These same partners opened banks under the same style at Tientsin and Shanghai, but he could not say from whence the capital came. Ying P'u had come to Peking in May, and was living in his own house in the 4th lane from the "quadruple arch," where he still was. Ch'êng Hsü was living in the "Sung Shêng Ch'ang" Bank at Shanghai. A bond was taken from deponent to the effect that he would not venture to invent such a story, and this bond was put on record. The Censor of the Central division next wrote saying that he had given private orders to his Police Magistrate to go in person to the "Yü Fêng" jewel shop and order the manager to present himself for examination. He did so, and the manager gave evidence to the effect that he had purchased the honorary rank of a Financial Commissioner, and had invested Tls. 4,000 in company with Ying P'u and

three others, each of whom contributed the same amount, in the establishment of a shop for the sale of jewels, which they opened in the "Precious Stone Market" in November, 1877, giving it the style of "Yü Fêng." He and another man acted as managers, and the capital was divided into ten shares, which were distributed equally amongst the proprietors. Ying P'u was, the manager admitted, one of the partners, but he had not deposited any of the grain transport funds in the shop at interest, neither were there any establishments of the same name at Tientsin, Shanghai, or elsewhere. He could not say whether or no Ying P'u was in Peking. The memorialist Yung Lu then sent a Secretary, as did also Wan Ch'ing-li, Governor of Shun-t'ien, to the two establishments in question to make enquiries, and similar answers were obtained to those detailed above, showing conclusively that Ying P'u is, in effect, the proprietor of the establishments in question.

As regards the charge brought against the said Intendant that he did surreptitiously come to Peking, hold theatrical representations, and give dinners in his private house; also that he made a theatrical stage and removed it to Peking for his own use, the memorialists have to report that Ying P'u resides in the third lane from the "quadruple archway." The memorialists, to wit, Your Majesty's servants Jung Lu, Ch'ung Li, Wên Hsiu, Liang Chao-huang, and Kuo Tsung-chü, went in person to his private dwelling house to make enquiries. The servants informed them that their master, being ill, had applied for leave from the Yamèn of the Imperial Granaries in August last, sending a similar application to the Governor of Kiangsu. He was suffering at the present time from a malarious complaint, and was in the house, but was unable to rise. Upon being asked whether there was a theatrical stage on the premises, the servants stated that there was one in the Eastern Court. The memorialists accordingly went to inspect it, and they found a covered mat erection to the north of which was a storied building of three *chien*, and in the centre of the erection was a stage for theatrical performances. Everything was in confusion, and dust was everywhere accumulated. After this inspection the servants were minutely interrogated, and they stated that their master had moved into this house some ten years ago, and that the stage was put up by a Peking builder at the time of his removal. The next person interrogated was the head of

the "Ssü Hsi" theatrical company, who deposed that he had played for two days in Ying P'u's house in September, 1877, and that the stage, which he described minutely, had been put up by Ying P'u himself and was different to any Peking stage. The Ying family had not sent for the "Ssü Hsi" company in the month of October last, but he had heard that upon the occasion in question certain actors had been called in without dresses or stage appliances, supplies of all which were possessed by the family. A member of the "Yung Shêng-kuêi troupe was next examined, and he deposed that he had been summoned to act at Ying P'u's house on the evening of the 18th October without music. There still remain the charges against the said Taotai with regard to his doings in Shanghai, putting out of public monies at interest, and squeezing of his subordinates, to be investigated, but these must be left to Li Hung-chang and Wu Yuan-ping. (For decree see *Gazette* of 5th November).

November 24th. —(1) Ts'ao Ping-chê
曹秉哲 is appointed Taotai of Lan-chow in Kansu.

(2) Memorial from Lin Shu, Vice President of the Board of Ceremonies, and Supervisor on the occasion of the recent examinations for the degree of *chü jên* in Peking. The Supervisor is supplied with a seal which is affixed to the paper of the candidates to avoid possibility of fraud, the seal being sent to him in the examination enclosure by the Governor of Shun-t'ien, and returned by the Supervisor to that officer at the conclusion of the examinations. The usual course was followed this year at the first set of examinations for ordinary candidates, but at that for Manchus passing in the language of their own race, the seal was not sent to him, as before, by the Governor of Shun-t'ien, and it was only after writing and applying for it himself that it was sent a day after he had entered the enclosure. Fortunately, progress of the examination was not hindered by this delay. On enquiry into the cause he was informed by letter from the Governor of Shun-t'ien that there was nothing in his records to show that it was the duty of the Governor of Shun-t'ien to apply to the Board of Ceremonies for the seal in question and send it to the Examination Hall on the occasion of the Manchu Examination, this duty being, as far as he was concerned, confined to the ordinary literary examination. It was further explained to the memorialist by the

wei-yuan, who eventually brought the seal, that it had hitherto been the custom for one of the departments in the enclosure to send a written memo with a *wei-yuan* to the Board of Ceremonies applying for the seal as soon as the Supervisor had descended from his horse, the seal being returned by the same department when the result of the examination was announced; throwing the blame, in short, upon the proctors. The memorialist then gave orders for the examination records to be carefully inspected, but no record of the process detailed by the *wei yuan* could be discovered, and subsequent enquiry disclosed the fact that the procedure on each occasion had been most irregular, sometimes one course being adopted and sometimes another. As this irregularity is very apt to occasion delays and mistakes, he would suggest the propriety of issuing explicit regulations on the subject.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kuang provinces and the Governor of Kuang-tung submit a list of agents in the latter province for the collection of contributions towards the Shansi Famine Fund, for whom rewards are solicited. The amount collected in Kwangtung from the 1st of June, 1878, to the end of April this year, when the purchase system was abolished, was Tls. 446,100.

November 25th. —(1) Memorial from Wên Hui, President of the Board of Punishments, and his colleagues, reporting the existence of a diversity of opinion amongst them as to the penalties attaching to murder when the victim comes within the prescribed limits of relationship. Amongst the cases included in the condemned lists sent up this autumn for revision was that of Li Chin-mu, who had murdered a child for the sake of plunder, and was condemned to death by the provincial authorities after the usual period of incarceration. Chung P'ei-hsien, Director of the Imperial Stud Court, then objected to the sentence on the ground that no punishment was severe enough for so great a crime, and the case was sent back to the Board, by Imperial decree, for reconsideration, when the sentence was changed to condemnation without possibility of reprieve. At the time, however, Ch'ien Pao-lien, Senior Vice-President of the Board, was in the examination enclosure, and when he came out he objected to the decision on the ground that in condemning Li Chin-mu to decapitation after the usual term of imprisonment—the sentence which was in the first instance passed upon him—the law had been construed in its strictest sense, and it was not

right to cut him off from reprieve as had been done at the autumn revision. He represented these views to His Majesty, who issued a further decree directing the Board to consider a suggestion submitted by Ch'ien Pao-lien that a special law should be made to meet cases of this description. This question will form the subject of a separate memorial. The memorialists have further to state that they propose to affix the "circle" to the name of Li Chin-mu this day, ordering the sentence of death to be carried out, unless it is His Majesty's wish that the issue of this warrant be delayed until the Imperial commission of enquiry shall have been held. Ch'ien Pao-lien being a dissident, his name, as is customary, is not appended to this memorial.

(2) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Hsieh Fa, a native of Chang-chow in Fuh-kien, who complains that his cousin had an ox which through inadvertence was allowed to eat some grass belonging to one Kao, who seized the animal in consequence and carried it off. His cousin's wife and son tried to prevent Kao from doing so, whereupon he attacked them and severely wounded them. A complaint was brought against them at the Magistracy, but Kao and his accomplices having come to an understanding with the underlings were released on bail, and then made a raid on petitioner's house, driving his wife and children out of doors and plundering the place of everything they could find. They also carried off petitioner's cousin and gouged out both his eyes, so injuring him that he died soon afterwards. Applications for redress to the Prefect, Taotai and high authorities resulted only in a reference to the Magistrate, who ignored the orders of his superiors, and petitioner, despairing at last of getting justice done, appealed to Peking. Referred in the usual manner.

(3) A memorial from Hsi Chên, Associate-President of the Censorate, reporting the result of a survey of certain repairs reported as necessary at the Eastern Mansolea. (For decree see *Gazette* of 12th November, etc.)

November 26th.—(1) Yü Lu, Governor of An-hui, reports his return to the province and the resumption of his official duties. He expresses his unbounded gratitude for the heavenly bounty that accorded him such numerous audiences, at which he received counsel and instruction on every possible subject. Fearing that the land journey might entail numerous delays, he took steamer at Tientsin, reaching the capital of An-hui on the 6th of October.

(2) With the exception of formal memorials from the officers of the Provisional Government of An-hui reporting the resumption of the duties of their respective posts, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a long memorial from Ch'i Yuan and En Fu, Military and Civil Governors of Shêng King, reporting the rehearing of an appeal case. The facts elicited at the trial are summarised as follows:—Chên Tê-fa, a native of Shantung, who was employed as a servant in the house of one Yang in the town of Hsing Ching, spent an evening at the close of the year 1858 with some other men Ma Shih-fu, his employer, and others in gambling, and Ma rose a loser of 27 strings of *cash*, which he promised to pay to the winner, Yang Yü-chu, at a later date. Some three days later Yang claimed payment of the debt from him, but Ma put him off with excuses, and they parted after some words had passed between them. Yang went again to Ma's house the following evening to dun him once more for the money, and invited Chên Tê-fu and another man to go with him. Chên Tê-fu, it so happened, had a gun in his hand as he was going out shooting pheasants, so he took it with him to Ma's house. On reaching Ma's house, Yang repeated his demand for payment of the debt, and on Ma replying that he had no money to pay him with, he was met with a volley of abuse which he returned, and finally rushed into the house and brought out a sword with which he rushed at Yang. Yang, seeing that he meant mischief, called out to Chên Tê-fu to let off his gun and frighten Ma, which Chên did. Unfortunately, a man called Wan, who was in the house came out just at this moment with the intention of acting as peacemaker, and the charge of shot hit him in the face and breast, and killed him then and there. The case being one of accidental homicide, Chên Tê-fu, in accordance with the law, was condemned to banishment to a distance of 3,000 *li*, but while he was in prison awaiting the reply of the Board approving the sentence and signifying the place to which he should be banished, he managed to make his escape, and has not since been captured. The son of the deceased, relying on the fact that there were no witnesses to refute his statement, then laid a complaint at the Censorate to the effect that his father was killed by Yang Yü-chu in the course of an attempt to break into the house which was resisted by the deceased. When, however, the case came on for rehearing in accordance with a decree to that effect, the petitioner ran away and was

nowhere to be found, which is sufficient proof of the falsity of his charges.

November 27th.—(1) Postscript memorial from Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kiang Provinces. Some time since, Ch'ên Lan-pin, the high officer sent as Envoy to America and Peru, applied to His Majesty for permission to take abroad with him Chên Kuei-shih, Manager of the Foundling Hospital at Canton, and expectant Taotai. Subsequently, Ch'ên Kuei-shih being required to assist the local authorities in the distribution of the relief to be issued to the sufferers by flood in the districts of Ying-fê and Ch'ing-yuan, as well as to those who had met with loss from the tornado outside the western gate of the city of Canton, the memorialist, in conjunction with Chang Chao-tung, the late Governor, memorialised His Majesty requesting permission to detain Ch'ên Kuei-shih in Kuangtung until he had reported the conclusion of his labours in connection with the promotion of contributions and the issue of relief. He would then be directed to go abroad, and place himself at the disposal of Ch'ên Lan-pin. A decree was received sanctioning this request, and directing the Yamên concerned to take note of the arrangements. A copy of this decree was reverentially made and forwarded to Ch'ên Lan-pin. Ch'ên Shih-chieh having at length reported the conclusion of his labours in connection with the distribution of relief in the Canton province, and promotion of contributions towards that object, as well as all other matters he had in hand, had, he stated, in compliance with regulations, reported the amount of his contributions, and been appointed to do duty in the province of Chihli. He begged that Ch'ên Lan-pin might be written to, to know if he was still required to go abroad and place himself in the Minister's disposal. Ch'ên Lan-pin was accordingly communicated with, and he now states in reply that, having been a year abroad, he has already appointed persons to the various posts of diplomatic Secretaries, Consuls-General, &c. Ch'ên Kuei-shih having now been appointed, as a reward for the contributions raised by him, to serve in the province of Chihli, he should be told that there was no occasion for him to go abroad. Instructions to this effect have accordingly been given to Ch'ên Kuei-shih, and it is further the duty of memorialists to report the matter to His Majesty. The Grand Council were honored with the following Rescript :—"Let the proper Yamên take note."

November 28th.—(1) We noticed yesterday that Hu Tu-li, Director of the Grand Court of Revision, was broken down with age.—Let him retire with his full rank.

(2) Postscript memorial from Wên-pin, Director-General of Grain Transport. He is in receipt of a communication from the Board of Revenue to the effect that, as Shih Chia-ch'iao and Ta Li-miao, where some of the grain junks met with mishaps, are not included in the list of dangerous places given in the "Handbook to the grain transport system," it was not right that the names of the officers concerned in these accidents should not be given in. The memorialist would humbly observe with reference to this criticism that the Huang Ho used to be crossed in the Kiangnan province, but it is now in Shantung that the passage has to be effected. The places therefore that used to be characterised as dangerous do not coincide with those of a similar description at the present day, while the point at which the Yellow River crosses the Grand Canal is materially different in its conditions from that of other parts of the route, for while the advance of vessels in this portion is attended with many difficulties, there is no safe anchorage, and as the freshets only last a few days, the slightest delay results in the grounding of the vessels, which become high and dry and crack, the danger from these latter contingencies being greater than that from wind. On the 17th of July, a sudden and violent gale was encountered at Pa-li Miao, accompanied by heavy rain, which damaged two of the junks; and, ten days later, when the fleet were entering the northern division of the Canal, where the current was very strong, one of them struck upon some sunken piles in the bed of the stream. The greater portion of the grain she carried was got out, only some 300 piculs being damaged by the water, and even this small quantity was at once dried in the sun, so that it was none the worse for the wetting. The officers in charge of the boats used every effort to save them, regardless of personal danger, and rescued the grain from a predicament which human skill could not prevent. As the accident was not, therefore, the result of carelessness, the memorialist would implore His Majesty not to insist upon their names being given up.

(3) Memorial from Ho Ching, Governor-General of Min Chê. The memorialist has already reported to His Majesty the illness of Wên Chêng, Chief Examiner at the *Hsiang Shih* examinations for Fuhkien, and

his removal from the inclosure. After the disposal of the examiner in a temporary lodging, the memorialist directed the Provincial Commissioners to provide him at once with medical attendance, and further instructed the Financial Commissioner to see to him from time to time. After repeated consumption of the correct remedies, he seemed to be more comfortable, but continued to lose his reason at intervals. The memorialist went to see him, and in his periods of semi-consciousness he expressed alarm lest his aged mother should suffer increased anxiety when she heard that he was unwell, the thought apparently so adding to the confusion of his mind that he could not control himself, and displayed an impetuous longing to set out on his journey homeward. He continued in this condition day by day, and memorialist endeavoured to console him; but, while he appeared to appreciate the arguments he pressed upon him, he continued to lose for the most part the mastery over his words. The doctors said that he was suffering from fever, a complaint for which the climate of Fuhkien was unfavourable, the more so that the constitution of northern and southern men was very different, and that recovery would be a question of time. In view of the fact that Wên Chêng was not accustomed to the climate, the memorialist came to the conclusion that he had better return to Peking at once, where he could recover at his leisure; but as the journey by Government stages would be attended with numerous inconveniences to a man in his condition, the memorialist decided, after consultation with the Literary Chancellor and the Financial Commissioner, to send him in one of the steamers of the Arsenal to Shanghai, from whence he could be conveyed in one of the vessels of the China Merchants' Co., to Tientsin. Once at Tientsin he would be only a few days' journey from Peking, which he ought to reach in less than a fortnight from Foochow. It is proposed that he shall leave on the 20th of October, and an Expectant Sub-prefect, with an orderly officer, has been deputed to take charge of him on the voyage.—Rescript: Noted.

November 29th.—(1) By an act of special grace, P'an Tsu-yin, President of the Board of Punishments, T'ung Hua, President of the Court of Censors, and Hsi Sa-pen, Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Plain Red Banner Corps, are permitted to ride in the precincts of the "Forbidden City."

(2) A decree calling upon the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of

Shun-t'ien to have careful surveys made of the embankments and other works in the eastern portion of the Shun-t'ien prefecture, and to put them in repair at Government expense wherever it may be found necessary. The decree is called forth by the representations of the Censor Fang Hsio-yen, who states that numerous portions of these embankments have carried away and flooded the fields of the people round, who are in such a state of poverty and distress that they have not the means to repair the breaches that have this year been caused by the heavy rains.

(3) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang. When Wu K'o-tu, second-class Secretary of the Board of Civil Office, who was engaged on duty in connection with the ceremonies attendant on the Imperial obsequies, committed suicide after their conclusion, in the month of April last, in the Erh Yi Temple at Ma Shen *ch'iao*, in Chi Chow, he left a secret memorial which was sent to the Board of Civil Office by the Governor of Shun-t'ien for presentation to His Majesty. In reply to this memorial a decree was received from Their Majesties the Empresses directing the Princes and Ministers of State to take the subject of his memorial into consideration and report. A further decree was subsequently issued, directing the Board to bestow upon him the posthumous honors allotted by law to officers of the 5th grade, in compassion for the outspokenness and single-minded loyalty that prompted his self-destruction. In reply to this decree the Board wrote in due course that they had decided that Wu K'o-fu should be granted a posthumous title, as well as money for his funeral expenses, and that his name should be enrolled amongst the list of those in the temple of worthies to whom libations are offered, both at the scene of his death and at his native place. The Prefect of Chi Chow now reports the receipt of a petition from a number of notables and gentry to the effect that the devotion to his country that promoted Wu K'o-fu to give his life in her cause had so called forth their respect and esteem that a subscription had been raised for the erection of a temple to him in which his loyal spirit might find rest. They prayed therefore that the necessary permission might now be obtained from His Majesty.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang. Ch'en Ch'ing-tzu, an expectant Prefect in Chihli, being connected by marriage with Chou Heng-ch'i, was, on that

officer's appointment to the post of Financial Commissioner in the same province, obliged to withdraw, and so he purchased permission to serve in Shantung instead. Chow Heng-ch'i being afterwards appointed Governor of that province, Ch'ên Ch'ing-tzū had again to withdraw, and memorialist applied to His Majesty for permission for him to return to Chihli and await promotion there. The Board, however, objected, on the ground that he had abandoned that province when he purchased his transfer into Shantung, and that he ought now to draw lots [with other expectants] for some other province adjoining Shantung. The memorialist combats this objection on the ground that precedents exist for the arrangement proposed, and that it is in accordance with the law on the subject of "respectful withdrawal." As the officer in question has served in various capacities in Chihli, and has always given satisfaction, being honest, sincere, intelligent and capable, the memorialist prays that the record of his transfer to Shantung may be cancelled, and that he may be permitted to return to duty in Chihli.—Granted by Rescript.

November 30th.—No documents of importance.

December 1st.—(1) A decree acknowledging receipt of a memorial from Mei Ch'i-chao, ex-Governor of Chêkiang, reporting that one Shêng Ching, Salt Examiner of the Ch'ing Ch'üan area in Chêkiang, has absconded with defalcations to the amount of over Tls. 1,700. The officer in question, having served his full time, should have presented himself at the Board to go through the formalities necessary upon retiring from office. He failed to do so, and when payment of the arrears referred to was demanded from him he disappeared. Orders are given for search to be made for him, and the amount of his defalcations recovered.

(2) A decree directing the Censor Wên Ching to be committed to the Board for the determination of a penalty. The officer in question was one of the comptrollers of the outer precincts at the late examination for the degree of military *chü-jên*, and through inadvertence he neglected to stamp one of the papers of the candidates with the mark "good." This neglect is stigmatised as a gross piece of carelessness.

(3) Memorial from Ching Lien, President of the Board of Revenue, and his colleagues. Li Hung-chang having written to the Board some time since to inform them that the first lot of the third instalment of

Yünnan copper, weighing 500,000 catties, had been despatched from Shanghai under the charge of a *wei-yuan* called Mêng Yin-kuei on the 3rd of September last, they wrote on two occasions to the Governor-General requesting him to ascertain the date of the arrival of the copper at Tientsin, and to direct the *wei-yuan* to send it on to T'ung Chow with all despatch, to be handed over to the department that has charge of these matters. On the 7th November Li Hung-chang wrote to say that this copper had arrived at Tientsin a month before, but as Mêng Yin-kuei, the *wei-yuan* in charge, had gone on to Peking and had not returned, he, the Governor-General, had given orders for the copper to be packed, that it might be ready for transmission when the *wei-yuan* returned. The Board then again wrote to the Governor-General to enquire why Mêng Yin-kuei had come to Peking, and to direct him to send on the copper immediately. On the 14th of November Li Hung-chang replied that Mêng Yin-kuei had given the following account of the cause of the delay:—He had shipped the copper on the 7th of September in one of the China Merchants' Co.'s steamers at Shanghai, and on arrival at Tientsin he packed it all ready for prompt transmission to Peking. Being seized with ague, however, and not being in a condition to go with it to the capital, he reported his sickness to the Governor-General of Yün Kuei, and begged him to depute another officer to take his place, stating that the copper would remain in Tientsin until the arrival of his substitute. In reply, the Governor-General ordered him to take the copper on at once himself and not make specious excuses to evade the duty. He accordingly went to Peking, and, returning again to Tientsin, met with one Hsü Kuang-ti, the officer who had taken the second instalment of copper to Peking. On being consulted as to the steps to be taken in connection with the delivery of the copper, Hsü said that six or seven thousand taels would have to be spent in fees which must be got somehow out of the grant allowed. A few days later Mêng went again to Peking to arrange about the transfer of his copper, and through the agency of a friend settled that it should be done for Tls. 2,500. In the meantime, however, Hsü, who had followed him to Peking, induced the head clerk of the copper department, called the "Pao Chüan-chü," to revoke the arrangement he had already made. Mêng was obliged therefore to see the clerk, Huang An-chêng by name; who told him that a fee of Tls. 100 per 10,000 catties of copper would be

required, and that he would accordingly have to pay him Tls. 3,300, as well as fees to other departments amounting in all to Tls. 8,000. The clerk refused to abate a fraction of the rate he had demanded, and finally recommended Mêng to sell 20,000 cattles of the copper, the proceeds of which they could divide between them and so effect a compromise. On referring again to Hsü Kuang-hi, he offered similar advice, and Mêng, being unable to hand over his copper on these terms, made a clean breast of it to Li Hung-chang and begged that he would grant him sick leave. The Governor-General acquainted the Board with the facts of the case, and begged them to enquire into the matter. The memorialists were astounded at the audacity of the offence with which Hsü Kuang-ti and the head clerk were charged, and proceeded to make enquiries. They find no head clerk of the name of Huang An-ch'eng on the list of those employed at the "Pao-chüan-chü," but there is one called Huang Yu-ch'ing, who may be the same individual, and they have directed the superintendent of the establishment to find out whether or no this is the individual, as he may have assumed a fictitious name when dealing with Mêng Yin-kuei, and to send him to the Board. They have further to pray that the metropolitan executive may be directed to arrest him if he be in hiding, as well as Hsü Kuang-ti above-mentioned; also that the Governor-General Li Hung-chang may be instructed to seize him in case he should be in Tientsin. Mêng Yin-kuei will have to be confronted with these individuals in order to get at the truth of his accusation, but as he is still in charge of the copper at Tientsin, he should be called upon to bring it to Peking before presenting himself to be confronted with the other two. Officers will be sent to Tientsin to assist him in transporting the copper. (See *Gazette* of 17th November.)

December 2nd.—(1) Memorial from Ting Pao-ch'eng, acting Governor-General of Szechuen. On the 30th of September he received a communication from the Grand Council forwarding an Imperial decree dated the 10th September, calling attention to a report that had reached His Majesty to the effect that Szechuen had been visited with an earthquake simultaneously with that in Kansu, and demanding to be informed if this was the case, why the circumstance had not been reported by the Governor-General. As he perused this decree while kneeling on his knees, the memorialist was filled with unspeakable awe. He begs now to report

that at 4 a.m. on the 1st of July, the capital of Szechuen was visited by a slight shock of earthquake, which lasted only seven minutes, and did nothing more than cause the handles of the doors and hasps of cupboards to rattle slightly. The majority of the inhabitants of the city and its environs did not perceive it at all. The memorialist, while sensible of the fact that although the earthquake in the provincial capital was slight, its occurrence was, after all, a calamitous phenomenon, as he had heard that other places were visited simultaneously with the same shock, he thought it well to await the reports as to the actual nature of the occurrence which would reach him from the various prefectures, departments and districts, that he might be able to lay a detailed report of the whole matter before His Majesty. Szechuen being, however, a province of such wide extent, it was not until the middle of July that these reports began to arrive. From the nineteen prefectures, etc. of Ch'ung-k'ing, Sui-ting, T'ung-ch'uan, Ya-chow, Kuei-chow, Chin-chow, Tzu-t'ung, Lien-chow, Pa-chow, Chiang-yu, Chang-ming, Shih-ch'uan, P'ing-wu, An-hsien, Mien-chu, Ho-chiang, Chi-chiang, Ho-chow, and Nan-ch'uan, he learnt that slight shocks of earthquake were felt on the 29th of June and 1st of July, but that no damage was caused to life or buildings. The Sub-prefect of Mien-chow, however, reports that eight of the crenellated battlements of the wall fell down; and, later, the authorities of Lang-chung, Lo-chiang, P'ing-wu, Huang-yuan, Chao-hua, Ts'ang-hsi and Chang-la respectively reported that during the shocks of the 1st July the walls of Lang-chung stood firm, but at places to the east of it walls fell here and there. At a place called Tz'ü-wan, also, 120 li from P'ing-wu, some seventy feet of a cliff fell down burying the hovels below it and crushing two women. At some of the other towns above mentioned cracks were made in the walls and battlements, and some ten or more houses fell down, crushing two children, and at Chao-hua one woman was crushed by a falling wall. At Nan-p'ing, however, more serious accidents occurred. A large number of public offices and dwelling houses fell down, and the moat was blocked up by the débris of fallen walls, causing an inundation that submerged a number of houses and entailed considerable loss of life. With the exception of the disasters detailed above, no reports of damage have been received. There still remains, however, Yu-yang Chow, from which no report has been

received, but as it takes three months for an answer to come from this place, no report can arrive for some time. The reports summarised above show that the earthquake has only been productive of serious damage at Nan-p'ing, and as intelligence of the serious nature of the disaster at this place had reached the memorialist a fortnight after the event, he sent a special officer to the place before the official report reached him to ascertain the extent of the damage and report thereon, that funds might be supplied for the relief of the distress. No answer has as yet reached the memorialist. He is humbly of opinion that in previous cases of similar disasters it has been the rule to wait until reports as to the extent of the damage done have been received before memorialising His Majesty on the subject, and the delay that has occurred in reporting the present disaster is entirely owing to the time that elapsed before the reports came in, and in no way attributable to a wish to conceal the facts from His Majesty. Nevertheless, it is the incapacity of the memorialist that has provoked the calamity, and he would therefore humbly implore His Majesty of His goodness summarily to drive him out. The memorialist then turns abruptly to the question of *lekin* on salt, which he enters into with much detail, though his statements contain little of general interest. The memorial occupies the whole of this day's *Gazette*, with the exception of a few pages filled with formal announcements and reports. (See *Gazette* of 13th November.)

December 3rd.—(1) A decree ordering the Proctors at the examination of Manchus in the language of their race for the degree of *chü jên* lately held at Foochow to be committed to the Board for the determination of a penalty. Only nine candidates having presented themselves, the examination should not have been held as the number was not sufficient, but, in defiance of the law on the subject, the Proctors opened the sealed envelopes containing the subjects for the examination, which they proceeded to hold. As the papers of the candidates have been forwarded to the Board of Civil Office, they are ordered to look through them at the same time as the other papers, and are authorised to pass one individual if any of the papers are good enough to deserve a degree. It is to be understood, however, that this concession is not to afford a precedent, and in future no examination is to be held if the requisite number of candidates fail to present themselves.

(2) A decree acknowledging a memorial from a Censor, who alleges that, in spite of the yellow proclamation announcing that the land tax would last year be remitted in various departments and districts in Chihli, this tax was nevertheless levied, and those for the second period of the year were further lumped with the taxes for the first period. He further expresses his conviction that the same thing is certain to have occurred in other provinces. The high authorities concerned are directed to ascertain whether instances of so abominable a proceeding have occurred in their respective jurisdictions, and to denounce the authorities who have ventured to commit so gross an irregularity. They are further called upon to consider the advisability of adopting a suggestion of the Censor that the yellow proclamations announcing the remission of land tax shall be distributed by officers specially appointed for the purpose, who will personally see that they are posted up.

(3) Chou Yui-ch'ing 周瑞清 is appointed Director of the Imperial Banqueting Court.

(4) Liu Shêng-tso 劉盛藻 is appointed Taotai of the Ta, Shun, Kuang circuit in Chihli.

(5) A decree acknowledging a memorial from a censor who calls attention to the fact that a Sub-prefect by purchase who commenced life as a shop boy has, after holding some ten or more acting appointments in the Shun-t'ien prefecture, opened some shops and inns in Ting Chow. He also neglected to report the fact of his marriage with the daughter of the Magistrate of San-ho in the same prefecture, and when denounced for this omission last year by Chou Chia-mei, the late Governor, he feigned illness and obtained sick leave. When Chou Chia-mei vacated his post, this individual at once recovered, and is now acting as Magistrate of San-ho. Another acting official is also denounced for opening a tea *hong*, and in accordance with the Censor's request a commission of high officers, with the Grand Secretary Shên Kuei-fên at their head, is ordered to investigate the matter.

December 4th.—With three unimportant exceptions, the whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with Memorials from the Prince of Tun and those associated with him in the supervision of the construction of the Mausolea for the Empresses Regent, soliciting the bestowal of honorary rewards on the officers who have been employed on this service. The decrees in answer to

these memorials appear in the *Gazette* of the 18th and 19th Nov.

December 5th.—(1) A decree ordering the bestowal of titles upon the various Gods of the Yellow River, through whose intercession dangers from inundation through the bursting of the banks of the Yellow and Ch'in rivers have been averted.

(2) In consideration of the approaching cold weather the officers and men of the Banner and Chinese corps stationed in Peking are to receive one month's pay and rations in addition to their usual allowances.

(3) Two months' extra pay and rations are granted on the same grounds to the *Tsung shih* or Imperial Clansmen, and *Gioro*, or collateral relatives of the Imperial House, the widows and orphans of this class having one month's extra pay and rations bestowed upon them in addition to the grant of a month's extra allowances already given.

(4) Taels 50 *per mensem* are ordered to be issued from the Privy Purse to the officers engaged in the compilation of the "Veritable Record" for the purchase of fuel, in addition to the wood and charcoal supplied them under the regulations. The issue of this special allowance is to continue during the 11th and 12th months of the present Chinese year, and the first month of the next.

(5) A Decree. Some time since, Ngên Chêng and Tung Hua, the High Commissioners sent to Szechuen, complained that the Magistrate of Tung-hsiang had been dilatory in obeying the instructions that were sent him to send forward the witnesses in the case [of the riots of which this district was the scene.] We thereupon issued a Decree committing the Magistrate in question to the Board for the determination of a penalty, and, in accordance with their suggestion, ordered his removal to another post. The Court of Censors now report that Lu Chao-lin, the Magistrate aforesaid, has complained to them of the injustice of his punishment, alleging that he has proofs to show that the witnesses demanded were sent forward by him six days after the order for their transmission was received, and that he had been guilty of no delay whatsoever. We command Ting Pao-chêng to report whether or no these statements are true, and, in the event of the latter contingency, to explain where the delay occurred.

(6) A Decree. The Court of Censors report that one Yang Ch'i-kuang, a Taotai on probation in Kiangsu, has applied for authority to open mines in the country,

with a view to enriching the revenues of the empire. Let the Board concerned take the matter into consideration and report.

December 6th.—(1) A decree sanctioning a request proffered through Ting Pao-chêng, acting Governor-General of Szechuen, by the gentry of the Hsi-ch'ung district in that province for permission to erect a memorial temple to the Prince of S'u, founder of the princely family that bears his name. This prince, in the commencement of the present dynasty did signal service in numerous encounters against the rebels in Szechuen, leading troops against them in person. In the third year of Shun-chih, again, he put down a rebellion amongst the Shu tribe in the same province.*

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang, denying certain statements of the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin, who complained that relief was distributed in the province of Chihli and the Shun-t'ien prefecture in a hap-hazard fashion. (For decree summarising this memorial see *Gazette* of 17th Nov.)

(3) Memorial from Shao Hêng-syü, Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies and Governor of Hunan, requesting permission on behalf of the magistrate of Ning-hsiang Hsien and others, to erect a temple in that district to the memory of Liu Tien, late Assistant Military Administrator in Shênsi and Kansu. The applicants are aware that Tso Tsung-t'ang has applied for his name to be enrolled in the list of worthies, and that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to bestow high honours upon the deceased officer, but the gentry of his native place cherish grateful recollection of his special services to their neighbourhood. In the 5th year of Hsien Fêng, when the country was in rebellion, and everyone far and near was in a state of alarm, Liu Tien, at the invitation of the notables, organised militia, and was instrumental in capturing numbers of rebel leaders whom he sent to the authorities to be dealt with. Again, in the 9th year of Hsien Fêng, he rendered signal assistance by attacking the rebels at an important point giving access to the capital, and guarding several strategical positions with the men he had trained himself. In

* Note.—S'u Ch'in Wang, the founder of the house of S'u, one of the eight princely families to whom the right of perpetual inheritance is secured, obtained the honour in consideration of his services against the rebels in Szechuen at the close of Ming dynasty. In consequence of a quarrel with the Prince of Jui, also one of the eight Princes, he incurred the displeasure of the Emperor K'ing Hsi, by whom he was ordered to commit suicide. He was buried to the east of the capital, and a cypress was planted over his grave which has now grown to enormous size and is one of the sights of the capital.]

the 10th year of T'ung Chih, again, although out of health at the time, he came to the assistance of the neighbourhood under similar circumstances. His services were not, however, brought to the notice of His Majesty as those of many others were. In addition to these services he was most energetic in the cause of education and the furthering of all charitable and good enterprises. Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript Memorial from Shên Pao-chêng. The daughter of Wei Ta-ching, Salt Commissioner of the Liang Huai, was married to the late Chang Liang-ts'ai, a salaried licentiate of the Ch'ien-t'ang district in Chêkiang, of a modest and quiet disposition. She was married young, and six months after her marriage, her husband went away to be a private secretary, returning in a hopelessly bad state of health. She cut flesh from her arm and mixed it with his medicine, besides trying numerous other remedies, but they were of no avail, and when he was on the point of death, he detected an intention on her part to commit suicide, so he earnestly enjoined upon her the necessity of taking his place in ministering to his parents. She consented, with many tears, to do so, and after his death, she resided with her father and mother-in-law. In course of time the father-in-law and his two sons died, whereupon the girl invited her mother-in-law to go to her own mother's home at Yang-chow. There the mother-in-law fell ill, and in spite of the most assiduous nursing, also died, after which the girl, saying that her duties in life were ended, took poison and died, nineteen days after her mother-in-law and fifteen years after her husband. A request having been forwarded to memorialist that he would apply to His Majesty for the bestowal of marks of approbation upon this woman, he begs to give the application his support.—Granted by Rescript.

December 7th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a report from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechuen, to the effect that the embankments of the Ch'êng-tu river have been put into a state of thorough repair and the greater part of the flooded country in its vicinity has been drained. By the efforts of Ting Pao-chêng and the officers working under his supervision, the river has been cleared throughout its course, so that instead of as heretofore flooding the country, it now serves the purpose of an irrigating medium. The flooded country in the Kuan district, and the departments of Wên-hsiang and Ch'ung-ch'ing have been drained, and upwards of 2,900 *mu* of land thereby recovered. The

exertions that have secured this state of things are deserving of a certain amount of commendation, but the Governor-General must continue positively to enjoin upon the officers whose duty it is to be constantly on the watch, and not relapse into carelessness or want of vigilance.

(2) Memorial from Yü Lu, Governor of Anhui. He is in receipt of a report from Fu Ch'ing-yi the Financial Commissioner, to the effect that P'au T'ing-hsiu, formerly Governor of Yünnan, has represented to him that the mother of Liu Ping-chang, formerly Governor of Kiangsi, whose maiden name was Hu, married at an early age Liu Shih-chia, a native of Liu-chiang Hsien in Anhui, who was in possession of a patent of the first grade. She obtained a reputation for the filial piety she displayed in her conduct towards her husband's parents, mutilating herself to mix her flesh with his medicine when her father-in-law was ill. In her devotion to her husband and the education of her children she carried out her duties in the strictest manner, and now, at the age of eighty-seven years, she has two sons, Ping-chang and Ping-chün, six grandsons, three great grandsons, and one great great grandson, all direct descendants of her own. Her son Ping-chang, a member of the Han-lin, has served in the capital and the provinces, and the other son, Ping-chün, is an expectant magistrate in Kiangsu, while her grandson is an expectant Taotai in Chihli, and her great grandson has taken the degree of *chü-jên*. That such prosperity should be obtained by the members of one family, is complete evidence of the fact that it is attributable to the merits of the founders of the house, and a case in which an aged lady can gather her great grandsons and great great grandsons around her knee comes within the category of those entitled by law to the bestowal of marks of distinction. A genealogical record had been accordingly drawn up and presented to the magistrate for verification by him and transmission through the Taotai of the circuit to the Financial Commissioner, who in turn was requested to send it to the Governor with a prayer that he would bring the case to the notice of His Majesty. Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

December 8th.—(1) A long memorial from the Governor-General of Yün Kwei and the Governor of Yünnan in answer to a decree calling upon them to report on a suggestion of Wang Hsien-ch'ien, Expositor of the Han-liu, that the son of Hsü Chih-ming, former Governor of Yünnan, should be debarred from the privilege of competing

at the examinations or employment in an official capacity. Their report is fully summarised in the *Gazette* of 28th November.

(2) Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chê-kiang, reports the arrival of a Loochooan junk in distress at the port of T'ai-p'ing Hsien in his province. Orders have been given for the junk to be repaired and sent under convoy to Foochow, the crew being duly provided with the necessary rations and clothing.

(3) Memorial from Chün Ch'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, forwarding a return of duties collected by the native Custom Houses under his charge for the year ended 15th of February, 1879, as well as the amount of duty on foreign opium collected at Cap Seng Moon (Chi Shui Mên) and other stations, with returns of ordinary duties collected at the port of Pak-hoi in the prefecture of Lien-chow. In former days it used to be the rule to forward a general annual return of all duties, foreign and other, collected by the Central Custom House at Canton and its dependencies, a separate return of expenditure being afterwards submitted to His Majesty. In December, 1863, instructions were received from the Board of Revenue to the effect that His Majesty's sanction had been obtained to an arrangement by which, counting from the month of October 1860, returns of the amount of native and foreign duties collected and expended should be sent in every three months, a general return being submitted to His Majesty at the close of four such periods, a return of the quarterly receipts and disbursements being forwarded in quadruplicate to the Board of Revenue instead of the returns for each successive period of office as was heretofore the rule. Returns, however of regular duties were still to be forwarded at the close of each period of office. Again, in the month of June 1867, the Board, in obedience to instructions received, fixed the regular assessment for the Canton Custom House at Tls. 56,511, and the surplus assessment at Tls. 100,000. They further recommended that the regular duty on opium collected at Cap Seng Moon and other stations in the districts of Hsin-an and Hsiang-shan, with that on goods collected at the Pak-hoi station, should be accounted for in the returns presented at the expiration of the term of office of each respective incumbent. General Returns of ordinary duty for the year 1878 have already been presented, and the memorialist begs now to report that during the year ended 15th of February, 1879, there were collected at the

	Tls.
Canton Customs	122,396
At the Swatow Customs	21,426
At the Kiungchow Foreign Customs	2,037
At other ports (? Stations).....	38,234
* Total, Taels ...	184,093
The regular and surplus assessment being rated at	156,511
A credit balance remains of Tls.	17,582

The duty on foreign opium collected at Cap Seng Moon and other branch stations amounted to Tls. 325,045

That on goods at Pak-hoi and other stations to..... 23,055

As soon as the amount of disbursements has been ascertained, a return of these will be submitted to His Majesty. Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

Postscript Memorial from Kung T'ang, Acting Commandant of Forces at Urumtsi. The region embraced within the jurisdiction of Urumtsi is of wide extent, and the walled cities and towns therein are in a dilapidated and ruined condition. Now that Ili is to be restored almost immediately, the Urumtsi region must necessarily be traversed by the Mahommedans from Shên-si and Kansu who return to their homes, and without cavalry there will not be an adequate force for the maintenance of order. The memorialist would call to His Majesty's recollection the permission that was graciously accorded him to enlist companies of horse and infantry for defensive purposes, and to distribute them [as he thought best.] He accordingly enrolled a company of mounted irregulars on the 20th of June, which he has styled the "Chên Tzū" cavalry corps, and is daily exercising them in the use of the musket, sword, and lance, with a view to securing their proficiency in the use of these weapons and their efficiency in case of need. He is now also selecting men for the infantry corps, who are undergoing instruction, and as soon as his company is complete he will report the fact to His Majesty.—Rescript: "Noted."

December 9th.—(1) Memorial from Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang. On the 1st of November last the acting Magistrate of the Jên-ho district sent in a report to the effect that a domestic servant, one Chang Fu, had announced that his master Hu Yü-yün, Grain Superintendent of Chêkiang, had received a letter from home on

[* Note.—The memorial gives Tls. 174,094 as the total, but this is evidently a printer's error.]

the previous day announcing the death of his father. He had accordingly sealed up his seal of office and placed it in the Treasury, and, having set his current public work in hand at the moment in order, had to request that he might be furnished with a letter to the Board authorising him to return to his home and observe the prescribed period of mourning. The servant requested that the matter might be reported to the Governor, and an officer selected to act in his master's stead. The memorialist explains that the time for the collection of the winter instalment of grain tribute having now arrived, it is essential that an officer should be selected to act in the place of the grain Taotai until His Majesty's pleasure can be made known, and he therefore proposes to place T'ang Shu-shên, an expectant Taotai, and an intelligent and steady officer, in charge of this important post.

(2) Postscript memorial from the same officer. The Province of Chêkiang was for some time supplied with two steam cruisers, the *Fu Po* and the *Yuan K'ai*, and they were subsequently reinforced by a steam vessel called the *Chao Wu*, sent from the Foochow Arsenal and stationed at Wênchow. This latter vessel, being of the large class, could only cruise at sea, not being of sufficiently light draught to enter any of the harbours or shallow inlets, and was not therefore particularly well adapted for the suppression of piracy or the following up of [suspicious] craft. The memorialist accordingly directed the Superintendent of the Military Office to send one Chiang Hsi-fan, an expectant magistrate, to the Shanghai Arsenal to have a steam-vessel built, which was called the *Hui-chi*, of 44 horse-power, at a cost of Tls. 9,000. She was commissioned by Captain Huang Wên-tsung, whose pay and rations, with that of his officers and crew, commenced in the 5th moon, when the vessel made her trial trip.—Rescript: Noted.

With the exception of a memorial from Ching Jui, Brigadier-General at Ma-lan-chên, reporting the appointment of a contingent of officers and men to take charge of the two Mausolea recently constructed for the Empresses, there are no other documents of importance in this day's *Gazette*.

December 10th.—(1) A Decree. Chang Shu-shêng (Governor of Kuangsi) reports that the Government troops beyond the frontier have discovered and captured a rebel leader, and begs that rewards may be conferred on the civil and military officials who have exerted themselves on

this occasion. In the autumn of last year the Brigadier-General Li Yang-ts'ai, under the false pretext of enlisting volunteers, had the audacity to collect together over ten thousand lawless characters in his native place at Ling-shan Hsien in Kuangsi, and at Ch'in-ch'uan and other places. They made their way in successive detachments into Annam, which region they invaded. We thereupon issued a decree dismissing Li Yang-ts'ai, and calling upon Liu K'un-yi and Yang Chung-ya to send troops to cut him off, while special instructions were sent to Fêng Tzû-ts'ai, the Commander-in-chief, to cross the frontier with an army and to exterminate the rebels in concert with [the troops already there.] The several forces hurried forward, and gained a succession of victories, recovering Cho-yai and other places in that country that had been seized by the rebels, who were nearly all captured. Chang Shu-shêng and Fêng Tzû-ts'ai have now surrounded the remnant, and captured their leader Li Yang-ts'ai at Lung-têng-shan, for which action they deserve a certain amount of credit. The penalties attaching to so great a crime as that of Li Yang-ts'ai, a military officer who has collected together lawless characters to create disturbance, are great indeed. The Court having directed its Generals to go forth, their speedy success and the capture alive of the chief offender have fully enunciated the principles by which the Empire is governed and has restored peace in the country of a barbarian feudatory. Fêng Tzû-lin applied some time since for the bestowal of penalties on himself because he had not seized the head of the rebellion. We command that, as an act of special grace, he be spared the infliction of this penalty, and that he further be handed over to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of distinction. Here follows a long list of rewards to be conferred on numerous officers engaged in the campaign.

(2) Memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang reporting the trial and sentence passed upon the department police master of Chieh-chow, who was denounced by the sub-prefect of that place. Tuan Ch'êng-chang, a native of Chihli, having purchased the grade of police master, was appointed to that post in the sub-prefecture of Chieh-chow in Kansu. In the early part of the year 1876, one Li Ying-kêng, a native of Chieh-chow, was arrested on a charge of homicide, and imprisoned in the jail of the sub-prefecture. Hearing that the prisoner was a man of substance, Tuan Ch'êng-chang thought he would try and get some money out of him, and accordingly one day

when the prison was being opened (for the day), he took an opportunity to tell Li Ying-k'eng confidentially that if he was prepared to spend some money, he, Tuan, would so work matters for him that he would get him off. Li Ying-k'eng, believing in the faith of Tuan's promises, undertook to give him 600 strings of cash, and the offer was accepted by Tuan. Li's cousin having called about this time at the prison to see his relative, Ying K'eng told him he had need of money for an important purpose, and begged him to raise 600 strings of cash on his behalf and hand them to Tuan. Li's cousin promised to do so, and got together 5,016 strings, which he handed over to Tuan as an instalment. Li Ying-k'eng, after waiting a long time without any news about the pardon he was to have, was continually asking Tuan, when he came to open and close the prison, why he did not carry out his promise, until Tuan, becoming alarmed lest his transaction should get known, returned Li two hundred strings in bills, but as he had spent the rest he could not repay it at once, and before he was able to do so he applied for leave and went home, resigning his post of police master. Li Ying-k'eng was just about to bring a charge against Tuan, as he saw no hope of recovering his money, when the matter came to the ears of the Sub-prefect through another channel, and he reported Tuan to the Governor-General, who, having applied to the Board for the authority to deprive him of his button, proceeded to try him on the charges above detailed, and proof of his guilt being obtained, he has sentenced him to banishment to the Amur. The prisoner Li Ying-k'eng is also liable to punishment for accepting Tuan's offer to get him off for a monetary consideration, but as he is lying under sentence of strangulation it is thought unnecessary to proceed against him further. The amount still owing to him from Tuan will be received and confiscated.

(3) Memorial from Fêng Shên and T'o-k'o-jui, announcing the departure of the former on the 16th November for a hunting expedition in the Imperial Preserves. The memorialists, as will be remembered, applied for permission to hold a hunt this winter in accordance with the ancient customs, in order to exercise the troops in this craft. Having completed their inspection of the troops at Heh-lung-kiang, it is essential, now that winter is approaching, to proceed to the hunt, and the memorialist T'o-k'o-jui will be left in charge of the provincial capital while the

memorialist Fêng-shên goes away with the preserve officer and men selected to A-chi-chu (阿奇珠) to practice them in the hunt, taking his official seal with him. He will insist upon his men advancing and retiring in regular order and using their weapons with dexterity. He has written to the Deputy Lieutenant-Generals and Brigadier-Generals in the various towns to attend the hunt with their respective companies, and perform their parts with zeal.—Rescript : noted.

December 11th.—(1) A decree granting a further congé of a month to Jung-du, Commandant of the Gendarmerie, who declares himself still unfit for duty.

(2) A Decree. The Censor Yeh Yin-fang memorialises to the effect that An-p'ing and Jao-yang on either bank of the Hu-t'u River in Chihli have suffered continuously from disasters by flood, while the courses above the reservoirs have become blocked up. All the water from the hills in the neighbourhood of Hwai-lu drain into the Hu-t'u river, and, whenever it overflows, Ho-chien, Jên-ch'iu, and other places are flooded. He begs, therefore, that the question of the clearing of this waterway by raising the embankments may be taken into consideration. Let Li Hung-chang depute officers to survey the river in question and take the necessary steps, after giving the matter due consideration.

(3) Postscript memorial from Ch'ung Ch'i, Military Governor of Jeh-ho. It has hitherto been the practice to depute one of the secretaries of the memorialist's Yamên to supervise the working of the Mongol mines in Jeh-hoh, with two assistants to aid him in his correspondence and other documentary work. In conformity with this arrangement the memorialist begs to report that he has now deputed Hsing Fou-tê, a second secretary of the Board of Punishments, to superintend the T'u Ts'ao Tzu and Ch'uan Kou mines.—Rescript : Noted.

(4) Memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan. With the exception of the standing income derived from the land-tax, the provincial treasury of Honan is dependent upon the *lekin* receipts for the provision of expenditure under miscellaneous headings, such as the item of Tls. 120,000 for the purchase and transport of the grain supplied by Chihli, &c. Although, therefore, the *lekin* receipts are vastly inferior in amount to those of Kiangsu and Chê-kiang, for instance, it is to this tax that Honan has to look to supplement its various deficiencies, and the revenue derived therefrom is indispensable. Drugs have

hitherto formed one of the main supports of this revenue in the different provinces. In Shên Chow, the sums derived from *lekin* on commodities of this nature used to be very considerable, but the general depression in trade has caused a great falling off in the *lekin* duty collected on drugs. Next to Shên Chow come Ho-nai Hsien and Ch'ing-hwa Chên, the dealers at which places were wont to compound for the *lekin*, but in consequence of the migration of the majority of the buyers to Yü Chow the wholesale dealers at Ch'ing-hwa have been obliged to close their business, and, having repeatedly applied to memorialist to relieve them of the payment of the duties guaranteed by them, he instructed the *lekin* department to look into the matter and suggest a compromise. The Secretary in charge of this department now reports that Yü Chow used to be the market which dealers in drugs used to frequent, and in the year 1861 a branch *lekin* collectorate was established there. During the T'ai-ping rebellion, however, it was temporarily withdrawn, and [on the resumption of commerce] the dealers, finding there was no *lekin* office re-established at Yü Chow, while it was the centre at which drugs were collected for sale, all frequented this market, with the result that several score of new firms started there; and it became a [busy] centre all the year round, utterly eclipsing the *lekin* station at Ch'ing-hwa, which became almost useless [as far as taxation was concerned.] The Secretary considered, therefore, that the wholesale dealers in that place were undoubtedly hardly treated [in being compelled to pay the duties they had guaranteed.] He accordingly proposed to reduce the duty at Ch'ing-hwa, and to re-establish a station at Yü Chow specially for the collection of *lekin* on drugs. The memorialist, in submitting this proposal to His Majesty, gives it his support, urging, as one argument in favour of its adoption, that drugs not being a necessary of life, the impost, which, it is explained, is merely resumed, and is not an innovation, will not interfere with the food supply of the people. Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

December 12th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the death of Ying Kuei, retired Grand Secretary. The deceased officer commenced his career as Secretary of the Grand Secretariat, and rose to the rank of Military Supervisor of three provinces, being a trusted servant of the late Emperor as well as of the present one. A *t'o lo* pall is bestowed upon him, and a *Beilê* is directed to offer libations before his

corpse. He is further invested with the posthumous title of Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, his name is to be enrolled in the list of worthies to whose *manes* sacrifices are offered, and all official penalties recorded against his name are to be cancelled, while his grandson is to be employed as a Second Class Secretary of a Board, and his great-grandson is to be employed as a Second Class Assistant Secretary.

(2) Postscript memorial from Kung T'ang, Acting Governor of Urumtsi. Urumtsi being over 3,500 *li* distant from the residence of the Governor General Tao Tsung-t'ang, correspondence with that high officer occupies some two or three months in going and returning, which is extremely inconvenient, and as much has now to be settled in connection with the disposition of Manchū settlers [in the Urumtsi region] the enlistment of irregulars, and numerous other matters, the memorialist has decided to go with all speed to the frontier, starting on the 3rd of November, to see Tso Tsung-t'ang in person and consult with him on these and other questions connected with "reorganisation." The Intendant of circuit at Urumtsi will be deputed to open all correspondence during memorialist's absence and to act for him, using his own seal when one has to be employed. He will send forward all documents and reports on matters of special importance by courier to memorialist.

Postscript Memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan. The receipt of *lekin* duty levied on foreign* opium in the province of Honan has hitherto depended on the sale of the drug from the western provinces. Since the prohibition, however, of the cultivation of the poppy in Shensi and Kansu, traders in the drug [from those provinces] have disappeared, and of late more than half of the dealers have come from Szechuen, almost all of whom evade the duty stations and barriers by detours and smuggle in the most freehanded in the manner, to the increasing detriment of the *lekin* receipts. The Memorialist accordingly gave orders to the officers in charge of these collectorates to consider how the system [of taxation] might be reorganised, and the result was that the western barrier of Têng Chow in Nan-yang Fu, was selected for the establishment of a branch station, the southern barrier of the Nan-yang district and Yuan T'an-chên in the T'ang district being created dependencies of

* [Note.—The term "foreign opium" is applied to all descriptions of the drug, native as well as imported.]

the same station. Duly qualified officers were selected to cooperate with the district authorities of these places in the experimental working of the [new] stations under the regulations in force at the central office, which were modified [to suit local conditions], and others were stationed at places at the Yellow River at which crossings exist to prevent evasion of duty by detours at these points. The Secretary in charge of the *lekin* department [now] reports that since the end of June, when the experiment was instituted, the receipts have already shown an appreciable improvement and he will render an account of them in the summer returns. He begs in the meantime that [the reforms instituted may be reported to His Majesty. The memorialist would observe with reference to that matter that Têng Chow is the main artery for the entry of [traffic] into Honan from Szechuen and the Hukwang provinces, and the establishment of collectorates for the levy of *lekin* on opium is a measure called for by local exigencies. He has directed the authorities titular and others to superintend their working with due zeal and care, while the slightest approach to undue severity [in the revying of the tax] is forbidden. He has written to inform the Board of Revenue of the new arrangement, and, as in duty bound, reports the same to His Majesty. The members of the Grand Council had the honour to receive the Rescript:—"Read."

December 13th.—(1) Let Sung Kuei, Resident at Lassa, and Ch'ün Fu, Military Governor of Uliasut'ai, come to Peking to be otherwise employed. Let Chi Ho 吉和 fill the post of Governor of Uliasut'ai, and Sê Lêng-ngo 色楞額 fill the post of Resident in Tibet, his post of Assistant Resident being given to Wei Ch'ing 維慶 who is hereby invested with the brevet rank of deputy Lieutenant-General. The post of deputy Lieutenant-General at Ch'êng-tu Fu, vacated by Wei Ch'ing, is bestowed upon T'o-k'o-t'uan 托克湍. Kung T'ang, Acting Governor of Urumtsi, is confirmed in this post.

(2) Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kuang Provinces, who applies for permission to retire, is granted two months' congé in order to visit his parents. His duties are to be carried on during his absence by the Governor of Kuangtung.

(3) A Decree. Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, applies on behalf of the Major of the P'ing-yuan garrison for congé

in order that he may visit his parents. As no regulations have hitherto been in force, under which military officers can apply for leave to go back to their banners, or their homes respectively to visit their parents, We command the Board of War to draw up regulations under which so natural an inclination can be gratified. The application of the major in question must stand over until these regulations have been determined upon.

(4) Memorial Boards are granted by decree to a number of temples in Shansi on the application of the Governor who bears testimony to the efficacy of prayers for rain offered to their respective presiding deities.

(5) Memorial from the Censor Fang Hsio-yin, on the restoration of river works in Chihli (see decree of Nov. 29th.)

(6) Postscript memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, applying for permission to grant a pension to certain military officers who have been disabled by wounds from performing their ordinary military duties, and have no means of subsistence. On reference to the Governor-General of the Two Kiang, that officer informs the memorialist that the following scale of pensions to military officers disabled by wounds is in force in his jurisdiction: Expectant Colonels, Lieut.-Colonels, and Majors, Taels 8 *per mensem*; First and Second captains, Taels 6 *per mensem*; Lieutenants and junior officers, Taels 3 *per mensem*; the number of pensioners being limited to thirty. Majors and Colonels are allowed to draw the pension of a lower grade when there are no officers of that grade entitled to the pension. The memorialist applies for permission to adopt the same system in his province, limiting the number of pensioners to fifteen, the sum required being drawn from the land tax receipts.—Granted by Rescript.

(7) The Governor of Shantung recommends Li Tsung-t'ai, an Expectant Taotai, for the post of Intendant of the Chi, Tung, T'ai, Wu, Lin Circuit, embracing the four Prefectures of Chi-nan, Tung-ch'ang, T'ai-an, and Wu-ting, with the sub-Prefecture of Lin-ch'ing. The usual account of the nominee's career is given.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

December 14th.—(1) A decree conferring honorary distinctions upon the Sub-Chancellors of the Grand Secretariat who have been engaged in the revision of the records of the State Historiographer's Office for the period embraced between the years 1837 and 1874, the date of the decease of the Emperor Tung Chih. Four copies of this work, comprising upwards of 500 volumes,

two in Manchu and two in Chinese, have been made. One copy in each language is to be deposited on an auspicious day in the Imperial Library, and the other two copies are to be placed in the State Historiographer's Office for reference.

(2) Wên Chêng, Senior vice-President of the Board of Punishments, is allowed to retire in consequence of ill health.

(3) Sa-lêng-ah 薩凌阿, Military Commandant of Kirin, is appointed Commandant of the Forces at Urumtsi. He is to proceed to his post at Government expense.

(4-5) Memorials from the Censors and others on duty at the recent examinations for the degree of military *chü jên* requesting the bestowal of penalties upon themselves for the omission of a seal upon the paper of one of the candidates. (See *Gazette* of 1st December.)

(6) Postscript Memorial from Li Hung-chang. Huang P'au-chêng, a Colonel and a *Kung*, or member of the first grade of hereditary nobility, has applied to the memorialist under the following circumstances: His native place was P'ing-ho Hsien in Fuhkien, but his father, Huang Ch'ing-ch'un, died at Peking when Huang P'au-chêng was quite a boy. Being too young, therefore, to return to his native place, the Governor of Shun-t'ien applied to His Majesty for permission on P'au's behalf to register himself as a native of the Shun-t'ien prefecture. This was granted, and he succeeded to the title, being afterwards employed on military duty. He has now been recommended for provincial service, and it becomes necessary for him accordingly to revert to his old home at P'ing-ho Hsien in Fuhkien. He has therefore applied to memorialist to solicit His Majesty's sanction to the documents registering him as a native of the Shun-t'ien prefecture being cancelled.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

(7) Postscript memorial from Yü Lu, Governor of Anhui. In the month of June of this year, and later on, reports were received from a number of departments and districts announcing the appearance of locusts in greater or less numbers. The memorialist and Fu Ch'ing-yi, the Provincial Treasurer who was acting as Governor during his absence, immediately issued positive instructions to the authorities of the places in question to order the military from all the neighbouring garrisons, as well as the local police and the people themselves, to set to work to look for

the grubs, fixing a price at the same time at which these would be purchased. These steps were reported to His Majesty in the monthly memorial announcing the amount of rainfall and the price of grain. By these precautions and the energy displayed in their execution the autumn crop was rescued from destruction. The locusts were particularly numerous in the five Departments or Districts of Ch'u Chow, Lai-an, Ho Ch'ow, Hsü-yi, and Ting-yuan, which are adjacent to the province of Kiangsu and sparsely populated, besides being hilly and full of lakes and dykes. The summer being dry, the people had all they could do to attend to the irrigation of their fields, and had no leisure to spare for the grubbing up of locusts, so the task devolved on the soldiers and police runners, and would, it was feared, be more than they could manage in combination with their regular duties. The Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng, however, ordered Wu Ch'ang-ch'ing, Brigadier-General, to come to the rescue with his men, and to aid in the search, distributing them over every part. This officer carried out his instructions most thoroughly, hastening here and there in the hottest time of the year, and busying himself day and night for upwards of a month. In course of time results began to be reported, and a total collection of over 440,000 catties of locusts was announced. The memorialist does not wish to apply for the bestowal of honors on the officials of his own province, who were, after all, doing no more than their duty, but he cannot refrain from bringing to His Majesty's notice the great benefits to agricultural interests that have been secured by the Brigadier-General Wu Ch'ang-ch'ing, for whom he would humbly solicit the bestowal of such marks of distinction as are authorized by law.—Rescript: Let Wu Ch'ang-ch'ing be committed to the Board for the determination of a mark of distinction.

December 15th.—The following list of criminals round whose names a circle has been placed condemning them to execution in Peking this day, is supplied with the issue of the *Gazette*:—For decapitation, Ch'ang An, *alias* Ch'ang Erh—murder with intent; Yung Ling—murder with intent. For strangulation, Shih Erh, *alias* Shih K'o-ming—kidnapping a female child. Han Ta, *alias* Han Wen-hsin—accessory in the robbing of a grave.

(Memorials issued for publication). Li Hung-chang reports his intention to leave for Pao-ting Fu on the 15th December. Rescript: Noted.

(1) The following appointments are gazetted. Junior Vice-President, Board of Punishments, Hsi Chên 錫珍; Junior Vice-President, Board of Works, Hsing Lien 興廉.

(2) Joint memorial from Ming An and Yü Liang, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Kirin respectively. Kirin is a region of wide extent on the distant borders of the Empire, which forms, as it were, the lips and teeth of the adjoining province of Fêng-t'ien, with which it comprises the country that produced the root from whence this dynasty derived its prosperous development. Being, also, a province under military rule there was formerly an extremely limited number of civil officials stationed there, the three sub-Prefectures of Kirin, Petuné, and and Ch'ang-ch'un being the only places at which territorial civil authorities were established, all *yaméns* for the benefit of the Manchus and Chinese being under the general control of the Military Governor. In former days when the people were sparsely scattered over a wide area they may have been rightly described as quiet and simple, and therefore easily governed, but of late vagrant Chinese have come rushing in like a stampede in search of subsistence, some taking unauthorised possession of waste land, others surreptitiously digging for gold dust, and congregating in the greatest numbers in the wider and more deserted region. These invaders coming from every quarter, when they got together they began gradually to develop certain habits and peculiarities, and as the authorities were unable to exercise a thorough supervision over them, brigandage overspread the country. To eradicate brigandage the question of civil control has to be considered, and hence the establishment of district authorities in this region has come to be the pressing need of the moment. As an instance of the reality of this need the experience of Chao Tun-ch'êng, the *wei-yuan* who was sent to take steps in connection with the waste land round the town of Ak'otun, may be cited. Ak'otun is over 700 *li* distant from Kirin, and the disposition of the people was so fierce and turbulent that they would not recognise official authority. On his first visit to this place in connection with the redemption of waste lands he had many difficulties to contend with, but after he had resided there some time and the people were all accustomed to him, they went to him to settle all their disputes and lawsuits.

Being merely an official land surveyor with no judicial powers he was afraid to meddle with lawsuits, but the people filled his room and begged him on their knees with such persistency to adjust their wrongs that he had nothing for it but to explain to the contending parties what were the rights and wrongs of their several disputes, or enjoin upon them the observances of the grand principles of social morality, by which they should be guided in their conduct towards each other, or, again, give them good advice, with the result that they went out at peace with each other, and contented with his arbitration. From this instance the fact may be seen without further demonstration that under official control there will be order, and without it, anarchy. Now the three *t'ing* referred to above are Manchu appointments, and should, under the regulations, be filled by official clerks employed at the various Boards. The duties of these clerks, however, being confined only to documentary work at the Boards, this is the only subject with which they are acquainted, and they cannot be thoroughly versed in the art of administration, much less in the organisations of the people themselves. Were they therefore to be employed at a moment's notice they would be unequal to the duties required of them. Even if there be amongst them a few who have followed the duly constituted path of official advancement and are possessed of passable abilities, their want of experience would still stand in their way. Now that brigandage is slightly on the decrease, and the country is taking up to a small extent, its division into areas, and the establishment of officials over these areas, becomes a matter of urgent importance if the province is to be rescued [from anarchy.] But if no accommodation to peculiar circumstances is to be admitted, and Manchu officers are alone to be employed, a relapse into the old condition of things is seriously to be apprehended, and the measures of reform that are now contemplated will be such only in name, and have no practical results. Ch'ung Shih, late Governor of Sheng King, fully appreciating this fact, was careful, when establishing new jurisdictions on the eastern frontier, to apply for the services of Chinese as well as Manchu officials who had already been incumbents of substantive posts. The conditions of Kirin are similar to those of Fêng-t'ien, and the memorialist having had an experience of this province extending now over nearly three years is fairly well acquainted with

the merits and vices of the official class, a question which he entered into at length in his memorial last year applying for permission to increase the executive of the province and institute certain changes, amongst which was a suggestion that a mixture of Manchus and Chinese should be employed. The question was referred by His Majesty to the Board for consideration. In reply, they recognised the fact that the reforms contemplated were suggested in the interests of the province in question, and recommended that the memorialist should be allowed to carry out his plans after further and mature consideration of the subject. This recommendation was sanctioned by Imperial decree, copy of which was forwarded to the memorialist by the Board in the early part of the year. Immediate execution of his plans was, unfortunately, stayed by an insufficiency of funds to meet the additional expenditure that an increase of posts would entail. Now, however, that the waste lands in the Ma-yen Ho region and in the neighbourhood of the town of Ak'otun have been reclaimed, and the clue, so to speak, of the system of taxation is found, it is proposed as soon as the receipts from these taxes reach an appreciable figure to collect them into a fund for the establishment of new posts. By this means, if *cash* be added to *cash*, in time sufficient will be saved to pay for a new post, and each new post thus created will save a multitude of trouble. This is the only plan that occurs to memorialist which will have the effect of ridding the country of the turbulent, securing peace to the well disposed, and nipping trouble in the bud. The first consideration in a question of this kind is the choice of fit and capable agents, whose capabilities must be carefully tested by observation, and to this end the memorialist would pray that the Board may be instructed to select officers of the following classes, irrespective of their race, whether Manchu or Chinese, who have held substantive posts, and have followed the recognised path of official advancement.

Sub-prefects	1
Assistant Sub-prefects	1
Department Magistrates	2
District Magistrates	2

Total..... 6

These should be sent to Kirin to await employment at the posts to be created, where they will serve for a time on probation. The memorial concludes with a list of the expectant officials in Kirin who

have been employed in various ways, a report of whose capabilities will be submitted after they have been under scrutiny for a while. This is followed by the names of two others whose capabilities are not considered sufficiently good to warrant their employment, and a request for their recall is submitted.

(3) Memorial from Su-lo-pu, Vice-President of one of the Boards at Shêng King and comptroller of the office of the Imperial Household in that city, reporting that he has taken stock of the articles displayed, and the relics stored, in the Imperial palace in that city. The following articles, a list of which is contained in the records of the Imperial Household, were taken stock of, and found to be complete:—

Patents, and the seals to these Patents	58
Imperial Genealogical Scrolls, in the <i>Huang-tang</i> , or direct line, and the <i>Hung-tang</i> , or collateral line	240
Seals	10
Imperial Genealogical Scrolls stored in a separate hall	60
"Veritable Records".....	1,430 parcels.
"Sacred Teachings"	316 "
Maps in connection with the "Veritable Record".....	1 box.

There still remain nine cases containing Imperial portraits in full dress, and four boxes of portraits in ordinary costume, which the memorialist has not yet ventured to open, but he proposes when the period of *ch'iu fen*, or autumn, has passed, to select an auspicious day upon which to air them. He finds that of the relics of departed Emperors, the following are deposited in the palace: Kao Tsung Shun Hwang Ti, (the Emperor K'ien Lung); Court hats, beads, and robes; saddles, bridles, bows, arrows, guns, two edged swords, daggers, quivers, and armour. Jên Tsung Jui Hwang Ti (Kia K'ing): Court hats, beads, and robes; saddles, and bridles; bows, arrows, swords, and guns. Hsüan Tsung Ch'eng Hwang Ti (Tao Kwang): A hanging receptacle for the Imperial pencils, saddles and bridles, a fowling piece, lance, a sword scabbard of variegated wood inlaid with silver, knife for common use, flint and tinder box.

Wên Tsung Hsien Hwang Ti (Hien Fêng):—

1 saddle.
1 cane riding whip.
1 quiver.
4 bows.
36 arrows.

Besides various other articles, such as seals, books, manuscripts, pictures, etc., etc., the number of which is found to correspond with the official list. Rescript : Noted.

December 16th.—(1) Shên Pao-chêng is granted two months congé on the ground of ill-health.

(2) Postscript memorial from Chou Hông-ch'i, Governor of Shantung. The acting Magistrate of Tung-ah Hsien reports that Ho Ching-nan, an expectant magistrate, having been placed in charge of a remittance of sycee from the Kiukiang Custom House, amounting to Tael 63,330, for the office of the Imperial Household, started from Tung-p'ing Chow on the 26th October, and lost six of the sixty-one cases in which the silver was packed at a ferry across the Yellow River in the Tung-ah district, value Tael 5,930, a *weiyuan*, some of the servants, and some members of the escort being drowned on the occasion. The memorialist has to remark, in reference to this mishap, that remittances from the various provinces to Peking must travel along certain regular routes, and are forwarded from stage to stage by escorts furnished by the various local authorities. Between Tung-p'ing and Tung-ah Hsien there is a ferry to be crossed, but although it is no great distance from the Yellow River, it is difficult to understand how so many as six cases of treasure could have been washed away in the transit. As, moreover, the different reports as to the circumstances of the mischief vary in the details, it is necessary that careful enquiries should be instituted. With this view, two special officers have been sent to the spot to make enquiries, and the Magistrate of the Tung-ah district has been written to to know whether or no the missing cases have been recovered. Rescript : Let the Board concerned take note.

December 17th.—(1) The Acting Governor of Shên-si reports the following case of murder. Hsü Shou-chung was a labourer in the Ch'êng-ch'êng district in that province, and although bearing the same surname as his victim Hsü Shuang-chin, was not related to him. In March last Hsü Shuang-chin fell ill, and some weeks later it occurred to Shou-chung that he was very poor, while Shuang-chin, who was ill and powerless, had some seed corn stowed away in his house, so he thought he would kill him and secure the corn for himself. With this intent he went to see Shuang-chin, ostensibly to enquire how he was, and sat talking to the sick man until late at night, when the latter advised him to go home. Shou-chung, however, begged to be allowed

to remain until next day, as the night was dark and he was afraid of being attacked by wolves. Shuang-chin, deceived by his representations, allowed Shou-chung to remain, and told him, as he was frequently disturbed in the night, not to blow the light out, but to bolt the door and go to sleep. Shou-chung accordingly got upon the *k'ang* and laid down alongside Shuang-chin, who had removed his jacket, and, pulling the coverlet over himself, laid upon his side with his face away from Shou-chung. Shuang-chin's sister, a child, lay at the other end of the *k'ang*. When Shou-chung had satisfied himself on the evidence of his snoring that Shuang-chin was asleep, he stealthily got up, and sat astride of his companion's body. Shuang-chin awoke in a fright and struggled to free his arms but being weak from illness and hampered by the coverlet he was unable to do so, and Shou-chung, divesting himself of his girdle, made a noose of it, and passing it round the sick man's neck, pulled it tight with all his might, and throttled him. Meanwhile the girl had woken, and, sitting up, began to cry. It then occurred to Shou-chung that he had better kill her also, so he took up a small sword that was lying on the *k'ang*, which was kept there as a weapon in case of attack from robbers, and stabbed the child with all his force, when she fell down and died immediately. He next loosened his girdle from the neck of the strangled man, arranged the coverlet over him, and placed the body of the girl upon the *k'ang*; after which he piled a lot of straw upon the bodies and set fire to it, throwing his girdle into the flames. He then got a sack belonging to Shuang-chin and having put the seed corn into it, carried it off on his back with the sword with which he had murdered the girl, secreting them in his house. They were caught sight of on the following day by a cousin of Shuang-chin, who reported the circumstance to the village elder, and Shou-chung was arrested and placed on his trial, when the facts above detailed were elicited. He has been sentenced to decapitation with exposure of his head at the scene of his crime.

December 18th.—(1) A Decree. At the autumn revision of the condemned lists from the various provinces by the Board of Punishments this year, the Board had to change no less than five cases of capital punishment in Szechuen from the *luan chieh* category to that of *ch'ing shih* or beyond reprieve, and as many as six on the Shantung list. Let the Governor-General, Governor, and Judges concerned be committed to the Board for the determination

of a penalty for the want of care they have shown. In future Tartar Generals, the Governors of the metropolitan prefecture, Governors General and Governors, must positively see that their subordinates conform to the law in the determination of sentences on criminals, erring neither on the side of undue harshness nor of misplaced humanity. They must endeavour to wield the law with strict impartiality, and so second Our desire for the infliction of punishment in a careful and deliberate manner. Let this decree be circulated for general instruction.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports a daring attempt at escape on the part of four criminals lying under sentence of death in the jail of the provincial capital, which was fortunately frustrated by a prompt appeal for assistance to the military on the part of the prison authorities, who were threatened with murder on attempting to seize the prisoners. The memorialist has given orders for their summary execution.

(3) Postscript memorial from the same officer. The Prefect of Yung-p'ing Fu reports as follows:—At Shih-ho, a village in the west of the Fu-ning district, there lives a man called Hsieh Yu-hsin of a truly filial disposition. At the early age of fourteen, his father having been away from home for many years and nothing having been heard of him, he obtained his mother's permission to go beyond the Shan-hai Kuan to look for his father. After four years' search he found him at a place on the sea-coast more than 5,000 *li* from their home, blind, and a beggar in the most helpless condition. The lad took his own clothes and put them on his father, taking the latter's tattered garments in exchange. It was then the depth of winter, and such heavy snow fell that father and son were benighted in the open country, and for two days could not obtain any food at all, while the father's legs were so swelled up with cold, that he could not walk a step, and gave himself up as lost. Yu Hsin remonstrated with his father for giving in, and took him on his back, begging from people as they went along, for the means to support both. They travelled in this way some ten or more *li* per day, and when he was nineteen years of age they reached home. The events above narrated occurred previous to the year 1864. Yu Hsin dutifully supported his father until the year 1874, when he died and was buried by his son with every mark of respect and grief. The mother was seized with a bronchial affection in 1871, and suddenly expressed a desire for ice. It

was in the month of August, and so the mountains were the only places in which it was procurable. Yu Hsin therefore took a long journey on foot to gratify his mother's fancy. His wife would not wear wadded clothes in winter that she might by this economy have means wherewith to prolong her mother's life, and waited on her assiduously for a long time. In 1877 the mother died, and Yu Hsin and his wife were overwhelmed with grief. The former is now forty four years of age, and it is fitting that an application should be made for the bestowal upon him of a mark of Imperial approbation. The memorialist supports the request, which is granted by Rescript.

December 19th.—(1) A Decree. The completion of the "Veritable Record" of the acts and teachings of His Majesty Mu Tsung-Yi, the Emperor of "Noble Resolve and Moral Grandeur" (Tung Chih), having now been reported as complete, let the work be deposited in the Imperial Hall on the 6th of January, for which ceremony the various *Yaméns* concerned will reverently make preparations.

(2) A Decree. The reverent compilation of the "Veritable Record" of His late Majesty Tung Chih having now been announced as completed, on the occasion of its respectful entry [into the Imperial Hall], it is necessary to appoint official members of the Imperial Clan below the grade of *Beitze* or *Kung* to carry the volumes thither, Princes of the Blood, and *Beillé*, escorting it on either side, in order to manifest the reverence [that should be observed on such an occasion.] Let the Imperial Clan Court, therefore, in concert with the Board of Ceremonies, refer to the record of the ceremonies observed in the reign of Tung Chih upon a similar occasion, and report to Us.

(3) A decree in reference to the same ceremony, ordering twenty officers of the Guard of the Antechambers, and the same number of the Guards of the Ch'ien Ch'ing and great gates of the Palace, who may be off duty at the time, to be told off to keep watch in relays outside the door of the Pao Ho Hall, after the "Veritable Record" has been deposited there. They are to be careful, while the doors of the Hall are opened for the reception of the precious volumes, not to allow any lights to be employed in its vicinity.

(4) A Decree. Some time since Chang Shu-shéng reported the capture alive of the rebel leader Li Yang-ts'ai, which has already been announced by Imperial Decree. The Governor in question now reports that Fêng Tzū-lin, the Provincial

Commander-in-chief, having already taken the deposition of this rebel and sent him to the provincial capital, a decree as to the manner in which he shall be dealt with is solicited. Li Yang-ts'ai, the rebel leader, a man holding military rank, plotted sedition, and had the audacity to gather together a number of people, with whom he crossed the frontier, and harried Annam, seizing and occupying a number of important strongholds where he defied the Imperial troops sent to arrest him. His crime is indeed great and his iniquity extreme. As he has now been captured alive, let the criminal in question be executed in the capital of the province of Kuangsi, and let his head be sent to Annam, there to be exposed as a warning to others.

December 20th—(1) A Decree. The Censor Chang Nai-yü represents that the path of official advancement is occupied by too medley [a crowd of aspirants], and prays that high officers in the capital and the provinces may be instructed to be more uncompromising in their selection of probationers. The path of official life, whether in the direction of secretaries of metropolitan Boards, or in that of officers below the grades of Taotai or prefect in the provinces is so crowded that it is impossible to prevent its being cumbered at times by useless and incompetent aspirants. Exceeding discrimination ought therefore to be exercised in the advancement of these individuals, that the deserving ones may gradually come to the front. All probationers in the Boards will be therefore subjected to a searching examination by the heads of their respective departments at the end of three years' service, and their subsequent rejection or retention be decided with uncompromising justice. The attention of provincial high authorities is directed to the decree of the 29th ult. respecting the examination of probationers, which must not be regarded by them as a nominal injunction.

(2) A Decree. The same Censor also reports that at Ch'ang-hsing, Hsiao-fêng, and other districts in Chêkiang at which immigration has been invited for the occupation of waste lands, wanderers from other provinces have taken unauthorised possession of occupied holdings and caused the rightful owners to fly before them, as they are afraid to claim [their property.] The excessive exaction of taxes by grasping underlings has, further, increased the advent of strangers to the exclusion of indigenous natives. He expresses his belief that this state of things is not confined to the province of Chêkiang alone. The

reoccupation of waste lands after the devastations caused by the rebellion has depended for successful development on the exertions of the local authorities, by whose efforts the farmers have been able to resume possession of their property and its appropriation by vagrants prevented. If the evils complained of by the Censor be such as he states them to be, they will increase as time goes on, and We hereby call upon provincial high authorities strictly to enjoin upon their subordinates the obligation they are under to maintain a jealous scrutiny, and promptly deal with any cases of wrongful appropriation of land which has an owner, or excessive exactions on the part of official underlings.

December 21st.—The only document of importance in this day's *Gazette* is a long memorial from the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin, drawing attention to the abuses that are engendered by the practice of leaving the composition of memorials and other documents connected with the management of the troops at the Mausolea to the clerks in the draft office, who have succeeded in monopolising the conduct of all business in that department, and shaping reports to suit their own ends. He quotes several instances in support of his allegations, and concludes with a request that Li Hung-chang may be directed to enquire into these cases, or that an Imperial Commission may be appointed for the same purpose. In the succeeding *Gazette* a summary of the report of Kwang-show, who was sent to the Mausolea to investigate these charges, will be found.

December 22nd.—(1) With the exception of two short memorials on unimportant matters, the whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a report from Kwang Show, President of the Board of War, the Imperial Commissioner sent to investigate the charges brought forward by the Censor Têng Ch'ing-lin of corruption and malpractices existing in the military garrison at Ma-lan Chên, the head-quarters of the troops in charge of the Eastern Mausolea, under the command of the Brigadier General Ching Jui. The charges are five in number.

- (1) Carelessness and laxity in the administration of the affairs of the garrison.
- (2) The presentation of memorials that are not true statements of facts.
- (3) Incitation to litigation by means of bribes.
- (4) Inducing a Lieutenant, Hsü Yung-hsing by name, to abscond.
- (5) Terrifying the son of the above into committing suicide.

The memorialist, having carefully investigated each individual charge, submits the following report: With regard to the first count the Censor contents himself with the statement of a bare fact, and does not particularise the precise nature of the laxity of which he complains. It is to be presumed however, that he referred to the monopoly of business by the clerks of the draft office, amongst whom he states there are a number of accountants who cause false statements of expenditure to be drawn up, sell minor vacancies to the highest bidder, and cause the Brigadier-General to report to His Majesty in whatever sense they wish. It is found that these charges are not substantiated. The subject matter of all memorials is determined by the Brigadier-General himself; there are no paymasters attached to the draft office; and no opportunity is afforded for the sale of minor appointments. As regards the second charge, it points particularly to the denunciation of Hsü Yung-hsing by the Brigadier-General for discounting the rewards to the soldiers of the Mausolea that passed through his hands. The Censor states that the facts contained in this denunciation were untrue, and that the actual state of the case was as follows: Hsü Yung-hsing, having received a larger sum for distribution in gratuities than there were soldiers to issue it to, was anxious to account for the surplus, but to this the clerks and paymasters in the draft office objected, and in order to get Hsü Yung-hsing into trouble bribed certain soldiers to accuse him of levying a discount upon their respective gratuities. Reference to the registers by the Commissioner showed him that Hsü Yung-hsing had not, in effect, been guilty of the conduct ascribed to him, which he proceeds to prove by detailed statements. With reference to the third charge, which, in brief, is to the effect that one Lu Pin, with his son and nephew, bribed certain soldiers to make a demonstration at the Brigadier-General's Yamên in connection with the false charges against Hsü Yung-hsing, the bribes to these soldiers being supplied from an allowance that Lu Pin obtained from the Brigadier-General for the repair of barracks, the Commissioner has elicited the following statement from Lu Pin: He and Hsü Yung-hsing received a certain sum of money from the General for building additional barracks, which was placed in a bank by Hsü, who absconded when he was denounced by Ching Jui. Some of the troops whose houses leaked, imagining that the money deposited in the bank by Hsü was his own property, and

considering him responsible for the condition of their quarters, went to Lu Pin and clamoured for the application of this money to the repair of their roofs. Lu Pin, fearing that they would mutiny if their demands were not complied with, supplied them with money from the fund in question, and the General subsequently made good the amount with a sum he had to borrow for the purpose. This was the true story of the alleged incitement to litigation. With reference to the fourth and last charges, the Commissioner learns from Ching Jui, that, so far from allowing or inducing Hsü Yung-hsing to abscond, he never saw him after he had taken delivery of the money for building barracks; that he had suggested his being handed over to the Board for trial on the charge of levying discount on the gratuities passing through his hands, as the case was too serious to be tried on the spot, while he was not at liberty to place him under arrest, as his accounts were correct. The suicide of Hsü Yung-hsing's son was due to an erroneous impression on the part of the latter that his father had drowned himself, and there was nothing in the treatment of him by the General to force him to destroy himself. The following penalties are suggested: Lu Pin, dismissal. Hsü Yung-hsing, who has presented himself for trial, banishment into military servitude. Ching Jui, and a Major called Wan Lu, to be committed to the Board for the determination of penalties. Sanctioned by decree earlier issued.

December 23rd.—No documents of importance.

December 24th.—(1) Postscript memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Acting Governor General of Szechuen. The memorialist has already reported to His Majesty the repairs that were made to the embankments of the Tu Kiang that were carried away last year, and the fact of their remaining firm during the crisis of the summer freshets. He promised a full report upon the nature of these works as soon as they had been further tested by the freshets that occur at the *shuang kiang*, or period of hoar frost. This period has now passed, and the subprefect of water-ways, with the local authorities, who have sent in details of the nature of the works undertaken, report that every thing has stood firm, and a full harvest has been reaped. These happy results are attributable to dependence upon the good fortune that attends His Majesty, and have been a source of inexpressible joy to the memorialist. The question of water-ways in their relation to

agriculture is one of such grave importance that in view of the earnest solicitude that is now displayed by His Majesty for the amelioration of the condition of the common people, the memorialist feels it incumbent upon him to submit a detailed history of the works in question. The Tu Kiang embankments had not been repaired for over 100 years, and numerous districts and departments have been sufferers in consequence for several scores of years. In Kuan-hsien, Ch'ung-ning, Ch'ung-ch'ing, Pei-hsien, Wên-chiang, Chin-t'ang, etc. over 20,000 *mow* of arable land had long been submerged and quite incapable of being brought under cultivation, while land that was formerly in good condition was in later years also inundated to the grievous injury of the natives, Manchu and Chinese. At Pao-p'ing *k'ou* in Kuan Hsien a guage for measuring the depth of the water has long existed, but the register of depths for ten or more years had never shown more than eighteen or nineteen degrees, the guage itself never being submerged, until, in the year 1866, the magistrate of that district reported that over 400,000 *mow* of land had been submerged, and that the wall of the district town had fallen, a slight harvest being gathered in one village only, the land in the others being covered with sand and stones. In that and the following year some 600,000 to 700,000 *mow* were reported as having been submerged in Ch'ung-ch'ing Chow, and in 1867, 1868, and 1873, land, houses, bridges, and roads were injured and destroyed to a great extent in Kuan Hsien, the water even invading the town itself in the year 1868. The devastation caused by these inundations was greater still in 1875, large quantities of land and houses in five districts being submerged or washed away, and numbers of people being drowned, ranging over a hundred in this place, to some ten or more in that. In 1876 a flood occurred again in Kuan Hsien, carrying away a bridge known as the Tao-chiang *ch'iao*. The floods of the past ten years, an idea of the nature of which has been given above, are all attributable to the state of disrepair into which the embankments of the Tu Kiang have been allowed to fall. It used to be the practice for the people in some ten or more districts round Ch'eng-tu, to invade by thousands the Yaméns of the Governor-General and Taotai in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th moons every year, and clamour for water to irrigate their fields (of which they were deprived in consequence of the dilapidated condition of the Tu Kiang works), and the

Yamén underlings sent out to reason with them were greeted with blows, insults, and abuse. The memorialist entered upon the duties of his present post in May, 1877, and in the following month his Yamén was invaded on two occasions by a fierce and unruly mob clamouring for water. The same thing occurred the next month, and memorialist, who had never before met with so violent and turbulent a people, was considerably alarmed by their attitude, and he found on enquiry amongst the local authorities that [this threatening demonstration] was the development of several years' [fruitless clamouring]. On going into the matter, he found that the state of disrepair into which the Tu Kiang works had fallen, causing floods in some places and scarcity of water in others, was the cause of all the mischief. He then proceeded to inspect the works in question, and having found out what were the repairs needed, set to work to execute them. The results may be seen by the returns of land long submerged and now recovered that have been sent in by the various local authorities. They are as follows:—

FIRST RETURN.

	<i>Mow.</i>
Kuan Hsien	49,190
Wên-chiang	3,390
Ch'ung-ch'ing Chow.....	3,230
Pei Hsien	1,050
Ch'ung-ning	911

SECOND RETURN, 1879.

Pei Hsien	1,138
Kuan Hsien	23,410
Chin-t'ang	146
Wên-chiang	450
Ch'ung-ch'ing	1,027

Making a total, (including fractions) of over 82,900 *mow*. The improvements effected in the direction of irrigation are not specified. The memorial concludes with a hope that by careful attention on the part of the officers entrusted with the supervision of the river-works a satisfactory condition of things similar to that prevailing in the reigns of Yung Chêng and Tao Kuang will now be maintained. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 7th Dec.)

December 25th.—(1) Li Hung-chang reports the execution by *ling ch'ih* process of a maniac called Sun san-hsi 孫三滄,* who murdered his father during one of his periodical fits of insanity.

(2) Postscript memorial from Li Wên-miu, Governor of Kiangsi. He is in receipt of a report from Wang Sung-ling, acting Customs Taotai at Kiukiang, to

the effect that it has hitherto been the custom to forward an annual return of the articles of porcelain manufactured for the Palace, written on yellow paper, for His Majesty's perusal. He begs to state that during the year 1879 the following porcelain articles were prepared for transmission in the annual consignment to the Palace.

	pieces.
Of polished porcelain.....	80
Of round utensils, first quality.....	1,240
Sacrificial utensils specially ordered on different occasions.....	78

The above will be forwarded under charge of a *weiyuan* by steamer to Peking and handed over to the crockery department of the Imperial household. The amount expended in the manufacture of the above was Tls 3,578, leaving a balance of Tls. 6,421 in hand, which in accordance with precedent, will be refunded to the Manufactory Department of the office of the Imperial Household. No other documents of importance.

* [Note.—孫三濤. The name here given illustrates a curious custom that that prevails of falsifying the names (名) of criminals convicted of grave offences when the characters of which these *ming* are composed, are auspicious ones. The character 濤, for instance, is one that no person would adopt, and it is evident that the man's real name was 喜 "happiness," but it was modified in the report as being too good a character for a criminal to possess. No criminal convicted of a grave offence would be allowed to retain the *ming* 福 "prosperity," which is invariably changed to 福 in official returns. Such characters as 隆, 榮, 國 etc., would, when possessed by convicted criminals, be written 濶, 濶 and 鋼. An exception, however, is made in the case of criminals convicted of high treason or the like.]

December 26th.—(1) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang Provinces, was a man of quiet resolution, experience, perspicacity and steadiness, and was the recipient of many kindnesses from Our Imperial predecessors. From the position of a member of the Imperial College of Literature he rose to the rank of Prefect in a province, and on the recommendation of his superiors was chosen out from amongst [his colleagues] to take charge of a frontier province. When

holding the post of Governor of Kiangsi he displayed thorough discrimination in the conduct of military matters, and, later, was invested with the hereditary title of *ch'ing-chü-tu-yü* of the first grade. After Our accession We selected him for the post of Governor-General of the Two Kiang Provinces, and he applied himself zealously to the work of reform, devoting himself sincerely to the duties of his post, and shrinking neither from trouble nor unpopularity. Some time since, in consequence of the increase of his long-standing ailments, he implored Us to allow him to vacate his post, and We granted him two month's *congé*, in the hope that his health would be restored by attention to his ailments, and his services might long be spared Us. The intelligence of his death has filled Us with the deepest grief and regret, and as an act of special grace We confer on him the posthumous brevet of Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, and direct that his [tablet] be placed in the temple of worthies to whom sacrifice is offered, the compassionate honours assigned to a Governor-General on decease being bestowed upon him. All official penalties recorded against his name will be wiped away, and the Yamên whose duty it is will ascertain the compassionate observances to which he is entitled and report the same to Us. The local authorities through whose jurisdictions the coffin passes on its way to his native place, will duly aid its progress. Let his son Shên Wei-ch'ing, an Accessory Senior Licentiate, have the degree of *chü jên* bestowed upon him, and be permitted to compete with the others at the examination for metropolitan graduate. Let his sons Shên Jung-ch'ing, and Shên Yü-ch'ing, be employed as Second Class Assistant Secretaries of a Board; and let his sons Shên Lin-ch'ing, Shên Yüan-ch'ing, Shên Yao-ch'ing, and Shên Wan-ch'ing be presented to Us by the Board of Civil Office at the expiration of their mourning. This in manifestation of Our thoughtful love for a faithful servant.

December 27th.—(1) The following transfers and promotions are notified. Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and Minister Superintendent of Trade for the Southern Ports, Liu K'un-yi; Wu Yuan-ping to act as Governor-General pending his arrival, and T'an Ch'ün-p'ei to act as Governor of Kiangsu *ad interim*. Chang-Shu-shêng is promoted to the post of Governor of the Two Kuang, and Ch'ing Yü takes his place as Governor of Kuangsi, Liang Chao-huang 梁肇煌 being pro-

moted to the Commissionership of Finance in Fuhkien vacated by Ch'ing Yü.

(2) A Decree. Chi Ko and Pi Tao-yuan report the arrival in full of the quota of grain tribute for the year, and solicit the bestowal of honorary rewards upon the officers who have displayed energy in the performance of the duties connected with its receipt. Upon the arrival at T'ung Chow of the grain tribute due from Kiangsu, Chêkiang, Kiangsi, and Hupeh, forwarded by sea, as well as that forwarded from the Kiangpeh region by the Canal route, Chi Ko and Pi Tao-yuan, with the officers under them, inspected the consignments and took delivery of them, and have been guilty of no mistakes in the performance of the functions with which they have been charged. Let the two officers above named be committed to the Board for the determination of marks of approval, as well as the officers, a list of whose names they supply.

(3) In compliance with a request from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Brigadier-General Liu Ch'u-hua, who was sentenced to be cashiered and sent into military servitude for his connection with the outrage at Tung Hsiang in Szechuen, is allowed to retain his present command in Kansu, on payment of the military station fees. This privilege is accorded him in consideration of the testimony borne by the Governor-General to his military abilities, and the confidence which he has gained amongst the troops and common people under his control.

(4) A Decree. Some time since, in consequence of the denunciation of the Grain Intendant Ying P'u by the Censor Chu Yi-t'séng, We directed the Office of Gendarmerie and other metropolitan yaméns, as well as the high authorities of Chihli and Kiangsu, to make certain enquiries, and to report to Us. In due course the metropolitan yaméns reported that they had ascertained that Ying P'u had, in effect, an interest in certain banks and shops. We thereupon issued a decree ordering the Intendant in question to vacate his post pending further investigation, and called upon the Superintendents of the Imperial Granaries, the Governor-General of Chihli, and the Governor of Kiangsu, for a report upon the evidence of the accused's servants taken by the metropolitan yaméns. In due course Li Hung-chang sent in a memorial to the effect that there was a bank for the sale of bills in Tientsin called the "Sung Shéng Ch'ang," in which, he learned, Ying P'u had capital invested. The Superintendents of the Granaries next memorialised that Ying P'u had made a verbal application for

permission to visit Peking on sick leave; and Shên Pao-chéng and Wu Yuan-ping now report that the Intendant did not extort any sums in excess of the allowance for contingencies that was granted him when sent northward with the grain tribute, while his accounts both at Nanking and Shanghai were correct; nor did any payments appear under the heading of "personal maintenance" or a "theatrical stage for religious purposes." They have ascertained, however, that he has undoubtedly invested money in the "Sung Shéng Ch'ang" bill bank in Shanghai, and that he did in effect remit some of the grain transport money through the bank this year. There is no evidence, however, to prove that he placed Government monies out at interest, or exacted discount on the pay of his inferiors. He did, nevertheless, ride about Shanghai in a small chair, dressed in private clothes, in pursuit of dissipated pleasures. An application for sick leave had been sent in by him. The various charges brought against Ying P'u have in some instances, not been proven, but in others they were based on reasonable grounds. That an officer holding the high position of a superintendent should open banks and shops in partnership with a common person and gain money by the speculation, and still worse, wander dissolutely about in plain clothes, is a blot upon the official name. Although Ying P'u is now dead, We still direct that he be cashiered, as a warning to others.

(5) The Governor-General of the Two Kuang Provinces, the Governor of Kwangtung, and the Hoppo of Canton, report the transmission of the third instalment due from the Canton Customs to Peking for the 5th year of Kwang Hsü.

The annual amount due to Peking from this Custom House is, in detail, as follows:—

	Tls.
For the Board of Revenue	200,000
Additional assessment for above...	60,000
Further grant for do.....	50,000
For the Peking Field Force.....	45,000
Monthly allotment to Ili at Tls.	
1,200.....	14,400
Additional grant to above at Tls.	
2,500.....	30,000
Annual contribution to cavalry in the north west	50,000
Annual contribution to troops of Ili under Chin Shun	6,000
Refunds on advances by Board of Revenue	18,000
Refunds on advances to New Dominion	3,200

Refund to Fuhkien loan by instalments of	6,000
Contributions to Privy Purse	300,000
Do. expenses of office of Imperial Household	100,000

Of this annual subsidy, the first and second instalments have been forwarded (amount not stated), and the third instalment consisting of the following items, has now been remitted :—

	Tls.
Subsidy to the Capital	70,000
Scale allowance.....	1,050
Subsistence money	2,030
Surplus assessment	30,000
Scale allowance.....	450
Subsistence money	870
Peking Field Force	10,000
Three months' to Yung-ch'üan (Ili),	3,600
Additional subsidy to above	7,500
Monthly subsidies to Ching Lien, (New Dominion)	4,000
Pay to troops at Uliasut'ai.....	7,500
Refund on Fuhkien loan	6,000
Autumn contribution to Privy Purse	75,000
Scale allowance.....	1,125
Do. do.	1,875
Porterage Expenses.....	600
Provision for extraordinary expenditure	20,000
Scale allowance.....	300
Do. do.	500
Porterage Expenses	160

Total.....242,560

This sum has been borrowed from the following Shansi Banking Firms: **志成信, 協成, 乾元, 豐政**, and will be refunded from the Customs receipts. Rescript: Let the Yamèn concerned take note.

December 28th.—(1) General prayers for snow in Peking are to be offered on the 30th inst., in which His Majesty will take part.

(2) A decree bestowing a button of the first grade upon Chou Hsi, formerly Taotai of the Ch'ang Chên circuit in Kiangsu, who has attained the sixtieth anniversary of his passing a successful examination for the degree of *chin shih*, or metropolitan graduate, and granting him permission to attend the banquet that will be given next year to the successful candidates at the metropolitan examination.

(3) Lin Shu-hsün **林述訓** is appointed Salt Commissioner in Shantung.

(4) A decree ordering Liang Chao-huang, newly appointed Financial Commis-

sioner in Fuhkien, to change places with Lu Shih-chieh, Financial Commissioner at Nanking, the former having reported that he and the Governor-General of Min Chê are connected through the marriage of their children.

(5) A decree directing the Imperial College of Inscriptions to prepare a memorial board to be suspended in the temple to the White Dragon at Ch'ang-chow Hsien by Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu. During the drought that prevailed in Soochow and Sung-kiang last summer, prayers for rain offered in this temple were most successful, and an ancient bronze image of Buddha that was brought there from Wu Hsien, added considerably to their efficacy.

(6) Memorial from Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting that his foot, from an affection of which he was suffering, is, on the expiration of his congé, somewhat better, and he purposes making an effort to resume his duties.

(7) The same officer reports the receipt of an unanimous application from the gentry of the province for the retention of Wang Wên, Compiler of the Han-lin, to assist in the work of re-organisation that is now going on in Shansi. The services of this officer being lent for famine distribution only, and this being now at an end, he should by rights return to his duties in Peking, but in view of the unanimous call for his further services, the memorialist feels it his duty to retain him until the work of re-organisation is finished. He has written in this sense to the Han-lin College.—Rescript: Noted.

(8) Tsêng Kuo-ch'üan reports the capture of five armed braves who had been committing acts of brigandage, and solicits the bestowal of rewards upon the acting sub-prefect who effected their capture. The five braves in question having been disbanded, were on their way to enlist in another corps, and were travelling with their arms upon them. Finding themselves short of funds, they attacked a passer-by in a solitary place and divested him of his money, proceeding afterwards on their journey. The man who had been robbed gave information to the authorities, who sent runners on their track and came up with them at a certain place where they had stopped for the night. The sub-prefect of this place, with commendable zeal, sent a party of soldiers out to arrest them, and they were captured after a desperate resistance, during which three of the capturing party were killed, and five wounded. The braves have been summarily decapitated, and their heads exposed.

December 29th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the death of K'o Sing-ah, retired Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Bordered Yellow Banner Corps. He commenced his career as an officer of the Imperial Guards, and during the reign of Hsien Fêng distinguished himself in Chihli, Shantung, and other provinces in operations against the rebels. The posthumous honors accorded to Deputy Lieutenant-General are to be bestowed upon him, the official penalties recorded against his name are to be blotted out, the debt owing by him for arrears of Live Stock and House Duty is forgiven, and a sum of Tls. 500 is granted for his funeral expenses. His grandson Jui-ch'uan is to be presented to His Majesty by the Commander of his Banner when he shall have attained the proper age.

(2) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Ts'ên Yü-ying, Governor of Kuei-chow, announcing the capture of the leaders of an affiliated society, together with many of its members, and the execution of the former by the *ling-ch'ih* process. Yang Hai-t'ai, alias Yang K'ai-t'ai, a cashiered Brigadier-General, was the promoter of this society, and had the audacity to enrol the members in the provincial capital itself, administering the oaths with the formula of smearing blood upon the mouth. Last month (November), he gathered a number of these men together, and the time was fixed for a rising. Ts'ên Yü-ying, having obtained intelligence of the fact, sent troops to arrest them, and numbers were seized, together with their badges, flags, and arms. Yang K'ai-t'ai and seven others were immediately executed by the *ling ch'ih* process. The action of the Governor-General is commended, and he is ordered to use every effort to secure the apprehension of those members that are still at large. The officers who distinguished themselves on the occasion may be recommended for the bestowal of honorary rewards, but the permission must not be too lavishly availed of.

(3) A Decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the death of Kuang K'ê, Hereditary Duke by special patent, Tartar General at Hangchow, and brother to the Senior Empress. The posthumous honors allotted to Tartar Generals are to be accorded him, his official penalties blotted out, Tls. 3,000 granted for the expenses of his funeral, and his body allowed to be brought into Peking for the performance of the ordinary funeral rites.

(4) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the rehearing of an appeal case. The facts, which are detailed at

great length, are, briefly, as follows:—The annual quota of rice for the troops at the Mausolea is forwarded by boat, certain groups of villages being called upon to perform the duty in turn, Tls. 120 being granted for the purpose. Six years ago, it was the turn of a village called Ma Ts'un, with others, to undertake this duty, the supervision of which was placed in the hands of one individual, who chartered boats, and only paid the boatman a portion of the freight, subsequently repudiating the balance of the debt. The boatman brought an action against the charterer, who lost his case, and was condemned to pay the money within a given time. He failed to do so, and was importuned by the plaintiff, whereupon, on a certain occasion, he and another man assailed the plaintiff with a poker and a sword. The plaintiff ran away, followed by the defendant, who was met by the plaintiff's son. A struggle ensued, in which the son got possession of the sword, and a duel then took place between him and the holder of the poker, in which the man with the poker was worsted, and so badly stabbed in the stomach that he died soon afterwards. Owing to the absence of certain witnesses, the hearing of the case was delayed, and the son of the deceased appealed at the Censorate, embodying certain false charges in his statement. The plaintiff's son has been sentenced to strangulation.

December 30th.—(1) Ch'i Yuan is appointed Military Governor of Shêng King.

(2) The following appointments are also announced: Tartar General at Hangchow, Jui Lien 瑞聯; Tartar General at Sui Yuan, Fêng Shên 豐紳; Military Governor of Heh Lung Kiang, Hsi Yuan 希元; Tartar General at Ching Chow, Ching Fêng 景豐; Military Governor at Ch'ahar, Hsiang Hêng 祥亨.

(2) Memorial from Shao Ch'i, Guardian of the Western Mausolea, reporting the completion of a "fire road" round the Imperial Tombs in accordance with the measurements laid down by law, as well as the pruning of 1,907 small trees that have grown spontaneously. He has further visited the various stations along these "fire roads," and having satisfied himself that the men were at their posts, gave stringent orders that a most careful watch should be kept against fire by day and night. Rescript: Noted.

[Note:—The "fire roads" are open spaces round each Tomb from which all grass,

undergrowth, and trees are cleared in order to prevent accidents from fire when the grass and weeds are burnt in the winter (放荒.) The year before last an accident of this nature occurred at the Eastern Mausolea.]

(3) Ch'ing Ch'un, former Tartar General at Foochow, and acting Superintendent of Customs, reports that he has forwarded in full the subsidies due to the Capital for the 5th year of Kwang Hsü (1879.) In August last, the Grand Council forwarded copy of a decree, in answer to a representation from the Board of Revenue complaining of the irregularity of the remittances received from the various Custom Houses, calling for strict punctuality in this respect for the future. In this decree a report from the Board was embodied showing a deficit on the remittances in question of over Tls. 5,450,000. In reply to these instructions, the memorialist begs to report that the subsidy for the year 1879, due to the Capital on the foreign Customs receipts amounted to Tls. 570,000, which sum he made strenuous efforts to forward in instalments within the appointed time. In the month of July, Tls. 290,000 were remitted and duly acknowledged by the Board of Revenue. After receipt of the decree above quoted, a further instalment of Tls. 60,000 was remitted in the month of September, and again in October, Tls. 50,000 were sent. In November, Tls. 100,000 were remitted, leaving a balance of Tls. 70,000 for the supply of which a little time was solicited. The close of the seventy-sixth instalment of the sixty per cent. of Customs dues having now arrived, leaving a large deficit to be made good, and, consequently, requiring all funds in hand, there is, in effect, nothing from which the deficit on the contributions to the Capital can be made good. In view, however, of the importance of the objects for which this subsidy is required, the memorialist has determined to devote the money left on deposit at Foochow and Amoy by the China Merchants' Co., intended to be applied to the supplementing of the seventy-sixth instalment of the sixty per cent. of Customs contributions, and amounting to Tls. 14,576, to the supplementing of the Peking subsidy. To this amount he has added Tls. 40,000 now deposited in the provincial Treasury, being his own anti-extortion allowance which he has offered as a voluntary contribution towards the subsidy due to Peking. He has further borrowed a sum of Tls. 15,283 from the "sixty per cent. contribution," making the required total of Tls. 70,000, which

will be despatched to Peking before the 22nd November. Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note. By a decree of earlier date, the contribution of Tls. 4,000 offered by Ch'ing-ch'un was graciously returned to him. As he has already despatched the money, Let the Board concerned write to Mu T'u-shan to repay him this amount from the foreign Customs.—Rescript.

December 31st.—(1) Ngên Fu 恩福 is appointed Vice-President of the Board of Revenue at Shêng King, and Sung Lin 松林 is appointed Governor of Fêng-t'ien Fu.

(2) Yao T'ien 姚田 is appointed Superintendent of Customs at Shan-hai Kuan.

(3) Shao Ch'i, Guardian of the Western Mausolea, reports that he has cleared the water channels and drains round the Imperial Tombs of bushes and weeds, and repaired them where it has been found necessary.

(4) T'á K'ochina, Assistant Agent at Hami, applies for, and obtains, a month's congé on the ground of ill-health.

(5) Kuang Ying, Superintendent of the Huai-an Customs, forwards a return of the duties collected by him during the financial year of office now expired. The united Customs Stations of Huai-an, Su-ch'ien, and the sea-port collectorate are rated,

	Tls.
Regular assessment	254,363
Surplus do.	110,000
Total...	364,363

During the year ended 28th August, for the greater portion of which time memorialist's predecessor was in charge, the total amount of duty collected was Tls. 308,634, showing a deficit of Tls. 325,728 on the annual rating. The following reasons are assigned for this large deficit. The radius embraced by the Huai-an and Su-ch'ien barriers extends on the north to Shantung and Honan, where the staple of commerce is bean-cake, but since the opening of Yent'ai as a port of foreign trade, the bean-cake has been exported sea-wards from thence. On the south, the radius controlled by the two barriers extends to Kiangsu and Chékiang, in which region silk and cotton fabrics are the great staples of taxation. Shanghai being now an open port, these materials are exported from thence seawards by way of Woosung, the rapidity with which the steamers make their voyages to and fro inducing the traders

interested in these commodities to avail themselves eagerly of the shorter route, and so artfully evade Customs and *lekin* dues, while even the foreign and native goods that are imported or exported are covered by passes from the various Maritime Customs, and so are not taxed [inland]. This state of things has gone on steadily developing year by year, and [the evil] has now become too deep seated to be changed. This is the explanation of the gradual encroachment of the foreign customs upon the domain of the native, to the detriment of the revenue of the latter. The trade in bean-cake, again, in the vicinity of Huai-an, has suffered from continuous years of drought, while the old bed of the Yellow River furnishes a road by which detours can be made and dues evaded; and even when a

seizure is made, the officers are set upon, and the smuggled goods forcibly recovered from them. The impossibility of collecting the assessed amount was fully explained by memorialist's predecessor, Kuang Lin, and all the memorialist can do is to implore His Majesty, in accordance with precedent, to deal with him in the matter of the deficiencies he is obliged to report, in as lenient a manner as possible. Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

(6) Is a postscript memorial. Li Hung-chang applies for His Majesty's sanction to the remission of the land tax on 41 *mow* of land at Hsi-ku outside the city of Tientsin, upon which storehouses for munitions of war have been built. The annual tax amounts to four mace odd.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

ERRATA.

- Page 5, col. 1, last line, for *Monglo* read *Mongol*.
- „ 6, „ 1, line 4, after *Owing* insert *to*.
- „ 6, „ 2, „ 26, „ *posthumous* insert *honors*.
- „ 6, „ 2, „ 41, for *nature* read *native*.
- „ 7, „ 2, „ 3, „ *conceal* read *cancel*.
- „ 35, „ 1, „ 57, for *One in the day* read *One day in the*.
- „ 38, „ 1, „ 31, „ *composed* read *confused*.
- „ 40, „ 1, „ 16, after *have* insert *brought*.
- „ 40, „ 1, „ 58, for *Bsi-léh, Bri-tzū* read *Bei-léh, Bei-tzū*.
- „ 41, „ 1, „ 15, after *deponents* insert *were*.
- „ 47, „ 1, „ 59-60, for *companion* read *compassion*.
- „ 48, „ 1, „ 38, for *officers* read *offices*.
- „ 49, „ 1, „ 52, „ *the* read *a*.
- „ 53, „ 1, „ 29, „ *in* read *it*.
- „ 60, „ 2, „ 31-32, for *accounts* read *accents*.
- „ 81, „ 2, „ 30, for *for* read *from*.
- „ 88, „ 1, „ 21, „ *zeal* read *seal*.
- „ 94, „ 1, „ 27, „ *Prince* read *Province*.
- „ 94, „ 2, „ 17, „ *laves* read *eaves*.
- „ 108, „ 2, „ 24, after *submit* insert *them, though*.
- „ 111, „ 2, „ 33, for *27th* read *29th*.
- „ 117, „ 1, „ 40, after 崇 insert 禮.
- „ 117, „ 2, „ 41, „ *object* insert *he*.
- „ 123, „ 2, „ 54, for *21st* read *20th*.
- „ 128, „ 1, „ 50, „ *right* read *eight*.
- „ 132, „ 1, last line, for *Ho Chin-show* read *Yang Yü-k'o*.
- „ 134, „ 1, line 47, for *Cu* read *Fu*.
- „ 138, „ 1, „ 1, „ 政徐致 read 徐致祥.
- „ 138, „ 1, „ 3, „ *Chéng Liao-shou* 政廖壽 read *Liao Shou-hong* 廖壽恒.
- „ 140, „ 1, „ 24-25, for *Li Hung-chang* read *Li Hang-chang*.
- „ 157, „ 2, „ 38, for *over. Eighty* read *Over eighty*.
- „ 158, „ 2, „ 17, „ 1st read 2nd.
- „ 159, „ 2, „ 57, after *not* insert *be*.
- „ 170, „ 2, „ 18, for *clases* read *clans*.
- „ 171, „ 1, „ 10, for *T'ings* read *T'ing*.
- „ 171, „ 1, „ 11, „ *present,* read *presents*.
- „ 172, „ 1, „ 19, „ *a* read *at*.
- „ 175, „ 2, „ 8, „ *Chihli* read *Kansu*.
- „ 178, „ 2, „ 58, „ *these* read *three*.
- „ 180, „ 1, „ 30, „ *Tun-t'i* read *Yung-t'i*.
- „ 182, „ 2, „ 48, after *important* insert *witness*.
- „ 183, „ 1, „ 36, „ *chéng* insert *will*.
- „ 197, „ 1, „ 16, „ *Chékiang,* insert *and was*.
- „ 210, „ 1, „ 21 & 25, for *guage* read *gauge*.

APPENDIX.

BIOGRAPHICAL TABLE

OF THE

HIGH OFFICIALS COMPOSING THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF CHINA.

[NOTE.—This Table, which first appeared in the *China Review*, has been revised to the end of 1879.]

In the *China Review* of June, 1878, there appeared a Table of Chinese Provincial Officials, compiled from notes that the late Mr. Mayers had made during his long residence in China. Mr. Mayers intended, had his life been spared, to have prepared a much fuller record of the services of the principal metropolitan and provincial officials, and such a work from his pen would have been as valuable as interesting. The following Paper is an attempt to carry out on a very small scale Mr. Mayers' design.

At present, unless from his own experience, any knowledge of the previous career of a Chinese official on the part of a foreigner must be exceptional. There is no work in a Western language to which reference can be made when a question arises as to the history of men and events in China since the Treaty of 1860. The Chinese do not write biographies of living statesmen; and there is no publication in Chinese giving the posts that a man has held previously to his present appointment. Unless access can be obtained to an official's *li li* * (履歷) or † 硃卷, or to the records of the Board of Civil Office, the student of modern Chinese biography is reduced to blue books and the files of the *Peking Gazette*.

Where the search for reliable information is so difficult, mistakes are sure to abound; and it is undoubtedly so in the present case. For instance, it is often stated by foreigners with the best reputation for Chinese scholarship that Li Hung-chang is the son of a small farmer, and that he learnt the Classics while following the plough on his father's farm, which of course would do him great credit—if it were true. In fact, however, the Grand Secretary is no exception to the rule that successful scholars come of old literary families; for he can boast five generations of lettered ancestors, and his father was a Fellow of the Hanlin College.

* The account of his previous career which every official must take with him when granted audience by the Emperor.

† The copy of his approved essay which every successful candidate at either of the higher examinations has printed for the edification of his friends. Besides the essay itself many particulars as to the author's parentage, &c. &c., are given.

Notes and Explanations.

(1) The ensuing Table includes the Ministers of the Grand Council, the Grand Secretariat, and the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs, composing the executive of the Central Government; and all civilian officers of the Provincial Governments above the rank of Taotai, with the exception of the Literary Chancellors (Hsüeh Chêng 學政). These officers take no part in the administration of executive government, and their names would merely cumber a List intended for the use of foreigners. In addition, all officers of and above the rank of Taotai concerned with International business in China or abroad have been included.

(2) Besides the posts held after reaching the rank of Taotai, as far as they could be ascertained, the writer has entered in the List the native Province of each official, and his *ch'u shên* (出身) or mode of first appointment, whether by purchase or by obtaining a literary degree, and, if the latter, the degree taken. The data thus obtained suggest several considerations of interest.

To those who regard China as under a foreign yoke it will seem strange that out of the 156 officials in this List, forming as they undoubtedly do the Supreme Government of the country, only 33 should be Manchus; yet such is the fact. The proportion of Manchus in the military service is perhaps greater; but it should be remembered that in China emphatically *cedunt arma togæ*.

It would appear that the purchase of office, from which huge sums have been obtained by the Government during the last twenty years, has affected to a very small extent indeed the higher offices in the State. Only 18 officials out of the 156 names in the List obtained their first appointment by purchase, and of these only 4 have reached the rank of Judicial Commissioner.

(3) In order to give an idea of the area of selection from which those who obtain the higher literary degrees in China are taken, the following rough estimate has been prepared.

Taking 30 years as the average age at which the degree of Metropolitan Graduate is obtained, and supposing European mortality tables to hold good, each man may be expected to live 32 years after taking that degree; and the examination being triennial, with the addition of *ngên k'ó* (恩科) or Special Grace Examinations, which may be estimated at 4 in the 32 years, there will be alive at one time 14 persons who have received the degree of Primus, and 4,900 Metropolitan Graduates, 350 being selected at each examination. Taking 25 years as the average age at which the degree of Provincial Graduate is taken, a man may be expected to live 36 years after taking the degree, and the other conditions being the same as with the Metropolitan Graduates, there will be alive at one time 21,168 Provincial Graduates, 1,323 being selected at each examination. Following Mr. Hippisley, who places the population of China at two hundred and fifty million, there will be 125

million males, of whom, according to the rough native estimate,* one-fifth or 25 million receive enough education to bring them within the area of selection. Then Primus is one in 1,785,000, a Metropolitan Graduate one in 5,100, and a Provincial Graduate one in 1,180. Mr. Galton, in his "Hereditary Genius," fixes the value of the epithet "eminent" when used in that work as one in 4,000, and "illustrious" as one in a million. The distinction at home, which bears most resemblance to that of Primus in China, is perhaps that of Senior Wrangler at Cambridge. Taking 23 as the average age of entrance to the Mathematical Tripos, there will be 37 Senior Wranglers alive at one time, 37 being the expectation of life for a man at 23 years of age. The number of males in Great Britain is nearly 16 million. Taking the same proportion as in China, viz., $\frac{1}{5}$ of that number as the area of selection, or 3,200,000, a Senior Wrangler would be one in 86,500. This comparison will not bear scrutiny: it is suggested merely as a help towards forming a rough idea of the value of degrees in China.

(4) An admirable account of the various official ranks and degrees mentioned in the following Table, will be found in Mr. Mayers' "Chinese Government," whence the English equivalents given below have been taken in every case.

The following abbreviations have been employed:—

M. 45=Metropolitan Graduate of the year 1845.

Pr.=Primus; S.=Secundus; T.=Tertius; Q.=Quartus.

P. G.=Provincial Graduate.

L.=Licentiate.

H.=Honorary Degree [蔭生].

M. S.=Military Service [軍功].

P.=Purchase [監生].

To save space the first two figures have been omitted in writing the year, e.g. 79=1879.

Ma.=Manchu.

Mg.=Mongul.

H.=Han-chün, [漢軍], the Chinese who went over to the Manchu side, when the latter possessed themselves of the Throne in the 17th century—Chinese Bannermen.

Chkg.—Chèhkiang; Chli.—Chihli; Fkn.—Fuhkien; Ho.—Honan; Hn.—Hunan; Hp.—Hupeh; Kan.—Kansuh; Kgsi.—Kiangsi; Kgsu.—Kiangsu; Kwei.—Kweichow; Kwtg.—Kwangtung; Kwsu.—Kwangsi; Ngh.—Nganhwei; Shen.—Shensi; Shsi.—Shansi; Shtg.—Shantung; Szch.—Szech'wan; Yün.—Yünnan; Two Kwang, Governor-Generalship of Kwangtung and Kwangsi; Two Kiang, Kiangsu, Nganhwei, and Kiangsi; Min Chèh, Fuhkien and Chèhkiang; Yün Kwei, Yünnan and Kweichow.

* 士農工商 in the proportion of 2.4-2.2.

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree.	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Chang Chao-tung a	張兆棟	Shtg. M. 45	.....	.....	.....	Szch. Oct. 64 Kwtg. Mar. 65	Ngh. 66 Kgsu. May 68	Kwtg. Aug. 71	Grain Trans- port Jan. 71
Chang Hsien	張 銑	Hn. P. G.	S'tow Jun. 65	.....	.....	Kwtg. Sept 79	.....	
Chang Mêng-yuan	張夢元	Chli. P. G.	Forsa. Sep. 79	.....	.....	.....	.....	Kgsi. Aug. 72 Kgsu. Jan. 73 Kwei. Feb. 79 Kgsi. May 79	Grain Transport Feb. 72 Two Kiang (act.) Nov. 72 Two Kiang Dec. 79
Chang Shu-shêng b	張樹聲	Ngh. L.	Kgsu. Jun. 66 (temp.)	.....	.....	Chli. Dec. 65	Shsi Aug 70		
Ch'ang-kêng c ...	長 賡	Ma. P. G.	Shtg. Jan. 68	.....	.....	Shtg. Feb. 73 Kwsi. Dec. 75	Ho. Feb. 79		
Ch'ên Lan-pin d...	陳蘭彬	Kwtg M. 53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ch'ên Shih-chieh e	陳士杰	Hn. M. 48	.....	.....	.....	Kgsu. Feb. 62 Shtg. Feb. 75 Fkn. Sept. 79	Fkn. Feb. 79		
Chêng Tsao-ju ...	鄭藻如	Kwtg M. 51	Tientsin Cus- toms Oct. 78	
Ch'eng-fu f.....	成 孚	Ma. ...	.....	.....	T'tsin Feb. 72 Kwtg Sept. 77	.....	Ho. Nov. 78 Kwtg. Feb. 79		
Ch'êng Yu	程 豫	Shen. M. 56	.....	.....	.....	Shsi. Mar. 75	Szch. April 76		
Chiang Jên-ching g	江人鏡	Ngh. M. 49	.....	.....	Yellow River Aug. 76	.....	.....
Ch'iao T'ing-k'uei	喬廷魁	Shsi P.	.....	.....	Kgsi. 76	.....	.....

(a) Retired in mourning, February, 1879.

(b) Appointed to assist Trêng Kuo-fan against the *Nien-fei* in North Kiangsu, June, 1866. Retired in mourning, November, 1874.

(c) Prefect of I-chou Fu, Shantung, December, 1865. Retired in ill-health in February, 1875.

(d) Appointed to the Staff of Liu Ch'ang-yu, who was commanding against the *Nien-fei*, December, 1867. Sent on commission of enquiry to Cuba; returned, November, 1874. Appointed Vice-Director of the Imperial Clan Court and Envoy to Spain, Peru, and the United States; left Shanghai in June, 1878, for his post. Appointed Senior Vice-President of Court of Censors, September, 1879.

(e) Recalled, April, 1879.

(f) Formerly a Secretary of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(g) Formerly a Secretary in the Grand Council; made Prefect of T'ai-yuan Fu, Shansi, September, 1870.

(h) Retired in mourning, March, 1876.

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor ^F (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Chin Kwo-shên ...	金國琛	Kgsu L.	Kan. Nov. 64	Kwtg. 76	.....	Kwtg. Nov. 78			
Ching-lien a	景廉	Ma. M. 52	.....	.....	.....	
Ch'ing-ngai.....	慶愛	Ma. ...	.....	.....	Kwsi. 76				
Ch'ing-yü b.....	慶裕	Ma. ...	.....	.....	.....	Shen. Dec. 77	Fkn. May 79	Moukden May 75 Kwsi. Dec. 79 Pkg. Aug. 78	
Chou Chia-mei c...	周家楣	Kgsu M. 59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chou Hêng-ch'í d	周恒祺	Hp. M. 52	.....	Shtg. Jan. 70	.....	Kwtg. July 75	Fuk. Sept. 77 Chli. Mar. 78	Shtg. May 79	
Chün-ch'í e.....	俊啟	Ma. P.	Sup. Customs C'ton May 79	.....	.....		
Chung Nien-tzu...	鍾念祖	Chli. P.	.....	.....	Yün. July 78				
Ch'ung-fu f.....	崇福	Ma. L.	.....	.....	.....	Hn. Jan. 74	Hn. April 76		
Ch'ung-hou g.....	崇厚	Ma. P.G.	Chli. Nov. 58 Tientsin 63	.....	Chli. 59	.....	.....	.....	Manc. Dec. 79 Chli. (act.) Feb. 63
Ch'ung-pao.....	崇保	Ma. M. 44	.....	.....	.....	.....	Kan. May 69 Shtg. Oct. 79		

(a) Military Governor of Urum-ts'í, 1874. Made Imperial Commissioner with chief command in Eastern Turkestan, August, 1874; a President of the Board of Revenue; a Minister of the Grand Council; and a Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Removed at his own urgent request and arrived in Peking, October, 1875.

(b) Recalled from Moukden, December, 1876.

(c) Formerly Chief Clerk in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs; now one of the Ministers of the Yamên. Retired in mourning, July, 1879.

(d) Appointed a Censor on the Shansi Circuit, November, 1862.

(e) Previously a Secretary in the Office of the Imperial Household.

(f) Appointed Assistant Superintendent at Jehol, June, 1879.

(g) Appointed Assistant Superintendent of Trade at Tientsin, October, 1860, and Superintendent in 1863. Sent as Envoy to France to settle the Tientsin massacre difficulty in 1870. From his return in 1872 until December, 1876, he was a Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Sent as Ambassador to Russia to settle the Kuldja question, August, 1878.

Name of Official	Province	Degree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'isioner)	Governor	Governor General
En-hsi <i>a</i>	恩 錫	Ma. H.	.....	.....	Shtg. Jan. 64	Shtg. Oct. 64	Kgsu. Dec. 70	Pekg. Oct. 65*	Gr. Tr. (act.) Nov. 73
Fan Liang <i>b</i>	范 梁	Chkg M. 40	.....	.....	Shtg. June 69	Shsi. Aug. 70 Chli. Sept. 70	Kwsi. Jan. 78		
Fang Ju-yi <i>c</i>	方汝翼	Chli. M. 55	Chef. Dec. 77	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fang Ta-shih	方大滉	Hn. L.	Ichang Oct. 79	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fang Ting-jui.....	方鼎銳	Kgsu M. 52	Wênchow 77 Chkg. Mar. 78	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fang Ting-lu	方鼎錄	Kgsu P. G.	.....	.....	Shen. Sept. 78	.....	.....
Fêng Yü-chi	馮譽驥	Kwtg M.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Shen. Oct. 79		
Fu Ch'ing-i.....	傅慶貽	Chli. M. 56	.....	.....	.....	Hn. 76	Ngh. Feb. 79		
Fu Kuan-hai <i>d</i> ...	傅觀海	Chli. M. 50	.....	Fkn. Aug. 65	Shtg. Nov. 73	.....	.....
Fu Shou-t'ung ...	傅壽彤	Kuei M. 53	.....	.....	.....	Ho. 77 recall- ed Oct. 78	.....	
Ho Chao-ying <i>e</i> ...	何兆瀛	Kgsu P. G.	Chkg. Jan. 67	.....	Kwtg. Mar. 78	.....	.....
Ho Ching <i>f</i>	何璟	Kwtg M. 47	Ngh. Oct. 61	.....	.....	Ngh. 65	Hp. April 65	Fkn. Aug. 70 Shsi. Aug. 70	Two Kiang (act.) Mar. 72 Min-Ché Dec. 76
Ho Ju-chang <i>g</i> ...	何如璋	Kwtg M. 68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

(a) Retired in mourning, January, 1878.

* Kiangsu (acting) March, 1872, and again November, 1872.

(b) Prefect of Yung-p'ing Fu, Chihli, January, 1860.

(c) A Secretary of the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs prior to this date.

(d) A Censor in the Kiang-nan Circuit, December, 1861. Retires in ill-health, May, 1879.

(e) Appointed a Censor, July, 1857.

(f) Was a Supervising Censor, March, 1861. Is Superintendent of Trade for the Southern Ports.

(g) Is a Fellow of the Han-lin College. Sent as Assistant Minister to Japan, September, 1876; made Minister, January, 1877.

Name of Official		Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'isioner)	Governor	Governor General
Ho Wei-chien.....	何維鍵	Ngh.	L.	H'kow	Apr. 70	.....	.....	.....
Hsia Chia-kao a...	夏家鏞	Kgsu	M. 52	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hsia Hsien-hsing b	夏獻馨	Kgsi.	M. 56	.....	Kwtg.	Nov. 78	.....		
Hsia Hsien-lun c..	夏獻綸	Kgsi.	P.	T'wan	Jun. 74	.....	.....	
Hsia Hsien-yün d.	夏獻雲	Kgsi.	M. 49	.....	Hn.	76	.....		
Hsü Ying-yung ...	許應鑠	Kwtg	M. 53	.....	.....	.....	{ Ho. Oct. 78 Kgsu. Nov. 78			
Hsüeh Yün-shêng e	薛允升	Shen	M. 56	Szch.	77	.....	Shsi. Mar. 78	Shtg. May 79		
Hu Yü-t'an.....	胡玉坦	Chli	P. G.	Ngh.	76	.....	Ngh. July 78			
Hu Yü-yün f.....	胡毓筠	Hp.	M. 59	.....	Chkg.	Dec. 76	.....		
Hua Chu-san g ...	華祝三	Kgsi.	M. 47	Kan.	May 66	.....	.....	
Huei-nien h	惠年	Ma.	H.	.....	.....	Hn.	76	.....	
Hung-hsü	洪緒	Kgsu	M. 35	Kiuk.	Sept. 79	.....	.....	
Jên Tao-jung.....	任道鎔	Kgsu	M. 45	.....	.....	.....	Kgsi. Sept. 75	Chkg. Mar. 78 Chli. May 79		

(a) Director of the Imperial Stud Court. A Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(b) A Censor on the Shantung Circuit, June, 1864. (c) Died, August, 1879.

(d) Second class Assistant Secretary in the Board of Punishment, March, 1858.

(e) Prefect of Jao-chou Fu, Kiangsi, August, 1873.

(f) A Censor on the Kiang-nan Circuit, June, 1865.

(g) A Censor on the Kwangtung Circuit. January, 1873.

(h) Name changed in 1877 from 惠齡 to 惠年 because the former characters have the same sound as those which designate the Mausoleum of the Emperor T'ung Chih.

Name of Official	Province	Degree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Ju-shan a	如山	Ma. M. 40	.....	Chkg. Mar. 70	Chli. Dec. 76	.....		
Jui-chang b.....	瑞璋	Ma. ...	N'po May 75	.....	.....	.....
Ku'ai Tê-piao.....	蒯德標	Ngh. M. 44	.....	.....	Hp. 76	.....		
Kung-hsüan	恭鎧	Ma. H.	Wuhu July 78	.....	.....	.....
Kung I-t'u c	龔易圖	Fkn. M. 59	Chef. Jan. 71	.....	.....	Kgsu. Dec. 76			
Kung, Prince d ...	恭親王	Ma. ...	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kuo Sung-tao e ...	郭嵩燾	Hn. M. 47	.....	Kgsu. June 62	Kgsu. May 63 Kgsu. Feb. 67	Fkn. Mar. 75	.....	Kwtg. (actg.) Oct. 63	

(a) Prefect of Han-yang Fu, Hupeh, 1857.

(b) Formerly a Secretary in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(c) Retired in mourning, August, 1878.

(d) Is the sixth son of the Emperor Tao Kwang, and Uncle of the late and present Emperors. On arrival of the Allied Forces before Peking in the autumn of 1860, he was deputed by his brother the Emperor Hsien Fêng to carry on the negotiations, which ended in the Treaty of Peking. Since that time he has taken a most active part in the administration of the Central Government, and especially in the management of Foreign Affairs. He was degraded in March, 1866, and again in September, 1874, ostensibly for improprieties in speech addressed to the Emperor; but he was reinstated on each occasion within a few days. He is the only member of the Imperial Family who takes an active part in political affairs and is the most powerful member of the Central Government. He is head of the Grand Council and of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(e) Is a Fellow of the Han-lin College. Strongly recommended to the Emperor Hsien Fêng, and appointed to the Imperial College of Inscriptions, January, 1859. Degraded two stops, January, 1860. While employed at Tientsin he applied for sick leave, but was summoned to the Capital, April, 1860. While acting Governor of Kwangtung in 1865, he asked to be allowed to retire on the score of broken health. In a Decree which appeared in the *Peking Gazette* of the 12th October, 1865, he is reprimanded in severe terms for making such a request; the Decree says that the application was made in dudgeon at the hostile criticisms passed on his administration of Kwangtung, and he is to remain at his post. Recalled from the Government of Kwangtung, March, 1866. After appointment as Salt Commissioner in Kiangsu in 1867, he again asked to be allowed to retire on the score of ill-health and was refused permission; but on a more urgent application from the Governor of Kiangsu, he was allowed to do so, September, 1867. Went to Peking and had audience, February, 1875. Was appointed Judicial Commissioner of Fukkien in the course of the next month, but was summoned to Peking in the following August, and was appointed a Minister in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs in November. In the beginning of 1876 he was appointed Envoy to Great Britain. During the time which elapsed from this date until November, 1876, when he left China, he made several applications to be allowed to go into retirement, but, although he was relieved of his duties as Vice-President of a Board, and allowed leave of absence, permission to retire from his post as Envoy designate was refused. Returned to China and retired July, 1879.

Name of Official		Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Kuo-ying a.....	國英	Ma.	L.	Shsi. June 69	.....	Kwtg. Jan. 74	Kwtg Sept. 77 Kgsi. Mar. 78	Kwsi. Dec. 77 S'chow Jan 78	{ Kgsu. (act.) Mar. 79 Fkn. June 79	
Lê Fang-ch'i	勒方錡	Kgsi.	P.G.	Kgsu. Sept. 75			
Li Chao-t'ang b...	黎兆棠	Kwtg	M. 56	Formosa 68 Tientsin 74	.....	.....	Chli. Jan. 78	.....	.....
Li Ch'ao-i	李朝儀	Kwei	M. 35	.....	Shtg. May 79	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pek. Dec. 79
Li Fêng-pao c.....	李鳳苞	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Li Han-chang d...	李瀚章	Ngh.	L.	Kgsi. 62	Kwtg. Feb. 63	.....	Kwtg. 63	{ Kwtgt. Oct. 63	{ Hn. Mar. 65 Kgsu. Feb. 67 Chkg. Jan. 68 Hp. Dec. 65 Ho. 67	{ TwoHuSep70 Szch. Jan. 76 TwoHuOct76 Min Chê Dec. 71*
Li Ho-nien	李鶴年	Fêng- tien	M. 45	Chink. Aug 62	.....	.....	Ho. Oct. 62	.....	.....	.....
Li Hung-chang e..	李鴻章	Ngh.	M. 47	Fkn. 59 Kgsu. 59	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ Kgsu. Apr. 62 (acting)	{ TwoHuFe67 Chli. S-pt. 70

(a) Retired in ill-health, February, 1879.

* Yellow River, September, 1876.

(b) Formerly a Secretary in the Yamén of Foreign Affairs; strongly recommended by Prince Kung for his efficiency in that capacity, January, 1863. Appointed to assist Shên Pao-chên, Governor of Kiangsi, April, 1863. Appointed Superintendent of Arsenal at Foochow, October, 1879.

(c) Formerly attached to the Foochow Arsenal. In 1877 sent by Li Hung-chang to Europe with M. Giquel and 22 Chinese students, who were to be taught naval warfare and engineering in England and France. He was also put in charge of the Chinese military students in Germany. In November, 1877, he was appointed 2nd Secretary to the Chinese Legation at Berlin with the rank of Taotai. Appointed Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, August, 1878.

(d) Appointed to assist in the levying of Transit duties (牙釐) in Kiangsi, June, 1860. Went as Special Commissioner on the Yünnan enquiry mission, June, 1875.

(e) Is a Fellow of the Han-lin College. Appointed to the Staff of the General acting against the T'ai-ping Rebels in Ngauhwei, 1853. Made Superintendent of Trade for Southern Ports, February, 1863. From 1862 till the fall of Nanking and final suppression of the rebellion, he commanded against the T'ai-pings. In 1866 was appointed Special Commissioner for the suppression of the Nien-fei rebellion. Appointed a Commissioner for settlement of the Tientsin massacre difficulty, September, 1870. Has the Title of Pei (伯) or 3rd order of nobility. Appointed Commissioner for the settlement of the Yünnan question; met Sir Thomas Wade at Chefoo, Sept., 1876, and signed the Chefoo Convention as Plenipotentiary for China. Is 57 years of age. Is Senior Grand Secretary, i.e., first Civilian in the Empire.

Name of Official		Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Li Hung-tsau a ...	李鴻藻	Chli.	M. 52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Chli. Sept. 70
Li Ming-ch'ih b ...	李明墀	Kgsi.	H.	.....	.....	Hp.	74 Fkn. Dec. 76	Fkn. Mar 78	} Fkn. Feb. 79 Hn. June 79	
Li P'ei-ching c ...	黎培敬	Hn.	Q. 60	Szch. May 79	Kuei. 74			Kuei. Oct. 75
Li Tê-ngê d.....	李德莪	Kgsu	M. 44	.....	.....	.....	Yün. May 78	.....	.....	.....
Li Wên-min e.....	李文敏	Shen.	M. 52	.....	.....	.....	{ Kwtg. Dec. 71 Kgsi. Feb. 72	Kgsi. Sept. 75	Kgsi. Aug. 78	
Liang Chao-hwang	梁肇煌	Kwtg	M. 53				
Lin Shu-hsün.....	林述訓	Ngh.	M. 50	.....	.....	Shtg. Dec. 79	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lin Chao-yuan ...	林肇元	Kwsi	L.	.....	Kuei. May 67	.....	Kuei. Aug. 70	Kuei. Oct. 75	.....	.....
Ling-chieh	靈杰	Ma.	H.	.....	.....	Chkg. July 71	Shtg. Feb. 79	.....	.....	.....
Liu Ch'ang-yu f..	劉長佑	Hn.	M. 49	.....	.....	.....	Kwsi. Oct. 59	{ Kwsi. May 60 Kwtg. June 71 Kwsi. Aug. 71	} Two Kw. Nov. 62 Chli. June 63 Yün-Kuei Dec. 75	
Liu Hsi-hung g ...	劉錫鴻	Kwtg	P.G.			
Liu Jui-fên.....	劉瑞芬	Ngh.	L.	Shanghai 77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

(a) Literary Chancellor, Honan, 1859; summoned to Peking, May, 1860. Appointed Tutor to the late Emperor T'ung Chih, May, 1861. Was a Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs and a Member of the Grand Council. Retired in mourning, October, 1877.

(b) In 1857 a second-class Secretary in the Board of Revenue. Afterwards a Secretary in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Prefect of Ch'ên-chou Fu, Hunan, May, 1860.

(c) Literary Chancellor, Kuei-chow, September, 1867. Degraded and recalled, February, 1879.

(d) Prefect of Tsau-l Fu, Kuei, February, 1861.

(e) Prefect of Fêng-yang Fu, Nganhwei, December, 1866. Prefect of Tientsin, December, 1867.

(f) Appointed Special Commissioner with full powers for the suppression of the *Nien-fei* in Chihli, Shantung, and Honan, June, 1863.

(g) A second-class Secretary in the Board of Punishments, 1876. Left China on the mission to England, November, 1876; removed to Berlin, November, 1877; returned to Peking, February, 1879.

Name of Official	Province	De-gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Liu K'un-yi 劉坤一	Hn.	L.	.....	.....	.....	Kwtg. 61	Kwsi. Oct. 62	Kgsi. June 65	Two Kiang (act.) Jan. 74 Two Kiang Sept. 75 Two Kiang Dec. 79
Liu Ping-lin 劉秉琳	Hp.	M. 52	T'tsin Sept. 75						
Lu Fu-lin 鹿傳霖	Chli.	M.	S'tow Sept. 79						
Lu Jên-k'ai 陸仁愷	Kwsi	M. 52	.....	Shtg. Feb. 79					
Lu Shih-chieh a... 盧士杰	Ho.	M. 53	.....	.....	Fkn. July 73	Fkn. Mar. 78	N'king Sep. 79 Fkn. Dec. 79		
Mao Ch'ang-hsi b. 毛昶熙	Ho.	M. 45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Peking (Vice-Gov.) Oct. 58	
Mei Ch'i-chao c... 梅啟照	Kgsi.	M. 52	.....	Kwtg. 66 Chli. Aug. 67	.....	.....	N'kg. June 69	Chkg. Mar. 77	
Ou-yang Chêng- } 歐陽正墉 yung }	Hn.	L.	Hp. Nov. 62 Hp. Jan. 69	.....	Kgsu. Oct. 76				
P'an Wei d..... 潘 霽	Kgsu	L.	T'tsin Jan. 62 Chefoo 62	.....	Chkg. Mar. 68	Fkn. June 69	Fkn. Aug. 70 Hp. April 77	Hp. Aug. 78	
Pao-hêng 葆 亨	Ma.	H.	.....	.....	.....	Kuei. Mar. 67 Fkn. Aug. 70	Fkn. Mar. 75 Shsi. Sept. 77		
Pao-yün e 寶 鋆	Ma.	M. 38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
P'êng Tsu-hsien f. 彭祖賢	Kgsu	M. 55	.....	.....	.....	.....	Kgsi. Aug. 78	P'king Jan. 78	
Pien Pao-ch'üan.. 邊寶泉	H.	M. 63	.....	Shen. July 77	.....	.....	Shen. May 79		

(a) A Censor in 1866 ; a Supervising Censor in 1872.

(b) Appointed to Supreme Command of Troops acting against the Rebels, in November, 1860. A Member of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Retired in mourning, June, 1878.

(c) Appointed a Censor on Chêhkiang Circuit, March, 1862. Prefect of Hui-chou, Kwantung, February, 1863. Summoned to Peking, October, 1879.

(d) Retired in ill-health, March, 1875.

(e) First Manchu Civilian of the Empire, Second Grand Secretary ; a Member of the Grand Council ; a Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(f) Is the son of a former Grand Secretary, P'êng Yün-chang.

Name of Official	Province	Degree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Commissioner)	Governor	Governor General
Shan-lien.....	善 聯	Ma. ...	.....	Shen. May 79	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shao Hêng-yü a...	邵 亨 豫	Chli. M. 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	} Shen. Sept. 72 Hp. Sept. 77 Hn. March 78	
Shao Hsien.....	紹 誠	Ma.	Ho. 74	Ngh. Oct. 74	
Shên Kuei-fên b...	沈 桂 芬	Chli. M. 47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Shtg. Dec. 63 (acting)	
Shên Pao-ching ...	沈 保 靖	Kgsu M. 58	Kiuk. Oct. 72	.....	.....	Kgsi. Feb. 79	.....	
Shên Ping-ch'êng.	沈 秉 成	Chkg M.	Yün. Jan. 65 S'hai Sept. 71	.....	.....	Ho. Jan. 75 Szch. June 75	.....	
Shên Tun-lan c ...	沈 敦 蘭	Chli. M. 46	Chink. Oct. 74	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shêng-t'ai d.....	升 泰	Mg. P.	Shsi. Dec. 71	.....	Shsi. 76	Chkg. Aug. 76	Yün. Aug. 78		
Shih Jung-kuang .	師 榮 光	Shen P.	.....	N'kin May 79	.....	.....	.....
Shih Nien-tsu ...	史 念 祖	Kgsu P.	Kan. Feb. 72	.....	.....	Shai. Feb. 69 Kan. Feb. 77	.....	
Ssü-t'u Hsü	司徒緒	... ..	Amoy Mar. 77 (acting)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Su-ch'ang	續 昌	Mg. ...	Chli. 77, New- chwang Sp. 78	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sun Chia-ku e ...	孫 家 穀	Ngh. M. 56	Ichang Sp. 71	.....	.....	Chkg. May 79	.....	

(a) Libationer of the Imperial Academy, May, 1867. Literary Chancellor, Fukien, September, 1867. Superintendent of the Granaries, December, 1871. Ordered to Peking and appointed Vice-President Board of Ceremonies, June, 1879.

(b) A President of the Board of War. An Assistant Grand Secretary; a Member of the Grand Council; Minister of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs.

(c) Formerly a Senior Clerk in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. Promoted from the Post of Censor to his present position.

(d) Prefect of Fên-chou Fu, Shansi, October, 1867.

(e) Prefect of Ning-hsia Fu, Kansuh, July, 1865. Formerly a Senior Clerk in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs. One of the "Co-Envoys" in the Burlingame Mission.

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Sun Ch'iao-tsé ... 孫翹澤	Kuei.	P.G.	.....	.....	.....	Hn. June 79			
Sun Ch'in-ang ... 孫欽昂	Ho.	M. 56	Fkn. May 79						
Sun I-yen a..... 孫衣言	Chkg	M. 50	Kgsu. Feb. 72	.....	.....	Ngh. Nov. 72	Hp. Sept. 75 N'kin May 77		
Sung-ch'ang 松長	Ma.	...	.....	Kuei. Jan. 78					
Sung-chün 崧駿	Ma.	P.G.	.....	Shtg. 76	.....	Kwsi. Feb. 79			
Sung-ch'un..... 松椿	Ma.	L.	.....	N'kin Mar. 76	.....	Shsi. May 79			
Sung-fan 崧蕃	Ma.	P.G.	Szch. Aug. 79						
T'an Chün-pei ... 譚均培	Kuei.	M. 62	Ngh. Aug. 78	.....	.....	Shtg. Feb. 79 Hn. Feb. 79	Kgsu June 79		
T'an Chung-lin b.. 譚鐘麟	Hn.	M. 56	.....	.....	.....	.....	Shen. 74	Shen. Mar. 75 Chkg. Oct. 79	
Tê-hsing 德馨	Ma.	L.	.....	.....	.....	Kgsu. July 78 Ho. Nov. 78	Chkg. Sept. 79		
Ting Pao-chên ... 丁寶楨	Kuei.	M. 53	.....	.....	.....	Shen Dec 62* Shtg. Feb. 63	Shtg. Oct. 64	Shtg. Mar. 67	Szch. Oct. 76
Ting Jih-ch'ang c. 丁日昌	Kwtg	L.	S'hai Jan. 65 Ch'ungch'ing Mar. 76	.....	.....	.....	Kgsu. Feb. 67	Kgsu. Jan. 68 Fkn. Dec. 75	
Ting Shih-pin d... 丁士彬	Ho.	PG	Szch. Aug. 78						

(a) Sub-reader in the Hanlin, January, 1858. Prefect of Ngan-ch'ing Fu, July, 1858.

(b) A Censor on the Peking Circuit, January, 1865.

(c) Formerly Superintendent of the Suchau Arsenal; One of the Commissioners for the settlement of the Tientsin massacre difficulty, September, 1870. Was Naval Commissioner at Foochow in 1874. Summoned to Tientsin to assist Li Hung-chang in the management of Foreign Affairs, June, 1875. Retired in ill-health, May, 1878. Sent as Special Commissioner to settle the Missionary difficulty, at Foochow, September, 1878.

(d) Formerly a Secretary of the Yamôu of Foreign Affairs; and attached in 1875 to the Yunnan Commission. Dismissed, March, 1879.

* (Acting.)

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
T'ing Shou-ch'anga	丁壽昌	Ngh.	M.S.	T' tsin Oct. 70*	.....	.....	Chli. June 78		
Ts'ai Fêng-nien ...	蔡逢年	Kgsu	M. 52	.....	.....	Szch. April 76			
Ts'ên Yü-ying b ...	岑毓英	Kwai	P.G.	Yün. April 66	.....	.....	Yün. Mar. 67	{ Yün. 74 Kuei May 79	Yün-Kwei (act.) Sept. 73
Tsêng Chi-tsé c ...	曾紀澤	Hn.	H.	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ Chkg. Aug. 63 Shsi. Aug. 65	{ Yellow River Mar. 75
Tsêng Kuo-chüand	曾國荃	Hn.	L.	.....	.....	Chkg. Feb. 62	.....	{ Hp. 67 Shsi. Sept. 76	.....
Tsêng-shou	增壽	Ma.	P.G.	Hn. Nov. 69	.....	Chkg. Aug. 78	Chkg. May 79	.....	.....
Ts'ui Tsun-yi	崔尊彝	Ngh.	P.G.	.....	Yün. 76	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tso Tsung-t'ange.	左宗棠	Hn.	P.G.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Chkg. Jan. 62	{ Min Ché Apr. 63 Shên Kan 66
Tu Jui-lien f	杜瑞聯	Kgsi.	M. 52	.....	.....	.....	Szch. July 75	Yüu. Oct. 76	Yün. Aug. 78

(a) A Censor in 1863.

* Tientsin Customs, September, 1878.

(b) Was a Member of the Yunnan Commission of enquiry, June, 1875. Retired in mourning, April, 1876.

(c) Is the eldest son of the late Grand Secretary Tsêng Kuo-fan, from whom he has inherited a title of the 2nd degree (候, *hou*), commonly rendered "Marquis." He is 41 years of age. While in mourning for his father and mother, who both died within the space of three years, and for each of whom the law required that he should remain in retirement twenty-seven months, he gave his time to the study of English. His mourning over, he arrived in Peking and had audience in August, 1877. In August, 1878, he was appointed Envoy to England and France; and he started for his post in October, 1878.

(d) Brother of Tsêng Kuo-fan, under whom he served against the T'aping Rebels. For his successes against the Rebels he obtained the title of Po, 伯, or third order of nobility.

(e) Strongly recommended by Tsêng Kuo-fan, whom he was appointed to assist in his command against the T'aping Rebels, May, 1861; appointed to command of Imperialist forces acting against the Rebels in Chêhkiang, November, 1861. Selected for the Supreme command of all the forces acting against the Mahomedan Rebels in the West, February, 1867. From this date until January, 1878, when the subjugation of Chinese Turkestan was completed, Tso was engaged to continuous hostilities against the rebels. On the fall of Kashgar the title of 侯, *hou*, or the second order of nobility, was conferred upon him. Is third Grand Secretary.

(f) A Censor, 1864.

Name of Official	Province	De-gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
T'u Tsung-ying ... 涂宗瀛	Ngh.	P.G.	Shanghai 70	.....	.....	Hn. Sept. 71	Hn. Jan. 74	Kwsi. Ap. 76 Ho. Dec. 77	
Tuan Ch'ia..... 段起	Hn.	P.	Kgsu. June 77	Kgsi. Dec. 76	.....			
Tung Chün-han ... 董儒翰	Chkg	M. 52	Ichang May 79		.....			
Tung Hsün b 董恂	Kgsu	M. 40	.....	.....	.....	
Wang Fu-pao c ... 王福保	Hp.	M. 62	.....	.....	Kgsu. 76				
Wang Hua-t'ang.. 王化堂	Ho.	M. 52	Yellow River Oct. 67	.....	Chkg. Feb. 79				
Wang Shu 王樹	Chkg	P.	Hainan 74		.....			
Wang Säü-yih ... 王思沂	Chkg	M. 53	.....	.....	.....	Ngh. Mar. 77	Shen. July 78		
Wang Sung-ling... 王嵩齡	Ho.	P.	.....	.....	Kgsi. 76				
Wang Ta-ching d. 王大經	Chkg	P.G.	.....	.....	.....	Hp. May 73	Hp. Aug. 78		
Wang Wên-shao e 王文韶	Chkg	M. 52	Hp. Oct. 64 Hankow 66	.....	.....	.....	Hn. June 69	Hn. June 72	
Wang Yü-tsao ... 王毓藻	Hp.	M.	.....	Kgsu. Nov. 79	.....			
Wei Yung-kuang f 衛榮光	Hn.	M. 52	Chefoo Nov 63	.....	.....	Ngh. Sept. 75	Chkg. May 76	Hn. Mar. 78	

(a) Retired in mourning, February, 1878.

(b) Acting Superintendent of Trade for the Northern Ports, February, 1863. President of the Board of Revenue; a Minister of the Yamén of Foreign Affairs.

(c) Retired in mourning, April, 1877.

(d) Ordered to Shanghai to assist Li Hung-chang against the T'ai-ping Rebels, June, 1862.

(e) In 1857 a 2nd class assistant Secretary in the Board of Revenue. Summoned to Peking and appointed a Minister in the Yamén of Foreign Affairs, August, 1878; appointed a Minister in the Grand Council, January, 1879.

(f) Retired in mourning, April, 1878.

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Wên Chung-han <i>a</i>	溫忠翰	Shsi. T. 62	Wênchow Mar. 78						
Wên-hui	文惠	Ma. L.	Kiukiang Feb. 79				{ Hn. July 61 Kwtg. Feb. 63 Kwsu. 72 Szch. June 75	Yün. April 76 Shtg. Oct. 76	
Wên-ké <i>b</i>	文格	Ma. M. 44	.....	.....	.....	
Wên-pei	文沛	Ma. P.	Chli. May 79						
Wên-pin	文彬	Ma. M. 52	Shtg. Dec. 75	.....	.....	Shtg. Jan. 68	.....	Shtg. Nov. 73	Grain Trans- port Mar. 72
Wêng Hsüeh-pên.	翁學本	Hn. P.	.....	.....	Fkn. Mar. 78				
Wu Shih-hsiung <i>c</i>	吳世熊	Chkg P.	Kgsu. June 66	Kgsi. June 77					
Wu Tê-p'ü	吳德溥	Szch P.	.....	Kuei. 76	.....	Kuei. Jan. 78			
Wu Tsan-ch'êng <i>d</i>	吳贊誠	Ngh. L.	Tientsin Nov. 74	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ P'king Sept 75 Fkn. (acting) May 78	
Wu Yü-lan	吳毓蘭	... ..	Tientsin Nov. 79						
Wu Yuan-ping ...	吳元炳	Ho. M. 60	.....	.....	.....	.....	Hn. June 72	{ Hp. Jan. 74 Ngh. Oct. 74 Kgsu. Oct. 74 Chkg. 74	Two Kiang (act.) Mar. 79
Yang Ch'ang-chüne	楊昌濬	Hn. L.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Kan. Oct. 79		
Yang Chung-ya <i>f</i> .	楊重雅	Kgsi. M. 41	.....	.....	.....	Kan. Feb. 71	Kwsu. Dec. 75	Kwsu. Dec. 77	
Yao Chin-yuan ...	姚覲元	Chkg P.G.	Szch. Nov. 71	.....	.....	Hp. Aug. 78			

(a) Literary Chancellor, Hunan, September, 1867.

(b) Recalled from Shantung, April, 1879, and made Political Agent at Urga, June, 1879. Dismissed, July, 1879.

(c) Commanded in Central Kiangsu under Tsêng Kuo-fan against *Nien-fei* in 1866.

(d) Attached to Li Hung-chang's staff in the operations against the *Nien-fei*, March, 1867. Director General of Foochow Arsenal, April, 1876. Resigned the acting Governorship of Fuhkien in consequence of ill-health, November, 1878. Retired in ill-health, October, 1879.

(e) Degraded and dismissed, March, 1877.

(f) Prefect of Ch'êng-tu Fu, February, 1860. Recalled, May, 1879.

Name of Official	Pro- vince	De- gree	Taotai	Grain Commissioner	Salt Commissioner	Judicial Commissioner	Lt.-Governor (Financial Com'sioner)	Governor	Governor General
Yeh Yung-yuan...	葉永元	Kwtg	L.	.....	.....	Fkn. Nov. 73			
Yü-k'uan.....	裕寬	Ma.	...	.....	.....	Shen. July 73	Ho. Dec. 77	Fkn. Nov. 78	
Yü-lu	裕祿	Ma.	P.	.....	.....	Ngh. May 68	Ngh. Nov. 72	Ngh. Oct. 74	
Yü-shan	豫山	Ma.	H.	.....	.....	Ho. Sept. 79			
Yü Ssü-shu a	余思樞	Ngh.	L.	.....	.....	Kuei. Oct. 75	Shtg. Jan. 78		
Yün Tsu-i	惲祖貽	Kgsu	...	.....	Chkg. Nov. 79	.....		
Yün Yen-ch'i.....	惲彥琦	Chli.	M. 59	.....	Hp. 77	.....		

(a) Recalled, April, 1879.

