TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1874.

SHANGHAI:

REPRINTED FROM "THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD, AND SUPREME COURT AND
CONSULAR GAZETTE."

1875.
To add to the completeness, and increase the value as a means of reference, of these Translations, an Index has been compiled for the present Volume.

An article on "The Peking Gazette," by W. F. Mayers, Esq., Chinese Secretary to H. B. M. Legation, contributed to the *China Review* for July-August, 1874, is reprinted here, by permission of the Editor, as an appropriate introduction.
I.—Status of the Peking Gazette.

Although not ostensibly issued as a publication in the name of any department of the Chinese Government, the daily record of Imperial decrees and rescripts, and of reports or memorials to the Throne, together with a brief notice of Imperial and official movements, forming a species of Court Circular, to which the name of "Peking Gazette" * is given by Europeans, has at the same time a distinctly official status assigned to it in the Institutes 會典 of the reigning dynasty. It is printed and published by persons in official employ, who are answerable for their conduct, moreover, to the police authorities of the capital. In the section of the Institutes which deals with the functions and attributes of the Board of War, which is also charged with the postal arrangements of the Imperial Government, the following provisions are embodied in relation to the subordinate department, constituting the recognized channel for the issue and transmission of the Gazette:

"The number of post-relay officials † stationed at Peking shall be sixteen. (Note.—One each for the following provinces, viz., Chihli, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Kiangnan, Kiangsi, Fuhkien, Chohkiang, Hupeh, Hunan, Shensi and Kansuh, Szech'wan, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yünnan, and Kweichow,—and one for the Grand Canal. The Governors-General and Governors of the respective Provinces shall submit to the Board, for the purpose of filling the above named appointments, the names of military graduates of the first or 進士 degree, or of officers awaiting nomination to captaincies. In case no properly qualified persons [of the above-named rank] be forthcoming, then graduates who have been duly admitted to the second or 舉人 degree may be nominated).

* The ordinary Chinese designation is 京報 or Metropolitan Announcements, but the publication is also styled 京抄—Copies from the Capital, and 部報, or Court Announcements.

† 前塘—lit. Forwarding Stations.
"They shall have it in charge to transmit to their destinations the official correspondence with the Boards and Courts; and to forward to the proper recipients the seals of office issued under Imperial patents. (N.B.—Here follows also a note descriptive, as above, of the details of procedure.)

"They shall print and issue whatsoever matters are to be promulgated and copied. (Note.—The provincial post-officials shall establish Pao Feng 報房 [Announcement, or Gazette, Offices],—and shall repair in person to the Liu K'o * to make transcripts of all imperial decrees and rescripts sent down, as also of reports and memorials to the Throne, etc. These they shall print and send on [to their respective Provinces]. As regards the memorials from the Boards and Courts to which the Imperial sanction or order for further deliberation has been given, and which it is proper to issue for transcription, the Government Office within whose department the matter falls shall make a copy of the original memorial, and having affixed its seal thereto shall hand it over to the post-official taking his quarterly turn of service, who shall each day print [the documents received] and despatch them to their destination. The post-official shall further be required to collect together the copies issued to him and the stamped original memorials, and to return them at the expiry of every ten days to the Board to which they appertain, to be placed on record. No documents which have not been issued from the Government Office entrusted with this duty shall be printed and issued. In all cases where matters which should be kept confidential are involved in any document, ten days must be allowed to elapse from the time when the Cabinet transcript reaches the Board, before it may be copied and sent out. In any case in which the Gazette makes its appearance earlier than the official despatch from the Board † the provincial high authorities shall impeach the post-official concerned. In any case of [issuing] copies of petty affairs, as also of promulgating false reports, betraying secrets, or similar misdemeanours, the Liu K'o and the Censors of the Five Divisions of the City are required to make stringent enquiry and inflict punishment)."—See 會典, Book 39.

II.—SUPPLY OF MATERIAL TO THE GAZETTE.

The following is a brief outline of the system pursued in supplying the various Government departments, including the Gazette offices, with

* 六科,—a Department of the 內閣 or Grand Secretariat divided, (as the name implies), into six bureaux, which are presided over by 給事中 or junior members of the Censorate. These officials act as supervisors or scrutineers of the transactions of the six administrative Boards.

† See the observation below on the method of transmitting Decrees, etc.
documents which are to be made known beyond the limits of the 軍機處 or Grand Council of State.* An officer of the Nui Koh is bound to attend daily at the palace to receive the memorials, rescripts, decrees, ordinances of appointment and promotion, etc., which the Council sees fit to issue, and these are taken to the Nui Koh, whose duty, as the grand Imperial Office of Record, or Chancery of State, it is to forward each to its proper destination. In order to save time, however, persons attend at the Nui Koh from each Board and other Government Office in Peking, to take informal copies of these papers, which thus become known before the official communication arrives; and among these daily copyists the agents of the Gazette offices are always foremost. It is in this manner, accordingly, that the matter which goes to make up the Peking Gazette is procured. The t’i-t’ang officials receive at the same time from the Nui Koh the despatches conveying authentic copies of rescripts and decrees for transmission to the Provinces.

III.—FORMS OF ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

The publication issued by the post-officials for the information of their respective provincial administrations is the only one recognized by the Chinese Government; but two other forms of issue flourish at the same time. One is the siēh pên, or written copy, a manuscript Gazette, issued by private enterprise, although of course not without a quasi-official sanction. Being more rapidly produced, it is usually some days earlier than the t’i-t’ang Gazette in its issue of the documents made public, and it is proportionately higher in price. The second form is known as the ch’ang pên, or “long” copy, thus termed in consequence of its being printed in a longer (and slightly narrower) form than the official or t’i-t’ang issue. The long form is also somewhat in advance of the regulation Gazette, but it is very badly—sometimes quite illegibly—printed, the characters being hurriedly engraved on sheets of wax, which are afterwards smoothed again to receive fresh matter.

In theory—as appears from the passage of the Institutes quoted—each t’i-t’ang office should print a copy of the daily Gazette for transmission to the provinces; but in actual fact, there is reason to believe, one

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* As is tolerably well known, this Council, although unrecognized in the Institutes of the Dynasty and conferring no distinctive post or emoluments upon any of its members, is the supreme consultative body by which the affairs of State are decided. Its origin may be traced to about the year 1730, when the present designation was adopted by the Emperor Yung-ch’ung for the council of princes and ministers with whom he surrounded himself. The titular “Secretaries of State” (內閣大學士) may or may not form part of this actual Cabinet, which meets daily at about 5 a.m. in the Palace to transact business with the Emperor. Its members seldom exceed five in number. They are assisted by a staff of some sixty secretaries.
printing-office undertakes the whole operation, as is the more natural and feasible proceeding. A certain number of copies are allotted to each office, and its individual title is imprinted at the lower corner of the first column on the opening page. The printing is effected by means of wooden moveable types, which, to judge from some specimens examined, are cut in willow or poplar wood, a cheap if not highly durable material. The types are arranged in the printing-office in cases not unlike those used by European typographers, from whom, indeed, this device has doubtless been borrowed, through the Romish missionaries of the 17th or 18th century. An average Gazette consists in 10 or 12 leaves of thin, brownish paper, measuring 7½ by 3¾ inches, and enclosed between leaves, front and back, of bright yellow paper to form a species of binding. The whole is roughly attached or “stitched” by means of two short pieces of paper rolled into a substitute for twine, the ends of which, passing through holes punched in the rear margin of the sheets, are loosely twisted together. The characters are stamped in red on the upper left hand corner of the yellow wrapper. The inside leaves, being folded double in the usual Chinese fashion, give some twenty or more small pages of matter, each page divided by red lines into seven columns. Each column contains 14 characters from top to bottom, with a blank space equal to four characters in height at the top, available for the elevation of characters expressive of different degrees of respect. The first page or two is occupied by what may be called the Court Circular,—the 宮門杪 or Palace Copies, consisting in a very brief abstract from the record kept by the Imperial Household (內務府) of audiences, presentations, and imperial movements. This abstract is furnished daily to the Gazette printers, and a strict injunction is laid upon them to print neither more nor less than what they receive through the official channel. The first column of this record, after setting forth the date of the Gazette, gives the names of the departments of State and of the Manchu garrison of Peking which take the tour of palace duty for the day. Immediately following this Court Circular are inserted the decrees or rescripts (i.e., direct replies to memorials) emanating from his Majesty, and the remainder of the Gazette is occupied by memorials from provincial governments or the metropolitan departments, among which the routine memorials of the Board of Censorate or the Constabulary (步軍統領 or 提督衙門) laying appeal cases before the Throne take up a conspicuous share. As a matter of course, documents respecting which it is desirable that secrecy should be observed are strictly withheld from the Gazette publishers, and do not, indeed, pass out of the hands of the Grand Council; but a latitude which
is in many respects singular may often be observed in the publication of decrees or memorials in which official laxity and corruption are unspARINGLY revealed. The reverence which is due to a decree emanating from the Emperor himself, in contrast to a simple official memorial, is exhibited in the inconvenient practice of publishing, in most cases, the decree severAl days in advance of the memorial upon which it is based. The circumstance is denoted, on the issue of the memorial itself, by the characters 已錄 (“already recorded”) appended after the words “rescript received in reply,” with which all such documents terminate.*

The Ti-t'ang officials transmit in due course copies of the printed Gazette to their respective provincial governments, and in each provincial capital an establishment exists, more or less under official sanction, by which a reprint is undertaken for circulation within the province. At Canton the Gazette office is in connection with the Yamên of the Prefect of Kwang-chow-fa. The impression is taken from plates of wax. From the same office a loose flimsy sheet of paper is also issued, furnishing a list of the official movements of the Governor-General and the Governor, the visits they have paid or received, and the appointments they have issued on each day. This is known as the 軍門報, and corresponds to the Court Circular issued in the Peking Gazette.

IV.—OFFICIAL CONTROL OVER THE GAZETTE.

It has already been stated that the issue of the printed Gazette is directly prescribed in the Institutes of the reigning dynasty, and although no proviso is therein contained for the sale of the publication, this is nevertheless tacitly sanctioned, and it doubtless supplies a considerable portion of the emoluments of the Ti-t'ang officials.† The pages of the Gazette itself have more than once borne witness to the strictness with which the publication is officially watched, and to the care exercised in excluding from its pages such documents as, from any cause, it is thought fit to withhold from public notoriety. . . . It was made known in November, 1873,

* It may be noted here that the translation “Respect this!” which is usually given for the two characters 敬此 with which all communications from the Emperor are made to end, is based on a misapprehension of the sense of this phrase. The two characters form no part of the Imperial wording, but are added by the secretaries of the Grand Council in the process of transcription, and simply signify “this, or the foregoing, [has been] reverently [received].”

† Few sights are commoner at certain hours in the streets of Peking than that of the Gazette carriers, who distribute copies to subscribers just as newspapers are delivered in European countries. The Gazettes are carried in a double wallet slung across one shoulder. For a copy of the “long” edition the subscription price is, to natives, about 25 cents [one shilling] per month. Europeans in general are charged somewhat more highly. The regulation or Ti-t'ang Gazette costs about the same sum, or a trifle more; but the M.S. edition costs (to Europeans) five Taels [about thirty shillings] per mensem.
that certain rules had been drawn up for the guidance of the copyists of documents and Gazette printers, which were communicated to the Ti-t'ang offices and reproduced by them in the following terms:

"The Cabinet copyists and the Gazette printers respectfully set forth below the regulations newly established for the Gazette offices by the worshipful authorities of the Censorate for the Central Division of the City, which they had the honour to receive on the 18th day of the 9th moon of the 12th year of T'ung-che (November 7th, 1873):

1. The Decrees of which copies are taken daily must forthwith be delivered to the different Gazette offices to be severally printed. In case, as has heretofore happened, any one shall take upon himself to omit the publication of announcements of remission of taxation and the like, he shall without fail be severely proceeded against.

2. The issue of each day is [not to fall short of] the limit of ten leaves. In case an unusual number of papers should on occasion be forthcoming, such as cannot be printed off at one time, the purport of the documents must in the first instance be clearly set forth, and a note must be appended stating how many documents remain unpublished, and that they will be continued on the following day. It will not be allowed henceforth to consider the [printer's] duty acquitted by the issue of merely four or five sheets at a time, as has heretofore been done, thus arbitrarily excluding matters from publicity.

3. On copies being made of all notices of Imperial appointments to official posts or missions, audiences of officials presented to his Majesty, and the monthly lists of selections for official appointments, the list must be printed in full. It shall not be allowed to omit, as has heretofore been done, notices of the appointments of Censors on probation and departmental officers of the Six Boards to temporary duty in connection with the police and granary affairs, etc.

4. The memorials and reports of each day must be printed off in full. Should any memorial be of unusual extent, the limit of ten leaves must not be strictly adhered to. The document must be printed to the end, and not, as has heretofore been done, be distributed over three or four days' issue."

The foregoing rules, printed on strips of paper without any distinguishing mark of official origin, were distributed among the Ti-t'ang offices which are congregated outside the Shun-cho (Su'an Wu) gate of the Tartar city of Peking. They have been observed with considerable fidelity since their appearance.
V.—ANTiquity of the Gazette.

It may be useful, in conclusion, to furnish a reply to the enquiry which has often been made with regard to the period to which the first issue of a Chinese Government Gazette can be traced. On this subject a collection of miscellaneous Notes, published about a century ago, under the title 通俗編 or Explanations of Common Things, contains the following jotting:

"In the biography of Ts'ao Fu, in the History of the Sung dynasty, the following statement occurs: 'Subsequently to the period Chêng-ho (A.D. 1111-1117) the Emperor (Hwei Tsung of the Sung dynasty) frequently went about incognito. At first this was scarcely known to the public, until, in an address of thanks from Ts'ai-king,* the following expression occurred—Your Majesty's light equipage has seven times honoured my abode. Upon this the matter became known on every side by means of the Court Announcement.†'

To the above extract the author adds the following note:—"The designation Ti-pao appears in this passage for the first time in the page of history. But in the 'Miscellanies of Sun Ts'iao' there is a section entitled 'On perusal of the Miscellaneous Announcements 雜報 of the reign K'ai-yüan (A.D. 713-741);' and furthermore in the Notes on the Poetry of the T'ang dynasty the following passage occurs: 'Han Yih being in retirement at his own home, a man one day knocked at his door and offered congratulations, saying—There is a Decree in the Court Announcements to the effect that one of the officials of the Court has brought your name forward, and you have been appointed to a secretaryship.'—Thus a Ti-pao existed already so far back as under the T'ang dynasty."

* An unworthy minion of the Emperor. † 邳報—see note at commencement.
INDEX
TO THE
PEKING GAZETTE
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1874.

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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ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

1874.

Jan. 1st.—(1) Edict. Appointing Kwei-chin to be Shih-lang in the Board of Works at Moukden, vice Eching detained on service at Peking.

(2) A Memorial from Le Hung-chang upon the necessary repairs to the river canals in Chihli, so as to prevent inundations. A memorial on the same subject had been presented by Sungnien, a member of the Nei-ko, and was referred to Le for his opinion. He remarks that these rivers are by nature liable to fill up from accretions of mud and sand, and have been always an expense to the Government. In the reigns of Yung-cheng and Kien-lung several hundreds of thousands of Taels were spent upon them, and the works extended over ten years. Of late the requirements of the Government for military purposes have left nothing to be expended on such works, and now they are in a lamentable state. Even in ordinary years, to say nothing of such exceptionally rainy years as have happened lately, they are liable to overflow. As regards repairs, it would no doubt be best to undertake the work as a whole and get done with it, but the expense puts this out of the question, and therefore he proposes for next year only two portions of work—one to deepen the branch of the Tientsin river which flows into the sea at Pei-tang, and also provide an extra means of draining off the water; and the other to embank the Ta Tsing river at certain places—the two together estimated to cost Tls. 290,000. He then states how this sum is to be raised, &c.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) From the same. He has investigated the case of two officers who had subscribed—one Tls. 10,000 and the other Tls. 8,000 for the relief of sufferers in Chihli, and who had consequently been recommended for promotion, which had been refused by the Board as contrary to Regulation; and he finds the promotion recommended was not irregular. He therefore prays it may be carried out.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(4) From the same, reporting further contributions for the same purpose—the Salt Commissioner Ch'en-fu Tls. 2,000, the Tientsin Taoutai Tls. 7,000; and asking for higher buttons for each.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

Jan. 2nd.—(1) Appointing Taung-chi (father of the present Empress) a Shih-lang in the Moukden Board of Revenue.

(2) Appoints Teh-chun Superintendent of Manchu Records in the Kwo-shih-kwan or National Record Office.

(3) Appoints Yeh-chu a Fu in the Yellow Banner.

(4) Memorial from the Censor Woo-ko-tuh, for the substance of which see Edict (2) of Dec. 25.

(5) From the Governor of Shantung Ting Pao-Chen, reporting that the office of Criminal Judge being vacant through the decease of the incumbent, he has directed the Superintendent of the Salt Gabelle for the present to undertake the duties in addition to his own, till a permanent officer has been selected.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 3rd.—(1), (2) and (4) Memorials from Ch'ang-shun Tartar-General of Ulissutai, reporting the dispersion of a band of banditti known as 回匪. He had dispatched three Generals in different directions to stop their inroads, and one of them named Chuling had met with the main body of rebels, and after a sharp fight succeeded in putting them utterly to flight and pursuing them till the scattered remnants took refuge in the mountain fastnesses. A quantity of arms including foreign rifles were captured, and 190 Mongolians men, women and children, whom the rebels were carrying away were released. From the depositions of those that were captured, it appeared that the band was affiliated with the Mohammedan rebels of Shensi, and had been at the siege of Hami. After being defeated there they had been forced beyond the pass, and were driven by want to take to marauding for a livelihood. Thirty rebels were made prisoners, and of these 28 were put to death.
in cold blood on the spot, as a rescue was feared; and the other two were sent to head quarters and there executed after examination.—For the Edict. See Gazette of Dec. 25.

(3) Tao Hên-chi, the new Acting Criminal Judge of Shantung, returns thanks for the favour thus conferred upon him.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 4th.—(1) An appeal from the Censorate. This is a long and rather intricate story, describing a sort of class warfare that has been going on for some time in the District of Suh-tsien in Kiangsu, in which the heads on both sides were graduates, several officials and clerks being as usual mixed up in the matter. Appellant, whose name is Lo Chien-chi, says his father five years ago was ordered by the Magistrate to arrest certain habitual robbers and receivers of the booty; but the attempt had only brought down on himself the vengeance of these said robbers, 80 of whom attacked his dwelling, killing four of the inmates, including his father, wounding others, and carrying off one of the girls and all the pigs, poultry, &c. The officials had arrested and executed five thieves, but the bad blood still continued and there had been other attacks and more murders, and so on; and though plaintiffs had petitioned in all the provincial yamen upwards, including the father, wounding others, and carrying off one of the girls and all the pigs, poultry, &c. The officials had arrested and executed five thieves, but the bad blood still continued and there had been other attacks and more murders, and so on; and though plaintiffs had petitioned in all the provincial yamen upwards, including the Literary Chancellor’s and the High Grain Commissioner’s, justice had not been done.

—The usual Edict appeared in Gazette of December 28th.

(2) Memorial from Têng Ching-ling, an under Censor, commenting strongly upon the evils of the present system of settling appeal cases by referring them to the Head Authorities of the provinces in which they arise. In most cases the Viceroy or Governor, as the case may be, is so overcrowded with work that he cannot personally hear the case, and so refers it to some of his subordinates; and the consequence usually is the case comes back for hearing before the Magistrate or Prefect whose decision is appealed against. The appellants are then beaten and bullied and forced to give evidence as the Court wishes. Thus the people lose confidence in the rulers, and all sorts of evils follow.

*The immediate occasion of these remarks is two appeal cases against the Sub-Prefect of Tsuén-hwa and his subordinates, for extortion, false imprisonment, wrongful beating, &c. This place is in Chihli, not 100 miles from the Capital.*—For the Edict see Gazette of , which refused to make any alteration in the present system.

Jan. 5th.—(1) Edicts. —The Emperor will in person, on the 9th Jan., again proceed to the Temple of Heaven, to pray for snow. Several high princes are deputed to pray in other Temples. Supplications to the same effect were made on 30th and 31st Dec., and a certain amount has fallen, but not enough for the requirements of the farmers.

(2) Appoints Wang Shu-ju-i, an Under Censor in the Board of Punishment, to the Surveillance Department of the Censorate.

(3) An appointment in the White Banner Corps.

(4) An Edict in answer to a report by the Commandant of Jêh-ho, conferring rewards on certain officers who distinguished themselves in putting down brigandage.

(5) Gazette of promotions after presentation.

(6) Memorial from Governor of Shensi, recommending Hsia Yu-hsun to be Sub-Prefect of Chien-chow.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(7) From the Tartar General of Ning-hsia in Kansuh, reporting, in answer to queries from the Board, that Kotuken, a Lang-chung in the Colonial Office, who had been detached for special service, is no longer required and may return to his proper post.—Rescript: Let the Yamên take note.

(8 and 9) From the Governor of Shensi, filling up a vacancy and reporting on certain officers who have recently joined the provincial staff.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

Jan. 6th.—Edict (1) His Majesty, on the representation of Chingleen, the Commandant of Ulumutchi, bestows yellow jackets on three Manchú officers, for bravery at the siege of Hami.

(2) The Imperial Travelling Department having petitioned for arrears of rent and interest on money lent to the Salt Department, now due for some years, Li Hung-chang is ordered to stir up the provincial Treasurer and Salt Superintendent, and see that everything is paid up by the time business is resumed after the New-year.

(3, 4) Memorials from Governor of Chekiang, reporting on two new arrivals after their year’s probation; and asking a month’s leave of absence for Seu Chih-hsiang, the chief examiner, in order to visit his family.—Rescript: Granted.

(5) From the same, reporting the trial and conviction of a desperate criminal, in Fung-hwa-haien, who had attempted to break out of prison and had killed one of the jailors and wounded another and a fellow prisoner, in the attempt. He has been sentenced to speedy decapitation, a confirmation of which is requested. The
fellow prisoner who was wounded may according to law be allowed to buy himself off from the remainder of his sentence.—

Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment consider and report without delay.

(6, 7) From the same, reporting on certain new members of the provincial staff and giving list of the names of several Graduates who had assisted the Literary Chancellor in the examination of the candidates' essays at this year's Examination for the first degree.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 7th.—Edict (1) Cheng-liu, a former Commandant in Ulunmutchi, but now degraded, had been accused of the wholesale murder of innocent citizens whom he called rebels, the confiscation of their property, &c.; and the case had been remitted to the Grand Council and the Board of Punishment for investigation, who had presented their report. The Censor Woo Ko-tu now memorialises for his immediate decapitation, (P. Gazette 17th January), and His Majesty appoints a further High Commission, consisting of the Ministers of the Presence, the Grand Secretaries of State, the Chiefs of the Six Boards and the Nine King, to consider and report both on the former report and the present memorial.

(2) Memorial from Fu-erh-sun, a Fu-tu-tung at Cha-pu, who had been specially commissioned on the occasion of His Majesty's ascension, to repair to the tomb of the Good Emperor Yli. He had reached the spot on the 25th of the 9th moon, and, selecting a lucky day, he performed the proper ceremony prescribed to him, with all due reverence.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) From Wang Ta-ching, the new Criminal Judge of Hu-peli, formerly Grain Taotai at Nanking, reporting his arrival at his new post.—Rescript: Noted.

(4 & 5) From Viceroy of the two Kiang, nominating a magistrate to Nan-hwei, left vacant by the transfer of Yeh to Shanghai, and asking for 20 days leave of absence for a little relaxation on account of ill-health.—Rescript: Granted.

Jan. 8th.—(1) Edict referring an appeal case from Moukden to the high authorities there, for determination.

(2) Memorial from Tushings, the Commander-in-Chief at Moukden, asking leave on behalf of a Captain named Tainglai to retire on account of heart complaint, and proposing Tokolunga for the acting vacancy.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of War take note.

(3) Another appeal case. Plaintiff states that he is a native of Tung-feng-hsien in Honan. His father, who had held the post of sub-prefect in several places, during a period of retirement for mourning had been induced by one Fan Ti-la to become bail for the wife and relatives of a defaulter named Ch'ang Lien-yuen. The bail had been forfeited and his father had to pay, and his attempt to recover against Fan Ti-la had caused much strife. Another party named Won Pao-an, who had had a
quarrel with his father, now made common cause with Fan Ti-la. These two, calling to their aid several ruffians, fell upon his father and inflicted such wounds that he died. At the inquest which followed, the parties so managed to throw dust in the Magistrate's eyes that the chief criminal, Wên Pao-an, was not even summoned for examination. Fan Ti-la unreservedly admitted his share in the murder, but before the case went to a higher Court, where he might have given evidence against Wên Pao-an, he was made away with. Plaintiff had carried his case to the other provincial courts without success.—Rescript ordering the usual investigation has already appeared.

(4) The Governor of Honan reports according to regulation upon a newly arrived officer of the rank of Prefect.

An enclosure states that he has directed certain magistrates who had recently been assisting at the examinations for the 2nd degree, to return to their proper posts.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 10th.—(1) Edict granting the Superintendent of the Salt Gabelle in Kwangtung leave to retire on account of ill-health.

(2) Memorial from the Gov. of Kweichow, nominating Wang Cheng-hsi to the post of independent sub-Prefect of Pu-an.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

(3) Memorial from Chiao Sung-nien, High Commissioner for the Grand Canal, sending according to instructions a biennial list of officers under his orders who have distinguished themselves in assisting the passage of the rice boats from Northern Kiangsu. This year they had had unusual difficulties from head wind and want of water, in some places they had to work night and day in clearing out the accumulated mud and tracking the boats, but fortunately all got through without any accident.—Rescript: Let the List be sent to the Board of Civil Office to consider and report.

(4) Memorial from the Gov. of Kweichow, nominating Ch'ang-yuen to be acting sub-Prefect of Tu-chiang. (He being still merely on probation cannot be permanently appointed.) The former nominee had been refused by the Board as disqualified by Regulation.—Rescript: Let the Board of Office consider and report.

Jan. 11th.—(1) An edict directing the proper Board to settle a suitable posthumous reward and title to be bestowed on Tsên-kwei-sze, a T'itu recently deceased, who had served in the army for 40 years, and in almost every province, and been honorably distinguished in many engagements. This is granted on the memorial of Li Hung-chang.

(2) Appointing Kwo-ying to be Salt Superintendent in Kwangtung.

(4) A long memorial from Ting Pao-ch'en, Governor of Shantung, reporting the successful steps he has from time to time taken in order to effect the arrest of the leaders of several bands of affiliated robbers who have for a long time infested the border districts between Shantung and Honan. This state of things, he says, is owing partly to the turbulent character of the people and partly to the disasters from the floods of the Yellow river. For a long time these bands, numbering several hundreds each, had defied the Government troops by their great rapidity of movement and the facility with which they escaped from the one province into the other; but by acting in conjunction with the authorities of the neighbouring provinces, the bands have been one after the other attacked and dispersed, and the leaders arrested. Their depositions, taken before execution, are given, from which it appears they had formerly belonged to the Nien-fu. One of them named Oh'ang Lin-sheng is described as of great personal strength and ability, so as to make him a match for several tens of men. A List is appended of officers who distinguished themselves, and rewards asked for.—Rescript: Let the List be sent to the Board to consider and report.

Jan. 12th.—This Gazette is entirely filled with a memorial from Ting Pao-ch'en, Governor of Shantung, reporting the result of an investigation into the suicide of a prisoner in the district prison of Po-ping. The magistrate, whose name is Li-kwo-jui, had forwarded two very different accounts of the facts of the case and the charge against the prisoner; and the death being otherwise attended with suspicious circumstances, the magistrate was deprived of rank for the purposes of a trial, and a thorough examination held before the Governor himself. The prisoner, who was charged with the murder of a woman named Li, had confessed in his first examination that he had gone to her house in the evening, at a time when he knew she was alone, thinking to persuade her to submit to his passion, but that as she called out loudly for help he had killed her to save himself from detection. Upon being again examined he denied this entirely, and stated that, being a distant relation of the woman, he had found her and another man named Chang San committing adultery, and had killed her in a moment of virtuous indignation. There being no eye-witnesses, it was impossible to tell which story
was true. The magistrate at this juncture had been obliged to go away on business, and the prisoner became very ill. He was consequently removed by the warden of the prison to the outer wards, where, taking advantage of a moment of liberty, he cut his breast open with a piece of old brass gong and died. The present inquiry has shown the prisoner's first confession to be correct. No blame can be attached to the magistrate, except for negligence, so that his rank may be restored to him, with the usual disciplinary penalties imposed; but the wardens of the jail must be punished according to law. The memorialist also prays that H. M. will be pleased to bestow some mark of favour in commemoration of the virtue of the woman Li.—Rescript: Granted as prayed for.

Jan. 13th.—(1) A Monthly Edict of promotions and appointments in the Civil Service.

(2) Memorial from Li Han-chang, Viceroy of Hu-kwang, and Kwo Pai-yin, Governor of Hupei, nominating Li Hsien-jui for the post of Prefect of Suijow. He had been already proposed and refused by the Board on the ground of his not having been presented at Court, but the memorialists urge the appointment notwithstanding, as he is the best man they can get.—Rescript: Let the Board fix the proper penalties.

(3) The Governor of Shan-si memorialises, asking that the usual penalties may be imposed on the magistrates of Hsin-su-y and Chi-hsien, for their carelessness in the selection of constables, who allowed a prisoner, under sentence of death by strangulation for the murder of his wife, to escape while being escorted to the provincial capital. The cart had got stuck in the mud, and they all alighted, and while some of the constables were doing one thing and some another, the prisoner managed to slip away and had not since been caught.—Rescript: The Board consider and report.

(4) From the Viceroy of Hu-kwang, nominating Hsie-chia-lan for the post of Prefect of Chien-li.—Rescript: Let the Board fix the proper penalties.

Jan. 14th.—(1) Edict. A sufficient quantity of snow not yet having fallen, the Emperor will again, on the 16th of January, offer up prayers in the Ta Kaou-tien. Four Princes of the Blood—Uncles of the Emperor—are directed to pray for snow, at the same time, in other specified places.

(2) A Monthly Gazette of movements among the Provincial Examiners and Officers of Instruction.

(3 & 4) Supplementary memorials from Tsung-shih, Commandant of Jeh-ho, reporting again upon the meritorious services of Tsen Fên-tseh in putting down brigandage; and asking that a former step of promotion which he had asked for Kao Sze-lung, as a reward for his Geomantic services in the construction of new Imperial Tombs, may be altered to a fourth button rank. He had been reported from two different quarters for the same promotion.—Rescript: Granted.

(5) From the same, reporting that he has handed over charge to Juileen, the newly-appointed Commandant, and will presently return to Peking.

(6) From the same, reporting the capture and execution of a notorious brigand named Chuang-lo-san. After his band was dispersed he managed to escape justice for a long time, but by the use of hired spies he was tracked out and seized. After execution, his head was paraded about the scenes of his crimes. A List is appended of officers who have distinguished themselves in connection with this affair, and the usual promotions asked for.—Rescript has already appeared.

Jan. 15th.—(1) Edict containing appointments to various posts after presentation at Court.

(2) The case of General Ch'eng-lu. In Gazette of Jan. 7th, an Edict appeared referring the case to a new Court consisting of nearly all the Chiefs in the Capital. The first Court was composed of the members of the Grand Council and Chiefs of the Board of Punishment, and they reported [side No. 5 in to-day's Gazette] that there was no statute to meet the particular case, but by analogy the penalty should be instant decapitation; but as Ch'eng-lu had acted on the information of others, they left it to His Majesty to say whether the decapitation should not be postponed for the present. Thereupon the Censor Wu-ko-too memorialised for his instant decapitation, and the case was referred, as we said, to the New Court. Their Report is the occasion of the present Edict, and they agree with the Grand Council. The sentence then seems to be, guilty but recommended to mercy. His Majesty accordingly orders that he be detained in prison till His fur-
ther pleasure. (Under this he may be executed at any of the ordinary autumn executions, or kept in prison indefinitely.) The Censor Wu-ko-too is degraded three steps, and removed from the Censorate, for having endeavoured to obtrude his private views on the Government.

(3) T'erhschinga is promoted to a 1st button rank and to be commander in Tur-pa'hatai.

(4) A proposal of the Governor of Shan-tung to embark certain portions of the Yellow River is referred to the Board of Revenue.

(5) Memorial from Prince Kung and the Members of the Grand Council. This is the Report alluded to above, in the case of Ch'eng-lu. It occupies this and the following Gazette. They begin by giving the examination of Ch'eng-lu himself, from which it appears that his defence is that he acted upon the information of the Hsien and Taotai of the district, and believed that the inhabitants of Kao-tai had really raised the standard of revolt. The difficulty began while the Mahomedan rebellion was raging, and many districts were suspected of being disaffected. He was left without supplies, and requisitioned the district of Kao-tai for the support of his army. They refused, and resisted his officers, and it was alleged that an encounter had taken place, and two of his soldiers been shot. The civil authorities reported their inability to keep order, appeals for aid came from several quarters against the so-called insurgents, and therefore he despatched the detachments who committed the atrocities charged against him. He was then categorically examined as to the specific charges made against him by Wu Ko-too, most of which are denied. The Council then discuss the evidence on the other side, and remark that the question hinges simply upon whether the people of Kao-tai really meant to revolt or were merely resisting a requisition, and they think there is not sufficient evidence of the former. Unfortunately both the Taotai and Hsien, on whose reports Ch'eng-lu said he acted, are dead, and the reports themselves are not forthcoming; but at any rate Ch'eng-lu is guilty in not having taken care to inform himself more correctly of the facts before resorting to such extreme measures. By the laws of China, whoever falsely alleges against others that they have turned rebels, and thereby causes their death, is liable to instant execution; and by analogy they think the punishment here should be the same, but they submit to His Majesty whether under the circumstances there may not be some mitigation.—For the Edict see January 7th.

January 16th.—(1 and 2). Edicts referring two appeal cases to the respective Provincial Authorities for determination.

Jan. 17.—(1) This Gazette is occupied with the memorial of Wu-ko-tu, the Censor, which has been referred to already, praying for the speedy execution of Ch'eng-lu. The memorialist protests that it was purely in a public spirit, and for the public interests that he made this charge, and without any private motive, for he has never seen Ch'eng-lu in his life. The cruelties and inhumanities practised are enough to bring down the vengeance of Heaven; and if the Emperor will thus, after having in person assumed the government, execute justice, it will be a signal token to all the world that he means to rule uprightly and according to the laws. Various cases are then quoted, of offenders high in office, to prove that whenever they have been executed success has attended the armies of the Empire or other good fortune has followed, but if not the reverse has been the case. The fact that no snow has yet fallen this year is no doubt owing to justice not yet having been done, and other calamities are sure to follow. Heaven is dissatisfied and men are discontented. The Censor cares not for his own life, that he is willing to lay down at the bidding of the Emperor, but his position of Censor requires him to demand justice, and he cannot rest till that is done.

(2) Memorial from the Imperial Travelling Department, as to which see Edict of 6th January. They want funds for the proposed expedition to the Western Tombs in Spring.

Jan. 18th.—(1) Edict conferring rewards and promotions on officers who have distinguished themselves in putting down the disturbances by the Man-fei (蠻匪) in Szechuen. A report has been received from the Tartar General and Viceroy, stating that these rebels gave a great deal of trouble last year about Wo-pien-t'ing, but have now been subdued.

(2, 3 and 4) Memorials from Liu Yo-chow, Viceroy of Kweichow and Yunnan, reporting that a Ti-tu under his orders has been allowed to go to Peking to be presented at Court. He ought to have gone on the occasion of his promotion, but could not then be spared. Po-tsang has been appointed acting during his absence.

Two enclosures report acting appointments, the one for a Ti-tu, who has got leave of absence on account of ill-health,
the other for a Tsung-ping retired in mourning.

(5 and 6) Two enclosures from Ying Han, Governor of Anhwei, reporting on a new arrival after his year's probation, and asking that Fan Yun-p'eng, Prefect of Teng Yang, who has been specially reported for merit, and therefore ought to go to Peking, may be allowed to stay a few months longer to finish certain work.—Rescript: Granted.

(7) Chiang-shun, Commandant of Ula-sutai, reports that two officers on their way to Peking were stopped by rebels, and hopes that if they have exceeded their time on the way it will be overlooked.

(8) Memorial from Ching-lun, for which see Edict (1) of January 6th.

(9) From Prince Kung, asking that Wen-hai, a Chang-ching in the Grand Council, may be replaced by Wen-lin from the Board of Office, the former being unfit for duty from ill-health.—Rescript: Granted.

Jan. 19th.—(1 and 2) Memorials from Liu Yo-chow, Viceroy of Kweichow and Yunnan, nominating new Prefect for Shun-niing, an important frontier city recently recovered from the Moham edan rebels [it is said that Li-ching, well known as the proprietor of establishments bearing his name at Shanghai and Canton, did good service at the recapture of this place, by supplying foreign arms &c, and the provincial capital of Yunnan. A long account is given of the antecedents and qualifications of each nominee.—Rescript: Let the Board of Office consider and report.

January 20th.—(1) Edict. The Emperor having, at the request of the Dowager Empress and the Empress-mother, decided to visit the Western Tombs during the 2nd month, and there being no sufficient funds in hand for the purpose, Li Hung Chang is directed to cause the Provincial Treasurer to pay Tls. 12,000 into the Privy Purse. Economy is however recommended, as after the return a strict account will be taken of all expenses.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung Chang, reporting the result of an investigation into the circumstances under which two prisoners under sentence of death had escaped from the prison of Ling-show haisen. One had been imprisoned for rape followed by murder, and the other for having kicked a man and caused his death, and both were awaiting the autumn executions. The Magistrate was away on public business, when one night there came on a fearful storm of wind and rain. Both the inner and outer jailors had retired, and the prisoners assisted one another to wrast off their manacles, and escaped over the walls. An alarm was given and they were followed, but in vain, though one had since been retaken. The law in such cases, of allowing a prisoner to escape, where no bribery or corruption is shown, is a punishment two degrees less than the prisoner's, that is three years' banishment in this case, which must accordingly be inflicted on the warden of the prison; but he will be allowed the usual time to effect a recapture. Milder punishments are inflicted on other parties concerned, and the Magistrate is to be afterwards dealt with if he fails to recapture the prisoners in five months.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

Jan. 21st.—(1) Memorial from the Viceroy and the Governor of Kiangsoo, reporting upon the rice crop for the last year and the amount to be forwarded to Tientsin. They complain that vast tracts of land laid waste by the Taepings are still uncul tivated, and even in what has again been brought under cultivation the people are so poor that they are hardly able to pay their taxes. Moreover, last year the crops in many places suffered from the drought, and so the sum total this year will be rather less than last year, but more than for the 8th year of T'ung-chih. Over 600,000 piculs will be sent by sea, besides what the provincial treasurer may purchase in lieu of the contribution of those districts that pay in money.—Rescript: Noted.

(2) Memorial from the Tartar General in Shansi, asking that a certain Manchu officer, whose period of service has expired, may nevertheless be allowed to remain, as he is required to interpret for the military authorities.—Rescript: Granted.

(3) From the Viceroy of the Two Kiang, reporting various acting appointments consequent upon the removal of the High Grain Commissioner.

(4) A supplement to (1), stating how the Kiangsoo officials propose to make up the proper complement of rice for Tientsin. The China Merchants S. N. Co. is to be authorised to buy 85,000 piculs, about 4/5ths of the quantity short, and the purchase money is to be got from the Shanghai and Chinkiang Foreign Customs duties; the rest to be procured by other means.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

Jan. 22.—(1) Memorial from the Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow, nominating Ch'eng Tsing-sheng for the post of sub-Prefect of Ch'en Yuen in the sulphurous districts. This is a post of difficulty, the greater proportion of the people being Ee (夷) barbarians, and not easy to manage.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.
(2) Memorial from the Viceroy and Governor of Kiangsoo, forwarding a report from the Grain Taotai and Provincial Treasurer, relative to the new arrangement by which the Grain tribute has to be delivered at T'ung-chow instead of at Tientsin as formerly. The conveyance of the rice up the river to the former place will now be in the hands of the provincial officials, and they propose to establish new offices at both places, to superintend all necessary matters. By paying the cargo-boats the ordinary fare, instead of merely the Government fare as formerly, and by a strict system of supervision, they hope to put a stop to all peculation. The expense will no doubt be something greater, and they are at present considering the ways and means to meet that.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(3) From the Governor of Kiangsoo, asking that Soo Cheng-fu, a naval Show-pei on the Ta-hu lake, may be deprived of rank in order to be tried on a charge of conspiring with others to falsely accuse certain loyal subjects of being thieves and rebels. —Rescript: Granted as prayed.

Jan. 23rd.—Edicts (1, 2, 3) Appointments in the white Banner Corps and other high offices in Peking.

(4) Referring the appeal case of Li Hsin-yu to the High Provincial authorities for determination.

(5) An appeal from Moukden, forwarded by the Censorate. The appellant, a Manchu petty officer named Ch'ang-yunho, brings a rather complicated story of his having got involved in difficulties through no fault of his own. A certain tract of land had been given out to him for pasturage, and he cultivated besides a certain quantity. Two other petty officers had got into a squabble about accounts, one accusing the other of squeezing and appropriating to himself part of the men's pay; and appellant, being a friend of one of them, was dragged into the controversy and accused of appropriating and breaking up public land for his own use. The case had been taken to Peking and referred back to the Tartar General, and it was clearly proved that all the accusations were false. But the charges had been renewed, and his brother had been seized on a similar charge and thrown into prison, where he died. He himself had also been imprisoned, and the case had been dragging on for four years without a final decision; so he had sent his retainer Ch'ang-lin to present his petition at the Censorate.—Rescript ordering an investigation has already appeared.

(6) From Linshu and Chihho, two shih-lang in Moukden, reporting that the re-pairs to certain halls at the Western Tombs being completed, they had selected a lucky day and reverently replaced the Tablets in order.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 24th.—An Edict decreeing that prayers be again made on 29th January, for a fall of snow, by the Emperor in person and other Princes of the blood royal.

(2) Shao Tun-yu, Governor of Shansi, having petitioned for a mark of Imperial favour in respect of a sub-prefect named Ch'ang Chi-kung, who perished during the Taiping rebellion along with his whole family, it is ordered that the hereditary rank of Chi-wei, which formerly belonged to his family, be continued in the nearest collateral branch of his line.

(3, 4, 5) Referring three appeal cases, from Chihli, Honan, and Hunan respectively, to the High Provincial Authorities for determination.

(6) Memorial from Prince E-Hwan and other Ministers of the Presence. This is the last of the Ch'eng-lu series, and has already been noticed in the Edicts on the subject (see Gazettes of 15th and 16th Jan.) They simply support the decision already arrived at by the Grand Council and the Board of Punishments. Then follows a memorial from the two members of this second Commission, who refused to sign the verdict, explaining that this refusal was not because they dissented from the finding against Ch'eng-lu, but because they could not consent to the censure against Wu-ko-t'u. His language may have been too strong, but on principle every latitude should be allowed to Censors, and they are satisfied he acted in good faith in the public interest.

Jan 25th.—(1) Memorial from Le Hung-chang requesting the Emperor to confer a posthumous reward on Taên Kwei-sze, a Ta-tu recently deceased, who had served in the army for a long period. A long account is given of his various services, from which it appears that the honor is asked more as a reward for long and faithful services than for any particular exploit. He entered as a common soldier, and rose by his own efforts through all the various grades, having been often honourably mentioned for bravery, especially against the Taepings.—For edict see Gazette of January 11th.

(2) From the Viceroy of Canton, Jui-lin, reporting that the Salt Superintendent has been long suffering from ill-health, and asking that he may be allowed to retire and that the post be declared vacant. He has been compelled to leave off work already, and the Viceroy has in the meantime directed Fung T'wan-t'êng to take charge. (In
Gazette of 10th-11th January, edicts appeared granting leave to retire and appointing a new Superintendent.

(3) From the same, returning thanks to his Majesty on behalf of Tsen Chao-chung, who has recently been promoted to the post of Tsung-ping (Major-General) at Chao-chow-foo—he being at present in mourning, though retained in office for pressing reasons, cannot memorialise direct.—Rescript: Noted.

Jan. 26th.—(1) Edict ordering Shih-chen, a high official who had been reported as late in coming to take his turn of duty, to give a satisfactory explanation to-morrow.

(2) Referring the appeal case of Ching Chili-mow to Governor of Shantung, for determination.

(3) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang, reporting the result of an investigation into a complicated case brought forward by a man named Yang Feng-chai, from Shun-jhsien, who appealed to the Censorate at Peking, and got a decree directing the Board of Punishments to inquire and report. A great number of persons were involved from first to last, but the affair seems to have arisen from the ousting of certain tenants who were unable to pay their rent, and re-letting the land to others. There was also an alleged dispute about boundaries. Yang and his friends, who had been ousted, had gone and cut the crop at harvest time and carried it off by violence, and though they had been sued, and ordered to repay its value, they expressed their intention of doing the same thing the following year. The parties in possession prepared to defend their rights, and this led to a free fight in which sticks and firearms were freely used, resulting in one man being killed and several wounded.

The memorial concludes with apportioning blame and punishments to both sides in a seemingly very impartial manner.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

Jan. 27th.—Edict promoting Chow Chin-mei, a lang chung in the Board of Ceremonies, to be an expectant Ching-t’ang.

(2) An appeal case forwarded from the Censorate. Appellant states she is from Hsin-yea-hsien in Honan; that her late husband Ch’ang-po-chung having a feud with a neighbour named Chang-tung-ming, on account of lawsuits, their house was broken into at night and her husband carried off, no one could tell whither. Some time after, his body was found in a pond, bound up with hempen ropes and with a big stone tied round the loins. This stone was afterwards identified as having been taken from the well of one Ch’ang-ma-k’-en. Subsequently it leaked out that Ch’ang Tung-ming had plotted the murder, along with others, and an accusation was brought against him in the district Court, but by bribery he had managed to stop the hearing. A second inquest having been ordered by the Prefect, the defendant had caused the coffin to be thrown into the water, thus scattering the bones and preventing the possibility of an inquest. The clerks in the Yam-n had sent up a false report and nothing had been done, and so she sent her brother-in-law to lay her plaint at Peking.—Rescript: Noted. 

(3) A memorial from the Granary Dept., forwarding a list of the grain escort between Tung-chow and Peking, who this year exerted themselves in transporting the grain to the capital, and asking that suitable rewards be conferred.—Edict has already appeared.—This is followed by another to the same effect, respecting the officials employed in the Granary office in Peking.

(4) An appeal from Honan, forwarded by the Censorate. Appellant, named Chiu Tsung-san, complains that his father and two of his wife’s relations, while travelling, were attacked by a band of mounted robbers, headed by one Li Sing-chien, who demanded their cash and, being refused, wounded and plundered them of all they had. Two died at once of the wounds, but the third lived long enough to give an account of the murders. The Magistrate of Yung-Ch’eng had been applied to, but failed to effect an arrest, and even when the head robber had come back he refused to do anything, having been bribed to let the matter drop. Appeals to the higher provincial authorities had produced no effect, and he had brought his case to Peking.

Jan. 28th.—(1) Edict.—The excuse pleaded by Shih-chen in reply to Edict of 26th Jan., namely, that he had fallen from his horse and so was late for office, not being sufficient, the proper Board is ordered to inflict the customary penalty.

(2) An Edict conferring promotions at the instance of the Grand Council, on officers who have assisted at the compilation of certain national Records (probably a history of the Taeping Rebellion.)

(3) Ordering the Board of Office to inflict disciplinary penalties on Teh-heu for allowing a State prisoner to escape. The authorities in Peking are ordered to assist in the re-arrest.

(4) A further requisition on behalf of a Department of the Household is made upon the Province of Chihli for Tls. 10,000, in
view of the expenses of the visit to the Western Tombs in spring.

(5) A memorial having been presented from Ching-show, setting out that the interest on money lent by the Yuen-ming-yuen Banners and the three Household Banners, to the Salt Commission at Liang Hwei (in Kiangsso), has for many years been in arrear and is now very much wanted, orders are given to the High Salt Commissioner and the Governors of Shantung and Homan to see that the whole arrears, now amounting to over Tls. 100,000, be repaid forthwith.

(6) A long memorial from Ting-pao-chen, Governor of Shantung, respecting proposed repairs to the embankments of the Yellow River. Surveyors had been sent out after the floods had subsided, whose reports were now come to hand. Two breaches, one in Poochow and the other in Tung-ning-hsien, require to be filled up, the materials to be supplied by Government and the labour by volunteers—cost 300,000 odd Taels. At the same place a dyke of some 260 li should be built; the cost would be over a million Taels. Altogether a million and a half Taels are necessary, of which sum the Board of Revenue has furnished 300,000; but ways and means must be devised for raising the rest. Rescript:—Edict, referring the repairs to the embankments of the Yellow River. Surveyors had been sent out after the floods had subsided, whose reports were now come to hand. Two breaches, one in Poochow and the other in Tung-ning-hsien, require to be filled up, the materials to be supplied by Government and the labour by volunteers—cost 300,000 odd Taels. At the same place a dyke of some 260 li should be built; the cost would be over a million Taels. Altogether a million and a half Taels are necessary, of which sum the Board of Revenue has furnished 300,000; but ways and means must be devised for raising the rest.

Jan. 29th.—(1) Li Hung-chang having reported upon several District Magistrates for incapacity or mal-administration of public affairs, they are hereby degraded or dismissed from office.

(2) Memorial from Mutuoan, the Tartar General at Ning-hsia in Kansuh, asking that one of his officers may be dismissed from office, for negligence and inattention to his duties, and another for desertion.—Rescript:—Granted as prayed.

(3) Ho Ting-chien, Literary Chancellor of Kwangtung, asks for a month's leave of absence.—Rescript:—Granted.

(4) From Im-lin, Viceroy of Canton, stating that he has appointed Lon-chen acting prefect of Kao-chow, the proper incumbent, Yu-k'un, being retained as acting at Hwei-chow-foo.—Rescript:—Noted.

(5) From the same, reporting for rewards certain officers who had been successful in putting down a small rebellion on the borders of Yunnan, headed by one Suh Kwo-hian. The affair was partly reported before, and the present is an additional list for rewards. The affair does not seem to have been of any importance.—Rescript grants as prayed.

Jan. 30th.—(1) Edicts fixing the sacrificial ceremonies at the approaching New Year.

(2) Appointing Wen-kwei superintendent of Customs at Hwei-an in Kiangsoo.

(3) Appointing Tukarh to be Ts'au-ts'au in Ullassutai, and directing him to start for his new post at once.

(4) Memorial from the Viceroy and Tartar General of Szechuen, reporting the suppression of a disturbance by a body of rebels called Man-fei in Wu-ping-ting. The affair was not of any great importance, though it took nearly a year to restore order, nor does it appear from what it originated. At first only a few troops were sent, and they fell into an ambush and suffered some loss. Orders were sent for more, and after some fighting the rebels were dispersed and order restored.

For the Edict see Gazette of 18th Jan.

Jan. 31.—(1) Edict appointing T'au Tsung-yin, at present Criminal Judge, to be Provincial Treasurer of Hunan, and Tsung Fu to be Criminal Judge.

(2) Directing the proper Board to bestow the usual mark of Imperial favour on the daughter of a man in Peking named Ho En-tsaao who, hearing of the death of her betrothed, vowed eternal chastity and took poison and died.

(3) Appointing Wu Yuen-ping (at present Provincial Treasurer of Hunan) to be Governor of Hupeh.

(4) It having appeared from the final revising of the examination papers of last year's Chi-jen examinations at Peking, that the papers of a certain candidate named Sen-ching-chun, who had been allowed to pass, were in style and composition rambling and nonsensical, it is ordered that the chief and assistant examiners be degraded 2 degrees (e.g. from a 2nd to a 4th button), and be removed from their posts. (The chief examiner is a President of the Board of Punishment, and one of the assistants is Hu Chin-yu, the Censor who recently accused the Governor of Kiangsi of levying illegal tolls). The chiefs of the Board of Ceremonies are also reprimanded for not having been more severe when they first discovered the offence.

(5) Cheng-lien, the Commandant of Ulumuchi, having reported the dispersion of the great body of Mahomedan rebels who had marched westward after their defeat at Hami to the pass of Kung-chin-fung (the rebels seem to have been induced by treachery to place themselves in an unguarded position, and so were attacked and
mercylessly put to the sword), it is ordered that the usual rewards &c. be bestowed on the distinguished officers.

(6) The land in certain portions of Chihli is the property of the Imp. Household or the Eight Banners, and is rented out to the farmers for cultivation. This year a certain proportion of the rent was remitted by edict, owing to the bad harvest, but it is alleged that the Land Bailiffs have been extorting the full rent and even demanding the rice given as Government charity. If this is true it ought to be severely punished, and an inquiry is ordered accordingly.

(7) Permitting the Governor of Hupeh to retire on account of ill health.

(8) Wên Kwei, a Ta’an-taen in Uliasutai, having been reported for misdeeds, is ordered to return to Peking and receive the reprimand of the Board.

(9) Memorial from the Literary Chancellor of Kiangsoo, reporting the expiry of his three years term of office. In a postscript he asks a month’s leave of absence.

(10) For this see Gazette of 20th Jan.

(11) From the Literary Chancellor of Shantung, reporting arrival at his post and thanking His Majesty for the honor.

The edicts contain the following:

Feb. 1st.—Edicts containing several appointments to the offices left vacant by the removals ordered in Edict (4) of yesterday. Chungshih is made a President of the Board of Punishments &c.

Feb. 3rd.—(1) Edict appointing Ching Chun to be acting Fu-hing at Tasharh.

(2) Appointing Hûning to be Assistant Superintendent of the Imp. Stables.

(3) Memorial from Wu-T’ang, Viceroy of Szechuen, reporting favourably of a Manchu clerk who has served for six years—the normal period—in his Yamen, and asking that he be appointed an expectant Hsien. When his relief comes he will be sent to Peking.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board take note.

(4) From the Governor of Chekiang, stating that he has heard of his uncle’s death, for which he is entitled to a month’s leave of absence. He does not ask for this, but merely that he be exempted from appearing at any public ceremonies during that period. He will perform his other duties as usual.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) From Chang Chih-hing, Literary Chancellor of Szechuen, reporting his arrival at his post and returning thanks for the appointment.

(6) The edict (1) was made further appointments in consequence of the dismissal of the examiners decreed in Gazette of 31st January.
In an enclosure, he states that he finds there is a son of his father's cousin serving in the province, and wishes to know whether the latter is bound to resign. The relationship is not within the terms of the law on this point, which extends only to descendants in the direct line or to brothers and uncles in the collateral, but he wishes the opinion of the Board on the matter.—Rescript: Let the Board consider and report.

Feb. 4th.—Edicts. (1) The Governor of Honan having reported that the grandmother of the Prefect of T'An shih has reached the age of 100 years, the Board of Ceremonies is directed to bestow the usual mark of Imperial favour.

(2) Notwithstanding repeated supplications, no sufficient amount of snow has yet fallen, and the heart of the Emperor is greatly moved. He has fixed the 6th Feb. as another day on which prayers will be made by himself in person in the Ta-kaou-tien, and other Princes are directed to proceed to other places for the same object.

(3) An appeal from Honan, forwarded through the Censorate. Appellant states that his father, having sold an ox and a mule to one Taao-fu-shing, had gone several times to ask for payment; and one day when he had again gone for that purpose Taao-fu-shing got into a passion, called to his sons, and they together set upon him and beat and imprisoned him so that he died the night after. Complaint was laid, but the examining clerk at the inquest was bribed and reported the case as one of suicide. An appeal to the higher provincial authorities produced an order for the examination papers of the candidate, Sen Ching-chun (see Gazette of 31st Jan). The Refulgent, "require repairs, the Astronomical Board is directed to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for the commencement of the work.

(2) An appeal from Honan, forwarded through the Censorate. Appellant states that his father, having sold an ox and a mule to one Taao-fu-shing, had gone several times to ask for payment; and one day when he had again gone for that purpose Taao-fu-shing got into a passion, called to his sons, and they together set upon him and beat and wounded him so that he died the night after. Complaint was laid, but the examining clerk at the inquest was bribed and reported the case as one of suicide. An appeal to the higher provincial authorities produced an order for the examination papers of the candidate, Sen Ching-chun (see Gazette of 31st Jan). The Refulgent, "require repairs, the Astronomical Board is directed to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for the commencement of the work.

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(4) A memorial from Tao Tsung-tang, asking 6 months' leave of absence for an officer named Ch'ên-tsê, who has for a long time been general manager of Military Affairs. He wishes to revisit his home, to look after his family graves, and there is no objection on the part of the provincial authorities.—Rescript: Granted.

(5) Memorial from Tao Hén-yu, Governor of Shensi (which was referred to in Edict 2 of Jan. 24th) bestowing a hereditary title on the next of kin now living of Chang-chi-kung. The title of Chi-wei had been bestowed soon after the events, on the descendants of a brother, but they forfeited the rank by treason. But it is urged that, to soothe the manes of Chang-chi-kung, who died so bravely, the title should be revived in the next line.

Feb. 5th.—Edicts. (1) It having been reported that two of the Imperial Mausolea known as "The Happy" and "The Refulgent," require repairs, the Astronomical Board is directed to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for the commencement of the work.

(2) An appeal from Honan, forwarded through the Censorate. Appellant states that his father, having sold an ox and a mule to one Taao-fu-shing, had gone several times to ask for payment; and one day when he had again gone for that purpose Taao-fu-shing got into a passion, called to his sons, and they together set upon him and beat and wounded him so that he died the night after. Complaint was laid, but the examining clerk at the inquest was bribed and reported the case as one of suicide. An appeal to the higher provincial authorities produced an order for the examination papers of the candidate, Sen Ching-chun (see Gazette of 31st Jan). The Refulgent, "require repairs, the Astronomical Board is directed to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for the commencement of the work.

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(4) The Chiefs of the Board of Ceremonies are ordered to reply to a memorial from an under Censor, Kwo Tsung-chih, accusing them of irregularities in dealing with the examination papers of the candidate, Sen Ching-chun (see Gazette of 31st Jan). The Refulgent, "require repairs, the Astronomical Board is directed to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for the commencement of the work.

(5) A memorial from the Board of Ceremonies, reporting the above case of Sen Ching-chun. It seems one of the candidate's blunders was in treating the term Kung-yang (公羊), the name of one of the sections of the Spring and Autumn classic, as two words, and writing a discussion on each accordingly (so that he probably had one essay on "Public" and another essay on "a Sheep," instead of a single essay on one of the classics.) Their first decision was to fine the examiners 9 months salary each; but the Board of Office took the matter up, pointing out that, by precedent, a penalty of degradation two degrees and removal from office should be imposed. Though not quite coinciding with the view of the Board of Office, they beg to refer the case to His Majesty.—Rescript appeared 31st Jan.

(6) An appeal case from Honan, in which appellant, named Ting-yung, complains that
Feb. 8th and 9th.—(1) Liu K’uen-i, Gov. of Kiangsso, having in obedience to Edict (1) of 11th Dec. replied to the charges of Hu Chia-yu the Censor, His Majesty finds that it is true that Hu Chia-yu and his nephews have not paid their taxes for a number of years; that they are not entitled to exemption; and that the correspondence regarding the new taxation Rules was commenced by the Censor himself, all of which is wrong. As he has already been degraded and removed from office (on account of his conduct as examiner at the last Chih-jo examinations (see Gazette of 31st Jan.), it is ordered that he be handed over to the proper Board, for a disciplinary reprimand.

(2) Upon a memorial from Tso Tsung-t’ang, a number of rewards and promotions are given to Civil Officers serving in the Kansuh Army. A higher degree of the rank of Tu-tsei is conferred on the descendants of one Liu Sung-san, who was killed while serving in the same province.

(3) The department of the Board of War for the supply of horses having lent money to cultivators in Chihli, interest on which is now in arrear to the amount of Tls. 18,000, the various district magistrates are ordered to see that the amount is paid up at once.

(4) The Viceroy of Kweichow and Yunnan being on the point of repairing to the Capital to have Audience, reports having handed over his seals of office to the Governor of Yunnan.—The latter adds an enclosure to the effect that he has, in obedience to instructions, inquired into the case of Tsang-wei-yung, a Sub-prefect, who died more than 12 years ago fighting for his country, and finds it to be worthy of his Majesty’s notice as had been reported to him.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report.

(5) An appeal from Chi-yang-hsien in Shantung. Appellant states that his brother Tsang Tso-fang had two coolies, one of whom, Fu Kwei-tze, had been detected in a theft by his fellow Tung Lien-ching, and thereby conceived a hatred against him, resulting in Fu Kwei-tze falling upon him one night when he was asleep, gagging him, tying him hand and foot, carrying him outside the village, and throwing him into a well. Next morning Tung Lien-ching was nowhere to be found, but at night his body was discovered floating in the well. At the inquest Fu Kwei-tze’s father had by bribery been able to trump up a story that appellant’s brother’s wife, having been guilty of adultery with one Tsang and others, had been discovered by the deceased, and so suggested that they were the guilty parties. His brother’s wife and the others
have been imprisoned, but the real murderer had not yet been arrested. He has also been informed by letter that his mother had since been arrested, and died in prison and from the greenish appearance of the body there was no doubt that she had been poisoned.—Rescript has already appeared.

(6) Woo T'ang, Viceroy of Szechuen, reports the termination of the Military Examinations.

February 10th and 11th.—(1) Gazette of changes in the service for the 12th moon.

(2) A robbery having been committed of articles from a Temple at Nan Kan-tze, three of the thieves have been arrested, and are ordered to be sent to the Board of Punishment. The other parties implicated must be found without delay.

(3) Referring three appeal cases to the respective high provincial authorities.

(4) An appeal from Chiao-ho-hsien in Chihli. Appellant states that his brother, Liu Kwei-yuen, having skinned and dressed, for the purpose of being eaten, a plough ox which died of disease, a small military officer, a Pa Tsung named Seu-Wan-p'ing, accused him before the Hsien of having killed the animal for that purpose, (it is an offence according to Chinese law to kill a plough ox), and he was imprisoned. A scholar of the place having ventured to remonstrate, Seu ordered some of his men to beat him, and they beat him to death. Then knowing he had done wrong, Seu kills one of his own men, and cuts himself in several places, and reports that it was the people in plaintiff's village who had done it; and under pretence of punishing the supposed outrage, he attacked the village with over 200 armed soldiers and plundered it. Plaintiff's son and nephew had been arrested, and by excessive torture were made to confess that they had killed the soldier. Seu being in league with the other authorities, no redress could be got, and so he had brought his plaint to Peking.—Rescript has already appeared.

(5) An appeal case from Ta-chu-hsien, in Szechuen, where the widow of a graduate by purchase, named Li Shih-tsiang, accuses a nephew and others of the murder of her husband, in the hope of obtaining a sum of 600 taels which would go to the nephew of 600 taels which would go to the nephew and others of the murder of her husband, in the hope of obtaining the sum and so he had brought his plaint to Peking. —Rescript has already appeared.

(6) Acting appointments reported by the Viceroy of Fukien.

Feb. 12th and 13th.—(1) Pien Pao-chuan, an under-censor, having presented a memorial with reference to the recent dispute between the Governor of Kiangsi and the Censor Hu-chia-yu, asking how it was that the Governor did not find out sooner about Hu-chia-yu being so much in arrear with his land tax, and how he did not object to the illicit correspondence till they fell out about something else: His Majesty remarks that the Governor is certainly to blame for this, and directs the Board to impose a disciplinary penalty.

(2) Edict confirming the punishment imposed on Shih-chen for having been so late in taking his turn of duty, (see Edict 28th Jan.) viz., that he be degraded one degree, without the right of set off, and be fined half a year's salary for three years. The salary is what he draws by virtue of his hereditary rank of Kung. The superintendent of the silk manufactory is to be degraded two degrees and removed to another post.

(4) Memorial from Prince Kung, &c., for which see Edict (2) of 28th Jan. In another memorial he reports new appointments in the office of the Grand Council.

(5) Memorial from Lungchin, reporting Shih-chen, (see Edict (2) above.)

(6) Reply of Shih-chen, see also former Edicts of 28th Jan., &c.

(7) Another memorial from the Grand Council asking rewards for certain supernumerary translators and copyists, whom they have been obliged to employ.—Rescript has appeared.

Feb. 14th and 15th.—(1) The mother of Li Hung-tao, a member of the Grand Council and President of the Board of Works, having attained the age of 80, H. M. has been pleased to bestow a scroll written by his own hand in commemoration of the event.

(2) Tushainga and Chihho, who have undertaken the repairs of the Fu-ling, one of the Imperial Mausolea, report that the Pao-hsia, a small box containing a portion of the classics, and some gold and silver which ought to have been in the cupola on the roof of one of the halls was not there, although there was no crack in the brickwork. Another is ordered to be made, and the officers Tsao-pao and Hu Chia-yu who had the management of the last repairs, and
reported the box as all right, are ordered to explain. [This box is a charm against lightning, tempests, &c.]

(3) A list of Magistrates reported by Li Tsung-shtib for incapacity, and removed accordingly.

(4) As the Empress-mother will have completed her 40th birthday next year, and the approaching New-year being the first after the Emperor has assumed the Govt., various honours are bestowed on the Princes of the Blood and other high officials, on the occasion.

(5) A List by Pao Yuen-shen, similar to No. (3.)

(6) Memorial from the Gov. of Honan, for which see Edict (1) of Feb. 4.

(7) From the Literary Chancellor of Kan-suh, reporting having taken over the seals of office.

(8) The new acting Grain Commissioner for Kiang-soo reports having assumed office, and the former Commr., Wên-kwei, reports being about to start to relieve the Governor of Shantung, who has a year’s leave of absence.

16th and 19th Feb. This Gazette is the first issued after the China New-year, and contains a longer heading than usual of the Court movements for the day, including notices of New-year’s presents, &c.

(1) An Edict conferring an honorary step of promotion on certain officers of the Imperial Guards.

(2) A memorial from the Governor of Hunan, for which see Edict (2) of 2nd Feb.

(3) Memorial from Chên Hung, an under Censor in the Board of Works department of the Censorate, the substance of which was quoted in the corresponding Edict (6) of 31st Jan.

(4) From the Governor of Fohkien, requesting leave to present himself at Peking to pay his respects to the Emperor, after three years residence at his present post. [He states that it is the law to do so after the completion of three years].—Rescript: Granted.

(5) The Governor of Hupei requests leave to retire on the ground of ill-health.

(6) Memorial from the Censorate reporting the case of the young lady who poisoned herself on hearing of the death of her betrothed. (See Edict 2 of Jan. 31st).

Feb. 20th and 21st.—(1) Two Magistrates in Shan-si had been charged by the Censorate with corruption and other misconduct, and the Governor was ordered to investigate and report. He has now reported that as regards one of them, the Magistrate of I-cheng, the charges were false; all he had done was to buy a small piece of ground as a burying-place for his mother without reporting the fact. [Officials are not allowed to buy land within their own jurisdiction. Even if for such purpose as a burying-ground, they must report and obtain permission]. As regards the other, the charges were true, but he is dead and so nothing need be done. The Emperor directs that the former be reprimanded, and that his doorkeeper, who had been guilty of extortion, be ordered back to his native place.

(2) An appointment as Taotai of a circuit in Shantung.

(3) The Governor of Shantung sends a list of candidates for the degree of Chii jen, who are over 80 years of age. [It is customary to give the degree as a reward to such venerable candidates, who have persevered though repeatedly plucked.]

(4) From the same, reporting the case of a young girl, daughter of Liu En-show, whose betrothed died before the marriage, and who, persistently refusing all other matches, went and devoted herself to nursing the deceased’s aged father. This she did for six years, and when he died she reverently prepared the coffin and had him conveyed to his proper burying-place. This example of filial piety deserves reward.—Rescript decrees the erection of a memorial arch.

Feb. 22nd and 23rd.—(1) A memorial from a junior member of the Censorate, objecting to certain parts of the decision come to by the Board of Ceremonies regarding the papers of the Candidate Sîng-chung-chun (see Feb. 5th, Art. 4 & 5). The objection is that the errors in the essays were not sufficiently grave to justify the Board in striking the candidate off the roll of Chii-jen. He quotes precedents to show that this by law can only be done if the essay contains (冒犯) subversive or revolutionary language, and not for mere mistakes. In the latter case the proper course was to refuse to allow the candidate to compete for the further degree till after a certain period.—Rescript, directing the Board to reply, has already appeared.

(2) Hiang-sen-chiai, the Literary Chancellor of Moukden, reports arrival at his post.

(3) From the Governor of Kiangsoo, asking a month’s leave on behalf of one of the provincial examiners.

(4) From Heitze, Warden of the Imperial hunting grounds, reporting having inspected the Imperial highway leading to Jehho and the various stations along it, and found all in order.
Feb. 24th, 25th.—This Gazette is entirely filled with the annual report (and enclosures) from the Governor of Chekiang, regarding the last year's rice crop, and stating what amount is available for remittance to Tientsin. He complains that in the grain producing districts there are still large tracts of devastated country not yet again brought under cultivation. The authorities have endeavoured to induce immigration from other provinces, but without great success. Moreover, during the past year, the crops in many places have suffered from drought, and so the total amount of grain to be sent this year to Peking is only 324,400 piculs. This is 120,000 piculs less than last year. The Prefectures that pay taxes in grain are Hangchow, Chia-sing and Hu-chow; the others pay in silver. By way of supplementing the deficit he proposes to buy 40,000 piculs with money partly raised from the provincial Treasury and partly from the savings in the hand of the grain Taotai. Orders have been given that the whole be forwarded to Peking forthwith, by sea, via Shanghai. The Prefectures of Chia-sing and Hu-chow are bound to supply a certain quantity of white rice (a fine quality), and it is requested that, owing to the bad season, an abatement may be made on this also.—Rescript: Granted.

Feb. 26th and 27th.—(1) A memorial from the Grand Council, stating that they have reappointed Li Sze-ping a supplementary Chang-ching.

(2) The Viceroy of Szechuan sends a list of candidates for the second degree who are over 80 years of age, asking that the usual honorary degree may be conferred. In an enclosure he states having appointed an acting Prefect in Ch'eng-tu, the provincial capital.

(3) The Literary Chancellor of Hupei reports having arrived at his new post and taken over the seals of office.

(4 & 5) The Literary Chancellors of Kiangsi and Hunan report to same effect.

Feb. 28th.—The Censor Téng Ch'eng-siu having memorialized requesting that the levy of an impost on the gambling lottery called Wei-sing 關姓 (Literary Examination Surnames), which has hitherto been collected by the Government of Kwangtung, be henceforward prohibited, a Decree is issued to the effect that gambling is in itself contrary to law, and at the period of the literary examinations it is more than ever desirable that it should be stringently repressed. If, as the Censor states, an impost is actually levied under some pretext on behalf of the public exchequer from such a source, the proceeding is improper in the highest degree. The Governor-general Juilin and the Governor Chang Chao-tung are enjoined at once to abolish the impost and to issue a proclamation strictly forbidding the practice.

(2) The Grand Secretary Wensiang having requested permission to resign his office on the score of ill-health, he is accorded two months' sick leave, and need not vacate his post.

(3) The Governor of Chekiang, Yang Ch'ang-sun, reports certain proposed regulations for the grain transport of the coming year. After referring to the exemptions and deficiencies of levy still entailed in the three Prefectures of Hangchow, Kiahing and Huchow, in consequence of the destruction and depopulation caused by the rebellion, as also by the floods and droughts of recent years, the Governor reports that the grain due at Peking for the year 1874 shall be forwarded by the new sea-route, with all diligence, immediately after the opening of navigation. Of ordinary rice the quota to be sent forward, with allowances for waste etc., is 317,524 piculs, and of superior rice 71,989 piculs.

(4) The Board of Ceremonies is ordered to consider a proposition by the Viceroy of Shensi and Kanauh, to establish a separate Examination Hall for the latter province, owing to the great expense and inconvenience the students are put to in travelling all the distance to the capital of Shensi.

(5) An Edict directing all Viceroy and Governors to leave the higher military appointments of Ts'iu-tu and Chen-tai to be filled up from Peking. This was the old law, but it seemed to have become customary to fill up vacancies on the recommendation of the provincial chiefs. A nomination by Tao Tsung-t'ang is the occasion of this Edict.

(6) Several literary appointments in the Han lin yuen, and Imperial Library, (two of which are re-appointments of the degraded examiners in the case of Seu Ching-chin.—See Feb. 5th.)

(7) Memorial from the Superintendency of the Eastern division of the Tartar city (a branch of the Censorate), reporting the capture of some thieves who recently broke into a Temple. (See Edict. (1) of Feb. 11.)
March 1st.—The Governor of Kiang-si, Liu Kw'en-yih, replies in a short memorial to the rejoinder made to him by his adversary the Censor Hu Chia-yü. He repeats his allegation that the Censor and his brothers have improperly evaded payment of the land tax due on their ancestral property in Kiangsi for 20 or 30 years past, and denies the truth of the excuse assigned by Hu Chia-yü for this shortcoming; to wit, that the lands in question have been overflowed. He further charges the Censor with having on repeated occasions written privately to himself on matters relating to provincial affairs; and accuses him of an attempt to bully him, in his recent correspondence, into a course of action different from that which had been adopted with the Imperial sanction.

March 2-3.—(1) Arrangements are made for the Emperor’s progress on the following day to offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien and other temples.

(2) On the application of the Governor of Ngan-hwei, several District Magistrates and minor officials are dismissed from public service for offences such as “laxity in control of subordinates,” “trickery,” “stupidity,” and so forth.

(3) The auditor Pien Pao-tsüan presents a memorial severely reflecting upon the conduct and language of the Governor of Kiang-si, Liu Kw'en-yih. He refers to the accusations brought by the Governor against his adversary the Censor Hu Chia-yü, observing that these are now brought forward only in the way of recrimination; and that if, as the Governor states, the Censor has habitually interfered in provincial matters by corresponding privately with himself, it is a flagrant neglect of duty on the Governor’s part to have failed in denouncing this conduct. He begs that future time with a button of the third degree.—Trans.

(2) The ex-Censor Hu Chia-yü returns thanks for his Majesty’s gracious favour in degrading him five steps and removing him to other employment.

(3) The Prince of Ch’un having reported that the alterations made in the decorations of the Temple at the Imperial mausolea are not in accordance with the ancient form, paint having been substituted for lacquer on the pillars and crossbeams, the Board of Works are commanded to enquire when this change was made.

(4) Regulation memorials from the Governors of Hu-nan, Shan-si, Che-kiang, and Fu-kien, forwarding the names of the candidates at the last year’s literary examination who, although having failed to take degrees, are entitled, on the ground of their being above the ages of 80 and 90, to receive honorary degrees as an act of Imperial grace. In Hu-nan alone there were four candidates above the age of ninety, and sixteen above the age of eighty. Their productions in the shape of essays being all of a creditable nature and their handwriting correct, their names are duly submitted for the honorary degree. In Shan-si there were four candidates above the age of ninety and five above eighty. In Che-kiang, five above ninety and twenty-six above eighty. In Fu-kien, four above ninety and twenty-six above eighty.

March 3.—Memorials from the Governors of Kwang-tung and Kwang-si, submitting the names of the nonagenarian and octogenarian candidates in their respective provinces. In Kwang-tung there were six above the age of ninety and thirty-three above eighty. In Kwang-si one candidate is reported as aged 98, and one as aged 97.

March 4-5.—(1) A long memorial from Pao Yuan-shü, Governor of Shan-si, setting forth the particulars of an enquiry into the conduct of a District Magistrate accused of owning property within his own jurisdiction.

March 6-7.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office memorialize reporting their judgment on the conduct of high officials, and request that the individuals be severally dismissed from public employ and dismissed from present office. His Majesty is graciously pleased to ordain that by special favour the Censor Hu Chia-yü, already degraded and removed from his post, shall be degraded five steps of honorary rank; and by special favour the Governor of Kiang-si, Liu Kw'en-yih, shall—in lieu of the proposed punishment—be stripped of his official rank, but left in office and degraded to the third button. [By this it is probably meant that Liu Kw'en-yih, who has for years past been “in office but stripped of his rank,” will only be allowed to resume his rank at some future time with a button of the third degree.—Trans.]
Three more had reached the age of 92, and one the age of 91. Between the ages of 80 and 90, thirteen candidates appear.

March 9th.—(1) The Governor of Honan reports thirteen candidates over ninety and fifty-one over eighty, in the provinces of Nganhwei and Kiangsu.

(2) Ngeh-leh-ho-pu, the Manchu General Commanding at Ch'a-har, reports his departure from his post on the 15th Feb. for Uliassutai, in conformity with an Imperial Decree received by him on Feb. 12th, directing him to proceed to that spot for the purpose of inquiring into the charges of exaction and oppression brought against the Finance Commissioner of the Province, Ting Pao-cheng, in superintending the works and repairs connected with the Yellow River.

March 10th.—The Governor of Kiangsi, Liu-kw'en-yih, forwards a report from the Financial Commissioner of the Province, setting forth in detail the rates at which the rice-levy commutation is assessed within his jurisdiction. It appears that on the settlement of the revenue question by Tseng Kwoh-fan, it was arranged that for every regulation Tael of land-tax there should be collected, meltage and other fees inclusive, Tl. 1.5 ; and for every picul of rice-levy Tl. 1.9. At a later period, owing to a decline in the value of silver and rise of copper cash, it was arranged that 1,600 cash should =1 Tael, and the Tael of land-tax was fixed at cash 2,400, the picul of rice-levy being commuted to cash 3,000. Out of these arrangements have grown the charges raised by the Censor Hu Chai-yü. As matters now stand, after the recent rectifications, the rates of levy are as follows : Land-tax, per Tael, 2,682 cash. Rice-levy, per picul, 3,420 cash. With reference to the proposition that the old system of levy in kind should be reverted to, the Treasurer represents that this is virtually impossible. In Kiangsu, he states, the rice-commutation is 4,500 cash per picul ; in Honan, it is 3 Taels of silver per picul—rates greatly in excess of those in force in Kiangsi. The distance of this province from the sea would notably enhance the cost of transport in kind, and moreover the old granaries are no longer in a state of repair such as would enable them to be put into use. Hereafter, when prosperity is fully restored, it may be possible to carry out this suggestion.—Decree referred to the Board of Revenue.

March 12th.—A decree is issued in reply to the memorial by the Prince of Ch'ün (already published) representing that imperfect workmanship has been admitted in the alterations of the temple at the mausoleum of the Emperor Tao-kwang. The Board of Works report the receipt of an explanation from the high officials who superintended this undertaking, of whom the chief is Tung Šün, (a President of the Board of Works, and member of the Yamán of Foreign Affairs), and another Ch'ung-how, (Vice-president of the Board of War, and also a member of the Yamán). They state that lacquer was avoided in order that the colour of the beams might not be too sombre, but that in all other respects the old pattern of workmanship was closely adhered to. His Majesty ordains that the names of the offending functionaries be handed over to the Board of Civil office for adjudication of the proper penalty, and that they do forthwith cause the paint to be scraped off the beams and proper varnish laid on, as before.

(2) The Governor of Yunnan, Shen Yu-yung, reports certain measures taken for re-establishing official control over the salt-wells from which the Province draws its supplies of salt. These are chiefly in the southern and western parts of the Province.

March 13th.—(1) A rescript is issued in reply to a memorial by Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, praying that remissions of taxation be granted on the portions of land which will have to be made use of in constructing the roadway to the Emperor's progress thither in the 2nd moon (April next). Owing to bridges having fallen into decay and roads being cut up by floods, it will be necessary to make a new track in some places, and
ground will also be required for the imperial halting camps. It is ordained that taxes be remitted on all such ground as is taken for these purposes, and that a notification be issued on yellow paper informing all concerned to this effect.

(2) An issue of 400 piculs of millet is ordered from the granaries at Tungchow, in addition to the amount of 1,000 piculs heretofore authorized, for gratuitous distribution to the sufferers by the floods in that Magistracy, on a representation that the previous allowance was insufficient.

(3) Ts'ao Taung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, memorializes on the extraordinary drawbacks under which education labours in the province of Kansuh, owing to the absence of provision for the triennial literary examinations nearer than the capital of Shensi, which is distant 600 to 1,000 and even 1,200 miles from some parts of Kansuh. He eulogizes the conduct of a late Literary Chancellor in Shensi, who, braving all the fatigues of travel, has perambulated Kansuh and admitted about 10,000 students to competition for the first degrees; but owing to the distance and expense, a very small number of natives of Kansuh are able to proceed to Si-ngan Fu, to take the second or Kii-jen degree. Schools have been largely promoted of late throughout Kansuh, and the Mahomedans themselves are stimulated to an eager desire for instruction. It is besought that a Literary Chancellor be appointed for the province of Kansuh, to reside at the capital, Lan-chow, and hold the usual provincial examinations there.

Recorded.

(4) The Censor Teng Ch'eng-siu memorializes denouncing the考试投机 Examinations Committees. Gambling, he states, has always been a most prevalent vice in Kwang-tung, where, however, the methods known as fan tan, peh-ko-piao and hua-huei have been in great measure put down by the authorities. The Wei-sing or examination lottery system having some years ago (about 1864) been extended to Canton, the then Governor, Kwo Sung-t'ao, imposed a heavy fine on the managers, for the benefit of the public funds. This was made use of as a pretext to obtain official licenses in return for payments, and the system has been largely extended, with deplorable consequences among the people. The system consists in selecting twenty surnames, a ticket containing which is given to a buyer. The proportion of names scored off on this ticket, and found to correspond with those of successful competitors at the examinations, constitutes the measure of loss or winning by the holder. The amount paid for the ticket may vary from a few cash to thousands of taels. The worst feature of the transaction is that all manner of reports of underhand practices get about at examination times. The Censor requests that the authorities of the Kwangtung Province be forbidden to issue any further licenses to the Wei-sing lotteries, and also to prohibit their further continuance.—(A Rescript acceding to these proposals has already appeared).

March 14th.—(1) A Decree appoints Hwang Yu 黃鉉 to the post of Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments.

(2) The Memorial by Yih Hwan (Prince of Ch'ün, commonly called the Seventh Prince), upon which the recent Imperial censure of work performed at the mausoleum of Tao-kwang was based, is published in extenso. The use of paint instead of lacquer is strongly condemned.

(3) The Presidents of the Board of Civil Office, Pao-yin, and his colleagues, memorialize setting forth their judgment in the case of the Governor of Kiang-si and the Censor Hu Chia-yü. They state, with reference to the accusation against the Censor respecting non-payment of land-taxes, that although he has not incurred the legal penalty of 80 blows which is prescribed for such an offence by the statute under certain conditions, the punishment for the offence proved against him by the Governor entails his degradation by three honorary steps and his removal from his present office to another. He is also found guilty of entering into communications contrary to law with the provincial authorities, and for this offence the penalty is loss of his official rank.

(4) A memorial from the same high officials conveys their judgment upon the Governor of Kiang-si. They convict the Governor of unlawful concealment, in that
he did not at once denounce to the Throne the communications he asserts that he has received from the Censor. He has incurred the penalty of loss of steps of honorary rank; but as he is already deprived of all rank though retained in office, in pursuance of a former judgment punishing him for "betraying the purport of a Cabinet Decree," it is ruled that the punishment that should now be adjudged is that of dismissal from his present office. (N.B.—A Rescript mitigating the proposed penalties in either case has already appeared.)

March 15th.—(1) A rescript to a memorial from the Censor Liu Jui-k'i (not yet published), requesting that henceforward the provincial remittances to Peking be sent up in actual specie, refers the subject to the Board of Revenue for deliberation.

(2) An officer of the Shên-ki Ying (Imperial Musketeers), named Siang-ngen 祥恩, having asked for active employment, he is ordered to report himself with the army under Kin-shun 金順 (now about to proceed beyond the Wall from Kansuh).

(3) Decree. We have ridden the horse presented to Us by Pehyennomoku (the Po Wang, son of the late Prince Sangkolinsin, and himself one of the high officers of the Presence), and have found it thoroughly steady. We ordain that the name Wuyûnchu 吾等胡被 given to it. Respect this. (N.B.—Wu-yûnchu signifies ninety in the Manchu language.)

(4) The Governor of Shan-si, Pao Yûn-shên, reports the escape of a criminal under sentence of death, and submits the name of the District Magistrate who is responsible for his safe keeping, for the usual penalties. It appears that in July last a prisoner named Kao-shên, sentenced to be strangled for causing the death of a man in a broil, by a kick, was being sent from the Kao-sze District to the provincial capital. He was in charge of two jailors and two soldiers. While on the road, when near a village the evening of their departure, the cart conveying the party stuck in the mud, and the axle broke. The police were obliged to continue their journey on foot, and the prisoner, taking advantage of an unguarded moment, broke his fetters and escaped. He could not be found when given chase to by the police, and the soldiers have likewise absconded. An inquiry has been ordered into the circumstances; and meanwhile the District Magistrate's name is handed over to the Board for adjudication.

(5) Shen Yû-ying, Governor of Yûnnan, reports the advent of a Burmese official, who came last year after the capture of Ta-li Fu to the Governor's camp, and reported that the rebel chieftain Tu Wên-siu (better known to Europeans as Sultan Suleiman), had during his tenure of power established two agencies in Burmah, under the signs Yûn Hing 元興 and Yûn Fa 元發, at which certain merchandize and moneys were despatched. A report had reached the Burmese that the Imperialist troops at Yung-ch'ang and T'êng-yüeh (Momien) had expressed an intention of crossing the frontier to take this deposit by force, and he was therefore sent to request that a Chinese official be despatched to take possession of the amount. The Governor, therefore, considering that the property in question, as having belonged to a rebel in arms against the State, should in accordance with law be confiscated and distributed as prize-money, sent an officer to Burmah with the official who had come from thence; and this commissioner now reports having secured an amount of Tls. 34,000 odd, which the Governor has awarded as prize-money to the troops. Another Burmese official has also lately come to the capital of Yûnnan, and has presented a despatch from Burmah which, on being translated, runs to the effect that the King of Burmah, on learning the happy result of the late campaign, begs instructions with regard to the sending of tribute, and to the establishment of commercial relations. Upon this the Governor, highly approving the dutiful sentiments of the King, is of opinion that encouragement should be shown him; but as regards commercial affairs, the roads are now open and traders passing backwards and forwards as of old, so that it is not necessary to enter into special arrangements. The Burmese envoy has been instructed that the transmission of tribute should be proceeded with in accordance with precedent, and has been sent home under official convoy.

March 16th.—(1) A Decree is issued referring to the memorial lately presented by Tsao-pao and Hu Chia-yü (see Gazette of Feb. 14-15), disclosing the absence of a "treasure-box" in the roof of the temple at the Mausoleum of the Emperor Kao Tsan (father of Shun-che). General Tu-hingah and Chihho having been ordered to hold an enquiry, have reported having done this by deputy, but without having ascertained anything material with regard to the disappearance of the sacred deposit. Tsao-pao and Hu Chia-yü are handed over
to the Board for punishment, on the score of negligence in executing the works in question, and penalties are likewise to be adjudged against the Commissioners Tuhingah and Chihho, for not proceeding in person to the spot. The Imperial Household is to see that a new “treasure-box” be prepared, and handed over to Tuhingah and his colleague, to be placed in the proper spot.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang memorializes requesting the erection of an Imperial memorial tablet, in conformity with precedent, on behalf a virtuous lady lately deceased. Betrothed, but not married, to the literary undergraduate Lu K'ia-fuh of Lu-kiang in An-hwei, the deceased was a daughter of an upright and highly respected graduate named Wu T'ing-hiang, who was killed in action during the rebellion in 1854, when his daughter was ten years old. In 1861 the young lady's intended husband was taken ill and died, whereupon she was with difficulty dissuaded by her relatives from committing suicide, to follow him to the tomb. For the remainder of her life she devoted herself to the care of her aged mother, until the latter's death in 1870, since when she has gradually pined away, and she finally died in the course of last summer. The application is referred as usual to the Board of Ceremonies, for the issue of the needful patent.

March 17. (1) A Decree gives vent to the Imperial sorrow on learning the death of Teh-ying, Manchu Command-in-chief of the Heh-lung-kiang (Amoor) region. Having risen from the rank of pi-tieh-shie (Government writer), and fought gallantly in Kiang-nan and An-hwei, he was advanced to his late post, where he acquitted himself in all respects admirably. After the expiry of the hundred days' mourning, his son Chung-ta-ling is to be presented to his Majesty. A successor to the deceased's post is named in the person of Feng-shen, at present Lieutenant-general at Kin-chow.

(2) The Governor-General of Hu-kwang and Governor of Hupeh unite in recommending for advancement to the office of Rice Comptroller of Hupeh, now vacated, an expectant Taotai named Ho Wei-kien 何维鍵, who has already been recommended for promotion by H. E. Li Hung-chang, for his services in the campaign against the Nien-fei.

March 18th. (1) Wenpin, the acting Governor of Shantung, has memorialized concerning deficiencies in the funds handed over to their successors in office by two District Magistrates. Chang Ta-ju, dismissed from the office of Magistrate of the Li-tsin district, was short in his accounts to the following extent:—Sundry receipts on account of the Provincial Treasury Tls. 693; on granary account, Tls. 3; on purchase of titles account, Tls. 306. The Magistrate of the Chao-yuan district, who has been compulsorily retired, is also brought in a debtor in considerable sums. These officials, although frequently pressed for repayment, having neglected to make good the amounts, are to be arrested, imprisoned, and prosecuted. The Governor-General of Chihli is to be called upon to sequestrate the property of the delinquents in satisfaction of the claim against them; and their clerks and others concerned are to be brought to justice.

(2) By a verbal message delivered from the office of representation, His Majesty's command is notified that henceforward, in all the minutes of appointments to be made, and similar documents submitted, the matter is to be written in parallel columns of Manchu and Chinese.

(3) Paohiang, Judicial Commissioner of Fu-kien, memorializes thanking His Majesty in accordance with rule for his elevation to the acting appointment of Financial Commissioner during the absence of Pan Wei, who is about to proceed to Peking for an audience. (The last-named high officer was formerly well known to Europeans during his service as Taotai at Chefoo.)

March 19th.—The Governor of Hu-peh memorializes recommending to favourable notice the ex-Salt Revenue Comptroller of Kwangtung, Chung K'ien-k'in, who has just retired from the service on account of ill-health. His merits during a long official career are highly extolled, and an honorary grade of the first rank is solicited on his behalf. (This official acted as Superintendent of Customs at Hankow for some years previously to 1870.)

March 20th.—(1) It is notified that the Emperor will, to-morrow, leave the Imperial City by the East Gate, and proceed to the Chao Jih Tan (the Temple of the Morning Sun) outside the Chao Yang Gate of Peking, where he will offer incense, and thence proceed to the temple of the great Eastern Mountain, at which place his Majesty will breakfast. Returning from this point, his Majesty will re-enter the palace, proceed to the Chung Ho Tien (Hall of Central Accord), where he will inspect the daily reports, and will subsequently return to the palace apartments, transact business and give audience.

Preparations for the Imperial Progress are to be complete by 4 a.m.
(2) The Manchu Commander-in-chief of Ning-hia, Mutushen (who arrived in Peking on the 18th), is granted permission to ride on horseback within the Purple Forbidden City.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is taken up with unimportant notices of official changes and appointments.

March 21st.—(1) Mutushen, the Manchu Commander-in-chief of Ning-hia, thanks his Majesty for the gift of a horse on his arrival at Court.

(2) The Governor-General of Hupeh and Governor of Hupeh memorialize, requesting that, in conformity with the amended regulations, an additional number of graduateships at provincial examinations may be accorded to the District of Ts'ien-kuang, in Hupeh, in return for the funds subscribed on public account. It appears that, between 1864 and 1867, the gentry and people of the District contributed to the Defence funds of the province a sum, after all deductions made, of Taels 90,300 and odd. The limitation heretofore prescribed for such cases allows one additional degree at both the civil and military examinations to be accorded on one occasion only, for every Tls. 10,000 contributed to public account, in lieu of the "additions for ever" which were formerly granted under similar circumstances; and it is now requested accordingly that nine extra degrees be thrown open to competitors from the district in question, at a future examination, both civil and military. —Referred to the Board for decision.

(2) Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang, specially memorializes extolling the virtues of a District Magistrate named Ko Lun, who in less than half-a-year during which he has been in charge of the district of Chien-ning has displayed the most surprising energy and ability. When the Governor-General passed through the district, both gentry and people were loud in his praise. His promotion to a higher grade of Magistracy is solicited and accorded.

March 22nd.—(1) A long Memorial by the Grand Secretary, Wen-siang, with reference to the paint used in lieu of varnish at one of the Imperial Mausolea, which has excited His Majesty's indignation as already manifested in successive decrees. The Grand Secretary suggests that after his Majesty's visit to the Tombs (in April) the officers responsible for the works be required to make the necessary alterations.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang—
Decree upon which has already appeared—soliciting remissions of taxation upon the lands that must be temporarily occupied for roadmaking, encampments, &c., during the Imperial progress to the Tombs. (His Majesty will leave Peking on the 10th, and return on the 17th April.)

March 23rd.—(1) The Commissioner of the Granaries and other high officials memorialize reporting the insufficiency of the grant heretofore made to the relief establishment at T'ungchow, where, owing to the destitution caused by the floods of late years, several thousands of persons have been fed daily. (Decree allowing a further supply of grain has already appeared.)

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting his action in a case of parricide. A man named Mong Ts'ai-ch't'ing and his wife, living in the Kiao-ho District, were both suffering under an attack of fever and ague, and the wife, hearing that change of residence might ward off a return of the attack, had gone away to her mother's home. The father was lying on his kung early in the evening of the 8th October last, in a state of fever and parched with thirst, when his son, Mong Chu, came home intoxicated from work. On being blamed for returning home so late, the son answered angrily—an altercation arose, and eventually, taking up a wooden pillow, Mong Chu struck his father repeatedly on the thighs. Struggling to get up, the old man injured his own arms to some extent, and a grandson, awakened by the noise, as well as a neighbour who was passing, came into the room. Mong Chu threw himself on his knees and entreated pardon, which the old man granted,—and the neighbour consequently agreed to make no report of the matter. The bruises inflicted on the old man, however, became suppurated, and he died 11 days afterwards. Mong Chu had the body interred the same day; but he was denounced to the Magistrate by the tipao and his father's brother, and on being sent to the Provincial capital for trial has confessed his offence. Accordingly, in conformity with the provisions of several statutes, he has been sliced to death (ling ch'e) on the public execution ground, in presence of the Governor-General and the high provincial officials.

March 24.—Li Hung-chang reports the action taken respecting the escape of a prisoner under sentence of death from the gaol of the Kao-ch'ing District (as already reported). No guilty connivance has been proved against the jailers concerned.
2. The Privy Council Office (Nui koh) reports the arrangements to be made for transmitting daily, during his Majesty's absence at the Tombs, a general report (本報) accompanied by the Memorials presented from the various Boards and other departments of State. This report will be sent off every day at 1 p.m., except on the day when his Majesty is to pay his devotions at the Tombs.—(The Si Ling, or Western Mausolea, are distant about 70 miles from Peking. According to the usage of the present dynasty, the members of the Imperial family are buried in alternate generations at the Eastern and Western Mausolea. The Tung Ling or Eastern Mausolea were visited by the Emperor last year, when his Majesty offered sacrifices at the tomb of his father, the Emperor Hien-feng or Wen Hwang-ti.)

March 25.—The Vice-President of the Hung-lu-sze, Liang Seng-pao, denounces the numerous shortcomings which have been found to exist in the essays sent up to Peking for revision from the last Provincial Examinations, and complains of the negligence of the officials, high and low, on whom the primary and secondary work of scrutiny devolves.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies for a report.

(2) The Censor Liu Jui-k'î memorializes against the practice that has grown up since the Rebellion, of forwarding the periodical remittances of revenue from the provinces to Peking by bank-drafts instead of in specie. This has caused a great amount of disturbance in the monetary affairs of the capital, owing to the short supply of silver in circulation. The provinces of Fu-kien, Kwang-tung, Che-kiang, and Sze-ch'wan are especially referred to, and it is requested that they be required to remit all land and miscellaneous revenue henceforth in specie by the old land-routes—leaving the question of Custom-house remittances from Canton and Foochow to be separately dealt with. (A rescript has already appeared, directing the Board of Revenue to report hereupon.)

March 26th.—(1) Yüan Pao-hâng is appointed one of the Under-Secretaries of the Privy Council, with the rank appended of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) The memorial by Tuliingah and Chih Yen respecting the disappearance of the "treasure-box" from the roof of one of the temples at the Imperial Mausolea, decrees upon which have already appeared, is printed in full. The whole roof of the building having been demolished, and the most careful search made, no trace could be found of this palladium of the building.

March 27th.—(1) A Decree. After Our departure on the 10th April (for the visit to the Tombs) let the Prince of Ch'êng, King-che,—the Grand Secretary Shan Mow-k'ien,—the Presidents Wan Ts'ing-li and Ch'ung-lun,—and the Captain-general of the Constabulary, Ying Yuan, remain in Peking to conduct the public business. The Prince of Ch'êng, King-che, Shan Mow-k'ien, Wan Ts'ing-to, and Ch'ung-lun, four in all, will take it by turns daily to reside within the Palace. Those of the [High Commissioners] who are not in turn for residence will go off duty at 3 p.m. Ying Yuan will go to the Palace daily to transact business, but will not be required to go into residence. He may go off duty at noon, before his colleagues.—Respect this!

(The Prince of Ch'êng, King-che, is the present representative of one of the eight perpetual Prince doms instituted by the founder of the existing dynasty).

(2) The Governor of Honan reports the hearing of a criminal case by the high provincial authorities, on its having been referred back to them after an appeal at the capital. A man named Liu Hwan-chang had appealed, alleging that one Ma Sung and certain others, to revenge themselves on his father Liu Wen, for giving information that a certain Ma Han had been hired as a substitute for a criminal under sentence, had murdered Liu Wen and thrown his body into a river. The facts of the case, as reported by the Governor after the trial, are that the man alluded to be murdered was in reality never harmed, but was induced to abscond in support of the accusation trumped up by his son, who had been persuaded to take the steps he did by the wife of a member of the Ma family named Ma Ho, who had really been murdered by the prisoner Ma Han. It being proved that Liu Hwan-chang has brought an unfounded charge, involving peril of condemnation to death on the person he accuses, he has incurred the penalty of 100 blows and transportation to a distance of 3,000 li, with three years' penal servitude added. This sentence is referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

March 29th.—(1) The Governor of Kiang-su reports the result of an inquiry into the case of a prisoner named Chang-k'ien, sent back from Peking on a charge of waylaying his Majesty when returning in the Spring of 1873 from the Eastern Mausolea and presenting a petition contrary
to law. The petitioner, who had endeavoured to obtain the reversal of a judicial decree pronounced in the local courts respecting a dispute about the ownership of some land and a grave-site which has been contested since 1854, is adjudged to have incurred the penalty of transportation; but, as he alleges that he is the only support of his aged mother, an enquiry is to be made into the truth of this statement before carrying the sentence into effect.

(2) A rescript is issued in reply to a report from the Governor of Yunnan, stating that a young man named Yang Ju-tsi has assassinated an officer lately holding the rank of Prefect of Tung-ch'wan, in revenge for the murder of Yang Ju-tsi's uncle by the underlings of the Prefect after a quarrel in the latter's Yamen. The assassin, in consideration of the extenuating circumstances, is to be "executed after the revision of sentence at Peking," instead of being beheaded at once; but his surviving uncle, Brigadier-General of K'ai-hwa, is handed over to the Board for a penalty for his failure to keep his nephew under due control. The Provincial Judge and other officials, whose delay in dealing with the first murder brought about the second lamentable case, are likewise exposed to penalties.

March 30.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the steps he proposes taking with regard to a personal inspection of the route to be travelled over by the Imperial party on their way to the Tombs in April, and requests permission to visit Peking for an audience with his Majesty while engaged in this tour of inspection.

March 31.—In reply to a memorial (not yet published) by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun, denouncing the practice of establishing illicit or irregular li-kin barrier stations, his Majesty's rescript is to the effect that: "the levy of (li-kin) duty is a measure undertaken only in obedience to urgent necessity. Where aid is borrowed from the resources of the people it is not to be endured that additional taxing stations be illicitly set on foot to exact oppressive levies from the public, and any such must promptly be suppressed." The Provincial governments are directed to make close inquiry into the matter, with a view to the reform of any existing abuses.

April 1.—The arrival at Peking of Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, to pay his respects to his Majesty, is gazetted. He had an audience this day on arrival.
The police of the quarter is responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations within the designated area. In the Chinese city, outside the house, a band of offenders was arrested in broad daylight. The civil functionary Ts'ung-wen Gate, and pillaged the inmates in the hands of the China Merchant's Steamship Company for transmission by their vessels to Tientsin, and one of the Arsenal gunboats has been detailed to convey the junk squadron.

April 5.—(1) A Decree is issued on the report of Lien-pin, the Censor superintending the southern division of Peking, who has stated that in February last a band of mounted robbers attacked a paper warehouse in the Chinese city, outside the Ts'ung-wén Gate, and pillaged the inmates in broad daylight. The civil functionary responsible for the police of the quarter is degraded, and held answerable for the arrest of the offenders.

(2) A Decree. The present year being the period for the (triennial) military inspection in the provinces of Shan-tung, Ho-nan, Kiang-si, An-hwei, and Kiang-su, the governors of the respective provinces, except Kiang-su, of which the Governor-General Li Tsung-hi will officiate, are directed to undertake this duty.

April 6th.—This day's Gazette is almost wholly taken up with a Memorial from Liang Säng-pao, a Vice-President of the Court of Entertainment, soliciting more stringent regulations for the revision of examination essays, and submitting a code of proposed rules to this end.

April 7th.—(1) A continuation of the Memorial from Liang Säng-pao, on the subject of greater stringency in revising the Examination essays.

(2) A Decree awarding tokens of Imperial favor to sundry Manchu princes and other dignitaries of the Court, for the skill displayed by them on the previous day in feats of archery on horseback.

April 8th.—(1) A memorial from Julien, Military Governor of Jeh-ho, dilating on the staple subject of administrative complaint—delay in making up and handing over accounts by outgoing Magistrates, etc. This grievance was dwelt upon in a long memorial last autumn, when a committee of audit was established for the purpose of clearing off arrears; but the evil is again making itself felt, and a fresh committee is proposed.

(2) The Governor of Hu-nan memorializes respecting official changes occasioned by the promotion of the provincial Intendant of Finance, Wu Yüan-ting, 吳元炳, to the Governorship of Hu-piel. His place is filled, by Imperial decree, by the Judicial Commissioner Tu Tsung-ying, 汀宗瀛, and Ts'ung-fuh 福崇 becomes Judicial Commissioner in the latter's stead. Pending the latter's arrival in the Province a provisional appointment is made.

April 9.—No documents of importance this day. It is announced that His Majesty will leave Peking at 4 a.m. to-morrow.

April 11. (1) A Decree ordaining the remission of 3/10ths of the land-tax for the current year in the districts of Wan-p'ing, Liang-hiang, Tao Chow, Fang-shan, and Yih Chow, which are to be traversed during the Imperial progress to the Tombs.

(2) Memorial by the censor Chang Kwan-chun, reproving the action of the provincial governments in multiplying li-kin barriers. The li-kin tax, he observes, was established as a provisional measure for the supply of war expenses, and cannot be looked upon as a permanent resource. Nevertheless, all over the Empire taxing stations are maintained without due authority in excess of those which are legally established at commanding points of traffic, causing an endless drain upon the means of the public in order to fill the pockets of the local officials. It constantly happens that under pretext of surveillance the most arbitrary exactions are enforced, and plunder to an unlimited extent is indulged in. Fraudulent returns are also made of the amounts periodically collected, and the officials in charge share in the illicit profits amassed by clerks and underlings.

In the provinces immediately bordering upon both banks of the Yang-tzse, which have suffered so grievously during the rebellion, it is an urgent duty to foster reviving trade and enterprise; whilst in Sze-chuen, Kwangtung, Shan-tung, and Shensi, provinces in a comparatively unharmed condition, what should be done is to protect, instead of to pillage, the sources of national prosperity. The Censor prays that injurious actions be laid upon the high provincial authorities, directing them to enquire carefully into these matters, and rectify the abuses he complains of. (A rescript commending this matter to the attention of
the provincial governments has already appeared.

(3) Another memorial from the same Censor draws attention to the abuses tolerated in the provinces in connection with the wrongful monopoly of functions by officials who have gained access to the public service by purchase, to the exclusion in many cases of those who have entered the service in the regular way.

April 13th.—(1) A Decree. The horse presented to Us by Pehyennamoku We have ridden, and found greatly to our liking. We give him the name of Chrysanthemum Bay. Let two rolls of silk be bestowed upon Pehyennamoku. Respect this!

(2) A Decree ordaining that an ingot of silver of one tael’s weight be given from the household treasury to each of the officers of the guards in attendance on the sedan-chairs of their Majesties the two Empresses-dowager, during the Progress to the Tombs.

The remainder of this day’s Gazette is occupied with unimportant memorials respecting the appointment of minor officials in Kan-suh and Yun-nan.

April 15th.—A Decree. This day, along the line of Our road, a vast number of tracks of carts and horses have been visible. In this, a want of due reverence for Majesty is notably displayed. Let the Ministers in charge of the road and the Governor-General of Chih-li stringently prohibit and put a stop to the proceeding. If any venture to disobey and if vehicles infringe any further upon the road, let them immediately denounce the offenders, be their office great or small. Let also the soldiers, eunuchs, lackeys of the suite, and all others (at fault) be punished in the most severe manner. Respect this! (The damage to the Imperial roadway, of which His Majesty complains, has probably been caused by the eunuchs and others sent on in advance to make preparations for the Imperial halts.)

(2) A Decree. Let Chang Wên-pin and Kia Yeo-siao, the two men who have this day petitioned Us by the roadside, be handed over to the camp department of the Board of Punishments to be stringently put on trial. Respect this!

(3) A Decree identical with the preceding, relating to a petitioner named Liu Sui-t'ang. (N. B. The presentation of a petition to the Emperor when in public is in itself a criminal offence, subjecting the offender to transportation, and the practice is resorted to only by the most desperate persons, after justice has been denied at all the tribunals. It is a step taken, most probably, in the hope of at least involving the opposing party and unjust officials in further trouble, even when little hope of obtaining a favourable judgment for the petitioner himself is entertained. The same feeling is in many if not most cases that which prompts the ordinary appeals to the Censorate.)

(3) A memorial from the Governor of Che-kiang regarding a judicial decision lately arrived at in the Kia-hing Prefecture respecting the title to lands apportioned to the support of a memorial temple. This building was erected in 1736 as a memorial of Luh Lung-k'i, a censor of high distinction in the reign of K'ang-hi, and disputes have arisen of late respecting the boundaries and extent of the land attributed to its support. The Prefect of the department has investigated and decided the points at issue.

April 16-17th. (1) A Decree conferring a farther donation of one Tael in silver upon each of the lackeys and chair bearers in attendance during the Imperial journey.

(2-3) Decrees commanding that four or five individuals who have presented supplications to his Majesty by the roadway, be taken in hand by the Board of Punishments.

(4) The Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang memorializes respecting the appointment of an officer to fill the post of Colonel (fu-t'iang) of the naval brigade in Formosa. The post is an important one, not only on account of the position of An-p'ing, the military station at which the officer in question resides, as the gateway or “key” of the whole island, but also in view of the international questions constantly arising from the trade carried on by different nationalities. An officer of capacity and experience is essential to the due discharge of the duties of such a post, and the person selected by H. E. is Chow Chên-pang, aged 41, a native of Hiang-shan in Kwang-tung, who has seen much brilliant service afloat during the rebellion. He has distinguished himself of late years in the naval service of the province, and is skilled in the use of firearms. —The recommendation is referred to the Board of War to be reported on.

(5) A postscript memorial from the same quarter has reference to ts'ien ts'ang (lieutenant) Lü Wên-king, who has for a length of time been in command of the steam gun-vessel “An-lan.” In this capacity he has distinguished himself in the capture of pirates and the transporta-
tion of rice, and the Board has given directions for his advancement to the rank of expectant Major, so soon as he reaches the captain’s list. A proposition is now made to accelerate this step of advancement, and a Rescript is issued in reply giving the necessary sanction. (N. B. The functionary in question is probably the good humoured and capable “Captain Lee Boo,” well known to Europeans from his length of service in Hongkong waters.)

The following is the official record of the Imperial progress from the 10th to the 16th April.

10th.—His Majesty arrived at 1 p.m. at the halting-place of Hwang Sin Chwang. The Governor General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, paid his respects, and presented an offering composed of fruits and wu-wu-hwa fish.

The general commanding the Chihli land-forces, Fu Chen-pang, paid his respects and presented an offering of pheasants. The Financial Commissioner of Chihli and the Brigadier-General of the Tai-Ning division presented their respects.

The Imperial Equipage department took the Imperial order concerning conveyances. Audience was granted to the Privy Council and to Sun Kwan (the Financial Commissioner of Chihli.)

His Majesty will set out to-morrow at 5 a.m.

11th.—His Majesty arrived at 3 p.m. at the halting-place of Pan-pi Tien. The Grand Secretary Li, Fu Chen-pang, Suu Kwan, and Ts’ing-ngan, held themselves in readiness for audience.

Chang Kwan-chun handed in his memorial of explanation. 

The Equipage department took orders. Audience was granted to the Privy Council and to Ts’ing-ngan.

His Majesty will set out to-morrow at 5 a.m.

12th.—His Majesty arrived at 2.45 p.m. at the halting-place of Liang Ko Chwang. The Grand Secretary Li, Fu Chen-pang, Ch’eng-liang, and Teh Peh-ying, held themselves in readiness for audience.

Ts’ing-ngan presented an offering of pheasants.

The Ministers serving as Guardians of the Western Mausolea, Yung-yü and Ts’ai-pi, presented their respects. The Household represented that the line of route lay past the tomb of a minister of high desert, and requested that officials be appointed to offer a libation on behalf of his Majesty there.

Upon this the following were appointed (Here follow the names of five kung or “dukes,” and Ju-i-ling).

The Equipage department took orders.

Audience was granted to the Privy Council, Yung-yü and Ts’ai-pi.

His Majesty will set out at 5 a.m. to-morrow and repair to the Mausolea.

13th.—His Majesty after having repaired to the Mausolea and performed the ceremonies, returned at 1 p.m. to the halting place at Liang Ko-chwang.

Ch’un-yao, Chao-siang, and Ngên-ling made report of their inspection, as ordered, of the red pillars.

The Equipage department took orders.

Audience was granted to the Privy Council and the Ministers of the Presence.

His Majesty will set out to-morrow at 5 a.m. and will make his halt at the stopping-place of Ta’iu-lan.

14th. —His Majesty arrived at noon at Ta’iu-lan.

The Prince of Tun, the Prince of Ch’un, Prince Peh, the Beileh Che, and Duke Kang, severally return thanks for his Majesty’s gracious bestowal of a libation.

Fu Chen-pang and his colleagues as before held themselves in readiness for audience.

The Equipage department took orders. The Grand Secretary Li presented an offering of fruits, sauces, and vegetables. Ts’ing-ngan presented an offering of nine pheasants.

An extension of several days’ leave of absence was granted to Duke Siu.

Audience was granted to the Privy Council and to Fu Chen-pang.

His Majesty will set out to-morrow at 5 a.m.

15th. —His Majesty arrived at 1 p.m. at the halting place of Pan-pi Tien.

The Prince of Ch’eng and his colleagues reported the conclusion of their inspection of the arrangements for the Civil examinations and the horse-archery.

The Grand Secretary Li and the other officials held themselves as before in readiness for audience.

The Equipage department took orders.

The Board of Punishments reported having examined into the leading particulars of the case of the supplication presented to his Majesty by Chang Wen-pin.

Audience was granted to the Privy Council.

His Majesty will set out to-morrow at 5 a.m.

16th. —His Majesty arrived at 1 p.m. at the halting-place of Hwang Sin Chwang.

The Equipage department took orders.
Audience was granted to the Privy Council. His Majesty will set out at 5 a.m. to-morrow for his reentry into Peking.

April 18th.—(1) The Governor of Kiangsi, in his Memorial on the nonagenarian and octogenarian candidates admitted to honorary degrees at last year's provincial examinations, gives the names of sixteen persons aged ninety and upwards, and of ninety-seven of the age of eighty and upwards.

The remainder of this day's memorials are unimportant.

April 19th.—(1) A Decree. Let Pao-yün, conjointly with his duties as President of the Civil Office, become Assistant Grand Secretary (hieh-pau Ta Hio Sze.)—(N. B. The functionary who has thus attained to one of the highest posts in the Empire is a Manchu, a member of the Privy Council, and one of the senior members of the Yamén of Foreign Affairs. His associate as assistant Grand Secretary is the Governor General Tao Tsung-t'ang.)

(2) The Board of Ceremonies memorializes requesting that a day be fixed for the change from winter to summer hats.—Rescript: Let it be on the 5th May.

(3) The Censors of the western division of Peking having memorialized respecting a case of suicide on the part of a woman named Wang Liu-she, who was driven to the act in consequence of the conduct of an official who had sought her daughter in marriage, the official in question, a secretary in the Board of Revenue named Shên She-yüan, is ordered to be suspended and summoned for trial.

(4) A memorial from the high magistracy of the capital, beseeching sanction to a further extension of the time during which two of the asylums for the destitute which have been established in consequence of the late distress, may be kept open. It is stated that, although all able bodied paupers have been able to find employment on relief works in the labours in progress on river improvements or repairs near Peking since the commencement of spring, yet a certain number of aged and sickly persons remain to be cared for. It is proposed that a further grant of 200 piculs of millet, and of Tls. 400 in money be allowed for this purpose: to which the Imperial sanction has been given.

(5) Liu Chang-yoe, Governor of Kiangsi, denounces the acting magistrate of Ts'Uan Chow for "recklessness and wanton severity." The Governor had already here-tofore laid down strict rules concerning the method to be pursued by district magistrates in capital cases. All persons found guilty of murder were to be sent to the high provincial authorities for sentence, and only in extreme cases was authority to be granted, on application, for execution on the spot. Notwithstanding this, the functionary complained of—who was already labouring under a charge of wrongfully releasing a prisoner on bail while in another magistracy—has actually of his own motion beheaded a prisoner, without awaiting the reply to the application he had sent up for permission to execute the sentence locally, on grounds wholly inadequate. The reason alleged for this precipitancy is that the prisoner was in so precarious a condition that, unless executed forthwith, it was doubtful whether he would live long enough to be made a public example.—A Rescript directs that the offending magistrate be stripped of his rank, and placed on trial to answer for his shortcomings.

April 20th.—(1) Two appeal cases are severally remitted by the usual form of decree to the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung, for a fresh trial.

(3) The Police Censors of the south division of Peking memorialize respecting a case of daring highway robbery in broad daylight, which took place on the 13th February last. A clerk in a paper shop was proceeding on that day through the southern part of the city, carrying a package containing 420 taels in silver, when the money was snatched from him by a mounted person, whose description is given, and who made off with his plunder. Two Manchu soldiers have been arrested on suspicion, but the case is not clear against them. The Assistant Magistrate within whose area of jurisdiction the crime was committed, is recommended for deprivation of his button, and for further penalties, if he fail in due time to apprehend the actual culprits and recover the stolen property.

(4) The Governor of Shantung makes application on behalf of a retired official, formerly an expectant Tao tai in Kwangtung, who is this year able to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his admission to the tsin-sze degree. It is requested, in conformity with precedent, that he be allowed to commemorate this period, at the locality where he is residing, by the appropriate Imperial feast.

April 21st.—(1) This being the day appointed by regulation for the issue of the names of the Chief and Deputy Examiners for the tsin-sze degrees at the competition about to be held, Wan Ts'ing-lik 萬青藜.
A number of other appointments are made in connection with the Examinations, and sundry functionaries are deputed to act pro tem. in the positions held by the four high officers of State above named and others, during the period of their seclusion in the Examination Court.

(2) An appeal case from Sze-chwan. Si Sze-siang lodges a complaint to the effect that, in April last, a man of his own district named Tu Lung-hai came with a following of upwards of one hundred armed men to his house, and demanded a sum of money from him. On payment being refused the assailants attacked the inmates of the house, petitioner's relatives and servants, whom, to the number of seven, they killed on the spot. After plundering the house of its contents they set fire to it, and have moreover taken forcible possession of petitioner's land. He has lodged complaints with the Magistrate, superior Magistrate, and Taotai, none of whom have taken steps to apprehend the guilty parties. The case has been referred by Decree to the Governor-General of Sze-chwan for investigation.

(3) A memorial from the Governor of Chekiang, reporting the departure of the first portions of the present season's remittances of grain, by sea, from Shanghai.

April 22nd.—(1) The Governor of Shensi reports the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates admitted to honorary degrees at last year's provincial examinations. One had reached the age of ninety, and eight are named as of the age of eighty and upwards.

(2) The Governor of Honan makes report, for his province, of 35 candidates of ninety and upwards and 38 of eighty and upwards, who are entitled to honorary degrees.

(3) The Governor of Honan solicits, in conformity with regulation, the erection of a memorial pillar, by Imperial decree, in commemoration of the virtuous act of suicide committed last year by the wife of an exspective District Magistrate named Chang King-che. The lady, named Meng, was wife by second marriage of that official, to whom she became united at the age of 29 in 1858. She had discharged during many years all wifely duties in an exemplary manner, and had treated her step-children as her own. Four days after her husband's death last year, she took poison and died.—A Rescript conceding the request is appended.

April 23rd.—(1) The Prince of Kung applies for five days leave of absence from duty.

(2) The Privy Council receive a verbal Decree ordaining that on the 27th inst. there need be no attendance at the Palace. (N. B. This is on account of an intended visit of his Majesty to inspect the progress of the works at Yüan Ming Yüan—(the Summer Palace)

(3) A Memorial from the Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang and the Governor of Fukien, reporting the apprehension of sundry criminals who have committed robberies with the aid of stupefying drugs. It appears that a gang of six men, vagabonds from different provinces, had lately associated themselves under the leadership of one Chang Ping-lan, alias Chang the Kidnapper, who had discovered in an old book a recipe for a stupefying compound which would throw its victims into a state of unconsciousness for several hours. This man and two others of the band fell into the hands of the authorities in October last, when they confessed the above facts, together with sundry instances of robbery committed within the last 2 or 3 years by the aid of their potion. The circumstances which led to the arrest were as follows. One of the party, named Hwang Teh-sheng, having ascertained that two private letter carriers from Hunan were collecting money letters to be forwarded to that province, laid a plot to drug these men, which was done by means of a potion mixed with some bean-curd soup which they drank unsuspectingly. Having set out on their journey in company with the confederates, the postmen dropped down in an unconscious state after reaching a point 15 li distant from the starting place, and the robbers thereupon made off with their bag of letters. Hwang Teh-sheng persuaded three of his confederates to separate from him, with the promise of meeting at a certain spot to divide the spoil, but on repairing thither the men found that their friends had given them the slip, and being overtaken by the letter-carriers they were seized and given into custody. The result of the trial is that the two principal offenders have been summarily executed, and the third prisoner sentenced to banishment into slavery in Chinese Turkistan. Pending the re-opening of communications with that dependency he is committed to prison, having been branded on one cheek with the words "guilty of using stupefying drugs," and on the other with the words "sentenced to transportation." The au-
April 24th.—(1) Reports rendered by the Prince of Li, the captain-general of the Constabulary Ying-yuan, and other high officials, of the completion of the scrutiny of the candidates who entered yesterday for the first three days’ examination.

(2) The Constabulary yamen report having arrested a culprit named Chao Yung-ho, who was intending to lay a supplication before his Majesty in person. An order for his delivery to the Board of Punishments is requested.

(3) The Board of War report the penalty incurred by Mut’ushen, the Manchur commander-in-chief of Ninghsia, for a mistake committed in a memorial to his Majesty. Rescript: “Let Mut’ushen be mulcted in one year’s salary.”

(4) The Governor-General of Fukien and Chihch’ang reports a case of enforced exchange, in conformity with regulation, between two officers of the rank of Major. One of them, being connected by marriage with the family of the provincial commander-in-chief, cannot remain within the latter's jurisdiction, and is ordered to exchange with an officer of corresponding rank now stationed at Wén-chou in Chekiang.

(5) The same high officials lauds, in a postscript memorial, the ability and integrity of an expectant Taotai named K’ü T’ien-min, who has been for the last ten years at the head of the joint Customs’ and Li-kin office at Nan-t’ai (Foochow). The importance of this point as an emporium of foreign trade is adverted to, and it is stated that the officer in question has gained by his activity and impartiality the confidence alike of Chinese and foreign merchants. More than 10,000,000 Taels have been raised by him during his tenure of office, which have gone to supply Peking and the provinces with the funds they needed. It is requested that the brevet title of Financial Commissioner be conferred upon him.

April 25th.—(1) The themes issued for the first portion of the triennial examinations are published.

(2) The Governor-General of Sse-ch’wan reports the gratifying desire of certain aboriginal tribes on the border of the Province, who have been subject to Chinese control since the early part of last century, to be admitted to the status of ordinary subjects of the Empire, placed on the footing of the tax-paying population, and permitted to share in the boon of competition at the literary examinations. This memorial is referred for the consideration of the proper Board.

April 26th.—(1) The programme of the Imperial movements for to-morrow is set forth. His Majesty will leave Peking by the N. W. gate, and proceed to inspect the works in progress at the An-yew Palace, &c., (Yuan Ming Yuan), after which his Majesty will return to the city by the same route.

(2) At the instance of the Supervisor Pieng-pao-ts’üan, a Decree is issued in favour of a Ku-jên named Sheh Hwang-chang, who had been excluded from the privilege of entering at the forthcoming competition owing to defects found in his productions at the test examinations. A commission of enquiry is appointed to investigate his case.

(3) A Decree. Wensiang having memorialized Us, stating that his complaint gives no sign of recovery and again imploring leave to retire from office, We ordain that he be granted a further extension of leave for two months for the benefit of his health, and be not required to vacate his office. Respect this!

April 27th.—(1) An address of thanks has been presented by the Grand Secretary Wensiang, for the extension of sick-leave granted to him.

(2) The Board of Civil Office memorialize stating the penalties adjudged against certain of the functionaries in Yüan-nan, whose remissness in dealing with a case of complaint led up to the murder of a Prefect, as lately reported. The Provincial Commissioner of Justice, Ch’eng Hien, and the District Magistrate concerned, are each to be degraded two steps and to be removed to other employ.—The Imperial rescript modifies this sentence to the extent of making the degradation to one step only in each case.

(3) An Imperial Decree ordains the erection of a memorial temple in honour of Shén Chao-shên, formerly acting Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, who lost his life some years ago, in the active prosecution of operations quelling the Mahommedan troubles, by drowning in a sudden flood.

April 28th.—(1) The Prince of Kung pays his respects on the expiry of his congé.

(2) The Constabulary yamen and the Court of Sacrificial rites report that a fire
has taken place in the palladium temple (ch'eng-huang-miao), by which between sixty and seventy divisions of the building have been destroyed.

(3) Ts'ang King-tien is appointed Judicial Commissioner of Yün-nan (in place of the officer whose degradation was announced yesterday).

(4) The themes for the second division of the competitive examinations are promulgated.

(5) Shên Yu-jing, Governor of Yün-nan, memorializes reporting his accession to office as acting Governor-General. In reply to the original appointment conferred upon him by His Majesty, he had memorialized representing his utter unworthiness of the additional honour, but his excuses had not been accepted, and a vermilion rescript had called upon him to undertake the discharge of the higher duties imposed upon him, without further refusal. Although thoroughly convinced of his own utter incapacity, like that of the pelican though thoroughly convinced of his own competence to perform the task before him—fitly illustrated by a quotation from Chwang-tsze, comparing his efforts to those of a gnat endeavouring to upheave a mountain—the Governor bows to the Imperial will, and takes over the seals of office in the absence of the Governor-General.

(6) The rest of this day's Gazette is principally occupied with postscript memorials from the above-named official, relating to sundry administrative details in Yün-nan. The most noticeable of these is an application for the issue of fresh imperial patents for the different Taotai-ships throughout the Province, the original documents having perished during the late insurgent troubles. At the capital itself, owing to its capture in 1863 by the rebel-leader Ma Yung 馬榮, most if not all of the Government offices were pillaged by the insurgents, and the greater part of the official archives consequently perished.

(7) Wên-yih, Superintendent of Customs at Foochow, memorializes reporting the arrival of a junk with tribute from Loochao. The merchandise brought by this vessel is found to be liable to payment of duty to the amount of Taels 134.3.3.7.5, which sum, in conformity with precedent, is graciously remitted.

April 29 and 30.—No documents of interest in these two days' Gazettes.

May 1st. (1). In addition to the usual list of presentations, applications for leave from duty, etc., it is recorded that Ngên-ling having committed a breach of etiquette in introducing to audience, requests that a penalty be adjudged against himself.

(2). Jü-lien, Military Governor of Jeh-ho, applies for the deprivation of office of a District Magistrate who has obtained his preferment by false personation. It appears that an individual named Chao Yung-chên, otherwise called Chao K'i-hung, is the son of a former incumbent of a Magistracy in Kiang-si, where he purchased a grade of nominal literary rank, after which, in return for certain contributions to military funds, he was permitted to become a Prefect's Assistant in Shantung. In 1868, after living for some years in retirement, he took the new name of Chao K'i-hung, and got himself employed as a clerk in a Government office. Obtaining successive recommendations, he managed to rise through various minor titular grades to the rank of expectant Magistrate, but all in his old name of Chao Yung-chên. In 1871 he resigned his clerkship under the alias he bore, and in 1873 he gained his substantive advancement to the Magistrate's list. Having been detected in these subterfuges, he is not a man to be entrusted with a position of authority, and the Military Governor consequently lays the matter before the Throne.—Rescript: Let Chao Yung-chên, alias Chao K'i-hung, be forthwith deprived of his rank. Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

May 2.—The Censors of the Western division of Peking memorialize, reporting a case of suicide involving a criminal charge. It was reported to them on the 31st March, by a woman named Chang Whang-she, that her aunt by marriage, Wang Liu-she, had cut her throat, whereupon an official was despatched together with the examiner of corpses and a female nurse, to hold an inquest on the body of the deceased. The evidence taken is to the effect that Wang Liu-she had a daughter named Liu Urh, aged 17, whom, a week before the suicide was committed, she sent to deponent's house, informing her that two women had lately applied to her for the hand of her daughter in marriage with a young gentleman in the Board of Revenue, and had obtained from her the paper of nativity as usual in such cases. It subsequently appeared that the girl was wanted for a concubine and not as legitimate wife, upon which the mother had demanded the return of the nativity-paper; but the go-between had refused to deliver it up, threatening on the contrary to carry off Liu Urh by force. The deponent had
gone on the following day to Wang Liu-she's house, where she saw the two go-betweens, who still refused to surrender the document. Six days later, deponent was informed that Wang Liu-she had cut her throat. In laying out the deceased for internment, the nativity-paper of the intended bridegroom was found on her bed, and was delivered into the hands of the authorities. The daughter's evidence was to the same effect, and a woman to whom the house belongs in which deceased had taken lodgings, deposed that the intended bridegroom, young Mr. Shên, had come to the door one day, with some companions, and violently abused the deceased. The intended bridegroom had been summoned to give his evidence hereupon, and had persisted in alleging that the girl was negotiated as a concubine only, and that he had never been to the mother's house to make a disturbance. In their final report, the Censors observe that the case is one of violent death precipitated in consequence of matrimonial negotiations on behalf of a person holding official rank, and as the parties to the case give inconceivable evidence at present, owing perhaps to the want of power to apply torture in the preliminary investigation, they recommend that the case be sent before the Board of Punishments. (A Rescript has already been issued assenting to this, and suspending the official in question from his rank pending the trial.)

May 3rd.—Tao Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, memorializes respecting the supply of funds for the forces which are to move beyond the Wall for the subjugation of the revolted Mahommmedan territories. The three divisions are severally commanded by Kin-shun, Chang Yao, (Commander-in-chief), and Ngêh-urh-k'ing-ngeh. The last-named officer has under him a force of 375 cavalry, including three hundred Manchus from the Kirin and Amur regions. Chang Yao has 12 battalions of foot and two of horse, the commissariat of which is to be provided from Honan; and Kin-shun has under his personal command thirty odd battalions of horse and foot, the infantry numbering 500 men per battalion and the cavalry 250. The total force of the three divisions is about 17,000 men of all arms, including 2,000 troops formerly commanded by Chêng-luh, (the general now lying under sentence of death at Peking); and with officers, servants, and coolies, the total number is very nearly 20,000 men. Coming to the question of commissariat expenditure,—provisions are to be collected in Kansuh and sent forward through the Yü-mén Pass and by way of Ngan-si Chow, and taking all expenses into account, including outlay for packing, transport, and service of every kind, the cost per hundred catties of provision will be on an average Taels 11.7. The cost of forage will be a little less. Transport expenses swallow up many times the amount of the actual prime cost of the supplies. As regards the raising of funds to meet these requirements, the province is so thoroughly impoverished by the hostilities of late years as to be incapable of supplying any contributions, and the population itself has to be supported by Government, the very supplies for this purpose needing to be transported at Government expense. In conformity with the Imperial orders issued at the instance of the Board of Revenue, the Governor-General lays the above particulars concerning the constitution and requirements of the campaigning force before his Majesty, asking that the necessary funds be provided in the manner that may seem best to the Board.

A postscript Memorial from the same high officer acknowledges the receipt of a cabinet despatch informing him that the force commanded by Ming-ch'ûn has arrived at Hami. He observes that the funds required for this force have hitherto been supplied from the Provinces of Szech'wan, Hupêh, and Shensi, and it appears, furthermore, that the amount of monthly requisitions on this head is Taels 70,000. It was lately ordered by a decree that, of this monthly subsidy, one-sixth should be diverted to the pay-cheat of Kin-shun's force, and the Governor-General proposes that the whole amount shall pass through Kin-shun's hands, the amount required by Ming-ch'ûn being issued by that officer.

May 4th.—(1) The constabulary Yamen reports the apprehension of a woman of the Imperial lineage (tsung-shih) who was endeavouring to lay a supplication before his Majesty, and they request permission to hand her over to the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Punishments. Also, the apprehension of a woman named Wang Sun-she for the same offence, whom they request permission to hand over to the Board of Punishments. (2) A Decree. The Province of Kwei-chow having now been brought to a state of tranquillity, and considering that the exertions from first to last of the Governor-General, Governor, and Commander-in-chief of the said province in the conduct of military affairs have been truly deserving
of commendation, we ordain that Liu Yoh-chao, Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow, Tseng Pi-kwang, Governor, and Chow Ta-wu, Commander-in-chief of Kweichow, be handed over to the Boards for recommendation to distinguished rewards.

(3) The general-in-chief of the Constabulary memorializes laying before the Throne a case of complaint on the part of a native of Chihli named Wang Ts'ing-yuan, to the effect that in consequence of an unfounded charge brought before the District Magistrate by one of his revenue-clerks named Kwok P'ei-chêng, who had sought to impose unauthorized amounts of taxation, the complainant's father, named Wang K'ê-yûn, had been thrown into prison and done to death. On the complaint being investigated, Wang Ts'ing-yuan deposed that in July 1871 his father had gone in person to the District Magistracy of Yuan-ch'êng to pay his taxes, whereupon an amount in excess of the regulation levy was demanded of him by the revenue clerk, which he refused to pay. The clerk falsely denounced him to the Magistrate, who had him seized, beaten, and thrown into prison, where he died. His remains were carried by underlings of the yamen to complainant's house, when it was seen that open wounds and scars existed on the abdomen of the deceased. Complainant was about to demand an inquest, but was denied access to the Magistrate by one of his runners; and being intimidated against appealing to the District and Provincial authorities, he had come to lay his complaint at Peking. The Constabulary department, in view of the gravity of the charge, lay a copy of the statement before his Majesty and await the Imperial commands.—By a decree already published, the high provincial authorities are directed to investigate the case.

(4) The general commanding the naval squadron on the Yang-tze, Li Ch'êng-mow, makes report of his periodical trip of inspection. In conformity with the regulations, the general of the Yang-tze fleet is bound to reside for one-half of the year at Ta'i-ying Fu, and for the remaining half at Yoi-chow Fu, and to patrol the river annually. The Superintendent-general of the Yang-tze, Feng Yu-lin, will this year begin his tour of inspection from a point in Huan, and Li Ch'êng-mow, ascending the river, will meet him at a central point to exchange notes.

(5) The Constabulary yamen report another case of appeal. Kiang She-kao, a native of the Ch'ang-yih District in Shantung, complains of the murder of his sister by a man named Yen Kwei-chow. The murdered woman was married to one of the Yen family, among whom a series of family disputes are recounted, of which the result was that the husband, Yen Sin-chow, was murdered by one of his kinsfolk during a dispute over some contraband salt-pans, and his corpse was carried by the murderers to the widow's house. The murderers, Yen Kwei-chow, Ma Kien-yeh, and their accomplices next proceeded to bind complainant's sister (the widow) with cords, after which they hacked her twice with some sharp instrument, and finally killed her by a blow with a chopper. A substitute for the real offender in this case was brought forward, and Ma Kien-yeh delivered himself up to justice, but the Magistrate, on hearing the case, compelled the parties to acknowledge the accusation as settled. No punishment has been inflicted on the actual perpetrators of the crime, and only the substitute, Yen Feng-yiu, remains in prison. On laying this before the Throne, his Majesty has issued a Decree in the usual terms, remitting the case to the Provincial authorities for investigation.

May 5.—(1) On the application of Tseng Pi-kwang, Governor of Kweichow, a Decree is issued ordaining the erection of a memorial temple in honour of a former governor of the Province, named Ta-ang Wei-yuan 蒋爵遠.

(2) A Decree is issued with further reference to the complete tranquillization of Kweichow. The Boards are instructed to recommend appropriate marks of distinction for a long list of Governors-General, Governors, Generals, and other provincial functionaries, present and past, who rendered services to the cause by promoting the supply of funds and otherwise.

(3) The Brigadier of a division of the naval forces of Fukien makes report of his annual sea-cruise, in conformity with general instructions issued to this effect in 1844. The cruise of 1873, lasting from the second to the ninth noon, was duly carried out by the Brigadier of Fu-ning, with the happiest results in the way of efficiency and discipline.

May 6th—(1) The Governor of Honan reports the particulars of a case of wholesale murder, committed in revenge for acts of adultery. A prisoner named Hu Kwang-che has been sent forward by the Magistrate to his district for trial at K'ai-feng Fu, where, on full investigation, it has been found that in 1863 the prisoner went with
his mother and his wife to lodge in the house of a man named Kiang Ta-yung; and that this man took the opportunity of forming in illicit connection with both women, which went on for some time without prisoner's knowledge, until at length the scandal became bruited abroad and came to his ears. With the resolution of seizing the guilty parties in the act he came home one evening, and bursting open a door was on the point of grappling with Kiang Ta-yung, when the adulterer managed to escape from his grasp. The prisoner, for the sake of his mother's repute, refrained from bringing his complaint before the authorities, but he put away his wife, and his mother shortly afterwards hid her disgrace by a second marriage during her son's absence from home. The prisoner, learning that Kiang Ta-yung had fled to the Province of Shen-si, and harbouring designs of vengeance against the author of his wrongs, proceeded to that province, where he enlisted as a brave and maintained diligent but ineffectual search after his enemy. In the early part of 1873 he took his discharge and returned home, and as he was pursuing his journey he accidentally encountered the man of whom he was in search standing at his own doorway. Prisoner at once attacked him with the intention of taking his life, and pursued him into the house, where he struck at him with an iron pole which he snatched up from the doorway. With this weapon he battered Kiang Ta-yung to death (inflicting wounds which are described in detail), and having effected his deadly purpose he was making off, when the murdered man's wife and son ran up and endeavoured to seize him. Drawing a dagger, Hu K'w'ang-che stabbed the woman in several places, until she relaxed her grasp and fell down, and he disengaged himself in the same manner from the son, who dropped insensible after receiving many wounds. Hu K'w'ang-che was on the point of making off when a grandson of Kiang Ta-yung endeavoured further to detain him, upon which he again made use of his dagger with deadly effect, first stabbing the lad and at length, in his determination to escape, severing his windpipe with a fatal gash across the throat, which caused immediate death. Seized, notwithstanding these efforts, by some of the villagers, Hu K'w'ang-che was committed to prison, the wounded woman dying shortly afterwards. The son recovered; but prisoner is found guilty of having taken the lives of two persons of one family, without counting the murder with which he began in the case of Kiang Ta-yung. The circumstances of the crime, under the provisions of divers enactments, leave it doubtful whether he should be "summarily beheaded" or "be imprisoned to await strangling after revision of the sentence at Peking," and this point is submitted for His Majesty's decision. Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments form an opinion and report to Us without delay.

(2) The Governor of Honan reports the removal of the Magistrate of the Sze-shuei District from office, and the institution of enquiry into the causes of a tumult that has lately occurred in his Yamen. The district is, it appears, noted for turbulence; and on a report arising among the taxpayers that a fee of two cash under the head of "charge for stationery" was about to be exacted by the revenue-clerks on the issue of each receipt, a mob assembled, broke the doors and windows of the pay-office, and finally burst into the yamen itself. One man was killed in the course of the riot, which the Magistrate vainly endeavoured to appease. On this fatal accident happening, the mob at length took to flight. The revenue-clerks and the ringleaders of the disturbance are to be arrested, and sent to the provincial capital for trial by the officer who has been placed in acting charge of the District.

May 7th.—(1) His Majesty will to-morrow proceed at 5 a.m. to the Ta-Kao-Tien to offer worship, and thence will proceed to the Imperial Park (the King-Shan, or Prospect Hill, behind the Palace), where he will offer worship in the Show Hwang Tien. Re-entering the Palace, his Majesty will at 7 a.m. ascend the K'ien Ts'ing pavilion, where he will accept the (birthday) congratulations. At 8 a.m. his Majesty will take his seat to witness a theatrical performance.

(2 and 3) Two memorials, by the Censorate Supervisors Hu Yu-yin and Pien Pao-t'sUan respectively, with reference to the hardship inflicted upon a Ku-jen graduate named Sieh Hwan-chang, aged upwards of 60, from the Province of Yunnan, by the revisers in preparation for the Doctorate examinations now in progress at Peking. Upwards of 30 names were placed in the fourth (and lowest) class at this revision, but Sieh Hwan-chang has been excluded from the list altogether (下列等), and losses thus not only his chance of competing for the tsin-mu degree, but also the degrees he has already obtained). The Censor Hu alleges that great injustice has been done to this individual, who had scarcely recovered from the fatigues of his
immense journey when subjected to the reviser's examination, and he gives expression to the discontent which is felt among the literary candidates owing to the harsh proceedings in this case.—A Rescript has appeared directing renewed enquiry.

(4) The Grand Secretary Wên-siang, kneeling, represents that his long-continued illness gives no signs of recovery, and he again entreats the Imperial favour permitting him to resign his office and devote himself to the restoration of his health. Words are inadequate to express his gratitude for the sacred favour already extended toward him, as manifested in the leave of temporary retirement already accorded; but the Grand Secretary feels, with all his desire to resume the discharge of his duties, that there is little hope of a recovery from the asthmatic complaint under which he labours. In the autumn of 1870 he begged that he might be solely employed in connection with foreign affairs, and relieved from all other weighty business, in the hope of being able thus to continue longer serviceable to His Majesty; but for the last three years his infirmities have gone on increasing, and he finds himself growing daily worse. Besides the sufferings entailed by asthma, the Grand Secretary is afflicted with sleeplessness, with a painful affection of the liver, and confined himself, as before solicited, to foreign Affairs exclusively, he would be incapable of enduring the necessary exertion. He is consequently reduced to the necessity of begging permission to retire, although feeling that, his sixtieth year not having been yet attained, he has not accomplished the duty he owes to his Sovereign, as a dog or a horse to its master.—A Rescript, already published, grants in reply a further congé of two months.

May 8.—(1) The Governor of Chekiang memorializes soliciting distinguished rewards for the officials, civil and military, who have exerted themselves successfully since 1870 in apprehending and executing several hundreds of the malefactors who endeavoured to raise a rebellion at T'ai-chow, and who murdered the Brigadier-General Ch'en Shao, while at sea. The perpetrators of these acts were remnants of the late (Taiping) insurrection, and greater merit attaches to the suppression of their movement than to the capture and punishment of ordinary brigands.—In response to the Governor's application, a Rescript is issued directing the proper Board to take action as requested.

(2) The Governor of Chekiang reports the measures taken last year for the suppression of an outbreak in the Sin-ch'ang District, the apprehension and execution of the principal offenders, and the hacking to pieces of the bodies of two of the ring-leaders.

May 9th.—(1) The Prince of Tun and others return thanks for the gift of jade sceptres.

(2) The President of the Board of Civil Office and his colleagues report their judgment in the case of the Judicial Commissioner of Yunnan, whose delay in adjudicating a charge of murder, the victim of which was a Brigadier-General who was set upon and beaten to death by the retainers of the Prefect with whom he had quarrelled, led to the assassination of the Prefect by the murdered man's nephew (as already narrated in previous memorials.) The judgment given is to the effect that the high official in question should lose a step of rank and be removed from his position.—A Rescript confirming this sentence has already appeared.

(3) The Governor of Shantung reports that the first detachment of grain-junks, carrying the Shantung contingent, have been inspected and found in complete order, and would commence their journey northwards on the 10th April.

May 10th.—(1) Yü-she, the High Commissioner of Si-ming, memorializes extolling the virtues of the deceased high official Shên Chao-shên, under whom he served in 1802, when the subject of his eulogium was conducting operations against the revolted Mahommedans, in his capacity of Acting Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh. Wholly absorbed in the discharge of his public duties, Shên Chao-shên gave no thought to his own rest or health, and he finally perished by drowning in a flood, owing to his determination to continue a march across country and during weather which deterred even herdboys and pedlars from attempting to travel. The memorialist, having now again been stationed with his troops in the same part of the country, has the virtues of his former chief recalled to mind, and he begs that a memorial Temple may be erected in his honour, on the site of his former achievements.—A Rescript has been issued assenting to this proposal.

(2) The Governor-General of Hu-Kwang reports a charge brought by a trader named Kiang Kwang-lin against an expectant-Captain named Yu K'ia-hwei, who is accused of having trumped up a false charge against the complainant to the effect that he was engaged in selling coun-
terfeit cash, upon which he entered his house, ransacked it for valuables, and bit the complainant across the fingers.—A Rescript directs the accused party to be stripped of his rank and placed on trial.

(3) Yü-she, in addition to the foregoing memorial on behalf of his former chief, reports his resumption of office after the congé of two months granted him in February last on his applying for leave to retire from the service. His aiments have now been somewhat abated, and he will bestir himself strenuously in the discharge of his duties. He has among other things to go to meet and provide escort to a new hablian or reëmbodiment of a departed lama saint.

May 11th.—(1) A Vermilion Pencil Edict announces that the result of the Triennial Examinations yields the following number of successful candidates: 9 Manchus; 3 Mongols; 6 Chinese bannermen; 25 natives of Chihli; 4 of Föng'tien; 23 of Shantung; 12 of Shan, 19 of Honan, 24 of Shensi and Kansuh, 27 of Kiangsu, 19 of Nanking, 26 of Chekiang, 23 of Kiangsi, 15 each of Hupeh, Hunan, and Szech'wan, 20 of Fukien, 3 of Formosa, 17 of Kwangtung, 14 of Kwangsi, and 13 each of Yünnan and Kweichow. (The above make 345 in all, out of some 6,000 to 7,000 competitors).

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang, Li Tsung-hfe, memorialises respecting the transport of the grain tributes from Kiangpeh (the north bank of the Yang-tze) along the Grand Canal, as directed by the arrangements concluded last year. The quantity of rice to be forwarded from the northern districts of Kiangsu has been duly purchased by officials appointed for the purpose, and the grain, collected at proper points for embarkation, commenced on the 18th of March, and his departure for the North on the 23rd of the same month.

May 12.—(1) The Prefect of Shun-tien Fu (Peking) reports that three inches of rain have fallen.

(2 and 3) Memorials from Ying-tsiaug, Judicial Commissioner of Sze-ch'wan, returning thanks on his taking up the acting appointment of Financial Commissioner, and from Fu K'ing-i, the Salt and Tea Comptroller, on his accession to take charge of the office vacated by Ying-tsiaug. These changes are consequent upon a visit to Peking on the part of the Financial Commissioner Wang Teh-ku, who has been granted an audience.

(4) The Censors in charge of the Chinese section of Peking solicit a further extension of two months beyond the time at which the stations for the distribution of food should be closed—viz. the 20th April. They mention that at each of the stations—fifteen in number—the applicants for an allowance of food have ranged from 700 or 800 up to 1,000 and upwards. There are still a great number of aged people, infants, and cripples to be provided for, and they consequently beg an extension as above stated.—A Rescript acceding to the request has already appeared.

May 13.—(1) A Decree. Sang Ch'un-yung and three others have reported to Us on the case of Siel Hwan-chang, the
Kü-jes who was deprived of his degree, and whose examination papers they have inspected. They recommend that he do not lose his degree, but, in conformity with the regulation in case of faulty productions, be subject to the penalty of exclusion from one triennial competition. The Board of Ceremonies likewise memorialize recommending that, as before submitted, he be deprived of his degree. With the exception of the high officials who have already taken part in the present enquiry, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Ceremonies, and Sang Ch'ün-yung and his associates, let the ministers of the nine superior offices of state take this matter jointly into consideration and make report.

(2) The Captain-General of the Constabulary reports a complaint brought forward by a native of Honan, Chao Haishan, who accuses the concubine of a man named Su Heng-shan of causing the death of his sister, the legitimate wife of Su Heng-shan. Complainant is a farmer, whose wife he had unsuccessfully attempted to seduce. Although the murderer confessed his guilt, the magistrate's police seized complainant, tied him up, flogged him, and extorted money from him. The whole family of the murdered man were tormented by the police, and complainant's appeals for redress have been, (as usual), unheeded.—Referred.

(3) Another appeal case from Shantung, in which Chao Li-ch'ao accuses Chiao Yang-teh and others of murdering his brother, whose wife he had unsuccessfully attempted to seduce. Although the murderer confessed his guilt, the magistrate's police seized complainant, tied him up, flogged him, and extorted money from him. The whole family of the murdered man were tormented by the police, and complainant's appeals for redress have been, (as usual), unheeded.—Referred.

(6) The same functionary reports, additionally, that as in consequence of the short crops last year the amount of rice leviable for shipment in Chekiang was below the proper figure, a sum of Taels 70,000 had been provided from the Provincial revenue and handed over to a commissioner for the purpose of buying up 40,000 piculs of rice to be shipped with the Chekiang produce, as already heretofore reported. The Rice Comptroller has now written from Shanghai to state that the amount in question will suffice for the purchase of about 43,000 piculs, of which 25,000 have already been brought down to Shanghai. The rice will be shipped to Tientsin by the vessels of the C. M. S. N. Company.
escape from all punishment. The complainant is now moved to the present appeal owing to his having found that the remains of his father had been removed from the inn where they were originally deposited, on his proceeding to the spot last year to take charge of them.—Referred as usual.

(2) Ngên-urh-k'ing-ngêh, Fu Tu-t'ung of the Liang-chow troops, reports his departure from his military station in command of the cavalry brigade which is to operate outside the Wall (as lately stated in Tao Taung-t'ang’s memorial on the intended campaign). The three squadrons of Manchu cavalry placed under his command number 468 officers and men, all told, beside which a division of 414 mounted men commanded by Brigadier General Kwei Si-chêng has likewise been placed under his orders by the Governor-General.

May 13th.—The Governor of Chekiang (Manchuria) reports the successful repulse of a foray made by a party of brigands on the small seaport of Ku Shan, in the gulf of Tartary, close to the Korean border. On the 1st of March some fifty or sixty brigands from beyond the frontier made an attack upon the town, but they were successfully beaten off; and rewards and distinctions are besought for those who took part in the defence.

May 15th.—The Military Governor of Shêng King, in the gulf of Tartary, reports his successful repulse of a foray made by a party of brigands on the small seaport of Ku Shan, in the gulf of Tartary, close to the Korean border. On the 1st of March some fifty or sixty brigands from beyond the frontier made an attack upon the town, but they were successfully beaten off; and rewards and distinctions are besought for those who took part in the defence.

May 16th.—(1) A Decree, allowing an additional sum of Tls. 1,800 toward the expenses of roadmaking, encampments, &c., during the late Imperial progress to the Mausolea. The amount previously allotted has been found insufficient to meet the heavy expenditure entailed by the occasion, and the present allowance is to be issued from the provincial Treasury.

(2) A Decree.—The Yamen of Foreign Affairs having memorialized, stating that the Russian Envoy has implored an audience to present a letter from his government, We decree that he be granted an audience.

(3) Ming-ngan, a deputy of the Board of Punishments in the province of Shêngking, memorializes respecting a feud between certain civil and military officers of the town of Liao-yang Chow, who, having fallen out concerning certain sums of borrowed money, have mutually denounced each other. The civilian is stripped of his rank, and the military officer subjected to the judgment of the Board.

May 17th.—The Court Circular page of the Gazette contains an announcement in the usual form, of the course of progress to be followed by his Majesty to-morrow, when going in state to the Temple of Agriculture, to fast and perform the annual ceremonies.

The remainder of this day’s Gazette is taken up with memorials from the Governor of Kwei-chow, expressing acknowledgments of the service rendered by divers Provincial Governments in supplying funds for the military operations in progress for the last 20 years, which have at length terminated in the complete pacification of the Province. The Decrees in answer to these memorials have already appeared.

May 18th.—The Court Circular announces the arrangements for his Majesty’s return to the Palace from the Temple of Agriculture.

(1) A Decree, setting forth the Imperial decision in the case of the quarrel between Ch’ang-shun, the acting Military Governor of Uliautai, and his coadjutor Wên-kwei, who denounced each other last year for a multitude of trifling delinquencies. Their want of regard for decorum is severely reprehended, and the Board is called upon to name fitting penalties both in their case and with reference to minor officials implicated in the charges advanced.

May 19th.—(1) The Court Circular announces that his Majesty will to-morrow leave the palace, and proceed by certain gates to the Spring Lotus Pavilion, where, after transacting business, his Majesty will breakfast and give audience to high officials. Thence, passing by the Ch’üi Hwa Gate, and, after a short halt at the Wu Chêng Hall, his Majesty will proceed to the Tsze Kwang Koh, where audience (of the Russian Minister) will be held. After this his Majesty will return to the Palace.

(2) The Governor of Chekiang memorializes regarding the repairs which are needed for the sea-wall in the district of Hai-yen (Bay of Hang-chow). This structure was founded in the time of the Ming dynasty, when a stone wall several thousand chang in length was built, together with a dyke or retaining wall of earth; and throughout the 17th and 18th centuries repairs to this necessary work of defence against the action of the waves were frequently called for. About the year 1821, a system was laid down for the execution of annual maintenance works, under the supervision of the local authorities and gentry, but during the rebellion all works were necessarily suspended. It was not until 1866 that, under the Governorship of Ma Sin-i, a renewed survey and estimate of cost of repairs were undertaken, when it was found that the damaged portions of the embankment consisted of 157 chang of stone wall, 553 chang of earthwork, and 28 chang of...
timber. As regards the stone wall, the dimensions of the ancient structure are about 2 chang (say 24 feet English) in height and breadth, or nearly double the dimensions of sea walls at present under construction at certain other points in the Hang-chow Prefecture. The blocks of stone employed were 5 'ch'ih in length and 1½ 'ch'ih in width. To carry out the work on this scale would entail an expenditure for which it is impossible to provide funds. The Governor contemplates, therefore, certain modifications in the mode of construction, as each section of the work may render necessary. A plan pursued early in the reign of Tao Kwang, under the direction of the then District Magistrate, which consisted in building up a wall of rubble, secured with clamps, strongly cemented, and backed with chunam, has been found most durable, and this is to be followed in the present instance.

May 20.—(1) The Court Circular contains the following announcements of to-day's movements:—

The Board of Works, the Banqueting Court, and the two divisions of the Imperial Guards took turn of duty. No presentations were made.

Te's'ung-lun returned thanks on being placed in temporary charge of seals.

The Grand Secretary Shan memorialized, requesting leave to retire.

Ying-yüan paid his respects on the expiry of his congé.

Ta'i-ts'eng and Kwei-feng severally applied for a few days' congé.

The Governor of Shun-tien Fu reports the fall of over an inch of rain in Peking.

The Privy Council had audience.

(2) A Decree. The Grand Secretary Shan memorializes, applying for a few days' congé. The Governor-General of Ch'ihli, the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, memorializes, applying for decorations in reward of the exploit performed by certain local officials in capturing an ex-rebel, who has been brought to justice and executed. The offender in question, having been imprisoned for an abduction in 1861, was released from the jail in which he was confined on the capture of the city of Ch'ao-yang a month or two afterwards by a band of rebels, among whose ranks he took service. A long career of brigandage is recorded against him subsequently, until, in 1869, he fell into the hands of the authorities and was summarily executed. The department Magistrate is recommended for a peacock-feather of the second class, and a number of minor functionaries are proposed for appropriate tokens of approbation.—Referred to the Board for report.

May 22.—(1) The Governor-General of Ch'ihli, the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, memorializes, applying for decorations in reward of the exploit performed by certain local officials in capturing an ex-rebel, who has been brought to justice and executed. The offender in question, having been imprisoned for an abduction in 1861, was released from the jail in which he was confined on the capture of the city of Ch'ao-yang a month or two afterwards by a band of rebels, among whose ranks he took service. A long career of brigandage is recorded against him subsequently, until, in 1869, he fell into the hands of the authorities and was summarily executed. The department Magistrate is recommended for a peacock-feather of the second class, and a number of minor functionaries are proposed for appropriate tokens of approbation.—Referred to the Board for report.

(2) The same high official memorializes with reference to a large balance of funds expended in 1858, on behalf of the Court, by the then Governor-General of Ch'ihli, K'ing-k'i. The Imperial Mausoleum (of Hien-fêng) being then in course of construction, a Decree was issued ordering any surplus timber from the works in progress at the Taku Forts to be handed over to the Board of Works for that purpose, and, in obedience to these orders, 8,736 balks were handed over to officials deputed to take charge of them for conveyance to the site of the tomb. The original cost of these materials had been advanced by the Governor-General himself, to the amount of Taels 42,017.6. Toward repayment he had received from the local pay-department only Taels 16,729.2.6.8, leaving a balance due of Taels 25,288.3.3.2. The Customs' and Salt Gabelle Treasuries of Tientsin, and the Timber-duty Customhouse of To-lun, are the departments from which repayment of this amount should be made; but they have not had the means of meeting the claim; and the son of the deceased lender, who is now filling the post of Vice-president of the Granaries, offered some time ago to contribute Taels 20,000 out of the above claim under the head of subscription to war expenses. The
offer was made to the late Imperial Commissioner Seng-ko-lin-sin, but it was overlooked in the confusion incident upon a state of warfare. The official in question now proposes to surrender the balance of his claim, in addition to the amount previously given up, in order to wind up the matter; and he states that he does not venture to ask for any reward in return. Notwithstanding this act of abnegation, the Governor-General observes that certain rules exist in connection with contributions on public account, and that the recompense declined by Yen-hü should be transferred to his kinsfolk or children as may be most expedient.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

May 23rd.—(1) The Court circular announces the details of the route to be followed by his Majesty in the course of a visit to-morrow to the works in progress at Yuen-ming-yuen.

(2) A Decree is issued respecting the case of Sieh Hwan-chang, the candidate from Yün-nan for the triennial examinations who was turned back by the test examiners and stripped of his Kú-jên degree. On the report made by the Nine-Superior Courts that the style of his composition, although obscure and inferior, is nevertheless not wholly incorrect, the Kú-jên degree is restored as an act of exceptional grace, with the proviso that Sieh Hwan-chang is debarred from competing at the present examinations. Wan Ts'ing-li, President of the Board of Ceremonies, is handed over to the Board for adjudication of a penalty in consequence of the impropriety of his conduct in observing, as he did, before the present question was laid before the Throne, that Sieh Hwan-chang had been oppressively dealt with.

(3) A series of Decrees distribute between Pao-yün, Shên Kwei-tén, and Mao Ch'ang-hi, some of the titular functions lately incumbent upon the Grand Secretary Shau Mow-k'ien.

(4) A memorial from the Governor-General of Chih-li reporting the precautionary measures taken at the break-up of the ice in the Yung-ting river. The Taotai in charge of the river was on the spot with his staff of civil and military officials when the ice began to give way, which took place this year earlier than usual, in the course of the 1st moon (Feb.-March). The river rose with great rapidity from a depth of 8 or 9 ch'ih to 11 or 12 ch'ih; but notwithstanding the force and mutability of the current, the banks were preserved from danger by the efforts of those in charge. At the bridge of Lu Kow (13 miles S.W. from Peking) there is now a depth of 8½ ch'ih.

May 24th. (1) The Court of the Imperial Household memorializes respecting the appointment to the superintendency of the Imperial manufacturing department at Soochow, the present incumbent of which will shortly have fulfilled his year of office.

(2) The Governor of Kwêichow memorializes on behalf of T'ao Mow-lin, who was formerly stripped of his office as Commander-in-chief of the troops in Kanauh. Having been recommended to his Majesty's favour for his valour in reducing the stronghold of the rebels at Sin-ch'êung, and in subduing the upper portion of the province, a rescript was issued restoring him to his original rank and exempting him from payment of repurchase money, as also conferring on him again his peacock-feather, yellow jacket, and order of distinction. The Board of War, however, decided that as the offence for which the original degradation had been imposed was neglect of regulations and corrupt conduct, causing the troops to break out in disorder and to disband, he ought not, in view of the serious nature of his offence, to be allowed to regain his rank and honours. To this decision the Imperial assent was signified last year. Now, however, the Governor represents anew the signal services rendered by T'ao Mow-lin, and in reply the following rescript is given in the vermilion pencil. "Let T'ao Mow-lin be restored to his former footing. Let the Board of War take note."

The remainder of the Gazette is occupied by unimportant postscript Memorials from the same Governor.

May 25th.—(1) A Decree.—Let Chao Kwang-shêng, the man who presented a supplication to us by the roadside yesterday, be handed over to the Board of Punishments for a rigorous examination.

(2) Ying-yüan, Captain-General of the Constabulary, memorializes respecting an appeal brought by a native of K'ai-chow in Chih-li, named Ma Ch'ao-i, respecting the death of his uncle. This relative, named Ma King-feng, plied a ferry boat on that river at Kai-chow; but, in 1872, on an occasion when some mounted highwaymen wanted to cross the river he delayed the passage, and in consequence of this the police who were in pursuit captured the offenders. One of the highwaymen, named Wang Sze, died while undergoing trial; upon which his aiders and abettors, certain police runners of the District of P'ü Chow in Shantung, named Fang Man, etc., taking vengeance for the delay at the ferry, seized plaintiff's uncle, carried him off
as a prisoner to P'u Chow, and confined him in an inn. Complainant's grandfather went to K'ai Chow to lodge a complaint, and was accompanied to the Magistrate's yamen by certain of the elders who vouched for his character and position; but hereupon the police-runners of P'u Chow, fearful lest their misdeed should be brought to light, put complainant's uncle to death in the inn. Their next step was, by means of bribes, to induce a clerk in the judicial department falsely to introduce the murdered man's name upon the records of certain cases of robbery. The grandfather and others of the family having petitioned the district magistrate, they were sent to lodge their complaint in Shantung, before the Provincial Chief Commissioner, Judicial Commissioner, and the Governor; all of whom referred the case to the Magistrate of P'u Chow, who was good enough to direct petitioners to apply at the District Magistracy of Ho-tseh for the records showing that Fung Man had given shelter and support to the mounted robbers. The parties implicated, however, managed by some unknown means to interpose delays, and complainant's grandfather died, worn out with mental trouble. Complainant went again to the acting Judicial Commissioner of Shantung, and was once more referred back to P'u Chow. Despairing of redress, he now brings his appeal to Peking. — Referred as usual.

(3) Ta-tien Ting-ming, Governor of Ho-nan, reports his departure on the 4th May from the provincial capital on a military tour of inspection, in obedience to the Imperial commands. He announces his intention of enforcing strict efficiency by the most searching measures of scrutiny into drill, discipline, and aptitude on the part of officers for their position.

(4) Ying-yian reports another appeal case relating to P'u Chow in Shantung. Complainant, Li Han-k'ing, aged 44, a literary graduate, is a cultivator residing in the above-named department. In 1861 certain rebel leaders, named Kao Kin-lan &c., took and pillaged complainant's village with their band, and killed complainant's grandfather and father. They carried off complainant and two others, whom they held to ransom. After the recovery of the place by the troops, the perpetrators of these crimes, apprehending vengeance on the part of complainant, sought to induce him to let the matter drop, which he refused to do; but all his attempts to gain a hearing at the provincial tribunals have failed. — Referred as usual.

(5) The Governor of Fukien, Wang K'ai-tai, reports having been overtaken by sickness at Soochow, while on his way to Peking for presentation, and begs for a month's leave to attend to the restoration of his health. He states that when passing through Shantung in 1862 he had a fall, through which his left knee was fractured. From this injury he has never recovered; he has always been subject to rheumatic pains, which have been aggravated by his service of late years in the damp climates of Canton and Foochow. From time to time he is attacked with numbness in both hands, and by dizziness and loss of sight arising from mental strain. — Referred: We grant one month's leave.

May 26. — (1) The Governor of Chekiang reports the completion of his tour of military inspection in the prefectures of Kia-hing and Hu-chow, and his intention of setting out on the 25th April for the tour of the remaining portions of the Province, with especial view to the inspection of the forces afloat. In the course of this journey he will visit Ningpo. From personal survey of the state of affairs in the two prefectures of Kia-hing and Hu-chow (the great centres of the silk industry), the Governor adds that, although they are still far from having regained their former prosperity, he is yet able to report a sensible improvement since his last visit in 1870, in the condition of the military organization, and that the people are contented. Notwithstanding the drought of the latter part of last summer, the authorities report a fair crop of silk. The excessive amount of snow and cold this spring has been to some extent injurious to the vegetable and grain crops.

(2) The Governor of Shensi applies for sanction to a month's congé which he has taken for the restoration of his health. — Granted by rescript.

(3) A postscript Memorial from the Governor of Chekiang, representing that his departure from the Provincial capital on a tour of inspection necessitates some divergence from the usual course of proceedings with reference to the prisoners sent up for the "autumn trials." It has hitherto been the rule that all cases connected with this annual assize should be brought forward for hearing by the beginning of the 4th moon, but as the Governor will be absent a couple of months on his present journey, and as it is not expedient to retain prisoners massed together for a length of time, he has thought it right to depute the chief provincial Commissioner to undertake the task of revising the sentences and of sending the prisoners
back, thereupon, to their respective districts. On the Governor's return, he will himself scrutinize each case in detail and lay his judicial report before the Throne.—Rescript: We have taken note.

May 27th.—(1) The Constabulary yamen report the apprehension of two persons in the act of attempting to present supplications to his Majesty by the roadside, and application is made for their delivery to the Board of Punishments.

(2) The Governor General Li Ho-nien, acting also as Governor of Fukien, memorializes upon the escape of prisoners from jail. As reported by the District Magistrate of Chiang-p'yu, on the night of the 27th March, during a storm of wind and rain, seven prisoners whose names are given seized the opportunity, while their jailers were fast asleep, to break their fetters, pull down a barricade, and dig a hole through the wall of the jail by which they got out and escaped. Pursuing was instituted, but ineffectually, and the Magistrate himself, being absent at the time on business, hurried back immediately on receiving a report of the occurrence. Two of the prisoners in question were under sentence of transportation, commuted from that of strangling, for acts of homicide, and the remaining five were all under trial for murder cases. The Governor-General, dwelling on the exceptional gravity of this occurrence, requests that a rescript be issued stripping the deputy Magistrate, ex officio in charge of the jail, of his rank, and ordering him to be made a prisoner and placed on trial, as also that the Magistrate himself may be temporarily stripped of his rank but left in charge, with instructions to use every effort for the recapture of the escaped felons. The provincial high authorities have been directed to institute a searching enquiry into the circumstances of this case, with a view to ascertain whether any laxity of control or corrupt influences were at work in the matter.

(3) Three high officials, conducting the works of construction at the Western Mausolea, report certain details of the building works in progress.

(4) Ts'ing-ügan, Brigadier-General in charge of the arrangements for the roadway to the Western Mausolea on the occasion of his Majesty's visit in April last, applies for additional funds to meet the balance of expenditure unprovided for. He states that bridges had to be built, roadways made, camping-ground cleared, and four lodging-places for his Majesty at different stages of the journey constructed. For these and other necessary expenses he had previously applied for a sum of Tael 12,000, issued from the provincial Treasury and divided between the officials charged with the several sections of the work. Owing to the state of disrepair into which the roads had fallen, however, and to the damage done of late years by floods, the expenses have been heavier than estimated, and it was necessary to borrow for the moment Tls. 1,400 from a mercantile source in order to complete the works. At one place, moreover, where the Imperial lunch-station had been laid out according to the old rule with a circumference of 80 chang, the Guides' department called for an increase of dimensions by 40 chang, and the additional cost incurred in this instance amounted to Tls. 400. The applicant therefore asks for a supplementary allowance of Tls. 1,800 to meet the additional outlay.—Rescript granting this has already appeared.

May 28th.—(1) The Sacrificial Court having reported that the 8th day of the 5th moon (June 21) is the period of the summer solstice, when a grand sacrificial ceremony is due to Earth at the square lake-altar, a rescript has been received in the following words: We will proceed in person to accomplish the ceremony. Let Ts'uan-yeo, Yü-hwe, Kwo-ts'ai-sun and Chao kio severally make offerings at the four minor altars.

(2) The Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang reports the circumstances and conclusion of a trial in which certain military officials are concerned. It appears that Lieutenant Colonel Hwang Ts'ai-ts'ing was stationed at Wên-chow in Chekiang, where he had at one time acted for a certain period as Brigadier of the division. A lieutenant promoted from the ranks named Lin Pi'ai-yü and a certain K'ü Lien-sheng, who had been stripped for some offence of his rank as captain, were old acquaintances of his, and toward the end of 1871 Lin Pi'ai-yü, having opened a money-changer's shop and being in want of capital, obtained a loan of 550 dollars from Hwang Ts'ai-ts'ing, through the agency of two middlemen, giving as security a house he held under mortgage, the rent of which, amounting to some 9,000 cash per month, was to be received by the lender by way of interest. Some weeks later Lin Pi'ai-yü obtained a further loan of $200 from Hwang Ts'ai-ts'ing, agreeing to pay interest thereon at the rate of three per cent per month, the entire amount to be repaid six months later. On the two occasions in question a deed of hypothecation and a promissory note were severally drawn up, and the title deeds for the mortgaged house...
property were delivered to the lender. On the 22nd of the 5th moon of 1872 (and consequently before the expiry of the stipulated period) Hwang Tsai-ta'ing found himself in want of money and wished to recover the amount he had lent to Lin. As the middlemen were both absent, he asked K'ü Lien-shéng (the ex-captain) to proceed with him to the debtor's house, where he demanded repayment. Lin replied that the money was not yet due, upon which Hwang Tsai-ta'ing, losing command of his temper, threw down and broke a teapot which was on the table and, assisted by K'ü Lien-shéng, raised an outcry, winding up by administering a blow with his fist which bruised Lin P'ei-yü's upper lip. Neighbours and passers-by came in to act as pacificators; and after the disturbance had come to an end, Lin P'ei-yü's mother took her son to lodge a complaint with the District Magistrate, who officially examined and took note of the bruises. On the other hand K'ü Lien-shéng, recollecting that in a certain theatrical company there had been an actor named Lin, whose features bore resemblance to those of Lin P'ei-yü, went to denounced the latter as "of impure origin" before the Brigadier-General of Wéns-chow. On the case being judicially investigated, Lin P'ei-yü deposed that his loan negotiated with Hwang Tsai-ta'ing was raised on lawful terms, and that usurious interest had not been exacted from him; also that he had not been subjected to undue pressure for payment, the charges brought forward by his mother having been alleged under mistaken impressions. Other testimony was to the same effect. The sentence pronounced hereupon is to the effect that although Hwang Tsai-ta'ing may not have exacted usurious interest or brought undue pressure to bear, he has nevertheless behaved in a manner disgraceful to an officer of the third rank,—and that Lin P'ei-yü has also conducted himself improperly in precipitating a disturbance owing to his not having replied in a conciliatory manner when repayment was demanded of him. Both, therefore, having already (on accusation) been stripped of their rank, should not be granted a resumption of their former status. K'ü Lien-shéng is decreed a penalty of 80 blows for his share in the transaction, but, as an ex-official, he is entitled to commute this penalty for a money payment, to go to the public exchequer. Lin P'ei-yü is to repay the sum he owes with interest reduced (i.e. so as not to exceed the principal amount) and Hwang Tsai-ta'ing to give up the documents he holds. These proceedings, being submitted by the Governor-General, are by rescript referred to the Board of Punishments for consideration and report.

May 29th—(1) The Governor of Yünnan having reported that the chief provincial Commissioner (fan-sze) Sung Yen-ch'ün, applies for leave to retire on the score of ill-health, the application is granted, and P'an Ting-sin 潘鼎新 is named as his successor.

(2) Shan Mow-k'ien, a senior Grand Secretary, memorializes beseeching leave to retire from his post on the score of ill-health. He is upwards of seventy years of age, and labours under divers infirmities which medical skill is unable to surmount.

—The Imperial rescript granting this application for retirement has already been published.

(3) The Censorate memorialise respecting an appeal brought before them by Chang P'eng-yün, degraded from the rank of District Magistrate, against the penalty of loss of his official position entailed through wrongful impeachment by Ch'ang-shun, the Military Governor of Uliasén-t'ai. The accusations brought against him he traverses in toto, ascribing them to the malice of another employed of the Military Governor, whom he in turn accuses of sundry misdeeds. A rescript has already appeared, ordering a further investigation into this case.

(4) The acting Governor-General of the grain transport reports the exit of the entire grain squadron beyond the limits of Kiangsu. He has already memorialized stating that 543 junks, carrying upwards of 104,000 piculs of rice, the quota for 1873 from the districts North of the Yangzte, had passed over the locks at Ts'ing-kiang P'iu. The depth of water in the Canal before the annual rise (底水) has been greater than usual, but owing to a long continuance of dry weather there has been a certain degree of loss through evaporation, and measures have consequently been instituted for deepening the channel, whilst at the same time orders have been given to close the sluice at Lin Kia Shan and to store up the lake waters in order to feed the Canal at the proper moment. These steps having been duly taken, the whole grain squadron was by the 6th May hauled past Hwang Lin Chwang, where the province of Shan-tung was entered, and they were sped along upon their voyage northward. A gain of nineteen days, compared with last
year, is noted in the period at which the grain-junks have crossed the border of Kiangsu.

May 30. (1) The Brigadier General and the Taotai of Tai-wan (Formosa) jointly memorialize reporting the sentence passed on a wife guilty of adultery and of the murder of her husband. A man named Lin Hai, a denizen of the district of Tai-wan, having formed an adulterous connection with Wang Tien-she, the wife of Wang Chwang, the circumstances of the latter's knowledge and he thereupon placed his wife under restraint. On the 26th August 1873 Lin Hai induced Wang Tien-she to join him in murdering the husband, whose body they endeavoured to dispose of under cover of night, but being encountered accidentally by some of the villagers, they were arrested and brought to justice. On the body being examined a mark of strangulation was found upon the throat, and the print of a foot deeply stamped upon the left breast. Lin Hai died in prison of a sickness after his examination had been held, and the woman has given birth to a child since her imprisonment. On being brought before the memorialists for trial, she has confessed the particulars of her seduction by Lin Hai, and also of the murder of her husband, who was strangled by Lin Hai and herself, Lin Hai having come up and taken her husband unawares while engaged in a violent quarrel with herself. The memorialists state that the penalty she has incurred is that of death by ling-ch'e (being cut in pieces), and they propose that the sentence be carried out on the 8th April. The body lay face upwards. Face, yellow, both eyes shut and mouth closed. The throat had been cut by deceased's own hand, by a gash with a sharp instrument extending in an oblique direction for a length of 2.3/10 ts'un, 1/10 ts'un in width. The cut was deep, severing both gullet and windpipe. The right arm was bent and the hand clenched. On examination the body was found to correspond with that of the wound. The left hand was stretched out. An oblique stab, 5/10 ts'un long, 1/10 ts'un wide and 4/10 ts'un deep was found, inflicted by the hand of the deceased, on the chest. The abdomen was flat, both legs stretched out together, the hair of the face in its ordinary state. No other noticeable signs in any part of the body. The cause of death is clearly suicide by cutting the throat, both gullet and windpipe being severed and a mortal wound thereby inflicted."

(2) The Military Governor of Uliautai, Ch'ang-shun, memorializes reporting the details of a suicide committed by Pao-shan, an officer of his guards, on the night of the 8th April. On report of this act having been made an inquest was ordered, whereupon the following report was made: "Deceased was 37 years of age. On measurement the body was found to be 5 ch'ih in height, the shoulders 8 ts'un in width, the chest 7.1/10 ts'un high. The body lay face upwards. Face, yellow, both eyes shut and mouth closed. The throat had been cut by deceased's own hand, by a gash with a sharp instrument extending in an oblique direction for a length of 2.3/10 ts'un, 1/10 ts'un in width. The cut was deep, severing both gullet and windpipe. The right arm was bent and the hand clenched. On examination the body was found to correspond with that of the wound. The left hand was stretched out. An oblique stab, 5/10 ts'un long, 1/10 ts'un wide and 4/10 ts'un deep was found, inflicted by the hand of the deceased, on the chest. The abdomen was flat, both legs stretched out together, the hair of the face in its ordinary state. No other noticeable signs in any part of the body. The cause of death is declared as clearly suicide by cutting the throat, both gullet and windpipe being severed and a mortal wound thereby inflicted." In addition to this report of the coroner's inquest, deposition has been taken from deceased's servant, who affirms that his employer had for a length of time been suffering from illness, in consequence of which he never stirred out of doors, and that on his entering the cookhouse to light the fire on the morning after the suicide he found the lifeless body of deceased stretched upon the floor. These particulars are brought to His Majesty's notice.

May 31st.—(1) A Rescript is issued in reply to a Memorial (not yet published) from the Governor of Kiangsu, reporting the escape of a prisoner from the jail of the Tsung-Shan District. The Sub-deputy Magistrate responsible for the safekeeping of prisoners is ordered to be stripped of his official position, and made a prisoner for trial in conjunction with the jailers and others implicated. The Magistrate himself, although he alleges that he was absent on duty at the time of the escape, is to be brought under investigation by the Governor, for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has been guilty of any fraudulent misrepresentation in the matter; and he is held bound under penalty of severe incrimination in case of failure to secure the apprehension of the escaped prisoner within a limited period.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied by postscript Memorial from the Governor of Shun-si, on minor administrative details.

June 1st (1) A Rescript issued upon a Memorial from Liu Kw'en-yih, Governor of Kiangsi, forwarding explanations regarding the failure on the part of the District Magistrate of Sin-kien to send in returns of the townships and tythings in which the land revenue showed a deficiency last year in consequence of a bad harvest. The Magistrate's excuse, viz., pressure of business, is deemed insufficient, and he is handed over to the Board for determination of a penalty. The Governor is also to be subjected to a penalty for his remissness in not exposing the Magistrate's
want of promptitude until called upon for a report. With regard to the regulations in force in Kiangsi for the collection of the land and grain revenue, inasmuch as [according to the Governor’s statement] there is nothing in the system that is at variance with the rules of the Board of Revenue, its working is to continue under stringent watchfulness, and no approach to unauthorized excess of levy is to be permitted.

(2) A Rescript is issued in reply to a memorial from the Governor General Tso Tsung-t’ang, who has denounced for oppressive conduct a Secretary of the Colonial office (Li Fan Yüan), while stationed at Ning-hia, the offending functionary being forthwith stripped of his official position, and handed over to the Colonial Office, for investigation into the case.

(3) The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufacturing Department at Hang-chow represents the difficulties he labours under, in the way of supplying piece goods and the annual quota of silks and satius for the Palace, in the absence of any funds at his disposal. On the 15th January he received a despatch from the Household to the effect that the stock of silks, satins, and cotton or linen piece goods, is below the amount actually required for use, and that the Imperial sanction had been given to the proposal that the Superintendents of the three Manufacturing Departments (Hang-chow, Soo-chow, and Nanking) should be called upon to furnish an additional supply, the funds for which they should devise means for providing. The Superintendent observes hereupon, that, as stated in a previous Memorial, it was heretofore the practice to furnish the supplies of silks and other textile fabrics and porcelain for Palace use through indents upon the various provincial governments and Imperial manufactories, but that since the outbreak of the rebellion the regular transmission of such supplies has been interrupted, absolute requirements being met from time to time as was most feasible. Since the restoration of peace, and the introduction of the system of issuing funds from the provincial treasuries to the Imperial manufactories, not more than 20 or 30 per cent. of the proper amount of manufactures has been produced for delivery, owing to the inability of the treasuries to pay over the whole of the monies for which they were liable. In the case of the Hangchow manufactory, all that has been received since the discontinuance of the Custom-house revenue formerly raised there, has been an annual amount of 120,000 strings of cash from the likin revenue, the whole of which has been converted into silver and applied to the purposes of manufacture. This does not suffice, however, to provide more than 4/10ths of the quantity of textile fabrics annually required in coin formity with the regulations. The Superintendent has now placed himself in communication on the subject with the Governor of Chekiang, whose reply on the subject he quotes, to the effect that in the impoverished state of the provincial exchequer it has been impossible to do more than has been done already in the way of providing funds for silks, embroidery, &c., for the Imperial accession and for annual consumption; and the two officials unite in praying that for the present they be exempted from the duty of furnishing the additional supplies which the Household have called for.—Rescript: Let the request be acceded to. The Office concerned will take note.

June 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Of the newly passed graduates at the Doctorate examination, those who, on the supplementary revision, have been classified to the number of 55 as of the first degree, 80 of the second, and 199 of the third, shall all equally be admitted to the Palace examination (for honours, Han-lin degrees, &c.) The two individuals who are classed in the fourth degree, are to be subject to the penalty of exclusion from the Palace examinations for the present triennial period.

(2) The Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Yamén of Foreign Affairs memorialize, stating that by the regulations hereafter sanctioned on the part of His Majesty, the secretaries (Chang-kiung) employed are to be recommended for reward at the spring of every second year; and likewise with reference to the School of Languages (T’ung Wen Kuan), the chief director and the teachers of that establishment are similarly to be recommended to favourable notice. On a representation being made in 1870 by the Board of Civil Office, pointing out the advisability of restricting the number of recommendations, the Prince and his colleagues memorialized, proposing to limit the number of biennial recommendations to eighteen. The last occasion on which the names of individuals were submitted for reward was in 1872, and another biennial period having now been reached, 18 secretaries of the Yamén, the director and two teachers of the School of Languages, and eight secretaries from the Privy Council doing duty at the Yamén, as also certain military officials who have served in connection with the above, are submitted in separate lists for marks of Imperial approbation.
(3 and 4).—Further Memorials from the Yamán of Foreign Affairs, recommending the teachers Wang Chung-lin and Li Shénn-lan for honorary distinction. The first-named of the above is recommended to be placed on the expectant list of District Magistrates, but to remain for another year in his present position as teacher before being attached to a provincial staff of expectants. Li Shénn-lan (who is well-known to foreigners as a proficient in European mathematics) is commended for his exertions as a mathematical teacher at the School, and is recommended for promotion from his present titular grade of chu-shu 中書 to that of chu-shu 主事 or Secretary available for a post under the Board of Revenue or Punishments.

June 4.—(1 and 2) Decrees appointing T'o-lun-pu 托倫布 Assistant High Commissioner of Kobdo (a province in north-western Mongolia, adjoining Urumtsi and Tarbagatai),—and Ngéi-leh-ho-pu 額勒和布, at present Captain-General of Ch'a-lin, to be General-in-chief at Uliasutai. The last-named official is to proceed direct to his new post, without coming to Peking for an audience. (Uliasutai is the centre of government, from which Kobdo, Urianghai, and other provinces of Mongolia depend.)

(3 and 4) Decrees appointing the 12th instant for the presentation of the newly graduated Han-lin, and for the Palace examination of the new tsin-sze graduates.

(5) The Governor of Honan reports the particulars elicited on a fresh trial of a prisoner named Chu Kang-san, accused of murder, on whose behalf an appeal has been lodged at Peking and referred in the usual manner to the Provincial Government for re-examination. The circumstances are declared to be as follows:

In the summer of 1869, a man named Taiao Ch'en-ho borrowed 96,000 cash from Chu Kang-san, repayment of which was delayed, and when the lender pressed for the transfer to himself of a parcel of land in discharge of the debt, Tsiao Ch'en-ho lodged a false accusation against his creditor of pressing him for repayment of money lost at gambling. This intimidated Chu Kang-san to such an extent that he consented, through the agency of friends, to let his claim stand over, but he bore a grudge against Tsiao for his conduct in the matter. Shortly afterwards Tsiao, being in further want of money, arranged through certain middlemen to mortgage his land to one Chu Wan-lien, and the whole party went the same evening to the wine-shop kept by prisoner's father, Chu Wei-wen, whom they asked to write out the deed for them. Tsiao remained behind after all his companions had gone to their homes, and drunk himself into an intoxicated condition with Chu Kang-san. The latter, under the influence of his animosity against Tsiao, made up his mind to murder him, and this purpose he accomplished by putting opium into his liquor. Tsiao died immediately from the effect of the poison, and Chu, inducing an acquaintance of his to lend assistance, carried the body to the land of a man named Hwang Sin, where they abandoned it. On discovery of the corpse next morning, report was made to the authorities, and as Chu Kang-san was not to be found, his father was taken into custody and held to ensure the son's apprehension. On this having been effected, Chu Wei-wen was released, and shortly after reaching his home he died a natural death from sickness. The son, with the design of escaping the penalty of his crime, induced his brother Chu King-héng to carry an appeal to Peking, accusing the middlemen of having beaten Tsiao to death. Other minor charges were also brought forward against other parties, but the result of the fresh trial is to reaffirm the guilt of Chu Kang-san, who is sentenced to execution after the autumn revision, and this finding is submitted for His Majesty's approval.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments decide, and report to Us.

June 5th.—(1) A Decree. Tao Tsung-t'ang (Governor-General of Kansuh &c,) memorializes Us requesting that certain District Magistrates, who have acted improperly with regard to the prohibition of the growth of the poppy, may be punished in conformity with the circumstances of their offence. The cultivation of the poppy is a flagrant breach of prohibitory enactments, and Tao Tsung-t'ang has heretofore issued stringent orders, in obedience to Our decree, forbidding the growth of the plant. Notwithstanding this, the District Magistrate, Chang T'ing-k'ing, has failed to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy by the people of his district, and has sought to make light of the consequences of his conduct by a pretence of inflicting a fine for the repair of a temple. Another Magistrate, having sent police to institute inquiry, has granted exemption from the destruction of the crop on payment of a fine. A third Magistrate having deputed a subordinate to make inspection, the deputy has winked at what was going on in consideration of certain fees which he accepted. A fourth waited until
the crop was fully grown before making report as to the cultivation. His reputation, moreover, is of the worst in other respects. Three of the four Magistrates are stripped of their official position, and are never again to be admitted to the public service. The fourth, who deputed his duty to a subordinate, is reduced to the lowest class of "assistants." The proper Board will take note.

(2) Ch'ang-shan, Manchu Commander-in-chief at Canton, entreats permission to have his two nephews with him, to pursue their studies and assist him in his domestic affairs. The circumstances at Canton are such, from its importance as a position on the coast, where Foreigners and Chinese dwell together, and where the functions of political control and of military command are of manifold consequence, that undivided attention must be given to the duties incumbent upon him. By regulation, a high official placed in an onerous position in the provinces, is entitled to have with him his sons or nephews, to engage in study and assist in domestic management; and Ch'ang-shan now requests sanction to his placing two nephews, aged respectively 21 and 22, in his establishment for the purposes abovenamed.—Rescript: Be it as is requested.

(3) A further memorial from the same functionary and his Lieutenant-general Kwoh-leh-min, with reference to sundry allowances for travelling expenses and maintenance which are given to Manchu Ku-jen, both civil and military, proceeding from Canton to Peking for the triennial examinations. These allowances, namely Tls. 30 for travelling expenses to all candidates, and an annual allowance of Tls. 120 to civilians and Tls. 60 to military graduates retained for duty at Peking, are issued from the income accruing from certain funds lodged at interest for this purpose. Sanction is now requested for the extension of the same indulgence to certain candidates of lower degree.—Rescript: Be it as is requested.

June 6th.—(1) Memorial from the Board of Ceremonies with reference to the case of the ex-official Li Tsung-tung, a native of Shenai, who, after acting as Taotai in Kwangtung, has retired to spend the remainder of his days with his son, a Department Magistrate in Shantung. Having graduated at the triennial examinations of 1814, he has in the present year completed an entire cycle since that period, and by divers Imperial enactments he is entitled to celebrate this anniversary by attending a second time at the "banquet of the graduates," as also to receive certain other honorary distinctions.—Rescript awarding the prescribed honours has already appeared.

(2) The Governor of Shansi memorializes, reporting the escape of a prisoner while being conveyed under guard from Hinchow to the provincial capital. The prisoner Twan Fung-ch'un, who was under sentence of death by strangling for the manslaughter of a Mongol, upon whom he, with others, had committed assault and battery, was under the care of two policemen and a soldier, and while on the road one evening, the soldier having gone to a neighbouring village to buy provisions and candles, the remaining party were suddenly overtaken by a violent wind and dust-storm, which caused the mules to bolt and to overturn the cart in which the prisoner was sitting. The police helped the prisoner up and placed him by the roadside, while they themselves assisted in righting the vehicle. The prisoner took this opportunity of breaking his fetters and escaping. He has not been recaptured; and the usual enquiry is ordered to ascertain whether any connivance at his escape is chargeable upon the police.

June 7th.—(1) The Board of Punishments reports that a fire broke out (on the night of the 5th), by which fourteen rooms of that department were burnt down.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi memorializes respecting the appointment of a District Magistrate.

(3) The same official memorializes, requesting sanction for the erection of a monument in commemoration of the heroic virtue of Madame Wu, wife of a titular graduate named Liu, with her daughter-in-law, Madame Hwang, who plunged together into a pond and committed suicide in 1860, to escape indignity at the hands of rebels whom they encountered, while endeavouring to find a place of refuge on the invasion of their locality. The necessary official details being forwarded, a Rescript is issued, directing the Board to take measures for granting the monument applied for.

(4) The Governor of Kiangsi further memorializes, respecting a lieutenant-colonel named Li Ch'un-lin, who, having become insane, had repeatedly committed acts of mischief, in consequence of which, on application formerly made to his Majesty by the Governor, a rescript had been issued removing him from office and relegating him to his native place for the benefit of his health. In 1872, however, the official in question, having partially recovered, returned to Kiangsi and volunteered for duty, but his disease shortly
afterwards broke out afresh. The Governor, anxious to spare him too strict an application of the regulations, provided an allowance for his travelling expenses and sent him home in charge of soldiers and police. Notwithstanding this, he once more made his appearance in Kiang-si during last winter, and his insanity displaying itself with increased violence, leading him to commit the most extraordinary acts, there has been reason to fear lest he might occasion loss of life, and further indulgence ought not to be shown. The Governor asks, therefore, that a rescript be issued depriving the ex-ment of rank and carelessness. A series of recommendations and augmentations of rank are further recorded, in connection with services against the Nien-fei, until in 1872, having already received the brevet rank of Judicial Commissioner, he was remitted to the Board by Li Hung-chang, and presented to his Majesty, when it was ordained that, without taking up his actual position as a Prefect, he be advanced to the rank of Taotai, and retained in Kiang-si as an expectant on the "immediate employment" list. The Kiang-si government now accordingly apply on his behalf, the year of probation having expired, for sanction to his being appointed to a Tao-tai ship of the "honourable" class.

(3) The Governor of Kiang-si memorializes, applying for a monument in celebration of the virtue of a young lady of the Yüan-ho district, betrothed at the age of 17 to a titular official, who unfortunately fell sick and died before the marriage could take place. This was in 1873, when the promised bride was nineteen years old. She destroyed her wedding outfit on hearing the mournful news, and vowed herself to a life of virginity, insisting, moreover, notwithstanding the persuasions of her relatives, in devoting herself thenceforward to the care of the aged mother of the departed one. She has since then nursed her adopted parent with exemplary care, and by her attention and prayers has caused the aged lady to recover from a severe illness. Rescript: let the monument be granted.
his inspection in the Prefecture of Têng-chow, to visit successively the remaining divisions of the province.

(2) The same official reports the progress made by the fleet of grain junks along the Grand Canal. Having made every preparation for expediting their movements, by causing the bed of the Canal to be deepened where necessary, directing the district Magistrates along the line to hold lighters in readiness for transhipment of the grain in case of running aground, &c., he has now to report that on the 10th of May the whole of the 12 squadrons of the grain-fleet, numbering in all 607 junks, had been towed past the limits of the district of Yih (in the southern extremity of Shantung), and had gone on their way northward. The leading junks were already approaching Tai-ning chow.

The remainder of the Gazette is occupied with administrative details.

June 10th.—(1) The Governor-General of the two Hu memorializes, respecting the appointment of an officer to the post of Lieutenant-colonel at I-ch'ang.

(2 and 3). Further memorials from the same quarter respecting minor official appointments.

June 11th.—(1) A decree. Let Wên-kwoh continue in office as Superintendent of Customs at Canton.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow memorializes for leave to retire from the service on behalf of the Financial Commissioner of the province, and the appointment of a successor. Sungut Yen-ch'un, the high official in question, is over 70 years of age, and has been more than 20 years in Yunnan, where he has borne the burden of the trying times of the rebellion with great detriment to his constitution. The Governor-General has permitted him to hand over his office to a temporary substitute, pending the Imperial pleasure. (A Rescript naming a successor to the post has already appeared.)

(3 and 4.) Memorials from the same quarter reporting minor changes.

June 12th.—(1) A decree, conferring appointments either in the Han-lin Court, the administrative Boards, or as District Magistrates, upon the higher graduates at the recent examinations.

The Constabulary yamen memorialize, reporting an appeal lodged on behalf of certain inhabitants of the Tu-ch'ang District in Kiangsi, named Twan, complaining of the murder of three of their kinsfolk. The statement of the complainants is to the following effect: They are farmers, and own an island in the Hwang Tu Lake, near the Po-yang District, upon which they have paid taxes regularly. In 1865 certain men named Hu Siang-hün, and others, took unlawful possession of the channel, across which they threw a dam, with the object of getting the island into their own hands. Complainant and his kinsfolk having proceeded to cut the crop of grass on their property, they were attacked from an ambush by an armed band, numbering upwards of two hundred of the opposite faction, who murdered three of complainant's kinsfolk, and wounded some ten or fifteen others. Two men of the Twan party at the same time killed in self-defence one of the Hu faction with his grass-sickle. On their lodging complaint with the Magistrates of the Tu-ch'ang and Po-yang Districts, an inquest was held, and report was made to the Governor, who directed a commissioner to be sent to institute enquiry. The Hu faction hereupon further sat upon and beat eight of the members of the Twan clan, wounding them severely, and a further complaint was lodged with the provincial authorities. The prefect of Nan-ch'ang, however, instead of deciding the case justly, compelled the injured parties to sign an agreement, declaring the channel (or creek) in question to be government property, and he further licenced the Hu faction to continue damming up the stream. He moreover, released the men who were in custody on a charge of murder. Complaint was hereupon lodged with the Governor, who referred petitioners back to the prefect, who, as before, gave an unjust decision. Appeal is consequently made to Peking.—Rescript in the usual terms.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu denounces for carelessness the official responsible for the safety of a District jail, and requests that he be stripped of his office and made a prisoner for trial. Report has been received from the Magistrate of the T'ung-shan district, stating that during his absence in April last on official business at Nanking he was informed by his assistant, Sieh Kin-yung, that on the 17th April, during the assistant's absence for the purpose of examining into a complaint of robbery, a prisoner under sentence of death managed to break his fetters and bore a hole through the jail wall, by which he escaped, taking advantage of a storm of wind and rain, which caused part of the wall of the prison to fall down and which occupied all the attention of the jailers. The escaped felon has not been recaptured, and the usual enquiry as to the possible existence of corrupt conduct on the part of the
deputy Magistrate and the jailers is to be instituted. — (Rescript has already appeared.)

June 13.—(1) The Governor of Shun-tien Fu announces that upwards of four inches of rain have fallen at Peking.

(2) The acting Governor General of Yünnan and Kweichow memorializes, respecting the salt revenue in Yünnan, where for many years past a sad state of disorganization has prevailed in this as in other respects. In the southern Intendantship of the province, the saltwells of Shih-kao, administered by the District Magistracy of Ning-urh, should similarly yield a sum of Tls. 780 odd. For years past these wells have yielded a revenue of less than Tls. 10,000 per annum; whilst, as regards the wells at Meng-yeh, on the very frontier itself, which heretofore in time of peace were closed by order of Government, these have of late years been taken possession of by persons presuming upon their local influence, in concert with unscrupulous traders, who have worked them irrespectively of payments of taxes. As it is plain that the Intendant of the Southern Circuit is not in a position to exert control over the saltwells in addition to his other duties, an expectant Prefect has been sent to take the matter in hand as Special Commissioner. As this, however, is not a permanent appointment, and as the official regularly stationed at Shih-kao with the rank of assistant to the Salt Comptroller is of too low a station to exert the necessary powers, it is proposed that a Superintendent be appointed to administer the affairs in question. With this end in view, it is proposed to abolish the existing Superintendency at the Lang-ts'ing Wells, where the annual amount of taxation that should be yielded is Tls. 7,720. The quantity of salt produced there per annum has been no more than about 300,000 catties of late years, and the annual revenue about Tls. 2,000, whilst the expenditure for salaries and wages has been about Tls. 1,100 per annum. The wells in question can be put under the District Magistracy of Ting-yuan, within whose limits they are situated, and the Superintendent transferred to the more productive region above-named. This scheme is submitted for the Imperial sanction.

(3) The same high official reports the arrangements made in consequence of the departure of sundry brigade commanders for Peking to be presented to his Majesty.

June 14.—(1) The Court Circular announces inter alia that the Prince of Kung and the beidéh Ch'eng (the Prince's eldest son, who has recently been married) paid their respects this day on the expiry of their congé.

(2) A Decree. Li Hung-chang has memorialized Us, reporting a manifestation of divine powers, and requesting that a memorial board be granted. On the threatened famine of rains from a deficient harvest being experienced in the 4th and 5th moon of the 11th year (1872), in the department of Pa Chow in Chihli, the fields and crops were nevertheless preserved from injury, thanks to the manifestations of divine power repeatedly vouchsafed. For this the most devout gratitude is felt. We have with our own hand inscribed a sentence upon a memorial board, which we deliver to Li Hung-chang, to be by him received with religious awe, and to be with reverent care suspended in the temple of the Dragon King (the god of the waters) at Pa Chow, in acknowledgment of the divine protection vouchsafed.

(3) Tu-hing-ah, the Military Governor of Shên-king, memorializes, reporting that some of the criminals concerned in a recent case of highway robbery, of which a Manchu official lost his life, have been apprehended, and the actual murderer put to death on the scene of the offence, in the presence of a son of the murdered person. As no less than four, out of the seven culprits implicated in this crime, have been apprehended within a month after the occurrence of the affair, it is requested that the penalty adjudged against the civil functionary responsible in the matter may be remitted and his button restored to him. —Rescript: Granted.

(4) The Governor General of Chihli reports the execution of a lunatic for the murder of his mother. On report of the crime committed having been received from the district Magistrate of Man-ch'eng, the case was removed to the provincial capital, for trial before the Prefect of Paoting Fu. It appears that the murderer, named Kia Tsoo-pao, alias Kia Ya-pa (the Dumb), was a farm-labourer living with his mother, whom he supported, and beside being dumb was also liable to occasional fits of madness. He had, however, at no time been guilty of any act of mischief, and, being an only son, his mother had been reluctant to report him to the authorities and have him put under restraint. Her next of kin and the neighbours equally...
cured the murderer. In return to their hook, that crimes of this nature shall
provided with the Imperial death warrant
panied by his own Military Secretary, to go
nor General, finding that the scene of
slicing to death of the confined criminal.
A neighbour named Kia Ju having acci-
dentally entered the house, was an eye-
itness of the deed, and summoning
another man to his assistance he sec-
cured the murderer. In return to their
questions, he merely looked at them with a
fixed stare, and was unable even to make
signs as usual with his hands. On the
murderer being brought to trial, and the
evidence being taken, his insanity has been
verified, and, moreover, declared by due
medical report; and he has admitted his
guilt by signs. The judgment of the Court
was that, in conformity with the statute
relating to parricide or matricide, he be ex-
gected by the ling-ch'e process, a special
proviso running to the effect, in the statute
boog, that crimes of this nature shall
be equally punished whether the of-
fender be insane or no. The Governor-
General, finding that the scene of the
murder lay within the statutory
limit of 300 li from the provincial
capital, and that no difficulties from river-
crossings intercome in the way of transit,
has caused the Financial and Judicial
Commissioners of the province, accom-
panied by his own Military Secretary, to go
provided with the Imperial death warrant
to the spot, and there conjointly with
the district Magistrate preside at the
slicing to death of the condemned criminal.
His head was afterwards suspended from
a pole, to serve as a public warning. As
the laws provide with reference to lunatics,
that if their relatives and neighbours fail
to make report of their condition to the
authorities, and likewise to keep them
under their own eye, in consequence
whereof any murder is committed by
such persons, the individuals in question
shall suffer the penalty of 100 blows, under
the law concerning failure to prevent an
intended murder, of which previous cog-
nizance is had. In the present case, five
men and one woman come under the cate-
gory above-named. In the case of the
men the penalty of 100 blows is commuted
to 40 strokes of the lesser kind, and the
woman, being upwards of 70 years of age,
is permitted to commute her penalty by a
fine exacted to Government. Two of the
men, filing the post of village head-boroughs,
whose offence is merely a delereliction of
duty without criminal intent, are exempted
from the further penalty of being discharged
from their position.
June 15th. — The Court Circular an-
ounces the arrival in Peking of the Go-
vernor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow,
Liu Yo-chao, who has paid his respects to
His Majesty and had an audience.

(1) Memorial from Chang Kwan-chun,
Superintending Censor of the division of
Kiangnan, denouncing irregularities in the
land and rice tax-levy in Kiangsi. The
Censor begins by referring to the cate-
gorical statement presented to the Throne
in September last by the now degraded
Censor Hu Kia-yü, exposing the illegal
proceedings of Liu Kw'an-yih, the Go-
vernor of Kiangsi, in his levy of unau-
thorized imposts. After reference to the
Board of Revenue, it was ordained that
the levy of the taxes should be
carried out in accordance with the system
prescribed by the late Governor-General,
Tseng Kwok-fan, namely that, as regards
land-tax (地丁) for each Tael in silver,
plus the 10% charge for meltage and ex-
cess, the amount of cash 2,400 should be
collected, to which, in consideration of the
rise in the value of silver, a further sum
not to exceed 200 cash per Tael was later added; and further, as regards the com-
mutation for rice-levy (漕折), for each
picul of rice due, the amount of Tl.1.3
should be levied from the taxpayer, to the
amount of cash 3,000, with the additional
sum of cash 200 per Tael as in the case of the
land tax. No levy in excess of these
rates was to be permitted. Notwithstand-
ing this, the Governor, in his Memorial in
reply, obstinately upheld the amended,
rules introduced by himself, entailing a
considerable difference in the sums to be
assessed. Never before has such uncon-
scionable audacity been displayed on the
part of a high provincial authority, in
supporting the rapacious exactions of his
underlings, bent upon draining the life-
blood of the people, for the sake of carry-
ing on his own obstinate and unworthy
views. The Censor further goes on to
charge Liu Kw'an-yih with a violation of
the Imperial Edicts of 1861 and 1872, by
which, successively, all the arrears of land
and grain tax due throughout the Empire
up to the end of 1866 were wholly re-
mitted. It is incidentally mentioned that
these arrears, accumulated during the 10
or 20 years during which the scourge of the Taiping rebellion prevailed, did
not fall short of an amount of Taels 30 to
40,000,000. Notwithstanding the decrees of remission, Liu Kw’en-yih, in his reort
upon Hu Kia-yü, accused the latter of owing land-taxes for 1855 and 1861—thus,
in the absence of any tangible ground for accusation, unjustifiably raking up bygones
of taxation long ago remitted. The Censor apprehends that statements such as
these, once placed on record, will become converted into precedent hereafter, and
that the district authorities will make use of the principle, if once admitted, as a
groundwork for tyrannous exactions. Another instance of misconduct on the part
of Liu Kw’en-yih is also dwelt upon, in his memorial of February last, applying
exemptions from taxation in certain Districts on the plea of floods and drought.
He omitted, however, to specify the townships, sections, and villages to which these
exemptions are to apply, and this omission will deprive the people of all certainty as
to their rights, and will afford an opening to the tax-gatherers for fraud of every
imaginable kind. The exemption will in fact be a mere sham, and the Imperial
bounty will be intercepted in its passage downward to the masses. The Governor’s
disregard for the interests of the people, his callousness to their sufferings, are
manifestly displayed, and in the different particulars to which the Censor draws atten-
tion, he shows himself capable of deliberate misrepresentation, and perverse in a mul-
titude of respects, beyond all bounds of what is right. His Majesty is adjured by the
Censor, by the love he bears to his people, to enforce the regulations that exist and
to make a signal example of the offender. For rescript, see the following.

(2) A memorial of explanation from the Censor Chang Kwan-chun. On the 11th
March, the Inner Council received the following Rescript: Let Chang Kwan-chun
memorialize to Us, explaining in detail his statement respecting the Governor of
Kiangai, specifying the districts, towns-
ships, &c., to which he refers. This
having been reverently received, the Censor
has to state that in the Governor’s
memorial of February last, he speaks of
27 departments and districts extending from Nan-ch’ang to P‘eng-t'ash. Among
these the only one [the Censor can specify]
is the district of Sin-kien. Respecting it,
it is merely stated that, in the upper and
lower townships, government and private-
owned lands to the extent of 4,482 k’ing
(1 k’ing=100 mou) have been laid under
water, and that the amounts unpaid are,
under the head of land-tax, Taels 9949,
and under the head of grain-tax, 410
piculs. He has failed to specify the subdivisions of the district which have
suffered, and there is reason to fear that
the taxpayers, not being aware of what
they are entitled to, may suffer at the
hands of the collectors of revenue. This
explanation is accordingly laid before His
Majesty. (N.B. The foregoing explanation
by Chang Kwan-chun of his unmeasured
diatribe against the Governor of Kiangai
—whose former adversary, Hu Kia-yü,
was signally worsted in the conflict—was
laid before the Emperor in April last,
during his Majesty’s journey to the
Tombs. Its publication, with his ante-
cedent memorial, has been withheld
apparently until after receipt of Liu
Kw’en-yih’s rejoinder, which appears in
the ensuing Gazette. Chang Kwan-chun
having been appointed to a provincial
prefecture immediately after the presenta-
tion of his explanatory memorial, it
would seem that he, likewise, has been
disgraced, although less ostentatiously than
Hu Kia-yü, for his attack upon the
Governor.)

June 16th. — The Governor-General of
Yünnan and Keichow had audience.
(1) Liu Kw’en-yih, bearer of a button of
the third degree, retained in office but
stripped of his official rank, Governor of
Kiangai, memorializes, acknowledging the
receipt on the 25th April of a Decree dated
the 11th of that month, with reference to
the accusations advanced by the Censor
Chang Kwan-chun (see yesterday’s Gazette.)
In this Decree the Governor was called
upon for a statement concerning the sub-
divisions of the district in which remis-
sions of taxation were granted. Replying
to the accusations of Chang Kwan-chun,
The Governor reiterates his former state-
ments respecting the method of assessing
the land and grain tax, which he declares
to be in strict conformity with the rules
promulgated by the Board of Revenue,
and he protests against the charges raised
against him by the Censor as an ally of
his late opponent, Hu Kia-yü. As regards
the particulars to be given in applying for
remissions of taxation, he maintains that
Kiangai is distinguished from other Pro-
vinces by the minuteness of detail with
which such statements have heretofore
been made, it being by no means common
to specify the actual sub-divisions of dis-
tricts under similar circumstances. In the
case of the Sin-kien District, the rea-
son accounting for the absence of these
particulars in the report transmitted by
the Magistrate, was that he was pressed
for time owing to the approach of the
period for closing the seals at the end of the year. The Financial
Commissioner, while embodying his statement in the general report on the subject, had already called upon him for the details, and these the Governor forwards in a separate memorial. The Censor, in denouncing the Governor as guilty of wilful misrepresentation, has given no reason why in the single instance of the district of Sin-kien, the Governor should have any desire to injure the people. He may have intended to imply that, as Hu Kia-yü is a native of the district in question, the Governor was laying his plans for an urgent summons for payment of the taxes due by him; but Hu Kia-yü has paid up in full the taxes due on his property for the last half of 1873; and the Governor thinks of himself that he is not such a dolt as to give people grounds for complaint against him in a matter beyond his concern. His Majesty's penetration, he feels sure, will not fail to discover the Censor's abuse of his privileges.

(2) A further memorial from Liu Kwén-yih, furnishing the details with regard to the local subdivisions of the district of Sin-kien, referred to in the preceding documents. He fills three pages of the Gazette with an array of figures, being the serial numbers of the minor areas comprised within 50 townships or primary subdivisions of the district.—A Rescript has already appeared, directing a penalty to be awarded against the District Magistrate for his delay in forwarding these returns, and censuring the Governor for having failed to ensure their transmission at the proper time.

June 17th.—(1) A Decree withholding the leave to retire from the service applied for by Wang K'ai-tai, the Governor of Fukien, and granting two months' further congé for the benefit of his health.

(2) A similar Decree in reply to the application for leave to retire made by Pao Yuán-siên, Governor of Shanxi.

June 19th.—(1) Tao Tsung-t'ang memorializes soliciting the punishment of certain Magistrates of Districts in Kansu who have failed to carry into effect the prohibitions against the cultivation of the poppy. Referring to a Decree heretofore received, in reply to one of his Memorials, ordaining that the growth of the poppy be stringently forbidden, on the grounds that its cultivation interferes with the production of the food-crops so urgently needed in the present condition of the province, the Governor-General proceeds to state that the district authorities in general have displayed great laxity in dealing with this question. In some cases the poppy has been allowed to develop the capsules before any enquiry has been instituted, and then the despatch of officials to the spot has merely been made the pretext for receiving illegal fees in return for mendacious reports of the destruction of the crop. Others, again, have thought their responsibility covered by reporting that as the poppy was grown between the crops of grain, the plant could not be destroyed without injuring the food-crops, and so forth. The names of several District Magistrates are submitted, with recommendations for their dismissal from the public service, or their degradation.—Rescript already published.

(2) A further memorial from Tao Tsung-t'ang applies for marks of approbation to be bestowed on the District Magistrates...
and other local officials who have exerted themselves under his orders in introducing the cultivation of cotton in the province of Kan-su, as a substitute for the poppy, and as a much needed source of supply for the production of textile fabrics. Owing to the chilly climate and the elevated situation of the province of Kan-su, its natural productions are extremely limited, and the cotton goods required by the people for their clothing are imported from Sze-chuan and Hupeh, at a great expense. The soils, however, which from their southern exposure and rich quality are adapted to the growth of the poppy are equally suitable to the cultivation of cotton; and orders have heretofore been given to all the district authorities to encourage the people to plant this staple, and to establish committees for the purpose of affording instruction in the art of spinning and weaving the fibre. The names of several officials are now brought forward who have distinguished themselves in carrying this system into effect, by distributing seed, engaging women as instructors in the art of manufacture, etc. The success of the cotton industry is dwelt upon as a material element in the crusade against the cultivation of the poppy, and it is mentioned that reports have come pouring in from all sides of late announcing the destruction of the crops of this plant.

June 20th.—(1) The Censor Yü Pei-hien memorializes suggesting a source of supply for the funds required for the rebuilding of the Summer Palace. Referring to a memorial lately presented by the Household Court, urging that the nobility and officials of the capital be called upon to subscribe toward this end, the Censor observes that the sum required is enormous in amount, and that, inasmuch as the provinces are unable to provide for its supply, and the treasury of the Board of Revenue is entirely exhausted, it is of course indispensable that an appeal should be made to the gratitude of the official class. From their small salaries, however, the contributions that could be made by the officials of the capital would form but a small amount in the aggregate, and the Censor proposes to lay hands upon two portions of the annual revenue heretofore accruing to the Boards of Revenue and Works. With regard to the first-named of these, it has hitherto been the rule in the provinces, when issuing certificates of rank to purchasers, that two payments under the names of "office expenses" and "fee for certificate" should be made by the recipients, the total income from which source amounts annually to an aggregate of more than Tls. 200,000. In making remittances to the Board of Works, moreover, the provinces have hitherto sent forward an amount of some Tls. 40 or 50,000, in connection with the impost levied on behalf of the Yellow River administration. This sum is known by the name of shui-li 水利 (water system, or water interest) money. The two sources of revenue above mentioned make up a total of about Tael 300,000 per annum over and above the regulation revenue, which has heretofore been divided among the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Clerks of the two Boards. Although nominally applied to public purposes, not more than 10 or 20 per cent. of the amount is really expended on public account. The Censor proposes, therefore, in view of the paramount claims of the works in progress at Yüan-ming Yuan, that these two funds be appropriated to the use of the Household Court, for expenditure on the Summer Palace.

(2) In a further memorial the same Censor adverts to the charge under the head of "office expenses" which the Board of Revenue collects through the Provinces on the issue of certificates of rank to purchasers. This was originally fixed at Tls. 3 per cent., but afterwards reduced to one half that amount. He now apprehends that on being deprived of the "office expenses" referred to in the preceding memorial, the Board will seek to increase the percentage charge, thus discouraging intending purchasers of office, to the detriment of the revenue; and he begs that stringent orders be given forbidding any such increase. He suggests at the same time that a few thousand taels be allowed annually to the Board of Revenue for actual office expenditure, which he declares is extremely limited in amount, from the revenue accruing from the purchase of office. Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue and the Board of Works consider and report upon Yü Pei-hien’s proposals.

(3) The Governor of Chekiang memorializes, applying for rewards on behalf of the officials and notables who have rendered distinguished services in the transport by sea of the grain tribute from the Hangchow, Kiu-lung, and Hu-chow prefectures for the year 1873. The delivery effected at T’ung Chou last year was carried out with marked efficiency and economy, the limit of 8 mace (for transhipment expenses) per picle not being exceeded, and the
functionaries employed, including the persons connected with the O. M. S. N. Company, are deserving of some token of the Imperial favour. Rescript: — Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

June 21st.—(1) The Acting Governor General of Yunnan and Kweichow memorializes, reporting his action in weeding the Civil Service in Yunnan of incompetent members, in pursuance of a Decree received by him on the 12th February last, enjoining carefulness in the selection of capable and worthy administrative officials and the elimination of those who are unfit to serve. After a long dissertation on the necessity of enlightenment, probity, and education among functionaries to whom the Government of the people is entrusted, the Governor-General proceeds to report that, independently of measures to be instituted later for scrutinizing the conduct and abilities of the provincial officials from the rank of Prefect downward, in both actual and expectant employ, who have entered the service in the regular manner through the literary examinations, those who have obtained their rank and positions by purchase have been subjected to a special examination held on three days in the month of March last, under the presidency of an accomplished scholar, in consequence of which a number of District Magistrates and other officials have been classified in four divisions of literary merit. It is proposed that the advancement of those placed in the lowest classes be stopped for one or two years, in order to allow them time to perfect themselves in further study, and that those who have taken no place at all be, in the case of the higher grades, compelled to return to their native places and devote themselves to study for four or five years before obtaining employment, and in the lower grades, required to send in their resignation altogether. The examination papers are forwarded in original for inspection; the subject is referred by Rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

(2) The same high official memorializes on behalf of several military officers, from the rank of General downwards, soliciting their exemption from the duty of exhibiting their proficiency in archery on horseback, on the score of wounds they have received in the course of the late campaigns. A regulation is in existence sanctioning such a proceeding, and by Rescript the application is allowed.

(3) From the same quarter an application is made for a re-issue of the Imperial death warrant, the collection of Decrees, the State Ritual, Regulations, and other official works, together with the warrant for the express messengers of the Board of War, which appertain to the office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese in Yunnan, but which were all destroyed when Ta-li Fu was captured by the insurgents. General Po Ch'ang-yüning being now about to take up his residence, in accordance with the regulations, at Ta-li Fu, the supply of these articles is requested.

(4) A further postscript memorial represents that the Chinese Green Banner or regular military forces of Yunnan had fallen into a complete state of inefficiency during the long protracted hostilities in that province, and that in the conversion of the irregular troops ("braves") into a part of the regular or standing army a sweeping reform of existing abuses must be instituted. A roundrobin has been received from the whole body of military officials, praying that, as they are now called upon to be active and diligent in drill &c., they may no longer be compelled to receive a portion of their pay in treasury notes (銀錢), and may also be exempted from sundry stoppages. This application, supported by the Governor-General, is granted by Rescript.

June 22nd.—(1) Yih-shan, a member of the Imperial kindred, Captain General of a Manchu Banner, who has repeatedly applied of late (being over 80 years of age) for permission to retire into private life, renews his application on the score that an infirmity in his lower limbs incapacitates him from kneeling on the performance of any ceremony incumbent upon him in virtue of his office. Granted two months' additional congé.

(2) The Board of Censorate reports an appeal on the part of Li Feng-ch'üan of Kin Hien in Feng Tien (Manchuria), who complains, being a farmer engaged in cultivating certain military lands the taxation of which is fixed annually by the local authorities, the tax for last year having been settled at 880 cash per mou, which was punctually paid, that the clerks engaged in collecting the revenue have illegally imposed additional exactions. Certain clerks and underlings having contracted for the collection of the land-tax, raised the rate of impost to 1,040 cash per mou, and where this augmentation was protested against by the taxpayers, they denounced them as having resorted to a fraudulent collection of the land revenue and forced them to pay the illegal amount.
In addition to this, the underlings sent to demand the payment of the tax further claimed a payment of ten tiao of cash per mou, and took four men into custody for refusing to pay this amount, sending them to the District Magistracy, where they were put into rigorous confinement and compelled to pay 1,900 and odd tiao, for which acknowledgments may be produced in proof. Not only this, but in the course of March last the same police and others burst into the houses of the taxpayers under cover of night, carried off women by force of arms, and frightened one woman, Liu She, to death. One man whom they carried off to the jail, was there in secrecy beaten to death, and an attempt to carry a petition to the provincial capital was frustrated by their preparing an ambush for the messengers and threatening to murder them. This complaint is referred in the usual manner for investigation.

(3) Another appeal case is likewise brought forward. A native of Sze-ch'wan, named Wang Ta-ch'un, complains that his nephew has been robbed and murdered by a gang of highwaymen, whose leader's name is given. The murderer induced, by means of a bribe, the local headborough to report the corpse as that of a person unknown, after complainant himself had proceeded to the spot; and no action has been taken in the matter. Referred as usual.

June 23rd.—The Court Circular announces the arrangements for a visit by his Majesty to Yüan-ming Yüan to-morrow morning.

(1) A Decree distributing official positions among the graduates of the late Chén-ze examinations. The list of names fills ten pages of the Gazette.

(2) The Governor of Shen-si, Shao Héng-yü, applies for permission to retire, on the ground of ill-health. Granted two months' congé.

June 24th.—(1) Li Lung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes setting forth the divine protection afforded by the God of the Waters (the Dragon King) at Pa Chow in that province, where, during the reign Yung-ch'eng (A.D. 1723-1735) a memorial inscription was imperially bestowed. In the 4th moon of 1872 the crops were menaced by drought, when, on prayers being offered up at the temple of the Dragon King, refreshing showers were at once vouchsafed. In the following month a hailstorm ceased on similar supplication being made; in the 7th moon floods were averted, and in the 11th moon a fall of snow, which was urgently required, was brought about by a solemn intercessionary service. The Governor-General applies for a mark of the Imperial approbation, in the shape of a tablet bearing a suitable inscription, to be suspended in the Temple.—Rescript already published.

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli memorializes requesting a distribution of rewards to the officials and gentry of two districts who have contributed the funds required for rebuilding the walls of their respective cities. At Weichow this has been done at a total cost of Taels 37,916, and at Liang-hien Hien at a cost of Taels 51,600. In the former case the work occupied from the 11th March, 1867, to the 4th Nov., 1868, and in the latter from the 10th June to the 6th December, 1868.

(3) A postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang further represents that as he is obliged to continue in residence at Tientsin for the purpose of dealing with foreign affairs, he is unable to conduct the annual assize in person at the provincial capital, and he has consequently delegated this duty to the Chief Commissioners of Government on his behalf.

June 25th.—(1) A Decree. Wén-siang having memorialized us, stating that his complaint gives no signs of recovery, and entreating that he may vacate his office, we accord him a further congé of one month for attention to his health in tranquillity of mind. His office need not be vacated.

(2 and 3) Memorials from the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of Shansi, with reference to the resumption of office by the former after a visit to Peking and presentation to his Majesty.

(4) The Governor of Hunan memorializes, forwarding a statement presented by a number of ex-officials (natives of Hunan), to the following effect. The lately deceased expectant Chu-shé, Tao Hiao-wei, a kii-zen graduate, was the eldest son of the Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, Tao Tsung-t'ang. From his childhood he was distinguished in a marked degree by filial affection, and by devotion in particular to his mother. During an illness which prevented her from taking food he likewise refused it, and he spent the night in supplicating the divine powers that his own days might be shortened to augment the span of his parent's life. When older, and pursuing his education, after learning how the sages Ts'ang and Min had excelled in filial devotion, he placed an inscription upon the wall of his study to remind himself of the example they afford. Having
proceeded to Peking, after taking his kū-jién degree, to compete at the tsin-sze examination, he received news of his mother’s illness, and instantly hastened home to wait upon her. When the disease had reached its height, he cut flesh from his arm to mingle with the remedies prescribed, and on death supervening his despair was such that his reason was endangered. After completing the period of mourning he proceeded to join his father in the field, and rendered great assistance in preparing the draughts of his memorials and correspondence. The laceration of his arm, however, combined with mental effort, broke down his strength, but he concealed his illness as long as possible, in order to save his father from anxiety. When his condition could no longer be concealed, he was ordered by his father to return home, but it was already too late for recovery. His dying injunctions to his younger brother were characterized by the same filial anxiety that had marked his actions during life.—The Governor, dwelling upon the virtues displayed by the deceased, and recalling the invariable practice of granting posthumous honours to those who have mutilated themselves for the benefit of their parents’ health, when such mutilation results in the death of the sufferer himself, applies for a monument of the Imperial approbation on behalf of Tsö Hiao-wei.—Rescript: Be it as is proposed. Let the proper Board take note.

June 26th.—The Court Circular records that the Board of Ceremonies has requested his Majesty’s decision respecting the date for putting on gala dress in honour of the 40th birthday of the Empress Mother.—The Governor of Shun-t’ien Fu announces the fall of 5 inches of rain in Peking.

(1) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, memorializes with reference to a proposed measure of relief to the contractors for the salt revenue. On repeated occasions the difficulties under which the salt merchants labour have been represented to the Throne, but owing to the continuance of military needs no relief has been experienced. Since 1848, the monopolists have been saddled with the debts of their predecessors, and of late years their distress has been aggravated by the deficient supply of salt and the increased cost of transport in consequence of the floods. At the same time, the freshly prepared salt goes to waste much more rapidly than that which has been kept for some time stored up. After several propositions have been rejected as inadmissible, a request has been made for permission to increase to some extent the water-allowance and the selling-price, and these the Governor-General supports. An allowance for waste is recognized by the existing regulations, but the monopolists are no longer able to adhere to the former usage of storing the salt for a year, in consequence of the abundant supply before shipping it off, and as the salt is now packed and sent off from the brine pans as fast as produced, the waste is 10 per cent. greater than formerly. As every catty of salt involves a payment to Government, the loss of every catty is felt by the monopolists, and it is now proposed that permission be given to add henceforward 20 catties to the weight allowed by regulation to each bag, as an allowance for waste, except for delivery to the districts between Tientsin and the sea, which immediately adjoin the salt-producing area. The proposed addition would hold good for the remainder of the province of Chihli and the whole of Honan, being the division of the Ch’ang-Lu salt delivery. The additional amount of 20 catties per bag would be exempt from duty payment, leaving the regulation amount unaffected in any way. Again, as regards the selling price, which is also fixed by regulation, the prime cost of the salt has of late years been enhanced to the monopolists by scant supplies and increased outlay for carriage, &c., and the progressive rise in the value of silver has also occasioned great loss to the monopolists in the course of exchanging their receipts of cash into store for duty-payments. It is consequently proposed that an addition of 2 cash per catty may be made to the selling price throughout the Ch’ang-Lu Gabelle district, with the exceptions already named above. As it is estimated that the consumption of salt per head of population is three mace-weight per diem (i.e. 3/160 of a catty), the additional cost to each individual will be no more than a little over one cash per month. The Governor-General proposes to give effect to the new system from the first of the month ensuing upon receipt of his Majesty’s sanction; and to limit its duration to five years, on the expiry of which period further enquiry into the then existing circumstances may be made.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us.

(2) The Governor-General, Li Hung-chang, memorializes, quoting a report from the Taotai at Newchwang, to the effect that three of the banditti who have lately menaced the foreign settlement (洋行) at that port, have been captured and
summarily executed. It is represented that owing to the floods of last year, an out-
break of brigandage has been encouraged, and as the port of Newchwang is a place
where foreign relations exist, its protection is of all the greater moment. Orders
having been given by the Yamén of Foreign Affairs and by the Governor-General for
energetic action in the matter, and a report having reached the Taotai in
January last of a design to attack and pillage the foreign settlement, a party of
the drilled troops were sent out against the banditti, whom they attacked and
dispersed, taking three prisoners. Of these the leading individual is a notorious
highwayman, who has pursued a career of brigandage for 16 years past. Promo-
tion and honours are requested for the officers in command of the troops.
June 27.—(1) A rescript awards certain honorary distinctions to each of the Nui
Koh or Inner Council, viz., one "degree of merit" and the honor of
being "thrice recorded" respectively to the Prince of Kung, Wén-
siang, Pao-yün, Jui-lin, Li Hung-chang, and Tso-tsaung-taung. (These distinctions
are available in case of future shortcomings of a trivial nature, when their deprivation
stands in stead of more serious forms of penalty).
(2) A Memorial of unusual length from a board of high officials in the province of
Shêng-king (Manchuria), conveying the result of a trial for parricide, with which
they were charged last year, owing to a conflict of evidence at previous trials. A
man named Feng Kû, of the Hai-ch'ü'ang district, lived with two married sons
named Feng Tai-ch'ang and Feng Teh-sin, and a nephew named Feng Teh-yû, in dif-
ferent parts of the same dwelling. The wife of the elder son was named Feng Wu-
she, and the younger son's wife, Feng Chao-she. The latter was subject to fits
of insanity, during which she lost the
power of speech. The two husbands were
habitually away from home, pursuing their avocations as hired servants. According
to the evidence now taken, criminal connexion had been formed between the
nephew and the wife of the elder brother. After this had continued for some length
of time, it was discovered by the father, Feng Kû, and the two guilty persons
determined after a certain lapse of time to
rid themselves of his reproaches by mur-
der. Accordingly, before daylight one
morning, in the early part of 1873, they
armed themselves with a hatchet, and
entering Feng Kû's room as he slept,
fulfilled their purpose. The man, having
first stunned the victim by a blow on the
head, proceeded to hack the face and skull
with the edge of the chopper, and this bloody task was completed by the woman.
She next proceeded to raise an outcry,
accusing her lunatic sister-in-law of having
committed the act in a fit of frenzy, and
the insane woman, alarmed, but unable to
express herself in words, took to flight and
attempted to drown herself in the village
well. She was seized, however, by the vil-
lagers, and being suspected as the murderer,
as been given into custody. In the course of
a few days, however, she was able to give
the name of the real criminal, and the man
and woman were thereupon apprehended.
After alternate confession and retractation,
the crime has now been brought home to
the guilty parties, and the woman is sen-
tenced to death by ling'-kè (cutting in
pieces) for the crime of parricide, the man
being adjudged to suffer death by decapita-
tion only, being related in a lesser degree
to his victim. Sundry neighbours, who
allowed themselves to be instigated into
presenting a petition on behalf of the pris-
oners, whose innocence they maintained,
are to receive 40 strokes apiece, and the
fatal weapon is forwarded to the District
Magistrate, to be stored away in his treasury. Rescript: Let the Board of Punish-
mements consider this with all dispatch.
June 28th.—(1) A decree awards certain
honours asked for by the Prince of Ch'un
and his colleagues, on behalf of some mili-
tary officers, who have exerted themselves
in apprehending certain criminals who
banded together last year to recapture by
force a prisoner who had been seized in the
breaking-up of a gang of gamblers.
(2) The Governor-General and the mili-
tary authorities of Chihli report the mea-
ures taken for converting a force of 200
drilled infantry, hitherto stationed near
Ku-péi Kow, into a mounted force, with a
view to increased efficiency in taking action
against brigandage in the vicinity of the
Great Wall.
(3 & 4) Memorials from the Governors
of Fu-kien and Shan-si, renewing their
applications for leave to retire from the
service on the score of ill-health.—Rescript
granting further congé already published.
June 29th.—(1) A decree in reply to a
memorial from the Governor-General of
the Two Kiang, acceding to his request for
sanction to the erection of memorial tem-

cles at Nanking, in honour of the two
generals Hiang-yung and Chang Kwo-
hiang, who fell at different times during
the great rebellion, after occupying for a
time Nanking with their forces.
(2) A decree. The 15th of November next being the auspicious date of the 40th birthday of Her Majesty the Dowager Empress Ta’ze Hi Twan Yeo K’ang I (the Empress-mother), let gratuities be issued, in reverent conformity with the precedent on the 50th anniversary of the Empress-mother’s birth in the 6th year of K’ien-lung (1741), to aged persons belonging to the Eight Banners. Let bounty be bestowed upon all persons above the age of sixty, of both sexes, officials, rank and file, or monks, belonging to the Eight Banners at Peking. Let the proper Board take steps accordingly.

(3) A decree. Let the Palace revision of the sentences of the autumn assize of this year proceed as usual; but let the death warrant be suspended on this occasion with regard to criminals adjudged actually guilty of capital offences.

June 30th.—The whole of this day’s Gazette is occupied by memorials from the Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang on administrative details.

July 1st.—(1) A Decree, conferring three memorial boards with inscriptions in the Imperial hand, upon the temples of the Queen of Heaven, the God of the Winds, and the God of Dragons, at Kin Shan Tsu in Kiangsu, as a mark of gratitude for the divine assistance rendered in appeasing tempestuous weather during the construction of an embankment on the seacoast, as reported by the Governor, Chung Shu Sheng.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangnan jointly memorialize, soliciting a reduction in the tax-valuation of lands in the districts constituting the Prefecture of Kiang-nung Fu (Nanking.) All records relating to the taxation of the seven districts in question perished during the Rebellion, and since 1868 a provisional system of land-revenue collection has been in force. The Board of Revenue having been urgent of late for a return to the regular system of assessment, representation is now made of the obstacles in the way of such a course. It is stated that the extent of cultivated (taxable) land in the seven districts was, according to the regulation heretofore established, 639,228,000 mou, assessed at Taels 293,537 in money, and piculs 100,387 in kind (rice or beans.) The area of land at present actually restored to cultivation, in a greater or less degree, is 292,324,100 mou, and the rates of taxation to which this land should be subjected can only be ascertained in an indirect manner, by reference to the official gazetteers of former periods, etc. One great difficulty is occasioned by the fact that land held on the principle of military tenure is to a very large extent intermingled with that of the ordinary freeholders, and it is no longer possible to distinguish the boundaries of one from the other. These military tenures (sun Fien) are hereditary holdings, the revenue from which is destined to go toward the support of the persons employed in the grain-transport, and it is contrary to law to mortgage or sell such properties. Notwithstanding this, underhand transfers are made, under precautions against publicity suggested by a knowledge of the illegal nature of the transaction, and all the efforts made for the last century to regulate the question have failed to achieve the desired end. The consequent confusion has become worse confounded in consequence of the rebellion. The tenor of the proposition now laid before the Throne is that a reduction of 25 per cent. shall be allowed on the valuation in each of the three classes into which the taxable land is divided, in order to grant the relief which is earnestly prayed for by the inhabitants and to prevent the abandonment of land which, were the present heavy assessment continued, would be thrown up by the cultivators. Rescript.—Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

July 2nd.—(1) The Manchur Commander-in-chief at Ninghia, Mu-tu-shen, memorializes, reporting his return to his post at the end of May, after paying a visit to Peking at the Chinese New Year, when he was thrice honoured with an audience by his Majesty. He is about to weed out the superannuated and inefficient from the ranks of the cavalry force under his orders.

(2) The Governor of Honan reports his return to the Provincial capital, for the purpose of conducting the annual revision of criminal cases (the autumn assize), before completing the military inspection of the Province, of which part has already been accomplished.

(3) Tsai-te-ien and two other Manchur dignitaries memorialize, respecting the Charitable Fund (永濟 庫) of which they are the treasurers. The fund was organized in 1729, when the Emperor Yung-cheng caused a sum to be issued from the Privy Purse for the purchase of lands, the rents of which were to be paid into the fund for the purpose of providing grants to officers and soldiers of the Manchur forces for marriage or funeral expenses, for compassionate allowances, pensions to widows and orphans, etc. The duty of collecting and paying in the rents was
imposed on the Magistrates of the Districts in which the lands are situate. A long list of arrears is now given, and his Majesty is implored to cause an end to be put to the neglect that has long prevailed on this subject.

July 3rd.—(1) Yin-teh, the officer appointed to act provisionally as Taotai and Superintendent of Customs at Newchwang, memorializes, reporting his arrival at that port. He has relieved the actual Taotai, King-fuh, who, having been reported for distinguished merit at the triennial scrutiny while holding office as Taotai at Kiukiang, has been summoned at the instance of the Board of Civil Office to be presented to his Majesty. The new Taotai recognizes the importance of his duties in connection with a port open to foreign trade, where he has at the same time to superintend the drilling of troops, the collection of duties, the suppression of brigandage, and measures for the welfare of the people. Although fearing that he is unequal to his trust, he will exert every effort in the discharge of the duties incumbent upon him.

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli transmits a report received from the Magistrate of the Ta'ing-yuan District, to the effect that a eunuch named Tsiao Teh-shan has been apprehended there. According to his statement, he is 54 years of age, and a native of the district of Ho-kien, where, at the age of 16, he became a eunuch, upon which orders were given to the imperial secretariat, from whence he was transferred to fill a place in the buttery. Being subjected to extreme hardship, he took an opportunity of making his escape in July, 1873, and in April last, having found his way to the provincial capital (Pao-ting Fu) he was apprehended and given into the Magistrate's charge. He states that he has been guilty of no criminal act, has made use of no false pretences to obtain money, and has been harbourd by no persons cognizant of his condition. On receipt of this report, the Governor-General brings the matter to his Majesty's knowledge, and at the same time forwards the prisoner to the Court of the Imperial Magistrate at Kiukiang, and the list of arrears is now given in which the lands are situate. A long

July 4th. (1) A further memorial from the Grand Secretary Wensiang, appealing for the third time for leave to retire from public service, and to devote himself to the restoration of his health. In the anxiety that beets him owing to the reflection that his duties remain unfilled, he finds himself growing worse and worse. Sleep more than ever deserts him at night, and the asthma, loss of consciousness at intervals, and other complaints under which he labours, have resisted all attempts at cure. He entreats permission to retire altogether into private life, trusting that quiet and freedom from care may perhaps enable him to regain his health. At the
first moment that he may feel able to bear
up under active employment, he will
assuredly not allow himself to be tempted by
a life of ease. — Rescript granting another
month's cong é has already been published.

(2) A memorial from Wu T'ang, Gov-
ernor-General of Szech'wan. On the 9th
April, a despatch was received from the
Comptroller-General of the Imperial House-
hold, stating that his Majesty's commands
having been received for the repair of
Yüan-ming Yüan and the adjacent places,
sanction has been applied for to the
despatch of instructions to the provincial
governments of the two Hu, the two Kwang,
and Szech'wan, calling upon each to pro-
vide 3,000 large pieces of timber, to be
paid for as part of the regular provincial
expenditure. The respective governments
were likewise to report before the end of
May the extent to which this order can be
complied with, specifying dimensions of
the timber they can furnish. In the
detailed statement accompanying this des-
patch it is set forth that balks of cedar,
hard-pine, and three other descriptions of
timber, are required, in diameters ranging
from 4 ch'ih to 7 ts'un, and in lengths from
4 chang 6 ch'ih to 1 chang 5 ch'ih. Besides
these 3,000 pieces of heavy timber, 500
logs of soft-pine for mast wood are specified,
in lengths of 6 chang, and of diameters
from 1 ch'ih 5 ts'un downwards; with
500 more logs of another kind. Upon
this the Governor-General has to re-
port that about the year 1823 orders
were given for the supply of 417 logs
of hardwood and 673 lengths of other
timber from Szech'wan, for the procuring
of which agencies were organized in the
primeval forests near Ta-tien Lu and
Yüeh-tsun T'ing, distant 10 or 15 days'
journey from the provincial capital. The
trees, when felled, lay a great distance
from the nearest rivers, from which they
were separated by lofty ranges of moun-
tains. Years were spent in dragging the
timber over mountains and vaileys, for
which purpose it was necessary to construct
roads, at a great expenditure of labour.
Much of the timber was injured in the
course of transport, and had to be replaced;
and years elapsed before the supply called
for was ready for shipment. Since 1859,
when the province was again torn in all
directions by the rebels, the greater por-
tion of the standing trees of any size have
been burnt down or felled, and the subse-
quent growth is not yet of a serviceable
size. It would be quite impossible to meet
a demand such as the present, which
is several times greater than that of half a
century ago. Dwelling once more upon
the immense difficulties that interpose in
the way of transport of timber by land,
the Governor-General proceeds to say that
when the water courses are at length
reached, matters are not much more favour-
able, owing to the rapids that occur every-
where. It would be necessary to float the
timber log by log down the mountain
streams to Kia-ting Chow, at which place
only could they be formed into rafts.
Instructions have been given to capable
and able-bodied officials, directing them to
proceed to the forest region for the purpose
of ascertaining what timber can really be
supplied; but to comply with the require-
ment of sending in a report by the month
of May was absolutely impossible; and the
Governor-General begs for more time. As
regards the soft-pine, moreover, it was
represented on the former occasion that
this wood in Szech'wan is of a very loose
and porous texture, and is apt to split
after being soaked in water, and afterwards
exposed to the sun; on which ground the
order for it was then cancelled, and it is
asked that the same may now be done.—
Rescript: Be it as is requested. Let the
Office in question take note.

(2) A postscript memorial from the same
quarter, to the effect that in a despatch
from the Imperial Household it is stated
that an expectant Prefect named Li Kwang-
chao has laid an offer before the Throne of
contributions toward the rebuilding of
Yüan-ming Yüan. It appears that he
offers some 100,000 to 150,000 Taels' worth
of timber, in the shape of trees of different
species of hardwood, which during many
years of business transactions in different
provinces he has purchased and left stand-
ing. These he proposes to have felled and
brought to Peking. — He adds a request
that in Hunan and Hupeh, Szech'wan,
and three other provinces, the high
authorities be called upon to grant him free
passes for the timber, to exempt it from
payment of duty at all custom-houses.
Upon this the Governor-General observes
that if Li Kwang-chao were, as he states,
the proprietor for many years past of grow-
ting timber under the circumstances alleged,
people in the trade could not fail to have
cognizance of the fact; but on his having
caused inquiries to be made through the
district authorities of all the timber-dealers,
and others connected with the business,
nothing can be heard of any person named
Li, as having purchased stock of the kind,
nor of any agent having been sent by such
a man into the province. There appears
to be not an atom of truth in his story, and
it is requested that his letter on the sub-
ject may be cancelled, and no further notice
be taken of it.—Rescript agreeing to the
above.

July 5.—(1) The Superintendent of
Scholarship (Literary Chancellor) of Shensi
and Kansuh memorializes reporting his dis-
coveries of two scholars of eminence worth
and erudition, who are living in retirement
careless of worldly advancement, and for
whom he requests official honors. Dwell-
ing upon the ancient literary glories of
Shensi under the Han and Tsang dynasties
(when the capital of China was situated
within the limits of the present province),
he states that, notwithstanding the trou-
bles of recent years, which have impo-
verished the entire population, the tradi-
tions of study have not been lost. In his
own position, it is his peculiar duty to give
an impulse to scholarship, and in pursuance
of this object he has sought out the two
persons, named Ho Ju-lin and Yang Shug-
ch'uan, both holding inferior literary de-
grees, whose reputation for devotion to
study had reached his ears, and whom he has
found to be deeply versed in the learn-
ing of the commentators. Following a
former precedent, he requests that the
title of Preceptor at the State College may
be conferred upon each.—Rescript: Let
the Board of Ceremonies decide and report.
(2 and 3) Further memorials from the
same quarter, the first urging that the
Literary Chancellor may be empowered to
lay before the Throne the applications
made to him during his official peregrina-
tions for marks of Imperial approbation
upon virtuous and filial conduct, and the
second referring to the measures he has
instituted for multiplying schools for clas-
sical study throughout his province.

July 6th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ts'ang-
shih (as President of the Board of Pun-
ishments) proceed by post-relay to Shan
Hai-kwan (the seaward termination of the
Great Wall) to investigate matters. Let
his suite likewise travel by post-relay.
(2) The Governor of Ngan-hwei applies
for a mark of Imperial approbation for
the virtuous and devoted conduct of a woman
of the rank of concubine. A sub-prefect
named Ho, residing at Ngan-k'ung Fu,
having no male issue by either his wife or
a concubine named Niu, took, in 1865, a
second concubine, named Kia, who dis-
played the most exemplary regard for all
prescriptive duties, so that no one had a
word to say against her. On a son being
born to Madame Nui, she loved the child
as though it had been her own. After
nursing her husband with the most devoted
care during a long illness, and praying that
she might be allowed to suffer in his stead,
she vowed that on his death she would
follow him to the grave, and on his decease
taking place on the 6th January last, after
20 days had been given up by her to the
funeral observances, she retired to her
apartment, took poison, and died. Her
age was twenty-five.—Rescript. Let a
memorial tablet be granted as applied for.
(3) The Military Governor of Sheng-
king, Tu-hing-ah, and his colleagues, me-
orialize representing the necessity for
sanction to summary measures in dealing
with the mounted highwaymen who have
infested Manchuria for many years past.
In order to prevent the escape of offenders
from the last severity of justice, and to
strike a salutary example, it is necessary to
give the local officials power for the
present to execute prisoners on the spot.
Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments
take note.

July 7th. (1) The Prince of Ch'un, Yih
Hya, and a colleague, memorialize re-
porting the capture of certain fugitives
from justice who had been concerned in
an assault upon a Deputy Magistrate.
The workmen employed at the Imperial
Mausolea having been enticed into gam-
bling by bad characters of the neigh-
bourhood, an official was sent with police
to break up the gambling places, and a
Mohammedan named Yangaze was appre-
prehended, and put in the cangue. He was,
however, forcibly released from custody by
a gang of his associates, who moreover set
upon and beat the deputy Magistrate. A
number of the guilty parties have now
been traced out and apprehended, under
order of the high officials in charge of the
works.
(2) The Board of Censorate forwards the
appeal presented on behalf of two women
of the district of Jeh-ho, complaining of
pillage of their property and the murder
of their relatives by certain banditti who
have infested that region for some time
past. Troops sent against these malefactors
have failed to check their depredations,
although the ringleader, named Li Hwa-
lung, was slain. Redress is urgently asked
for.

July 8th.—The Governor-General of the
Two Kiang, Li Tsung-li, memorializes
asking sanction for the erection of a memo-
rial temple at Nanking in honour of the
two Imperial commanders Chang Kwoh-
lung and Hiang Yung, who fell during
the rebellion. Rescript already published.
The remainder of this day's Gazette is
occupied by administrative details.

July 9th.—(1) The Governor of Kiang
memorializes setting forth the divine
protection vouchsafed during the repair of
a seawall in the districts of Hwa-ting and
Kin-shan, which is essential to the safety of a large extent of country. On this work having been completed during the reign of Taot-kwang, imperial orders were given for the erection of three Temples as a token of gratitude for the fostering care of the supernal powers; and when, during the progress of works of repair commenced in 1868, danger has been occasioned by tempestuous weather and river floods, a supernatural light has never failed to manifest itself on the face of the waters, upon which security has forthwith been restored. To these facts the officials in charge of the works and the people of the neighbourhood have alike been eyewitnesses; and now that the works are approaching completion, the local notables have besought that memorial boards may be conferred by his Majesty upon the three Temples, to blazon forth the intervention of the supernal powers — A Rescript acceding to the application has already appeared.

(2) The joint Governors of Shun-t’ien Fu memorialize respecting the transmission of army supplies to Western Mongolia, stating that the system set on foot in 1868 for the carriage of funds by the way of Shansi had been subsequently changed for the northern route by the way of Chahar, passing through Chang-kin-k’ow (Kalgan). The amount of Ts. 1,000,000 was appropriated by Imperial decree last year to the army supplies of Kansuh, which was remitted in five instalments. A recent appropriation by Imperial decree has ordered a remittance of Ts. 200,000 to be forwarded to Tarbagatai. The object of the present memorial is to suggest, owing to the paucity of officials available for undertaking the transmission of large sums of this nature to their destination, that sanction may be given to the delivery of the amounts sent forward to places beyond the Great Wall to the officers delegated by the respective Military Governors to reside at Kalgan as commissioners.

(3) A postscript memorial from the Governor of Kiangsu denounces a military officer of the rank of captain, named Hu Kia-hing, for dissipated conduct and breaches of discipline, aggravated by an insubordinate tone toward his superior officer when removed from his post. At the Governor’s request a Rescript is granted cashiering Hu Kia-hing, and directing that he be sent in custody to his native place, where he is to be placed under stringent restraint.

July 10th. — (1) A Decree ordering the arrest of a civil and a military officer in Tibet, who are accused by the Imperial resident of having conspired together to appropriate to themselves Ts. 5,000 of government money. They are pronounced as stripped of their rank, and are to be sent as prisoners to the Governor-General of Szechwan for trial, accompanied by the witnesses and all documents relating to the case.

(2) Tao Tsung-t’ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, memorializes, stating that in January last he received a letter from Chung K’ien-k’un, 鍾謙鈞, an official who has retired from the public service after holding office as Comptroller of the Salt Revenue in the Two Kwang, to the effect that, having sufficient means of subsistence in some poor lands which he owns, he is desirous of devoting the sum of Taels 40,000, being the amount received by him as pay during his official career, to works of charity. He appropriates one-half to the relief of the distressed poor of the province of Chihli, and the remainder he sends for distribution among the destitute poor of the province of Shensi and Kansuh, memorializes the Governor-General that his gift is not offered with any view to corresponding reward, the Governor-General feels bound, nevertheless, to bring the facts to his Majesty’s notice.

(3) In a postscript memorial, Tao Tsung-t’ang further records the contribution of Taels 6,925 by the officials, high and low, of the civil service in Shensi, in sums varying from Ts. 1,000 to Ts. 50, on behalf of the destitute population of Western Kansuh. The greater portion of this sum has been expended in the purchase of 12,180 wadded coats, for distribution,
lately presented to the Throne by the memorializes with reference to the request stringently denounced to the Throne. If they fail in this, they will be further informed, to find means to arrest the perpetrators of this crime, and to recover the stolen property. If the civil and military officials concerned have failed for upwards of a month in directing their course. The civil and military functionaries of Fukien and Cheh-kiang reports the arrival of 12 shipwrecked Loo-chooans, who have been rescued and brought in port at Foochow. The resident Loo-chooan interpreter having been called upon to take the statements of these men, they allege that they set sail on the 18th April from Napa Fu in a small junk, with a cargo of 55 bags of salt to be conveyed to Pa Ch'ung-shan. On the following day the junk was dismayed in a gale, and drifted before the wind, until, on the 3rd May, they were found in with and rescued by a fishing-junk off Ting-hai, on the coast of Fukien. Hereupon the Governor-General observes that from the date of arrival of these distressed barbarians, whose condition is highly to be commiserated, they are by regulation entitled to receive each an allowance of one sheng of rice and six cash in money for the purchase of salt and vegetables, per diem, beside which, on the day of departure for their own country, provisions for a month are to be issued to them, beside a commutation in money for certain gifts. Their vessel being found to be in a seaworthy condition, they are to be sent back in her to Loocchoo, and two natives of Fukien, skilled in local pilotage, are to be assigned to them for the purpose of directing their course.

(2) The same high official denounces the civil and military functionaries of Ma-hiang T'ing, in the prefecture of Ta'enchow, for their failure to apprehend the perpetrators of a robbery committed at a pawnshop at Kin-man (Quemoy.) In the middle of April last, a band of robbers attacked and pillaged the pawnshop in question, wounding two of the assistants; and notwithstanding the gravity of the case, the civil and military officials concerned have failed for upwards of a month since the occurrence, both to make a single arrest and to recover any of the stolen property. They have been deprived of their buttons, and held bound to take steps within two months' time, by offers of reward and the employment of informers, to find means to arrest the whole of the perpetrators of this crime, and to recover the stolen property. If they fail in this, they will be further stringently denounced to the Throne.

July 12th.—The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes with reference to the request lately presented to the Throne by the Censor T'eng K'ing-lin, who requested that as rebellion is now at an end throughout the empire, the old system of trial in cases of brigandage or robbery may be reverted to. This having been referred by rescript to the Board for consideration, report has been made to the effect that it is not expedient to reimpose the operation of the old constitutional system too precipitately, lest practical difficulties be entailed by so doing, and suggesting that the provincial governments be called upon to report concerning the circumstances prevailing within their respective jurisdictions. Upon this the Governor reports that elements of disorder are still rife in the northern section of this province, owing to the fact of its having been a principal focus of the Nien-fei rebellion, whilst in the southern division great numbers of emigrants from other parts have found homes, whose dispositions are as yet still in an unsettled state. Beside this, disbanded braves, sent back to their native places, figure largely in the population. Owing to this condition of affairs, military posts have been dotted over the country for the preservation of order, and to these precautions the moral effect of summary executions in all cases of brigandage, and of disturbances on the part of disbanded braves, has been added. The Governor considers it still desirable to continue the practice of this system, which has the advantage, moreover, of preventing the jails from becoming overcrowded, whereby evils of another sort may readily be created. Rescript—Let the Board of Punishments take note.

July 13th.—The Governor of Honan memorializes stating that whereas the country in the neighbourhood of Honan Fu is of a hilly nature and liable to suffer from drought, repeated instances of divine intervention have been manifested in recent years, on prayers being offered by the officials and notables at the Temple of the Dragon God, in the shape of downfalls of rain or snow, according to the season. Furthermore, in the district of T'eng-feng, on the northern side of the Sung Shan, there is a pool called the Lake of the Nine Dragons, where a temple to the Dragon God exists, which was founded in the reign K'ai-yüan of the T'ang dynasty (about the middle of the 8th century); and on prayers being offered by supplicants from far or near refreshing showers have been at once vouchsafed. Last winter, when the health of the provincial capital was suffering from want of snow, the Governor sent for some water from the lake, which, on being brought to an altar prepared for the purpose,
and on the supplication being offered, produced immediately the desired result. Basing his application on the law which gives sanction to requests of the kind, when manifestations of divine protection to the people in warding off calamities or distress have been shown, the Governor consequently solicits a mark of Imperial recognition for the two localities referred to. Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies deliberate and report to Us upon this. The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied with memorials on the appointment of minor officials in Hunan and Honan.

July 14th.—The Governor-General of Hu-kwang and the Governor of Hupeh jointly memorialize reporting the results of the collection of revenue from trading licenses and likin during the past three years, and applying for rewards for the officials concerned. They premise by stating that owing to the drain upon the revenues of Hupeh caused by the rebellion, the former Governor, Hu Lin-yih, obtained his Majesty's sanction in 1856 to the institution of a licensing system for traders, and in the course of the same year the Board of Revenue transmitted a copy of the regulations introduced in Kiangsu for the likin tax, with instructions to put them experimentally in force. In 1857 a general Board for the control of trading licenses and likin tax (i.e., for the taxation of foreign merchandize passing the likin barriers, and included in transitory goods) was organized at the provincial capital, under the direction of the chief administrative officers of Government. Since then there have been seven successive reports to the Throne, submitting the names of different officials for approbation. It has now to be stated that the receipts during the past triennial period have been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1871</td>
<td>521,542</td>
<td>1,903,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1872</td>
<td>560,887</td>
<td>1,914,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1873</td>
<td>560,115</td>
<td>1,733,393</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total revenue, as above stated, for the three years amounts to an aggregate of 5,112,229 Taels (five million one hundred and twelve thousand two hundred and twenty-nine), taking silver and cash together at current rates of exchange. What has not been remitted either to Peking or to other provinces as auxiliary supplies, and contributed for the relief of distress in Chihli, for the works at the Imperial tombs and the pay of the naval forces on the Yangtze, has been handed over to the Military Board of the province, to meet the demands accruing there. A separate return of expenditure is made by the department in question. Since commands were received in 1868 to abolish some of the likin barriers, the revenue has suffered an immediate diminution, whilst at the same time the outgoings have been increased. Of late years, moreover, the quantity of foreign merchandize passing the likin barriers from the outports under exemption from the tax is daily on the increase, and the receipts have further fallen off in consequence. Notwithstanding this, the demands upon the province for funds to supply Peking and other provinces, the military garrisons by land and water in the province itself, which have been retained after disbanding the remainder of the irregular forces, etc., etc., are requirements which must absolutely be met, and which the likin alone furnishes the means of complying with. Under these circumstances, it is necessary to call upon the officials employed to use the most active efforts, and with a view of encouraging them in the discharge of this duty, as well as of rewarding past services, the authorities ask for marks of Imperial approbation for the persons set forth in a list which they submit.—The Memorial and list of names are referred by Rescript to the Board for due consideration.

July 15.—The Court Circular announces that his Majesty will to-morrow proceed to Yüan-ming-yüan, and after inspecting the works, offer incense at the shrine of Li Tzu. After dining in the Shwang Ho cabinet, his Majesty will return to Peking by the morning's route.

(1 and 2) Decrees conferring the offices held by Ts'ung-shih, as President of the Board of Punishments and Captain-General of the bordered white Mongolian Banner, on two other high functionaries, during his absence from Peking on a special mission.

(3) The Governor of Chekiang reports the completion of his tour of military inspection. Since the despatch of his last memorial he has proceeded from the provincial capital by way of Yen-chow, Kuchen, &c., to Wenchow, where he embarked on board a steamship which conveyed him to T'ai-chow, Tung-hai, and Ningpo. From the last named place he proceeded by boat along the inland waters to Shao-hing, reaching Hang-chow Fu again on the 11th June. He was well satisfied with the skill in musketry firing, the shield exercise, use of scaling-ladders, and the practice with spears, which was exhibited by the land forces, as well as with the exhibitions of horse and foot archery, matchlock and gingsal practice, &c. As regards the
of a band of brigands, of whom 16 in all have been captured and executed.

July 17th.—(1) A Decree. Let each of the chair-bearers in attendance upon Us yesterday receive of Our bounty a gratuity of one Tael's weight of silver, to be issued from the treasury of the Household. (Note. This imperial largesse is probably to recompense for the exposure of the suite to a tremendous rainstorm during the visit made to Yüan-ming Yüan on the 16th inst.)

(2) The Governor of Hunan memorializes requesting a mark of imperial approbation for the District Magistrate of Ning-hiang, who has set a shining example to all his brother-officials by remitting the whole of the rice-commutation levy of his district for last year, to the amount of Taels 14,726, plus Taels 925 for the supplementary expenses due, within the prescribed period. This is so unusual a display of activity and punctuality as to call for special commendation. Rescript: Let the Magistrate Shu Sin-t'ien be handed over to the Board, for proposition of reward on a distinguished scale.

July 18th.—(1) A Decree temporarily stripping of their rank, but continuing in office, two Colonels of the Manchu garrison at Chinkiang, named Yen-K'ang and Shan-lien, who have been denounced by the Commander-in-chief for causing an outbreak among the soldiery by their delay in the issue of the rice-allowance. The mutineers are at the same time to be apprehended and severely punished.

(2 and 3). Memorials from Tao Tsung-tang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, on sundry military appointments.

July 19th.—(1) A Rescript. Let Hai-yang be appointed to the post of Manchu Brigadier General at Chinkiang.

(2 and 3). Rescripts prescribing the course to be pursued at impending religious ceremonies.

(4). A Memorial from the Governor of Kiangsu, forwarding a petition on the part of certain notables of T'ai-ts'ang for the introduction of the name of Luh She-i, a philosophical writer of the 18th century, a native of that department, among those of the worthies to whom sacrifices are offered in the Confucian temples. They represent that his principal work had place of high distinction allotted to it in the Imperial Catalogue of K'ien-lung's reign, and that the distinction they apply for on behalf of his memory will be gratefully received by the inhabitants of his birthplace. Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and Report to Us.
same quarter forwards an application made by Ying Pao-shé, the Judicial and acting Financial Commissioner of Kiangsu, for a mark of Imperial distinction for a lately deceased secondary wife of his late father, at the time of whose death she was aged twenty-two years. Since that period she devoted herself with firm determination to an inconsolable widowhood, dying at length at the age of 40 in the course of the present year. As both wives and concubines are admitted by regulation to participate in the honours accorded for voluntary continuance in a state of widowhood, it is requested that in the present instance a memorial tablet may be granted on behalf of the deceased lady. Rescript granting the application.

The remainder of this day’s Gazette is occupied with administrative details.

July 20.—(1) A Memorial from Shen Yü-ying, acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow, with reference to the appointment of properly qualified officials to the frontier-prefectures of K’ai-hwa and Yung-ch’ang. The last named is a post of special importance from the fact of its lying on the frontier of Burmah, with a region occupied by native tribes under its control, whilst K’ai-hwa Fu is similarly situated with reference to Cochin China.

(2 and 3). Postscript Memorials from the same quarter relating to official appointments.

July 21st.—(1) The Governor of Ngan-hwei memorializes, on the application of certain denizens of the Ho-fei district, placing on record the fact that their deceased father, Lee Hwai-kang by name, had bequeathed a certain area of land to be held in trust on behalf of his descendants for ever, with a special proviso against its alienation under any circumstances.

(2). In a Postscript Memorial the same Governor reports that he has received a communication from Li Hung-chang (as a native of the Ho-fei District in Ngan-hwei) giving cover to an application on the part of Brigadier General Chow Sheng-ch’wan, in tenor as follows:— The applicant, being a native of Ho-fei, has been employed since 1853 in military service, as a leader of braves against the rebels, a large proportion of his force consisting of men of his own kith and kin. Those who lost their lives in the field have been commemorated by Imperial acts of grace, but they have left behind them a numerous progeny of orphans, whose destitute condition calls for all possible sympathy. Applicant’s mother, who has passed the age of 80, has repeatedly urged that an adequate fund be got together and a common abiding place be provided on their behalf. In compliance with these wishes, applicant and his relatives have erected, close to the ancestral hall of the family, a building to be used as a place of family resort, to which they have added a free school for the instruction of all the younger members. Besides this, 60 odd places have been provided, comprising an orphanage and an office for the performance of vaccination. For the maintenance of these establishments 4000 mow of land have been set apart, and a sum of money amounting to 40,000 strings of cash has been placed at interest. The income accruing from both these sources will be about 5000 piculs of grain by way of rental, and 5000 strings of cash as interest on the fund. The whole property is to be held in trust by the descendants of the applicant, aided by competent persons among their kinsfolk, and the alienation of any portion of it to other purposes is forbidden in perpetuity. It is requested that these arrangements be officially recorded, and plans and detailed statements are appended to the memorial. — Rescript: Let the proper Board take note hereof.

July 22nd.—(1) Yu Ling-chen, President of the Court of Representation, memorializes soliciting an alteration in the rules for local examinations in the province of Kirin (Manchuria), with a view to greater strictness and efficiency.

(2) The military Governor of Sheng-k’ing (Manchuria) and his colleagues memorializing reporting the quinquennial literary examination which has been held in conformity with the regulations at Sheng-k’ing (Moukden), for the scions of the Imperial family residing there. The number of competitors was 34, who were examined in translations from Manchu into Chinese, and who passed an inspection in horsemanship and archery, as provided in the ancient regulations. Twenty-one of the competitors were classed in four degrees of merit; and their names are reported for registry in the Imperial Clan Court.

July 23rd.—The Court Circular announces that the Imperial Household reports the delivery of certain timber by Li Kwang-chao. (The person referred to is the Cantonese trader who lately offered to present large quantities of timber to his Majesty for the rebuilding of Yuan-ming Yuan).

(1) A Decree acceding to the request preferred by Wu T’ang, the Governor-General of Szech’uan, to the effect that the biography of Liu Jung, an ex-Governor...
of Shansi lately deceased, who rendered distinguished services in Szech'wan during a long period of years, may be drawn up and recorded in the Imperial Historiographer's Office, and that a place be assigned to him in the temple where sacrifices are offered to the manes of renowned officials, as also that his name be associated with that of the late Governor-General, Loh Ping-chang, under whom he served, in the memorial temple erected in the latter's honour at Ch'eng-to Fu.

(2) The Imperial Residents in Tibet, Ch'eng-ki and Ngân-lin, jointly memorialize reporting the delinquency of two officials, one a sub-prefect holding the office of Commissary or Treasurer at Lassa, and the other a military officer of the rank of captain, who conspired together to obtain a payment of Taels 5,000 from the military chest in Sze-ch'wan, on the plea of having obtained an advance to this amount from lama functionaries at Taishilumbu, to meet the wants of the soldiery. The statement having been proved false on investigation, the degradation, trial, and punishment of the offenders is requested; and it being expedient that the proceedings should not take place at the hands of their brother-officials in Tibet, it is suggested that the two delinquents be sent to Sze-ch'wan for trial.—Rescript already published.

(3) Ngân-lin, one of the Imperial Residents in Tibet, memorializes as follows:—Having heretofore been honoured with the Imperial commands to escort the 'Lubilhan (reincarnation or incarnation) of the Chiptsunampa 'Hutukhut from Lassa to Kurun (Urga), he has for some time past awaited, with the sanction of his Majesty, the arrival of the Beileh, who was commanded to come forward to receive the newly-constituted dignity, the officials sent in charge of the donations from the Colonial Office, and the military guard of honour from Si-ning, the arrival of all of whom was for some time delayed. As they have now at length assembled at Lassa, the Resident proceeded in the course of the second moon of this year to Taishilumbu, to have an audience of the Panshen Erdeni, and on his return in the following moon to Lassa he ordered the Beileh and others composing the party to set about preparing the necessary means of transport for the journey. Although the number of animals provided is insufficient, the Resident has nevertheless determined upon setting out with a reduced escort, and would accordingly leave Lassa with his charge on the 3rd of June. The chief Resident, Ch'eng-ki, will do all that is requisite in the way of providing escorts of Chinese and Tibetan soldiers from stage to stage, &c., and the memorialist himself, after seeing the Chiptsunampa enthroned at Kurun, will repair to Peking, and prostrating his head in the dust at the Palace Gate, will supplicate further employment.—Rescript: We have taken note. (The Lamaist dignitary above referred to, whose spiritual succession to the post he occupies is managed in the same manner as that of the Dalai and Panshen lamas in Tibet itself, is the primate of Mongolian Buddhism, and resides at Urga, near the Russian frontier.)

July 24th.—(1 and 2) Decrees expressing the sorrow felt by his Majesty on learning the news of the decease of Ch'eng-ming, the Comptroller General of the Imperial Household—confering official grades on his two sons, Sa-chang and Sa-shên—and appointing Kwei-pao 貴寶 as his successor.

(3) The Military Governor of Sheng-king memorializes reporting a case of wrongful arrest of an innocent person by a soldier of the garrison, under pretence of execution of a warrant. On the prisoner being placed on trial, the true circumstances of the case have been brought to light—the soldier has disappeared, and attempts to recapture him have proved fruitless. The Major commanding the force to which the delinquent belongs is ordered by rescript to be subjected to a penalty by decision of the Board.

(4) Ngeh-leh-ho-pu and Kwei-chang, Manchu functionaries stationed beyond the Wall, report that four ex-officials who have been pardoned while undergoing sentence of banishment, have failed to repair the station fees or charges which by law they are required to reimburse the public exchequer. Two of their number have pleaded in forma pauperis for exemption; but the other two, natives of Honan, have secretly made their escape. It is requested that enquiry be instituted at their homes, and their property be levied upon to meet the amounts for which they are liable.

July 25th.—(1) A Decree according a further extension of sick leave for the period of two months to the Grand Secretary Wen-siang, in answer to his reiterated application for leave to resign his office.

(2) A Decree appointing a high official to survey certain buildings at the Western mausolea, which are reported to require repair.

(3) A memorial from the Governor of Kwangsi, urging that a certain official
nominated by himself to a District Magistracy, but whose appointment has been disapproved by the Board of Civil Office, on the score of its being at variance with certain regulations affecting promotion, may nevertheless be confirmed. Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office report to Us upon this.

(4) The Military Governor of Kirin reports that, having received commands to select a fresh draught for the Imperial body-guard, which had fallen below its proper strength, from among the Manchu soldiery of that province, selecting men who have either seen much service in the field, or who, being young and able-bodied, are skilled in horsemanship and the use of bows and spears, he has chosen 20 rank and file who fulfil the above conditions, and who are being sent forward to Peking to enter upon the duty required of them.

July 26th.—(1) The acting Governor-General of the Grain Transport memorializes soliciting funds which are urgently required for repairs to a portion of the Grand Canal. He represents that equal importance was attached under the system heretofore pursued to the works connected with the Yellow River, the Hung-tseh Lake, and the Canal itself; but since the breach occurred in the embankment at Lan-i, which diverted the course of the Yellow River northwards, although the maintenance of repairs to the Lake and Canal were essential to both the grain transport and to the security of the people, yet, of the 800,000 to 900,000 Taels which were formerly expended per annum on keeping the banks in order, not one-tenth has in recent years been available for this purpose. If the skill now displayed in the works of repair is vastly superior to that of past generations, it is because financial exigencies have compelled every effort to be strained; but the want of funds is such that the means available are quite inadequate to supply the works that are required. With the water continually rising in the lake and canal, the occurrence of a disastrous overflow is naturally to be expected, such, for instance, as occurred in 1860 at Siao Liu Po, and in 1866 at Ta'ing Shui T'an. There is one point in especial where expenditure is called for, namely, on the borders of the Kao-yeo district, where the bed of the canal is shallow and of insufficient width, entailing both difficulties in the passage of the grain junks, and also danger of a breach in the embankments. In 1871 an outlay of 18,000 odd strings of cash was estimated for at this point, but there being no funds available, nothing was done, and the silting up at this point has gone on increasingly since then. The Governor-General recalls the fact that in 1866 it was arranged that a total sum of Taels 54,000 should be annually remitted from certain provinces for expenditure on the Canal repairs, but the sums actually sent forward have never come up to one-half of the proper amount. For one reason or another, each Province has pleaded inability to make up its quota, and the acting Governor-General (himself the Provincial Treasurer of Kiangsu) must admit the allegations of financial distress to be well founded. The only amount at present available for the Canal works is some Taels 40,000, from two sources, viz., one half derived from the sale of certain stores of firewood, and the remainder in the shape of Provincial remittances. In the administration of his predecessor, supplies which were otherwise not forthcoming were borrowed from the likin, but since last year the likin revenue has fallen off, and is able to afford no assistance. It is now besought that in addition to present means an additional annual remittance of Taels 40,000 be decreed, by means of which the more urgent works may be executed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue examine and report to Us.

(2) In a postscript memorial, it is represented that the Governor-General Wün-pin (now acting as Governor of Shan-tung) executed repairs at certain points of the Canal to the amount of Taels 73,200 and odd, of which a balance of Taels 14,200 still remains unpaid, there being no funds to meet it. A portion has been temporarily covered by a transfer of funds from one of the provincial treasury accounts, but the remainder is still owing; and his Majesty is entreated to order remittances to be made from the provinces which have been exempted from the transport of grain, to cover the deficiency.

(3) In a further postscript, a case is mentioned of two offenders who have been apprehended on a charge of violating a place of interment. On being placed on trial they confessed that, being driven by poverty to the deed, they had broken into an old grave, and had carried off the coffin, as well as a silver hairpin and ring, throwing the remains of the deceased person into the Canal. It is reported that these men have been executed as a public warning. Referred by rescript to the Board of Punishments.

July 27th.—(1) A Decree. The Censors in charge of the Western Division of Peking have memorialized, stating that on the 24th inst. Teh-ming-ngel, a Gioro of the Imperial lineage, having come to blows
with certain others in a restaurant, rushed from thence to the Censors’ office, where he raised a disturbance, and battered in the doors and windows. The Board of Punishment and the Imperial Clan Court are ordered to investigate conjointly the circumstances of this case; and certain persons named, who have not yet been apprehended, are to be arrested, whereupon all concerned in the disturbance are to be tried and punished.

(2) The Governor of Kwangai solicits a manifestation of the Imperial sympathy on behalf of the rank and file who have fallen either from wounds or sickness in military operations against rebels, brigands, or the aboriginal tribes since the outbreak of insurrectionary troubles. A nominal roll has been drawn up, and is submitted for record, with the prayer that appropriate marks of distinction may be accorded in each case.—Referred by Rescript to the Board.

July 28th.—(1) A Decree awarding two memorial boards, with inscriptions in the Imperial autograph, to be suspended in the temples of the Dragon King at Chang-te’iu and How-kia Lin, on the banks of the Yellow River, as tokens of thanks-giving for the early passage of the grain-junk squadron this year, reported by the Governor of Shantung. The proper Board is likewise to determine what marks of approbation shall be conferred upon the two principal officials who have forwarded the progress of the vessels.

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, memorializes stating that whereas in the case of the greater number of walled cities in this province, the fortifications had fallen into ruins, measures have been in progress during the last few years to rebuild the walls; and he has now to report with reference to the district city of Ting-hing, that the repairs, commenced on May 29, 1866, were terminated in November, 1867, at a total cost, for materials and labour, of Taels 10,271, the whole of which amount was subscribed by the notables, traders, and people of the district. In conformity with the official regulation providing that for every Taels 10,000 contributed for public purposes in any district, one additional degree, both civil and military, may be competed for at one ensuing examination, the privilege in question is besought on behalf of the district, and the Magistrate is recommended for advancement.

(3 and 4). Further memorials from the same quarter, respecting administrative details.

July 29th.—(1) A Decree in reply to a memorial from Ch’ang-ki, the Resident in Tibet, applying for the issue of new copies of regulations, which have been lost. These are ordered to be supplied by the Colonial Office, and Ng’an-lin, the late Resident, to whose carelessness the loss is due, is to be adjudged a penalty by the Board.

(2) A Decree appointing Tsin-k’i as the high officer who is to offer sacrifices in the Great Ancestral Temple on the 23rd August, being the birthday of her Majesty the Empress Ts’ze Ngan Twan Yu K’ang K’ing (the Empress Dowager).

(3) The Governor of Hunan reports, in a postscript memorial, the passage of the Annamese envoy across the provincial border on his return from Peking. The envoy, it is stated, who has been duly forwarded under official convoy from point to point, entered Hunan from Hupch with his suite on the 19th April, and on the 25th May he crossed the border into Kwangsi, where he was taken charge of by the officials of that province. His journey has been a tranquil one throughout, and no shortcoming has occurred in any of the supplies due on his behalf.

(4 & 5). Memorials from the Governor of Hunan, on minor official appointments.

July 30th.—(1) The Governor-General of the Two Hu and the Governor of Hupch memorialize denouncing the ex-Magistrate of the department of Kwei-chow, on the following grounds. During his tenure of office a complaint was made to the effect that warrants had been improperly issued to police, a result of which was that an aggravated case of rape, leading to the taking of a life, had occurred. On the incriminated persons being brought to trial at the provincial capital, the confessions elicited from them agreed with the facts stated; but at the very moment when further proceedings were about to be determined upon, the ex-Magistrate sent in a statement alleging that injustice had been done in the case, and forwarding a summary of charges. The prisoners, on being further examined hereupon, retracted their former statements; and there is reason to suspect that the ex-Magistrate has influenced them to this end, his object being to escape the infliction of penalties for his own shortcoming in the matter. He is at present holding office as department Magistrate of Mien-yang Chow; and it is solicited that he may be provisionally stripped of his rank, to await the result of a further investigation. If it should prove to be the case that he gave undue license to his police, and has sub-
ssequently influenced their statements on trial, he will be impeached in the most stringent manner.—Granted by rescript.

(2) A postscript memorial from the Governor General of the Two Kwang, solicits on behalf of an expectant district Magistrate the fulfillment of a recommendation made in 1863, as a reward for military services in the campaign against the rebel invasion of Kia-ying Chow. The application is referred by rescript to the Board of Civil Office.

(3) The Manchu Commander-in-chief of Nanking memorializes reporting an outbreak among the Bannermen at Chinkiang, owing to a deficiency in the rice-commutation allowance issued to them by their colonels, and to delay in the period of distribution. The men mobbed the residences of the unpopular officers, and made a general smash-up of their contents. The explanation sent in by the colonels in question is unsatisfactory, and the provisional removal of the two offending colonels from their office is applied for, pending an enquiry, and the apprehension of the ringleaders of the disturbance.—Granted by rescript.

July 31st. (1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal on the part of T'eng Kin-teh, a young man aged 19, from Shensi, to the following effect. Ch'en Tien-yang, a resident of the department of Ning-shen (T'ing), is a millionaire, possessing great local influence, which he exercises for evil purposes. He derives his wealth and power from the ownership of forests, of iron and paper manufactories, &c., and he keeps in his service a host of ruffians who tyrannize over honest but defenceless people. In 1867, the newly appointed Magistrate of the department, named Hu T'ao, allowed one of his underlings to join with this man in levying unauthorized exactions under the name of taxes, through which immense discontent was occasioned. In the spring of the following year a scarcity was experienced, when Ch'en Tien-yang put a stop to the sale of grain, raised the prices, and exported rice from the district. A demonstration took place in consequence among the poorer class, upon which petitioner's uncle, Teng Taung-mu, was called upon, at the monopolist's instance, to appease the disturbance, being supplied with Taels 300 and odd for his expenses. The Magistrate, however, while privily abiding in Ch'en's house, laid a scheme for seizing a military graduate named Tziao K'o-k'in, whom he had carried off in chains, and from whom he extorted a confession of rebellious action. He next summoned petitioner's uncle before him, had him beaten severely, and threw him into prison. Theatricals happened to be in progress at the Magistracry at the time, in honour of a birthday, and the sum of Taels 600 and odd was obtained from petitioner's uncle by means of torture, the man Tziao being compelled to pay in a similar manner 390 odd strings of otsah. Proofs of this are forthcoming. Another uncle, named Tsung-kao, went to lodge a complaint with the Governor and the provincial High Commissioners, upon which officers were sent to bring up the parties for investigation. The Magistrate, however, did not hesitate to put Tsung-mu and six others into cages, and to clothe them in the scarlet garb of condemned felons, sending them forward thus for imprisonment at the provincial capital. Here they were not granted a hearing, but were subjected to lawless forms of torture, under which five of their number died. The second uncle, being involved in the case, also died, and petitioner's older brother, having gone to lodge an appeal, was imprisoned, and no one knows what has become of him. In 1871, a third uncle petitioned the Governor in the matter, and the prefect of Si-ngan Fu was appointed to investigate it; but he falsified the proceedings in order to screen the guilty parties, and the case was dismissed. He, moreover, caused petitioner's uncle to be deprived of a sum of upwards of Taels 400, which he had about him when he appeared before the bench. Justice is therefore sought by an appeal at Peking. It is noted that in addition to complaints lodged before the different inferior tribunals, no less than thirteen petitions have been addressed to the Governor of the province in this matter. A Rescript has already appeared, directing as usual that petitioner be sent back under escort to his native province, and that a searching enquiry be instituted there by the Governor's order.

(2) I-k'eh-t'ang-ngeh and his colleagues (the authorities of a region in the military government of the Amoor) report that a general of the Mongol banner force, named Mah-T'ang-ngeh, has completed three years of banishment under their jurisdiction. He was degraded and sentenced to banishment for misappropriating a sum of Taels 1,500 and odd from the amount allotted for manufacturing munitions of war, and also for laying hands upon another sum of Taels 1,300, to meet a call for refund which he had reason to expect would be made on account of certain mismanagement of
which he was conscious. It is now reported that he has conducted himself in an orderly and law-abiding manner during the entire period of his banishment.

August 1st.—(1) The Governor-General of Szechuen memorializes setting forth the services rendered to the State by the lately deceased ex-Governor of Shensi, Liu Jung, during his tenure of office as Financial Commissioner of Szechuen in 1861 and 1862. The successes won over the rebels, by whom almost the entire Province was overrun at that time, are ascribed to the energy and tactical judgment of Liu Jung, under the general dispositions of the then Viceroy and Generalissimo, Lo Ping-chang.

The different rebel hosts whom he successively coped with and dispersed are named in detail, beginning with his victory in raising the siege of Mien Chow, and ending with the final defeat and capture of the famous Cantonese rebel-leader Shih Ta-k'ai, who, after being once driven from the province, re-entered it again in 1862 from Yunnan, at the head of more than 100,000 men. At Liu Jung’s advice, the Miao-taze tribes were raised in the rear of this force, and by their aid its defeat was accomplished. Having been transferred as Governor to Shensi, he manifested a patriotic anxiety for the success of the Imperial arms elsewhere; and on hearing in 1862 from Tao Tsung-t'ang, then Governor of Chekiang, of the desolated condition of that province, he at once raised a sum amounting to several tens of thousands of taels, and requested the Governor of Hunan to authorize the then unemployed District Magistrate Yang Chi-lang-sun (now Governor of Chekiang) to levy a force of braves and proceed forthwith to the support of the Chekiang army. Having been degraded from his post as Governor, owing to want of success on the outbreak of rebellion in Shensi, it is now requested that Liu Jung may be posthumously restored to his dignities, in recognition of the brilliant services he had rendered, and that his life be included among the records of the Imperial Historiographer’s office. A rescript granting this has already appeared.

(2) Po-yün, a Manchu dignitary, memorializes reporting that on his having taken charge as custodian of the Imperial mausolea, he has taken stock in the most careful manner of everything appertaining to the different memorial buildings. He has found all the gold and silver vessels, the furniture, coverings, &c., in full accordance with the lists handed over to him, as also the cattle and sheep confined in the enclosures for sacrificial offerings. The amounts of money in the treasury, and of grain in the stores, have also been found perfectly correct.

August 2nd.—(1) A decree directing, on the report received from Ts'ung-shih of the steps taken by him on his mission and the facts he has ascertained, that certain military officials at Shau-hai-kwan be suspended from their posts, deprived of their buttons, and placed rigorously on trial.

(2) Ts'ai-ts'ien, Po-yün, and King-lin, custodians of the Imperial mausolea, memorialize reporting the details of divers repairs which are required at some of the buildings.

(3) The Grand Secretaryワン-シオグル記録 once more beseeching permission to resign his functions and devote himself to the restoration of his health. His infirmities continue unabated, and he feels unequal to the discharge of his trust. So soon as any amelioration shall have made itself felt, he will prostrate himself at the gate of the Palace and entreat renewed employment.—A rescript granting two months’ further leave has already appeared.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports in a postscript memorial that the first detachment of the grain squadron, numbering 47 vessels, entered the provincial limits on the 17th July.

August 3rd. (1) A decree ordering that measures be taken for the discovery and apprehension of three ex-officials, who are reported by the authorities of the place where they were serving out a sentence of banishment, to have made their escape.

(2 and 3). Memorials from the Governor-General of Yünnan,—the first stating that a Brigadier-General of the province is about to proceed to Peking for presentation to his Majesty, in obedience to a decree; and the second soliciting the reappointment of a Taotai named Wu Pao-shên to the post of Treasury agent for Yünnan at Ch'ung-k'ing Fee, in Szechuen. The official in question was compelled to go into mourning retirement for three years on the death of his stepmother; and as the period has now expired, and as his services in the special post in question are highly valuable, his reappointment is besought. The office established at Ch'ung-k'ing is charged with the duty of receiving and forwarding on to Yünnan the supplies of funds contributed toward the provincial expenditure from other parts of the Empire, and the agent in question raised loans from the resident traders when the official remittances are behindhand, besides exerting himself in other ways on behalf of the provincial exchequer.—Granted by rescript.
Kirin, memorializes stating that up to interest at one per cent, per month was with traders in that region, upon which in 1866 a sum of Taels 80,000 was lodged paid, this sum going to meet current sanction for the withdrawal of the principal fields the then Military Governor obtained utility of providing for the troops in the then military Governor, having been sorely pinched for current expenses, and compelled to levy an assessment on the pay of the soldiers toward this requirement. It is now solicited that Taels 80,000 may be taken from the amount in hand on account of current pay to the troops, and deposited as before at interest; the arrears due from other provinces on account of the army in Kirin being at the same time called for to make good this deficiency. — Referred by rescript to the Board of Revenue.

August 4th. — (1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chekiang, announcing the capture of a former noted leader among the Taiping rebels, named Yang Fu-t'Iaing, who has fallen at length into the hands of the authorities. His trial and punishment are ordered to take place at Foochow.

(2) By a verbal decree it is ordered that in honour of the birthday of Her Majesty the Empress (1st of 7th moon), Court dresses are to be worn (by officials on duty) from the 11th to the 13th inst.

(3) The officiating Governor of Shantung reports that the whole of the grain-fleet has passed the Yellow River, and proceeded on its way northward. He promises by stating that efficiency in the work of shipment depends upon the supply of tonnage, and this again upon the despatch with which the junks are sent back after discharging their cargoes. As the whole of the grain-fleet last year was sent back in good time, the present year’s transport has been effected with unusual expedition. Every effort having been used to facilitate navigation by deepening the Canal, &c., the whole of the vessels had reached the south bank of the Yellow River by the 8th June, and as sufficient water had been accumulated from Wén-lan-ts’ing sluice to allow the vessels to be opened, the vessels were lightened and hauled over, reaching the opposite entrance to the Canal, at Pa-li Miao, by June 21st, where they lay awaiting the summer freshet. The Governor having arrived on the banks of the river on the 4th July, and being informed that the water was daily falling, thus rendering the further progress of the vessels impossible, he proceeded in person to offer up solemn invocations at the Temple of the Golden Dragon God, and on the following day he received, while continuing his journey, an express from the officers in charge, stating that at midnight of the 4th the Yellow River had suddenly begun to rise, upon which the locks were opened and the grain-junks floated into the Canal. The Governor offered up thanksgivings hereupon in the temple at Chang-t’ai’iu. The number of grain-junks that have passed up is 670; and they are a month earlier this year than last. He solicits the usual marks of Imperial gratitude for the temples, and also of approbation for the officers in charge.

August 5th. — The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the apprehension of Liang Wén-siu, who, at the head of a gang of 40 desperadoes, broke into the yamen of the magistrate of the Téng-fong District in 1866, and after pillaging and setting fire to the place, succeeded in making his escape. He has lately been detected and brought to justice. On the proofs of his guilt being established he has been summarily executed.

August 6th. — The Grand Secretary Jui-lin and his colleagues of the Nui Koh memorialize on a point connected with the despatch of daily business, requesting that a proposal of the Board of Revenue be set aside. The Board has represented that in 1868 and in 1873 the Secretaries of the Board, doing duty for the month, on repairing to the Nui Koh to make transcript of documents issuing from the Grand Council, failed to copy certain papers of which copies should have been taken; and on enquiry it was found that the clerks (chung-shu) of the Nui Koh had themselves been to blame for omitting to issue these documents. The Board therefore proposed a system by which a list should be drawn up daily by the clerks of the Nui Koh, setting forth an abstract of each of the papers of which copies were to be taken, and that the clerks should give a stamped copy of this to each of the secretaries from the different Government departments on their arrival, for the purpose of taking copies. Upon this the Grand Secretariat (Nui Koh) represents that the documents issued through its agency for transcription and publicity are received from the Grand Council of State (Khiun Ke Ch’u), upon receipt of each of which an abstract of its contents is made and registered. At the close of the register a list is appended of the titles of all the Boards and other civil or military
departments in Peking; and the secretaries, Manchu and Chinese, from each of these offices, on their daily visit to the Nui Koh, having made transcript of the documents affecting their respective departments, are required to sign their names below the title of their department in the register. In the year 1758 it was arranged that in addition to the Manchu Secretary (司員) of each Board, whose duty up to that time it had been to take copies of documents in Manchu, documents in Chinese being entrusted to common writers for transcription, a Chinese official of the same rank of Secretary should in future be sent to copy papers in Chinese. The Grand Secretariat now propose that the existing regulation shall be continued, with strict provision against carelessness in entrusting the work of transcription to unofficial hands, and that the proposal of the Board for a new rule be vetoed.—Assented to by rescript. (Note.—The transcription of documents to which the above memorial refers is the means by which the public departments at Peking are daily informed of the memorials, decrees, or rescripts, which concern them respectively. The contents of the Peking Gazette are obtained at the same place and time by the agents of the publishing office.

August 7th.—The Censors in charge of the Western division of Peking memorialize reporting the details of a street fight which took place in the western suburb on the 24th ulto., in which two of the kinsfolk of the Imperial family were concerned. After a quarrel in a teashop about a payment of some cash, a Manchu named Ying-show, who appeared as complainant, was cut in the back by a man named Fu Wu, and in the ensuing squabble the two scions of the Imperial lineage were successively involved. Of them one confesses to having participated in the onslaught made upon the local guard station, where sundry rooms were wrecked. The other denies all voluntary participation in the affair. It is requested that the Board of Punishments and the Imperial Clan Court may be ordered conjointly to investigate the case.

Aug. 8th.—(1) A decree expressing the sorrow felt by his Majesty on learning the decease of Ta-rh-ma, a prince of the royal house of the Khalkha Mongols, whose service as one of the Ministers of the Presence has been distinguished by the most sedulous devotion to duty. A Dharma pall is ordered to be bestowed for his obsequies, and a prince of the Imperial lineage is to attend with ten officers of the guards for the purpose of offering a sacrificial libation. The Household Treasury is to contribute one thousand taels to the funeral expenses; and the deceased's son, at present eight years old, is to succeed to his father's rank of Prince after completing the hundred days' deep mourning.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial by the Censor Peng Ch'eng-siu, reporting that a low placed menial has obtained official positions for himself and his son under false pretences. The expectant Department Magistrate Hwang Tien-si, alias Hwang Han-chai, alias Hwang Show-tien, has filled the position of one of the gatekeepers in the yamen of the Governor-General of the Two Kwang. Having transferred himself by false pretences to the register of the Pan-yii District, he purchased an official position for himself under an assumed name, and obtained admission for his son to the literary examination, where he succeeded in taking a degree. The Decree ordains that both father and son be stripped of their improperly-obtained distinctions, and compelled to surrender their official certificates. They are further to be punished as the law provides.

(3) The Imperial Resident in Tibet memorializes reporting the despatch of a party of Chinese and Tibetan troops to serve as escort to the Chiptsundampa Hut'ukht'u on his journey to Urga. The total strength of the escort is 205 officers and men, who will proceed as far as Kara Usu, and there hand over their charge to the escort provided from Sining.

(4) The same high official reports having taken over the functions of his office on the 24th January from his predecessor Ngen-lin, who at the same time handed over the records, Imperial Decrees, books, etc., appertaining to the Residency, all of which on being compared with the list are found in order, with the exception of the Chinese copy of the regulations (treaty?) after peace with the Nepalese, and the Chinese copy of regulations for the conduct of affairs in Tibet. Ngen-lin has been called upon both in writing and personally to produce the missing documents, but has failed to do so, although the records show that they had passed originally into his hands, and it does not appear by what means they have been lost. Ch'ang-ki applies for the issue of fresh copies from Peking.—A rescript has already appeared, directing copies to be forwarded as requested, and subjecting Ngen-lin to a penalty for his carelessness.

August 9th.—(1) A decree commanding that the arrears of rice, amounting to 520
odd piculs, due for the troops at Jêh-ho, 
be collected and forwarded without delay 
from the departments and districts of 
Ch'eng-têh Fu, whence this import is owing. 

(2) The Governor of Honan makes 
report of a rehearing in an appeal case 
remitted back from Peking. A man named 
Fan Wên-ts'ai had appealed denouncing 
Chêng-teh Fu, whence this import is owing. 

Fan Wên-tsung, througlx 
caused the death of appellant's younger 
brother, named Fan Wên-taung, through 
blows, of which he died on the day after 
being beaten. A fresh investigation 
having been instituted on the receipt of 
orders from the capital, it is found that 
appellant's brother had at a former period 
of his history been under sentence of 
death by strangulation for the manslaughter 
of a man named Kwoh Pang, and, having 
been required, and since the beginning of 
June heavy rains have caused the tribu- 
tary waters of the Sin Ho to rise at a rapid 
rate. The flood-pole at Lung Wang Miao 
showed a rise on the 8th June, at 9 a.m., 
of 1 ch'ih, this rise continuing (at specified 
rates) on successive days, until on the 
17th June the water had risen 9 ch'ih 
7 ts'un. The rise became still greater 
in the course of the ensuing three weeks. 
Every precaution had been taken to 
ensure the safety of the embankments 
along the lower course of the river, but 
whether they can be depended on for 
security in the later freshets remains to 
be seen. It is observed that a tendency 
to shift its course to some extent ia 
now a tendency to shift its course to some extent is 
noteable near the points of the Sin Ho and the 
Han, forming the boundary between the 
provinces of Shensi and Kansuh, reports the appoint-
ment of an official to act as subprefect of 
Hami, and his departure for his post on 
the 5th May.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General 
of Shensi and Kansuh, reports the appointment 
of an official to act as subprefect of 
Hami, and his departure for his post on 
the 5th May.

(4) In another postscript memorial, 
Tso Tsung-t'ang denounces a District 
Magistrate for rapacity and general 
misconduct, especially in the levy of 
unauthorized imposts under the guise of likin
from their offices, in order that they may be brought before a regular judicial enquiry.—A rescript assenting to this has already appeared.

August 13th.—(1) The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes on behalf of a young lady, whose virtuous resolve to remain unwedded has been brought to his notice by certain of the provincial gentry. The young lady in question, having been betrothed in early life to the son of a District Magistrate, was deprived of her intended husband on the eve of marriage, through his death by illness at Yang-chow in 1866. The fact was at first kept from her knowledge, but on her ascertaining the truth, she was with difficulty restrained from committing suicide, by means of watchful care on the part of her attendants. She announced to her parents, however, her unalterable resolve to remain unmarried, and as persuasions only served to increase the strength of her determination, it was finally agreed between the two families that she should be received into the household of the deceased (as his widow). In her new sphere of life she devoted herself in the most exemplary manner to the service of her parents-in-law, and lived in complete harmony with the other female members of the household. Finally, at the bidding of her parents-in-law, she adopted a nephew as her son, and has bestowed the most perfect care on his rearing and instruction. It is besought that a memorial structure may be authorized in honour of her virtuous conduct, in furtherance of the cause of public morals, to which she affords so bright an example.—Granted by rescript.

(2) Ngéléh-ho-pú, lately appointed to the post of Commander-in-Chief at Uliassutai, memorializes soliciting a month’s leave of absence before proceeding to his post, for the benefit of his health. While handing over the seals of office to his predecessor as Captain-General at Ch’a-har, he was suddenly attacked with a fit of spitting blood, and was afterwards seized with faintness. The remedies he applied ameliorated his condition to some extent, but the physicians assure him that he has weakened his constitution by taking an excessive quantity of medicine, and that he must have rest before setting out on his journey. As neither treatment nor medicines of the best kind are to be had in Mongolia, he beseeches permission to return within the Wall for the period of one month.—Granted.

(3) The Captain-General of Ch’a-har reports that on taking over the records of his office, he found that two days previously
a report had been received from the officer in charge of the post-station at Chang-kia K'ow, to the effect that three ex-officials, serving out sentences of banishment at three cantonments of the district, are discovered as missing, and that the efforts made to trace their whereabouts have entirely failed. It is found on reference that the first of the three, named K’iu Jui-siang, was a captain of the military force of Chihli, who was stripped of his rank and sent in 1870 to expiate in banishment the offence of having given shelter to a private of the force who had committed robbery at a fire. The second was an officer of the same rank, who had taken up, on a suspicion of theft, a man (name unknown) who was selling a mule, and whom he had driven, by the steps he took to elicit the particulars, to commit suicide by throwing himself into a well. The third was a department Magistrate, who was implicated in a case of defrauding certain corps of country militia in Shantung. The Captain-General has taken all measures possible on the spot for the recapture of these prisoners, and communicates in all haste with neighbouring provincial Governments on the subject. He begs that the authorities of Peking may be called upon to aid in the search.

Aug. 14th.—(1) The Governor-General of Fukien and Chê-kiang reports the result of proceedings instituted against a sub-assistant Magistrate, charged with the wrongful imprisonment of a man named Chao Ta, and with the unauthorized release of a prisoner lying under sentence of death, named Lin Sû. The accused, who has been brought to trial, after being stripped of his rank by Imperial Decree, was, in virtue of his office, keeper of the jail of the Ngan-ki District in Fukien. A certain prisoner having escaped from the jail while being confined there on his passage through the District, the accused gave orders for the apprehension of Chao Ta, a relative of the man who escaped, in order to compel him to give up the man’s whereabouts. This he had no means of doing; and an order for the prisoner’s release, obtained at his mother’s application, was set at nought by the accused, who, moreover, created a scene on the subject in the Magistrate’s Court. His next act was to go with two policemen into the jail, and there with his own hands release from his fetters and set at liberty a prisoner lying under sentence of death, who had withdrawn his previous confession and had been sent back for a fresh trial. The accused has persistently refused to admit the charges brought against him, but they are fully substantiated by the evidence of witnesses, which is submitted for his Majesty’s perusal. The sentence pronounced is, that he shall undergo a penalty two degrees lower than that recorded against the condemned criminal he released, which will be 100 blows and transportation for three years. Having held commission as an official, the course to be pursued in his case is to transport him to a military frontier-station to expiate his offence.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Punishment.

(2) The same high official reports the apprehension at the District city of Tsin-kiang of one of the most noted chiefs of the Taiping rebellion, Yang Fu-s’ing, 杨辅清, falsely entitled the Fu Wang 胡王. The arrest was effected on information supplied by an officer sent by the Governor of An-hwei. The prisoner did not deny his identity. It is found that he escaped from Hu-chow in disguise, at the time of the rebel occupation, and made his way to Shang-hai. A decree ordering his apprehension was issued at the time.—Rescript directing the execution of the prisoner has already appeared.

August 15th.—The whole of this day’s Gazette is occupied by a memorial from Tso Tsung-t’ang respecting the arrangements proposed for certain changes of territorial division in Kansuh. It is proposed to elevate Ku-yüan Chou to the rank of an independent (chih-li) department, to form a new district with the name of P’ing-yüan Hien 平遠縣 on the frontier at Hia Ma Kwan, and to convert the sub-prefecture of Yen-ch’ia Ting into a district with the name of Hai-ch’ang Hien 海城縣.

August 16th.—(1) A decree promulgating the names and awards of the candidates who have passed at the late examination of Fa Kung 拔贡, graduates from the Banner Force of Peking, and from the provinces generally. The candidates on the first list, comprising 61 names, gain a button of the 7th degree, and appointments as minor secretaries at the different Boards. The second batch, numbering 84 individuals, receive nominations as District Magistrates on probation; and the remaining 72 are allowed their choice of appointments as district supervisors of education, or as sub-assistant civilians.

(2) A decree cashiering a military officer of the rank of captain, on the application of the Governor of Honan, who charges him with undertaking the conduct of
litigious proceedings with an eye to promotion.

(3) A decree. The Yamen of Foreign Affairs having heretofore memorialized Us stating that the Belgian Envoy has implored an audience, for the purpose of presenting a letter from his Government, We ordain that he be permitted to have audience.

(4) A long memorial from the Governor of Shantung, reporting the result of an enquiry into the circumstances attending the escape of two prisoners awaiting execution in the jail of the Ts'ing-p'ing District. The sub-assistant Magistrate in charge of the jail was stripped of his office at the time, and placed on trial in July, 1873, together with the jailers and others on duty at the time. The result of the enquiry shows that on a night in May, 1873, the two prisoners in question were securely locked up in one of the barricated pens of the prison yard, after their fetters had been examined and found secure by the jail warden, and one of the prison clerks. A warder took charge of each of the prisoners, and several watchmen and a soldier were on duty for the night. Notwithstanding these precautions, during a storm which came on after midnight, the watchmen having gone under shelter and the prison clerks having fallen asleep, the two prisoners managed to wrench off their fetters, pulled down the bars of their pens, and took a door down and used it by way of a ladder to get over the wall and make their escape. Nothing has since been heard of them. The enquiry establishes the fact that no guilty connivance was chargeable to any of the parties concerned. Two of the prison clerks have died since, but, moreover, he has paid absolutely nothing on account. It appears that Li Kwang-chao contracted for the timber with the French merchant for the rebuilding of Yilan-ming Prefecture, has ascertained that the price for which Li Kwang-chao contracted was $64,000, whilst in his statement to the household he rendered it at Taels 300,000.
For conduct so utterly unprincipled and such an attempt to impose upon his Sovereign, let Li Kwang-chao be in the first place stripped of his official rank, and let Li Hung-chang bring him stringently to trial and punish him severely according to law. Let his propositions relating to timber be dismissed. (Note. Li Kwang-chao is a comprador of Messrs. Russell & Co., and was formerly resident in their employ at Hankow.)

(2 and 3) The newly appointed Governor of Hupeh, Wu Yuan-ping 吳元炳, and the outgoing Governor Kwoh Peh-yin, respectively memorialize reporting the handing over of the seals of office on the 7th July.

August 19th.—(1) A decree stripping of their rank and offices sundry District Magistrates in Shantung, on the application of the Governor, Wen-pin, who denounces them for divers forms of incapacity.

(2) The Censor Teng Ch'eng-siu memorializes accusing a certain person named Hwang Han-chai, with sundry aliases, formerly a gatekeeper in the service of the Governor-General Yeh, at Canton, with having fraudulently obtained the entry of his name on the registers of the P'an-yü District, whereupon he purchased an official position for himself and managed to get a degree for his son at the literary examinations. The son afterwards took a distinguished place at the Peking examinations. The son afterwards took a distinguished place at the Peking examinations. The son afterwards took a distinguished place at the Peking examinations. In conformity with the precedent pursued in an analogous case two or three years ago, it is requested that the delinquents be deprived of their honours.—A rescript according to this request has already appeared.

August 20th.—(1) A further decree relating to the irregularities in the military garrison of the Shan-hai-kwan, recently investigated by Ts'ung-shih, as special commissioner. Sundry officers are cashiered or degraded, in consequence of the discoveries made.

(2) The Censorate reports an appeal case lodged by Siao Téh-jun, a youth aged 14, from Hien-ning, in Hupeh, who is sent by his mother to complain of the murder of his father in 1870, by a partner of his in a certain wood and charcoal concern. The corpse was thrown into a ravine in the hope of escaping detection, but a brother of the alleged murderer, falling out with the actual criminal, is represented as having stated to the deceased's widow what had taken place. When information had been laid at the District Magistracy, and the fact as stated established on enquiry, the informer withdrew his statement, and alleged that the remains found in the ravine were those of another person, which had been taken out from an old tomb in the neighbourhood, and placed at the spot indicated. He further instigated certain of his intimate connexions to fall in a body upon the persons who were watching over the remains, whom they tied up and flogged, in order to make them confess that they had dug up the body. One of the men died in consequence of the injuries thus inflicted. Complaints having been lodged at all the local yamen without avail, the appeal is now brought to Peking.—Referred as usual.

(3) Li Wén-tien, an Assistant Reader of the Han-lin Yuan, memorializes entreaty permission to retire from his office in order to devote himself to the care of his aged mother, who is now eighty years old, and who, although blessed with a strong constitution, is no longer able to endure the fatigues of travel. When sent some years ago as Literary Chancellor to Kiangsu, the memorialist sent for his mother from Kwangtung, and lodged her in his yamen; but having now returned to Peking, and been honoured with other employment, he finds himself obliged either to expose his mother to a climate to which she is unsuited, or to separate himself from her, with the probability that he will never see her more. He therefore begs permission to take his mother to her home, and remain in attendance upon her.—A rescript granting this application has already appeared.

(4) The Military Governor of Kirin reports the appointment of an officer to act as commandant of Ninguta in the absence of the incumbent of the post, whose duty takes him to Peking for audience on the expiry of three years' service. The remote situation of Ninguta, and its proximity to the Russian frontier, invest the functions of commandant with special importance, and it is necessary to select an officer of capacity and experience for the post. Selection has been made of a certain officer, who is deemed to possess the requisite qualities.

August 21st.—(1) A further decree on the report made by Ts'ung-shih concerning his investigations at Shan-hai-kwan. It is proposed that a certain reduction be made in the force of about 1,000 officers and men who are stationed there, and that one-half the establishment of 400 horses, which are found to be in wretched condition, shall be disallowed henceforward. The forage allowance for the remainder shall be issued from the Customs' revenue, and the like office set on foot by the
District Magistrate of Lin-yü, for the supply of funds for the pay of the troops, afterwards changed to the supply of the cavalry forage allowance, is to be abolished at once.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang, the Grand Secretary Jui-lin, memorializes reporting the death in retirement at his native place of Lo Tun-yen, a former President of the Board of Revenue, whose sons have reported his decease and have handed in his testamentary memorial to the Throne. Upon this follows the eulogium of the deceased, customary in such cases. It is added, also, that while in retirement at his native place, in 1858, he took charge of the management of the local trainbands, in which undertaking he distinguished himself by his capacity for promoting united efforts toward the dispersion of the mists from the sea (viz., the British occupation of Canton under Sir Charles van Straubenzee— which, however, was not absolutely dispersed by the trainbands in question).—Rescript awarding honours has already appeared.

August 22nd.—(1) A decree appointing two officers for service on the staff of Yung-tsu-lian, the Military Governor of II, at the request of that functionary.

(2) A memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, requesting manifestations of Imperial approbation for the conduct of women of the province whose lives were sacrificed during the rebel inroads which have taken place during the last and the present reign. The official committee at present employed in drawing up a revised edition of the Statistical Record of the Metropolitan Department, reports that, over and above the cases which have already been brought before his Majesty’s notice, there are upwards of fifteen hundred instances in which the lives of women have been lost, either by massacre at the sword’s point, or by suicide to escape dishonour, which have not yet been brought forward, and it is now requested that orders be given to the proper Board for the establishment of memorials in each case, as a solace to the manes of the virtuous departed.

(3) The Literary Chancellor of Shantung memorializes reporting the partial completion of his annual tour of examination, with comments on the demeanour and proficiency of the candidates who have come before him. He is able to add a favourable prognostication of the harvests for the year, and to report universal contentment among the people.

August 23rd.—(1) A decree. Let Tao Taung-t'ang be raised to the vacant office of Grand Secretary, still continuing in his office of Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu.

(2) Let King-lien 景廉, Captain-General at Urumtai, be invested with the rank of Imperial Commissioner, to assume the direction-in-chief of military affairs in Eastern Turkestan (新疆); and let King-shun 金順, Captain-General of the plain white banner (汗京城), act as Assistant in military affairs. (See Gazette of May 3rd, in which King-shun is named as commander-in-chief of the force of 17,000 men intended to operate beyond the Wall.)

(3) The Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting the decision of the final court in a long pending appeal case sent down from Peking to be re-tried. A native of the district of Kuan-ch'ing, named Li Ming-chung, had complained to the effect that one Li Wei-yü and others had flogged his father, Li Sze-sin, to death. Upon this an investigation was ordered in the province early in 1873, but owing to the absence of officials, the absconding of witnesses, etc., delay has been unavoidable. The result announced by the Governor consists in an intricate web of charges and countercharges, in the midst of which the salient fact appears that a son of Li Sze-sin, named Li Ming-ju, being accused of a theft, was sought for at his father’s house by police, who, on failing to find the delinquent, seized the father and lodged him in jail, in order to compel the discovery of his son. According to the statements of the local authorities, Li Sze-sin was seized while in prison with an attack of paralysis, and on being released on security, died shortly afterwards at his home. Li Ming-chung, the son and appellant, suspected the police of causing his father’s death by flogging, and hence the appeal. As his charge is proved to be groundless, he is sentenced to the penalty of 80 blows (as reduced by enactment, under the statute on “doing that which ought not to be done.”)

Aug. 24th.—The Captain-General King-lin (Thin-ung of Urumtai, now residing at Hami) memorializes stating that when the city of Urumtai was attacked in 1864 by the Mohammedan insurgents, the then Thin-ung, P'ing-ju, offered a courageous resistance, until, on the capture of the city, he sacrificed his life, perishing together with the garrison of the place and the members of his family. Similarly, at Ku Ch'eng 古城, on the capture of that
stronghold by the Mahommedan insurgents, two high officers perished with their families. The gentry of the place have now requested that a memorial temple may be erected in honour of the departed ones, and this application is submitted to his Majesty's approval.—The erection of a memorial temple is decreed hereupon.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang applies for tokens of Imperial approbation on behalf of two virtuous ladies, who have severally distinguished themselves by embracing a life of voluntary widowhood, and entering the families of their intended bridegrooms after being robbed of these by death.

(3) The Governor of Honan applies for the censuring of a titular captain, who has for many years past acted as a fomenter of litigation on the Mongol frontier.—Already granted by Rescript.

August 25th.—This Gazette is wholly occupied by memorials from the Governor-General Tao Tsung-t'ang, on official appointments.

August 26th.—This Gazette is occupied by a batch of postscript memorials from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, on official appointments, together with one forwarding an application from the gentry of Tientsin on behalf of the memory of the late General Yang Ting-hun. For his services in the province during the Nien-fei rebellion, they beg that his name be admitted to the memorial temple erected at Tientsin in honour of the late Governor-General Tseng Kuo-fan.

In another document, the Governor-General requests that a brevet Brigadier General named Sung Tien-nan, who had been appointed to Kiang after presentation to his Majesty, may be left in Chihli, where his services will be valuable at this juncture, when measures have to be taken for the defence of the coast.

August 27th.—The Court Circular has, among other notices, the following announcements: The Prince of Ch'un made report of his examination of the horse and foot archers from Kirin. The Brigadier General of Yun-yang in Hupah, Ch'eng Yü-k'ing, paid his respects on arrival at Peking. Audience was granted to the Privy Council, the Ministers of the Presence, and Ch'eng Yü-k'ing. The route to be followed by his Majesty in going to the Show Hwang temple in the Imperial Park to offer worship is set forth.

(1) The acting Governor of Shantung reports the particulars of a judicial case referred from Peking for rehearing on appeal (with the usual stereotyped result). The appellant, named Su Ts'ing-lien, was a farmer who, in August, 1871, was engaged with his uncle Su Loh in getting in his crop of kao-liang (millet), his grandmother, Su Kin-she, being also on the spot to look after the crop. In the course of the afternoon the two men carted off the millet that had been cut, leaving Su Kin-she behind to glean up the fallen heads of grain. She was missed as evening drew in, and on going in search of her, Su Ts'ing-lien found her dead body lying in the field, where she had been stabbed to death. Report was made, an inquest held, and a warrant issued for the discovery and apprehension of the murderer. Su Ts'ing-lien having called to mind that he had had a lawsuit with a neighbour named Li Szayu, and his brother Li, "Wymouth," about boundaries, he suspected these men of having murdered his grandmother, and accordingly denounced them for this crime, dragging in a cousin of theirs, named Liu Hu-ts'ain, as a witness in the case. On a trial being held, no evidence was forthcoming, the prisoners steadfastly denying their guilt, and they were eventually released on the security of a man named Kiu Ts'ing-yun. As Su Ts'ing-lien was aware, however, that this man was on terms of intimacy with Ch'eng Sin-t'ang, a clerk in the judicial department of the Magistracy, and as, moreover, he was for the time deeply grieving over the thought that there was no one to atone with his life for the murder of his grandmother, he became possessed with the idea that the prisoners had been corruptly released from custody through collusion between the law-clerk and the man who gave bail. Upon this he lodged a complaint with the Judicial Commissioner, who directed the Magistrate to investigate the case, which was done, but Su Ts'ing-lien did not put in an appearance. He went, however, to Peking to lodge his appeal. The case brought forward by him having been investigated and found groundless, he is sentenced to receive the mitigated equivalent of 80 blows under the statute against "doing that which should not be done," and the charge is dismissed, the Magistrate being further enjoined to keep a lookout for the actual perpetrator of the crime.

(2) Kiu-shun, (commander of the army of Kanauh, which is under orders to take the field against the Mahommedans of Eastern Turkestan) reports the arrival of 1,000 horses from Ch'ahar, which have been brought in to his camp across the Mongolian steppes in good order and in full number, by the ten officers and 82 Mongol soldiers who were sent last year for this
purpose. Honorary rewards are applied for on behalf of the officers and soldiers in question.

August 28th.—Li Hung-chang, Governor General of Chihli, reports the result of the trial of K'ia Hien-siao, a prisoner committed on the charge of presenting a supplication to the Emperor by the roadside, during his Majesty's progress to the Western Mansolea in April last. Due investigation having been held, it is found that prisoner is owner of three mou of land in the Shén-taieh District, where, in 1871-72-73 the harvests suffered to some extent from floods. The District Magistrate having caused surveys to be held, reported on the steps that should be taken for either collecting the land revenue in full or remitting it in part, as the case might be. Prisoner's land was wholly flooded, and he was unable to pay anything. Happening to see a man exposed in the cangue outside the Magistrate's gateway in April last, he was erroneously informed by the bystanders that this man was undergoing punishment for failure to pay up arrears; and believing that the Magistrate was compelling everyone to pay up his taxes irrespectively of remissions on account of floods, he went off to hand a supplication to his Majesty on the subject. His charge having now been investigated, it is found that according to law, "when his Majesty proceeds on a journey beyond the capital, any one who forces his way past the Imperial suite, and wrongfully presents a complaint to his Majesty, shall receive one hundred blows and be sent into penal servitude at the nearest frontier. The allegation presented, whether its statements be true or false, should be placed on record, and no further action shall be taken upon it." In the present case this enactment is to be applied, and K'ia Hien-siao, after receiving 100 blows, will be deported to penal servitude.

(2) Li Hung-chang further memorializes against the proposition advanced in a memorial from the Censor T'eng K'ing-lin that henceforward the power of summary execution for acts of brigandage and highway robbery shall no longer be exercised by Provincial authorities. He details the various causes which contribute to foster brigandage and highway robbery in the province of Chihli, and contends that in order to make itself respected, the execution of the law must be stern and swift.

August 29th.—(1) A decree. Let the Board of Revenue deliberate and report with reference to the memorial from the Censor Yuan Ch'eng-yeh, who requests that the abolition of t'ikin taxation be considered, and the prohibition against the growth of the poppy be repeated.

(2) A decree. On the 7th October We shall set out from Our palace, and take up Our residence in the South Hunting
Ground, and on the 15th return to Our palace. (The South Hunting Ground, Nan Yüan, or Nan-hai-ta-sze, is a vast park-like enclosure, ten miles square, lying a few miles due south from Peking. A grand review of the Imperial musketeers is to be held there by his Majesty).

(3) The Governor-General of Fuh-kien reports the conclusion of the trial of one Ho K'ing-tseng, lately holding the official rank of expectant sub-Prefect, who had been denounced by a Prefect named Liu Tsun, on the Kwangtung establishment, as having heretofore filled a menial position, and obtained his rank under false pretences. A great amount of evidence is recapitulated, proving the truth of the allegation made, and also connected with a countercharge brought by the defendant against Liu Tsun, whom he represents as having lodged this accusation against him in revenge for the refusal of a loan of 50 Taels. It appears that Ho K'ing-sheng, whose proper name is Ho Ch'un, surreptitiously purchased a titular graduate-ship in 1868, and having bought a sub-Prefect's appointment in 1870, he was sent to do duty in Fuhkien. Having now been stripped of his ill-gotten rank, and the case being proved against him, he is sentenced to a penalty of 90 blows and transportation into penal servitude. The case of Liu Tsun, who is shown by the evidence to have behaved with a lack of due regard for his own character, is recommended for investigation by the Board of Civil Office.

(4) In a postscript memorial, the same functionary reports on the case of a keeper of the Provincial Treasury, who, during his tenure of office, was responsible for the malversation of certain percentages due to the Board of Revenue on monies raised by the sale of official titles. Over and above what he had paid upon this account, he still owed a sum of Taels 23,528; and the penalty he had incurred, as having robbed the public exchequer of a sum in excess of Taels 1,000, is decapitation, after imprisonment till the defalcation is made good. His relatives have now paid up a sum of Taels 23,600 in satisfaction of the claim against him. Sentence was pronounced in 1864, and the debt was not discharged until 1872; but it is requested that he may be allowed to remain in banishment for life — but not branded.

Augst 31st.—(1) A decree directs the Board of Civil Office to take into consideration a modification of the system proposed by the Board for affording relief in the shape of accelerated promotion, to officials who have entered the public service by the regular course, (i.e., through the examinations), as requested in a Memorial by the Vice President Ho Ting-k'ien. The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied by Ts'ung-shih's memorial, reporting the result of his enquiry into military irregularities at the Shan-hai Kwan garrison, the tenor of which has already been given in previous documents.

Sept. 1st.—(1) A decree based on a report made by the Board of War upon a case in which the commanding officers of the Manchu garrison at Kin Chow in Fung-tien concealed from their superiors the fact of the locality having suffered by floods. The colonel commanding and two captains are cashiered, and debarred against re-admission into the public service for ever. Their superior, a Brigadier, whose supremity led to his residence being mobbed by the people, and his military secretary, are likewise cashiered.

(2) Ts'ung-shih, President of the Board of Punishments, reports categorically the conclusions he has arrived at during his late enquiry into military shortcomings at the Shan-hai Kwan, with regard to the reforms that should be undertaken to remedy the negligence of which the commanding officers of the Manchu garrison have been found guilty:—

1.—Reduction of the scout-service.—The establishment of rank and file at the seaward termination of the Great Wall and the neighbouring posts is 1,550 men, and it was only in 1867, on an outbreak of mounted brigandage in that neighbourhood, that the then Brigadier, Ch'iang-shan, obtained the Imperial sanction to the conversion of 50 men of this force into a scout-service, for whose maintenance a sum of about Taels 2,000 was appropriated from the Customs' revenue. The force was subsequently reduced by 20 men—a proof that it was of no great value, and Ts'ung-shih has found, in the course of his enquiry, that the neighbourhood is free from disturbance, and the scout system wholly unnecessary. He therefore proposes that it be abolished.

2.—Reduction of military stud.—Until the year 1865 no horses were maintained by Government for the Shan-hai Kwan troops, the soldiers having their own animals to keep, with an allowance for this purpose; but on a report by Ch'iang-shan, representing that the mounts were consequently very inferior, an establishment of 400 Government horses was sanctioned,
the forage expenses for which was to be defrayed from the li-kin tax-station of the Lin-yü district. Subsequently, the li-kin revenue falling off, the garrison officials resorted to all sorts of financial expedients to meet the outlay, the accounts under different headings becoming greatly muddled in consequence, and the affairs of the whole force fell into utter confusion from this cause. Government horses were turned adrift to forage for themselves on private lands, greatly to the detriment of the people, and the animals died off or fell into bad condition. It is proposed to reduce the establishment to one-half its former number, bringing the cost of maintenance within a sum of Taels 4,000 or Tla 5,000, which it is proposed shall be issued regularly from the Customs' revenue.

3. — Abolition of li-kin tax-office. — The li-kin office at Lin-yü was set on foot in 1862, on the application of Sung-ko-lin-šin, for the special purpose of contributing toward the supplies required by him at that time for the defence of the coast. It was a merely temporary expedient. On the institution of the Government stud in 1865, by Ch'ang-shan, and the appropriation of the li-kin revenue to its maintenance, the whole proceeds of the li-kin office passed into the yamén of the Brigadier-General for disbursement. Ta'ung-shih observes that since the establishment of a Customs' Tax-office (at Newchwang in 1866), the duties levied under the regular tariff have been continually augmenting, and that, if li-kin be added to these, suffering must unquestionably be entailed on both merchants and the people at large. The merchandize passing through the Wall makes no stoppage there, and the laws recognize no impost on goods by the road. Notwithstanding this, a tax is levied on every animal that passes the tax-station, either going or coming, greatly to the discomfort of the trading classes, who are driven to make long detours for the purpose of escaping the passage at this point. It is an inevitable consequence that the revenue should fall off, as has been the case; and entailed among other consequences are the financial irregularities already referred to above. It is therefore proposed that this tax-office be at once abolished. — Decree acceding to the above propositions has already appeared.

3. — In a postscript memorial, Ta'ung-shih deals with the question of repairs to military yamén, in which the local officials have acted in a culpable manner.

Sept. 2nd. — (1) A decree ordering full investigation into a complaint presented to the Censorate by a Mongolian lady, named No-rh-sze-té-h-ma, whose adopted brother, the titular Prince (K'uin Wang) Da-da-bach-tsa-mu-su, has lately died without issue, having, however, according to her statement, adopted her nephew, Ai-min-wu-rh-tu, as his heir. The supreme chief of the tribe has, however, ignored her representations to this effect, and has put in a child of five years' old as successor to the deceased's dignities.

(2) Kin-lien, Captain-General of Urumtai, memorializes forwarding the application of certain civil and military officials belonging to that garrison, requesting that a memorial temple may be erected in honour of the former Captain-General, P'ing-ju-i, who made a protracted and heroic defence, lasting nearly three months, of the Manchu citadel, after the Chinese city had fallen into the hands of the Mohammedan insurgents at the time of their outbreak on the 15th July, 1864. A long panegyric of his conduct on this occasion is indulged in, and it is stated that, on the citadel being finally carried by assault, he fell on his own sword, whereupon his wife, a concubine, and two daughters, committed suicide by poison, and his two young sons blew themselves up with gunpowder. Some ten or fifteen servants perished at the same time. As Urumtai still remains in the hands of the enemy, it is besought that for the time being a temple may be erected at Ku Ch'üang.

In a postscript memorial, King-lien bears personal testimony to the heroic character of the deceased, who belonged to the same Banner with himself, and was a friend of many years' standing. He was not only a man in whom all the virtues shone conspicuously, but he was also deeply versed in historical reading, and accustomed to model his conduct upon that of the heroes of bygone ages, as well as to hold their characters up for the imitation of his friends. King-lien remembers how he was wont to grieve, even to tears, over the troubles which befell Tientsin when the sea-mists were unquiet in the reign of Hien-feng. He is not to be named in the same day with the crowd of those who have fallen, more or less ignobly, during the struggles of late years. — Rescript, acceding to the request, has already appeared.

Sept. 3rd. — The Court Circular announces the route his Majesty will take in going to the Tsze-kwang-koh to-morrow, to witness an archery performance by Mongols of the Sain Noin tribe.

(1) A Decree appointing different members of the Censorate to the superintendence of the delivery of rice at the granaries.
(2) The Governor of Chekiang memorializes representing the impossibility of remitting Customs' revenue from Ningpo to Peking in hard sycee, as has been urged by the Censor Liu Jui-k'ii in his memorial some months ago. The Taotai of Ningpo has sent forward a statement shewing that port to be a place of small commercial activity, where very little sycee is forthcoming in ordinary trade, and where payments of duties to the Customs' Bank are made either in foreign coin, as is provided in the Treaties with both Great Britain and France, or in bills and drafts. The bank cash at maturity, advancing meanwhile in drafts on Peking the amounts required at regular intervals for the official remittances. If the authorities were compelled to melt the foreign coin down into sycee for remittance, the loss would be considerable, and moreover, if the system of duty payments in bills were put an end to, the result would be not alone inconvenience to trade, but also a stoppage of the useful system by which the bank advances the sums required for remittance at the proper moment. Upon this, the Governor adds that, as regards remittances to Peking from the land-tax and salt revenues, as well as from the li-hsin yield, these amounts have long since been sent forward in hard sycee, and nothing need be said on that subject. As regards the Customs, an amount of Tls. 30,000 is sent forward annually by regulation from the duties on trade in native bottoms, whilst as regards the more modern addition of the foreign tariff duties, it has always been customary to accept foreign coin in payment to the bank. He strongly urges the continuance of the existing usage in making remittances.-Rescript acceding to the application.

(3) The same Governor reports on the proposed withdrawal of the right of summary execution from the hands of provincial authorities, which has formed the subject of several memorials of late. The Censor Tung K'ing-jen had urged a return to the old system of sending all capital cases to the superior court for trial, submitting that where the right of summary execution is in force, prisoners are in a majority of cases put to death, without the examination of witnesses, or the production of recovered plunder, on the simple flat of a district or department Magistrate. The Governor denies this, stating that, even in cases of summary execution, sentences are only carried out after a rehearing before a Taotai or Prefect, and that instances of the kind are growing fewer every year. Of late, the number has not exceeded from 20 to 30 per annum, against some 150, which was the average a few years ago, shortly after the close of the rebellion. He dwells upon the causes of brigandage and piracy to which Chekiang is exposed, from its proximity to mountainous regions inland, and its coast line on the other side, mentioning the occurrence of cases in which members of secret societies and of the Ko-lao Hwei (military brotherhood) may be concerned.-His memorial is referred for the consideration of the Board of Punishment.

(4 and 5) Memorials from the Governor-General of Fukien and Chekiang, and the Governor of Fukien, respectively, announcing the return of the latter to his post, and his resumption of the seals of office on the 29th July.

(6) A postscript memorial from the Governor-General above named, submitting certain civilian appointments for sanction, on the ground of the existing urgency of providing for the defence of Foochow and Amoy, and also of Iuh-kiang in Formosa.

Sept. 4th.—(1). A decree based upon a memorial by the Censor Sun Fêng-siang, who has denounced the Comptroller General of the Household, Kwei-pao, for his fraudulent conduct in connection with the recent cause célèbre of Li Kwang-choa and his timber for Yuan-ming Yuan. Kwei-pao is severely reprehended by his Majesty, for his conduct in enabling Li Kwang-choa to put his fraud in practice, and he is handed over to the Board, to begin with, for the infliction of a severe penalty, whilst Li Hung-chang is ordered to ascertain whether any collusion for fraudulent purposes had existed between him and Li Kwang-choa.

(2). The Governor of Shensi memorializes applying for the award of sacrificial honours in the State temples of the province and district, on behalf of a deceased functionary named Chê Shun-kwei, of eminent merit.

(3). The same high official announces his resumption of office, after the cougé of two months accorded him for the benefit of his health.

(4). Ting Pao-chang, Governor of Shantung, who has been granted a year's leave for the purpose of returning to his native place in the Province of Kweichow and restoring his ancestral tombs, reports his arrival on the 7th May at his home in P'ing-yüan Chow. On proceeding to survey his village home he found the place a desert and the population dispersed. Fortunately all is tranquil in the neighbourhood, and the provincial authorities have
appropriated funds for enabling the population to return to the site. The Governor is using all dispatch in restoring the tombs of his family for three generations past. He borrows the seal of the Prefect of Ping-yuan Chow for this memorial.

5) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang reports that Li Ch'ang-mow, the commander-in-chief of the Yang-tze naval forces, was to have set out this year on a tour of inspection up-stream, as already reported, from his station at Tai-p'ing Fu. He has, however, been desired to remain there at present, owing to the necessity which exists for providing for defensive measures. He has rendezvoused already at Nanking, with the Supervisor-General P'eng Yu-lin, on the latter's visit to that place in July last.

6) In a postscript memorial, Li Tsung-hi further reports that having received a Council despatch dated the 24th June, enclosing a decree acceding to the request of Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of Min-Chê, that the Governor of Fukien be made to return to his post, he had informed that official to this effect, and he had at once made preparations for departure, proceeding by a Chinese Government steamer from Shanghai on the 24th July. (N.B. The Governor of Fukien, Wang K'ai-t'ai, has been living for some time past at Soochow, under pretext of illness, his journey to Peking for audience having been interrupted on this score).

Sept. 6th.—(1) Tu-hing-ah, the military Governor of Shên-king, reports that three criminals have been brought to justice in connection with the robbery of the Corean special embassy while on its way home in September last year. Two of the men apprehended were concerned in the actual robbery, and the third was a confederate. One of the principals and the third prisoner have been behended, whilst the corpse of the other, who died while in prison, is to be mutilated. It is requested that the penalties heretofore inflicted on the local authorities for failure to apprehend the perpetrators of the robbery within a given time, may now be remitted.

(2) In another memorial, Tu-hing-ah denounces the civil and military authorities of the city of K'ai-yuan for their inefficiency in connection with a daring act of plunder lately committed. On the night of June 22nd, a party of some 20 robbers, some of whom were mounted, attacked and gutted a pawnshop in the town, wounding six of the persons employed about the establishment, and made off with their booty. Three men have been arrested on suspicion, but have not fully confessed to participation in the crime. The Military Governor expresses his indignation loudly at the occurrence of such an outrage in a populous neighbourhood with impunity, and hands in the names of the officials on whom the responsibility rests.

(3) Tu-hing-ah and his colleague, Ts'ing-k'ai, further memorialize, stating that it is customary for the Military Governor of Shêng-king to proceed annually in November at the head of a body of 1,000 troops, to hunt down game for the Imperial table, in the hunting grounds on the Eastern frontier, advantage being taken of the opportunity to exercise the men as well. The commissioned officers have been accustomed to provide for their own expenses on these occasions, but for the batta of the 1,000 rank and file, and for the hire of carts to bring in the deer, an expenditure of Tls. 18,900 and odd is required. This amount was always paid out of the provincial revenue, until, in view of the heavy annual charge, it was arranged in 1870 that the hunt should take place only on each alternate year, thus both favouring the increase of game and subserving financial economy. The Military Governor now reports that according to the new rule a hunt should be held this year, but as no funds are available for the purpose in the provincial treasury, after providing for the regular pay of the troops, it is besought that the undertaking may be postponed for the present.—Rescript acceding to this request.

Sept. 6th.—(1) A decree in pursuance of a report by Shên Yü-ying, Governor of Yünnan, cashiering a number of district magistrates and other civilian officers, who have been found guilty of corruption, cruelty, indecorous conduct, embezzlement, &c.

(2) A decree referring to an Address to the Throne (條陳) presented through the Censorate by a titular graduate of Ch'êkiang. The two articles of this address which make appeal, respectively, for abolation of taxation beyond the lawful limit, in order to relieve the trading class from its difficulties, and for a remission of forced contributions, as conducive to the well-being of the people, are subjects on which instructions have repeatedly been addressed to the provincial governments. The remaining articles of the address consist in state observations, of no practical value, and it is unnecessary to take them into consideration. The statement included to
the effect that corporal Chu Yun and certain others were killed in action during operations against the rebels in 1860, and have had no tokens of Imperial favour bestowed on their memory, is to be brought by the Censorate to the notice of the Governor of Chekiang. Henceforward, all applications for posthumous honours must be brought forward in conformity with the regulations, and applications made by officials not having the right to memorialize are not to be presented on their behalf by the Censorate. The propositions set forth in a separate memorial by Ho Show-ta'ze, with a view to restricting the presentation of addresses, are sanctioned.

(3) A decree: Let Hi-yuan 希元 become Manchu Commander-in-chief at Hangchow.

(4) The Censor Chen-I memorializes commenting in severe terms on the neglect of duty displayed by the Comptrollers of the Household, in permitting Li Kwang-chao's imposition (in connection with his pretended supply of timber) to take place.

(5) The Constabulary yamen reports the following appeal, lodged by Mang Kwang-ch'eng, a native of Sin-ch'eng in Shantung. Appellant's sister, being married to a man named Liu Pao-chu, became aware of an intrigue between her husband's mother and a man named Liu Yü-t'ang. Owing to this discovery on her part, the guilty persons determined to make away with her, and ill-treated her daily. One day appellant was informed by letter from Liu Pao-chu that his wife had died. On going with his mother to see the body, appellant found a deep wound on the back; and on making enquiry he received only evasive replies. On report being made to the district magistrate, an inquest was held, but the examiner of corpses falsified his medical certificate, and although Liu Pao-chu was apprehended, he soon managed to get released on security. The orders of the magistrate that proper burial should be given to deceased's remains were disregarded. Appellant petitioned the district magistrate three times, and the Prefect twice, but neither of these officers would allow him to go to the provincial capital to lodge a complaint. On the other hand, he was illegally imprisoned for three months by the magistrate's gate-keepers. Rescript referring the case as usual.

(6) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the rebuilding of two colleges at Soochow, on sites occupied by buildings of this character before the destruction of the city by the Taipings.

Sept. 7.—The Censor Yuan Ch'äng-yeh memorializes beseeching that thought may be given to the abolition of the li-kin tax, and to repealing the prohibition against cultivation of the opium poppy. He has read in the Gazette of August 21st his Majesty's Decree approving the proposals of Ts'ung-shih, in connection with his recent enquiry at Shan-hai Kwan, which include the closing of a li-kin tax-station; and upon this, encouraged by the evidence given of his Majesty's determination to remove causes of suffering from the people, he begs to remark that the levy of li-kin, and the prohibition of the poppy cultivation, are subjects intimately connected with each other. On the 9th August, 1872, the Censor represented in a memorial on the state of affairs in Shansi, that the growth of this plant should be at once put a stop to, and commands were issued hereupon to the Governor of Shansi. Nevertheless, although two years have elapsed since then, it is only in the two Prefectures of Ta-t'ung and P'ên-chow, and in the department of Tai-chow, that any attention has been paid to the interdict. Of all the remaining divisions of the Province, where the prohibition has been almost wholly disregarded, the most glaring disobedience has been shown in the five t'ing departments subject to Kwei-wa-ch'êng, and the district of T'o-k'eh-t'o (that is, the region bordering on Mongolia), where lands of rich productiveness have been converted into a source of destruction for the people. Whilst the population itself is led away by greed of gain, the same cause is also active with its official superiors, and the prohibition is consequently ignored, not only in Shansi, but doubtless also on the same principle in other provinces. If now his Majesty would put a stop to the growth of the poppy, what is absolutely necessary is to set rid of corrupt officials, and in a still greater degree is it necessary to abolish the li-kin tax. The reason is this. The li-kin revenue springs in point of fact from the poppy plant, the name of the thing being merely changed into the designation yang yao (foreign drug, i.e., Opium). If on the one hand a duty is levied, and on the other an interdict is imposed, complaint must inevitably be expected to arise on all sides. For not only is the poppy an injury to the people,—the li-kin tax itself is also a hardship imposed upon them. Originally introduced under pressure of financial exigencies during the rebellion, as a merely temporary expedient, the li-kin tax is still maintained, notwithstanding that the whole Empire is more or less freed from disturbance, and that tranquillity has prevailed.
in some of the provinces for the last ten years or more. The li-kin tax officers are actually increased in number, and the officials appointed to collect the tax impose grievous hardships upon the population, and throw difficulties in the way of trade in transit. In some cases merchandise no sooner comes within the scope of one of these offices than it is declared to be smuggled—in others, goods other than opium are made the subject of extortion by violence. The desire to minister to private gain is greatly in excess of anxiety for the public revenue. It is beyond the power of words to depict in full the malpractices which are carried on in this connection. The high provincial authorities in general are well aware of all this, but the reason assigned for inability to do away with the tax is the need of reorganization. Reorganization, however, should be wholly beneficial if undertaken at all; and the Governor moved to request that orders be issued to all the provincial governments, desiring them to devise measures compatible with the existing condition of affairs, for the suppression of the poppy cultivation and the abolition of the li-kin tax.

Sept. 8th.—(1) A decree, based on the report of the Board of Civil Office, respecting the conduct of the Comptrollers of the Household in connection with the offer to supply timber on the part of Li Kwang-choa. With the exception of Kw'ai-ling, who was on congé, and is consequently exempt from censure, three of the four remaining comptrollers, viz.: Ts'eung-lun, a President of the Board of Works; Ming-shan, a Vice-President of the same Board; and Ch'un-yen, Captain-General of the Bordered Yellow Han-kin Banner, are declared stripped of their official rank.

(2) A second decree in continuation of the preceding, with reference to the remaining comptroller, Kw'ai-pao, whose offence, as the actual medium through which the offer of Li Kwang-choa was made, is declared by the Board of Civil Office as admitting of no palliation. He likewise is stripped of his official rank.

(3) The Governor of Chekiang memorializes requesting permission for the erection of a sacrificial fane in commemoration of a Prefect of Ch'u-chow Fu, who fell sword in hand during the rebellion in 1861, after earning the lasting gratitude of the people of his prefecture by his care for their welfare and protection.

Sept. 9th.—(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a Mongolian lady respecting a case of disputed succession, already summarised in the rescript which was published on the 2nd Sept.

(2) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding a representation on the part of a Manchu named Ming-lin, holding the title of Secretary of the Board of Works, who states that he lives at the village of Ts'ai-en-shan Tiao, near Feng-hwang Chi'eng, on the Corean frontier, and who comes forward to denounce the local military and civil authorities for supplying in respect of the lawless brigandage prevailing in that region. An organized system of robbery has of late been indulged in, unheeded by the local officials, by bands of no less than a hundred or more mounted brigands, who carry fire and sword into the villages round about. Not only is there no attention paid by the local authorities to complaints on this score, but when wounded persons have gone to demand official inspection, the Magistrate of Yeo-yen T'ing is not to be approached without a payment of 8,000 tiao in local currency, and his military colleague is much the same. On the 11th May, 1873, complainant's house was attacked by a party of some 40 or 50 robbers, who looted it of upwards of 50 ingots of silver, 3 mules and ponies, and a large quantity of personal effects. They likewise carried off complainant's father, aged 85 years, whose chest they applied fire in order to compel the delivery of all the money about the place. No action was taken by the authorities on complaint being made. On the 18th April, the house was once more attacked, and complainant's father again wounded. A sum of 100 Taels in silver and 3,700 tiao in Peking bank notes was carried off. Still the authorities did nothing. A few weeks later another band of brigands made a raid on the adjacent villages, killing and wounding a number of people. Whilst carrying off their plunder on the following day, the robbers were set upon by a gang of men connected with a gambling resort, who killed several of the brigands and, on the rest of the party taking to flight, took possession of their loot. On return being made to the officials they remained totally inactive; and complainant implies his belief that they participate in the unlawful gains of the depredators. A rescript has already appeared, directing inquiry to be made into the circumstances.

(3) The Governor of Shanxi, Pao Yuan-shen, puts forward a renewed application for leave to retire, on the ground of infirmity. He has been granted an extension of congé.
Degradation of Prince Kung.

Sept. 10th.—A Vermilion Decree. Be it made known to all the Princes and Ministers in the Court that from the time when We personally assumed the government, on the 26th day of the first month of last year (23rd February, 1873) until now, whenever speech has been held by Us with the Prince of Kung, his language has been in very many respects unbecoming. We ordain that by special grace there be substituted [for other contemplated punishment?] deprivation of his Imperial Princesdom of the first class with hereditary succession in the same degree for ever, and that he be reduced to the grade of K'un Wang (Prince of the second degree), still continuing to do duty as a member of the Grand Council of State. Ts'ai-ch'eng also (eldest son of the Prince of Kung) is to be deprived of his rank as Bei-t'h K'un Wang, by way of punishment and admonition.

(2) A Decree. Whereas a mandate was heretofore issued directing the Comptrollers of the Household to commence the restoration of the more important portions of the works at Yuan-ming Yuen; what was intended, was to provide a place for the entertainment and temporary lodgment of their Majesties the two Empresses-dowager, to the end that their comfort be secured and [Our] filial regard be satisfied. Since the operations were begun in the course of the present year, We have inspected them in person several times, and have perceived the works to be of such vast proportions as to forbid their completion within any limited period. Inasmuch as at the present time the resources [of the people] are embarrassed and financial supplies are deficient, warlike operations being not yet fully terminated, and more than one of the Provinces being afflicted with natural calamities, We are deeply averse, in respectful consonance with the benignant anxiety [which animates their Majesties the Empresses] from laying fresh burdens upon the energies of the people in securing the mere progress of an edifice. We ordain that all building-works of every description at Yuan-ming Yuen be forthwith discontinued, until such time in the future when, peace prevailing on the frontiers, and the Treasury being bountifully supplied, the restoration shall again be proceeded with. As the Three Lakes lie in immediate proximity to the palace and the buildings adjacent thereto are in substantial condition, such repairs to them as may be deemed advisable will not entail too onerous a charge. Let the high officers to whom this duty belongs, hold survey, therefore, of the localities adjoining the Three Lakes, and report to Us the opinion they arrive at and the extent of the repairs and alterations they find necessary. Let this be promulgated for general information.

(N. B.—The Three Lakes are the ornamental sheets of water lying to the west of the Imperial Palace.)

(3 and 4.) Decrees appointing Ying-kwai (formerly Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chekiang) and Yung-lu to the vacant posts of Comptrollers of the Household; and ordaining that the three senior Comptrollers, whose deprivation of rank was announced yesterday, shall, by special grace, be allowed to remain in office under this condition.

(5) The Governor of Kwangsi memorializes reporting that the Anammese Envoy and his suite, who left Peking on the 8th February last on their return journey, set out on the 2nd June from the Provincial Capital of Kwangsi to cross the frontier, under escort provided by the Governor. The Envoy has expressed the profound gratitude he feels for the extreme benevolence and goodness animating the Celestial dynasty, in its bountiful generosity towards men from afar, as shown in the lavish donations conferred by his Majesty when audience was granted; and furthermore, in the bestowal of Letters Patent and rolls of silk to be reverently conveyed by the Envoy back to his own country and handed over to the King for reception in due humility. Such distinctions conferred on his petty kingdom the Envoy recognizes as truly extraordinary. The Governor commends the respectful loyalty of the language used in evident sincerity by the Envoy; and details the steps taken in connection with the supply of escort on his departure.

(6) Yih-jung, the Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes, adding his protest to that of other provincial governments against the proposal to withdraw the right of summary execution in cases of brigandage, &c., from local authorities. He dwells on the prevalence of mounted brigandage and other forms of disorder within his jurisdiction.

Sept. 11th.—The Court Circular announces that the Prince Kung had returned thanks for being continued as a member of the Grand Council.

The newly appointed Comptrollers of the Household returned thanks on the same day.

Reinstatement of Prince Kung.

A Decree. — We have respectfully received the benign mandate of their
Majesties the Empress-dowager and the Empress-mother [as follows] :

The Emperor sent forth a Decree yesterday in which the Prince of Kung was stripped of his Imperial Princedom with hereditary succession in the same degree for ever, and was reduced to the secondary rank, Ts'ai-ch'êng being at the same time stripped of his title as Beileh K'un Wang. As regards the unbecoming language of the Prince of Kung on occasions when speech has been held with him, it is true that a penalty has been incurred for this offence; but remembering how the Prince, from the time when his support began to be rendered in the conduct of government, has not been wanting in exertions so distinguished as to merit acknowledgment, let, as a special grace, his rank as Imperial Prince with hereditary succession in the same degree for ever, be restored to him, and the title of Beileh K'un Wang be likewise restored to Ts'ai-ch'êng. It behoves the Prince to respond to the desire of his Sovereign to convey a salutary admonition, and for the future to be more and more diligent and careful, contributing largely toward relief from difficulty and embarrassment, to the end that his trust be worthily discharged.

(2) A Decree referring to the commands issued yesterday, directing that buildings be fitted up in the grounds adjoining the Palace Lakes, for the lodgment of the Dowager Empresses. It is now further enjoined upon the Comptrollers of the Household that strict economy must be held in view, in the interest of the people.

(3) The Censor Sun Kwan-siang memorializes denouncing the conduct of Kwei-pao, in connection with the Li Kwang-ch'an timber scandal, representing that Kwei-pao was wholly responsible for the attempted imposition, and urging that he be severely punished. Rescript has already appeared.

(4) A Memorial from Yang Ch'ên-shun, Governor of Chükiang, on the arrangements to be made in pursuance of the directions received from the Board of War for the re-establishment of the official courier-posts on the old system. According to regulation, the Province of Chükiang should have 214 post-soldiers (堐 兵) on the line between Hangchou Fu and Peking, divided into three sections, each under a superintendent (督 政), beside 24 men and one headman at the provincial capital itself. The pay of the men was Tla. 1.4.5 per mensem, with 3 mace as rice-allowance. Owing to the rise in prices generally which has taken place of late years, it will be necessary, in re-establishing the courier-post, to act on the principle introduced with reference to the army at large, viz., a reduction of numbers and higher pay to individuals. It is proposed, therefore, to alter the stations and to divide the route into 31 stages, to be served by 123 men and 3 superintendents, allotting 4 men to each hundred li of the distance. The pay to be given per man is to be Tla. 2.5 and 5 mace rice-allowance per mensem, with the usual deduction pro rata in months of 29 days.

September 12th.—The Court Circular announces that the Prince Kung returned thanks for the restoration of his Imperial Princedom with right of succession; and Ts'ai-ch'êng did likewise on his own restoration.

(1) The Governor of Honan reports the rehearing and decision of an appeal case referred from Peking. A woman named Fan Kin-shé had complained that Liu T'ien-ch'ên and others had assaulted her husband, Fan Hwa, and caused his death. After an investigation before the Prefect of K'n-fêng Fu, the case has been passed on through the chief provincial Commissioner to the Governor himself, and the result of his examination is as follows, Appellant, Fan Kin-shé, and a nephew of hers named Kin Yao-K'ing, belong to the Sin-k'iang District, and her late husband was on friendly terms with an underling of the Magistracy named Lin' T'ien-ch'ên. In October, 1870, Fan Hwa had advanced to a tenant of his named Li Ma-niu, 2½ piculs of wheat, which were to be repaid after the next harvest. In May, 1871 Fan Hwa went to demand payment, but Li Ma-niu was unable to return him more than ½ picul at the time, begging for delay as regards the rest. Upon this a wrangle ensued, and as it chanced that Liu T'ien-ch'ên was in the village collecting dues, he and another man came up to quiet the parties. No such thing as personal ill-usage or pushing down (of Fan Hwa) took place. Fan Hwa returned home and spoke of the occurrence to his wife, who took no notice of it at the time; but on the following day her husband fell ill of a prevailing epidemic, and though a doctor was called in he died from the effects of the disease the same day. In her grief for the loss of her husband, Fan Kin-shé laid the blame on Li Ma-niu, and lodged a complaint at the Magistracy accusing him of having used violence. The Magistrate upon this proceeded to hold an inquest on the remains, but Fan Kin-shé, fearing detection of her falsehood, had the body buried, and frustrated this object by her statements.
Kin — she was, however, ordered the wheat from the accused persona. Since she was the case, taking the usual bonds. Pan On holding enquiry, the Magistrate brought up for the rehearing, she lias died nephews to re-open the case by an appeal at Peking, with the view of extorting money while at large on bail, and although by bringing a calumnious charge she baa exposed herself to the penalties of flogging and transportation, as duly set forth by Statute, she is no longer within the reach of the law. Other persons implicated are condemned to corresponding penalties.

September 13th. — The Court Circular announces the presentation of Ying-yüan's testamentary memorial. (See below, No. 3).

(1) The Grand Council have received his Majesty's verbal commands as follows: — When We proceed on the 7th October to the South Hunting Park, let any presentations to be made to Us be introduced by the Board of War on the 9th, and by the Board of Civil Office on the 13th. Any presentations to be made by other departments are to be arranged for one or other of the above-named days.

(2) The Grand Council have received his Majesty's verbal commands as follows: — On the occasion of Our approaching visit to the South Hunting Park, let all the officers of Our suite wear travelling costume. The officers taking the daily tour of duty from the different departments of State, will continue to wear the long robe and outer vest.

(3) A Decree lamenting the decease of Ying-yüan, a president of the Court of Censors, and chief of the Gendarmerie of Peking (who died on the 12th inst.) All shortcomings recorded against him during lifetime are remitted, and a funeral sacrifice is to be attended by the Emperor's cousin, T'ai-hien, and ten officers of the Guard. His adopted son is to receive an appointment as Secretary to a Board.

(4) A Decree. Let Pao-yün fill the post of President of the Board of War, and Ying-kwéi that of President of the Board of Civil Office.

(5) A Decree. Let Ying-kwéi fill the post of Captain-general of the Gendarmerie.

(6) Let Kwang-shuü fill the post of president of the Court of Censorate.

(7) The Governor of Ngan-hwéi reports the investigation of an appeal case referred from Peking. Appellant, Ch'eng Tchén, had complained of certain persons of his own clan, who he asserted had massacred five persons of his family in 1863. He has gone from one department to another in the provincial government presenting this complaint; the fact being that the murders complained of took place during the Nien-fei troubles, as part of the general intestine warfare then in progress. Furthermore, it was ordained in 1869, by the Board of Punishments, that no appeals from Ngan-hwéi relating to acts of pillage or murder in the province prior to the year 1865 should henceforth be entertained. The present case is consequently dismissed, and appellant is let off without punishment on this occasion, but will be dealt with according to law if he give further trouble.

Sept. 14th. — (1) A decree in reply to a memorial by certain high officials in charge of the Mansoles, reporting some of the buildings out of repair. The Vice President of the Board of Works, Ho T'ing-k'ien, is ordered to proceed to the spot and survey the buildings, reporting afterwards for further orders.

(2) The Censor Chang Kwan-ch'un memorialis on certain causes of stagnation in the advancement of officials selected for appointments in the Provinces. The recipients of nominations, on reaching their respective jurisdictions, find their employment delayed by a variety of causes.

— A Rescript directing the Board of Civil Office to consider and report has already appeared.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied by a number of postscript memorials by the Governor of Kiangsi on minor official matters, including an application from the Brigadier commanding at Kiu-kiang, Ch'eng Wen-ping, soliciting a month's leave of absence for the purpose of attending to the funeral of his elder brother, by whom he was brought up from childhood.

Sept. 15th. — (1) A decree. Let Li K'uh-hung be appointed to the vacancy as Grain Intendant of Kiangsi. (N.B. — The official to whom this post is allotted is one of the chief clerks of the Tsung-li Yamen at Peking).

(2) The Court of Censorate memorializes stating that a titular graduate from CHE-kiang, named Li K'ing-jiu, has applied to that body requesting that a categorical address to the Throne, prepared by himself in fifteen articles, may be laid before his Majesty, premising with the observation that the solidity of the State is to be secured by giving advancement to the worthy, and that the first consideration in government is regard for the interests of the people. The Court of Censorate has to represent that, while the address in question must be admitted to contain no
unbecoming verbiage, yet, the passage with reference to a corporal of the Chekiang army, and others with him, who are represented as having perished in conflict with the rebels, and to have been honoured by no posthumous distinctions, is one which ought to come in the shape of a representation from the provincial authorities. Moreover, that the author of the address himself had been in command of a body of braves, for which service he had received no reward, is a statement which should also emanate from the provincial authorities. The Court does not presume, however, to obstruct an access to the Imperial hearing for the representations brought forward, although it must be observed that the claim for rewards for service against the rebels is based on a very insignificant action in conjunction with the Imperial forces. It seems highly advisable to discourage the furtherance of personal aims under the guise of addresses of this kind, and it is therefore proposed that a regulation be introduced to authorize the Court of Censorate to reject any such documents as may be found, on examination, to contain no statement of practical value and to be directed toward a personal advantage, or to the furtherance of a judicial appeal.

(3) A Memorial in the same sense with the foregoing is presented by the Censor Ho Show-ts'ze.

(4) The Court of Censorate reports an appeal lodged by Chang Wang, a native of T'eng Chow in Honan, complaining against a certain notorious bully of his neighbourhood, named Yang Heng-ts'ing, a titular graduate, who, in August 1872, falling in with appellant's wife while gathering herbs, attempted criminal violence upon her, but without success. In the following month he came to complainant's house with a band of followers, and carried his wife off by force, wounding complainant desperately. A fortnight afterwards his father managed to get his wife back again, but she was driven by her shame to commit suicide. On complaint being lodged with the authorities, the desperado Yang was arrested, but through the connivance of the official underlings he obtained his release, and appellant's father, who went to lodge a petition at the Prefecture, has, through the influence of the said villainous underlings, been confined in the lock-up and illegally beaten, remaining in durance up to the present time.—Referred in the usual manner.

(b) A further appeal case from Honan, in which a man named Chang Yew-jen complains of the murder of his father by one Liu I, at the instigation of one Chang Ti-p'an. The murder is said to have grown out of a dispute about adjoining lands. Appellant's father having been wrongfully imprisoned, he was partly starved by Liu I, an underling of the yamen, and finally wounded by him with a knife, thereby causing his death.—Referred in the usual manner.

Sept. 10th.—The Court Circular contains the following announcements: The Prince of Tun presented an address of thanks for his Majesty's present of birds' nests.

The Prince of Kung and others returned thanks for his Majesty's present of birds' nests.

(1) A series of Decrees making divers military appointments, and a Decree ordaining that Ying-kwei is to be bearer of the seal and keys appertaining to the Comptrollership of the Household.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial by Ch'ung-fuh reporting the completion of the temple erected at Ts'ing-chow Fu, in Shantung, in honour of the deceased Prince Seng-ko-lin-sin, entitled the Chung Ts'in Wang(who fell in that part of the country while fighting against the Nien-fei). His Majesty has inscribed with his own hand a memorial board which is to be suspended in the Temple, and the Governor of Shantung is directed to cause sacrifices to be offered there annually in Spring and Autumn.

(3 and 4) Memorials by the President of the Board of Civil Office and his colleagues, handing in report on the conduct of the Comptrollers of the Household in connection with the late Li Kwang-chao timber scandal. The Comptroller must grievously at fault is reported to have been Kwei-pao.—(Rescripts already published).

September 17th.—(Court Circular.) His Majesty will proceed tomorrow through certain gates (named) to the Temple of the Spirits of the Land and Grain to perform an act of worship, and thence return by the same road to the Palace. Preparations are to be made by 4 a.m.

(1) A Decree. Let She Sung-siu be appointed to the vacancy of Prefect of Szechow Fu in Sze-ch'wan.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang memorializes with reference to the instructions received respecting the transmission of the provincial remittances of revenue to Peking in silver (see Gazette of March 25). On receipt of the Imperial decree approving the Censor's suggestion to this effect, the Governor-General issued orders to his subordinates to take action
accordingly; and he has now received the following report from the Chief Commissioners of Government:—The course which should properly be pursued in remitting treasure to Peking is to send the chests (hollowed tree trunks) by the regular overland stages in charge of officials deputed for the purpose, but, owing to the distance between this and Peking, even if no delay occur on the journey, the delivery cannot be made in less than three months. Moreover, on a length of journey by land and water of close upon 6,000 li, stoppages may occur from natural causes, as well as from the inability of the officials in charge to secure respect for their requirements in the way of convoy, &c., when once they have passed out of their own province. It was contemplated in the regulations drawn up in 1869 by the Board of Revenue for the transmission of supplies, that treasure from Fukien and Kwangtung might be sent by sea to Tientsin. Since then, accordingly, the ordinary and extraordinary supplies have been sent by steamer in lieu of by land route. In view of the perils of the sea, there has been paid, according to the rules observed in shipments by foreign steamers, a sum in addition to the freight money under the head of insurance, which has been issued as part of the recognized expenditure. It is now requested that sanction be given to the continued payment of this charge together with the freight, and that the system of forwarding remittances by steamer be likewise officially recognized.

The Governor-General, in forwarding this report, adds that the charge for insurance varies from time to time, and must be left to be dealt with in the manner most conducive to accuracy.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang memorializes reporting the measures taken for deepening the river bed in the prefecture of Ch'ao-chow Fu. The river which flows past the city of that name derives its waters from affluents coming down from K'ai-ying Chow in Kwangtung, from Ting-chow in Fukien, and from K'an-chow in Kiangsi. These streams unite at San Ho Pa in the district of Ta-p'u, and thence, flowing past the Prefectural city, proceed by various channels toward the sea. Surrounded on three sides by the river, Ch'ao-chow Fu has repeatedly been in danger of inundation, notwithstanding the embankments built for its protection; and the country districts have suffered grievously from floods since 1871. The orders given for the repair of the embankments which have given way have been mentioned in the periodical memorials sent up reporting rainfall and prices of grain. The Taotai and Prefect, in concert with the acting Brigadier General, Fang Yao, have encouraged the local officials and notables to contribute funds for the thorough rebuilding of the embankments, and also the repair of the walls of the city, where they have been weakened by the wash of the stream. It has been found on enquiry that the irregularities in the flow of the Ch'ao-chow river arises from the fact that the lower course has shoaled during the last 20 or 30 years, no attention having been paid to dredging out the deposits of silt, and the alluvial flats gradually formed having been further enclosed by dykes and appropriated by the villagers. The losses occasioned to the population through floods, caused by the inability of the river to discharge its waters by the proper channel in seasons of flood, have been incalculable. A scheme for deepening several of the outlets has now been prepared by the local officials, and it is proposed to meet the necessary expenditure by an assessment on the land of the adjoining districts, to be managed by divisional committees of the local notables. Dykes interfering with the course of the stream are to be removed by the respective proprietors themselves. Work was commenced, after report made to the Governor-General, on the 27th January last, and the Governor-General highly commends the public spirit of the officials and gentry who have taken so vast an undertaking in hand. On completion of the work, rewards will be applied for on behalf of those who have distinguished themselves. As the funds are raised by voluntary assessment, it is requested that a detailed return of receipts and expenditure may be dispensed with.—Rescript: A general statement of recommendations to favour may be sent in; but let it not be indiscriminately lavish. For the rest, be it as proposed.

Sept. 18th.—(1) A Decree ordering the Court of Astronomers to select an auspicious day in the 9th moon for the completion of the works on a temple building at one of the Mausolea at Moukden, on the application of the Military Governor Tu-hung-ai.

(2) A Vermilion rescript. Let Tao Taung-t'ang be Grand Secretary of the Ting Koh. (N.B.—The East Pavilion, 東閣, constitutes one of the six titular designations which may be assigned to the office of Tao Hao Sze, or Grand Secretary. For Tao Taung-t'ang's appointment see Gazette of August 23.)
The Military Governor of Shengking, Tu-hing-ah, and his colleague, T\'sing-kai, report the appointment of a Manchurian official from the garrison of Kin Chow, to perform the summer tour of inspection along the Corean frontier, in concert with a Corean official, according to regulation. The territories of China and Corea being divided from each other only by a river, it is a standing rule that the boundary be patrolled once in each quarter, and that in the summer and autumn quarters a Corean functionary is to take part in this duty, for the surveillance of the settlers who have established themselves on the waste lands of the marches. The Board of Ceremonies at Moukden having notified the King of Corea to give orders to the Corean officer named Cheng H\'eng-ki, and that he has received from the said officer (使臣) in person, on the 14th June, a stamped guarantee that tranquillity prevails along the frontier. The document in question, presented by the Commissioner of Corea to the Corean functionary, having been forwarded by Colonel Po-lin, is placed on record, and the facts are reported for his Majesty's information.

The Governor-General of Yunnan, acting as Governor-General of Yunnan and Kwei-chow, reports his proceedings in weeding out unworthy members from the civil service of the province, in pursuance of Imperial commands received in January last. During the protracted disorders with which the province was afflicted, civilian offices, deserted for the most part by their legitimate occupants, were filled in great numbers by persons who had either purchased their positions or had risen by means of military service; and although upright and devoted officials are not wanting among the civilians in Yunnan, there are yet not a few who overstep the proper bounds and disgrace their position. The Governor-General proceeds to enumerate eight sub-Prefects and assistant-Magistrates whose conduct comes under one or other of the standing accusations of "rapacious," "vile," "greedy of gain," "deceitful," and the like, and he requests that they be dismissed the public service, under various degrees of ignominy.

The remainder of the Gazette is taken up with a number of postscript memorials from the same quarter, on administrative details.

Sept. 19th.—The Court Circular announces the route to be taken by his Majesty to-morrow in proceeding to offer worship at the Fang Sien Tien, and afterwards at the Show Hwang Tien.

1. The Military Governor of Shengking, Tu-hing-ah, and the Vice President of the Board of Works, Kwei-ts\'ing, memorialize reporting the necessity for immediate repairs to the Sacrificial Hall 候房 appertaining to the Imperial Mausolea at Moukden. The report of the custodian of the three ranges of building in question is as follows:—Owing to leaks in the roofs, the rafters and purlins have become rotten, and two of the main beams have likewise been injuriously affected by exposure to the summer rains. The two southernmost buildings have fallen in, and the northernmost one is also out of the perpendicular. The eaves and tiles have fallen to the ground, the posts of the corridor are decayed, the paint has blistered off, the mounds and screen-walls in front and rear have bulged out and cracked, the tiles of the terrace and steps are broken, and the stone slabs sunken in all directions. This report having been verified on inspection made by the Military Governor in person, he has caused an estimate to be made of the cost of the necessary repairs, which is as follows: For materials, Tls. 1,049.7.1.8, and for labour, Tls. 201.5.2.0. As the buildings in their present state of repair date from 1864, the limit of time prescribed for their continuance in good order has been more than fulfilled; and it is requested that an auspicious day for the commencement of the works may be chosen in the 8th or 9th moon by the Imperial Astronomers. In conformity with the regulation prescribed in 1871, as the sum to be expended is below the amount of Tls. 10,000, it is not necessary to request that an official be appointed from Peking to superintend the works. (See Gazette of the 18th instant.)

2. Tu-hing-ah, and his colleague, T\'sing-kai, report the appointment of a Manchurian colonel from the garrison of Kin Chow, to perform the summer tour of inspection along the Corean frontier, in concert with a Corean official, according to regulation. The territories of China and Corea being divided from each other only by a river, it is a standing rule that the boundary be patrolled once in each quarter, and that in the summer and autumn quarters a Corean functionary is to take part in this duty, for the surveillance of the settlers who have established themselves on the waste lands of the marches. The Board of Ceremonies at Moukden having notified the King of Corea to give orders to the Corean officer named Cheng H\'eng-ki, and that he has received from the said officer (使臣) in person, on the 14th June, a stamped guarantee that tranquillity prevails along the frontier. The document in question, presented by the Commissioner of Corea to the Corean functionary, having been forwarded by Colonel Po-lin, is placed on record, and the facts are reported for his Majesty's information.

(3) The representative of the Board of Punishments resident at Moukden, memorializes representing that a Manchurian military officer from Peking, holding a hereditary title of the third degree of nobility, who has been on leave at Moukden for the purpose of repairing his ancestral tombs, has sought to abuse his position by interfering in a case of litigation. He has hastened to explain his conduct by stating that he was induced to lend his support to a complaint lodged by one of his servants, at a time when he was ill and not fully master of himself; but it is requested that he be ordered forthwith to return to his proper Banner at Peking.

(4) The Corean official, according to regulation. The territories of China and Corea being divided from each other only by a river, it is a standing rule that the boundary be patrolled once in each quarter, and that in the summer and autumn quarters a Corean functionary is to take part in this duty, for the surveillance of the settlers who have established themselves on the waste lands of the marches. The Board of Ceremonies at Moukden having notified the King of Corea to give orders to the Corean officer named Cheng H\'eng-ki, and that he has received from the said officer (使臣) in person, on the 14th June, a stamped guarantee that tranquillity prevails along the frontier. The document in question, presented by the Commissioner of Corea to the Corean functionary, having been forwarded by Colonel Po-lin, is placed on record, and the facts are reported for his Majesty's information.

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Rescript already published, giving the desired orders.

Sept. 20th.—(1) A decree conferring the distinction of a peacock's feather on the Manchu Brigadier-General Ch'ung-fu, who is reported by the officiating Governor of Shantung to have provided a supply of firearms at his own expense for certain Manchu troops.

(2) The Board of War memorializes in pursuance of a recent decree, upon the penalty to be allotted to some of the military officials concerned in the irregularities at the Shan-hai Kwan garrison, recently enquired into by Tsung-shih.

(3) The Governor of Hunan forwards an application on the part of sundry titular officials and graduates, to the following effect: A young graduate named Hwang Shih-Tsun was betrothed to a girl, the daughter of one Hung Yeh-liang, who from her earliest childhood had manifested an untiring revery for Hwang, and died after four months' illness, during which time he was nursed most assiduously by the young girl and his mother. She clung after his decease to his remains, declaring in her grief that she would no longer live; but her parents by adoption, touched with pity for her young years, she being not yet fifteen years old, bade her not put on mourning, and would have betrothed her to some other husband. She declared, however, that having entered the family of Hwang, she would not be justified in concluding another marriage, and cutting off a lock of her hair she laid it in the deceased's coffin, in token of her resolve. After this she swooned away repeatedly. In admiration and wonder, the relatives allowed her to follow the bent of her determination, and she accordingly put on the widow's garb and attended the placing of deceased's tablet in the ancestral temple, being thus admitted as bride, to the presence of his forefathers. She thus devoted herself to an unwedded life, awaiting the time when she shall adopt an heir for the departed one. The Governor extols, in set phraseology, the virtuous devotion of the young lady in question, the same having been duly attested under seal by the district magistrate; and he applies for a mark of Imperial approval in the usual manner.

—By rescript, a memorial tablet is authorized.

(4) The same functionary memorializes stating that his attention has been drawn to documents which have appeared in the Gazette respecting mistakes made in the stamping of the examination essays at the competition for K'ü-chü degrees in Shun-Tien Fu, by which injustice is done to the competitors, the essays of one person being attributed to another's composition, and so on. This appears to arise from the haste with which the stamping—or docketing—is necessarily performed, among such a multitude of papers, and he proposes an amendment in the method of denoting authorship. Rescript.—Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report.

Sept. 21.—(1) A decree. The Censor Wu Chung-neng has memorialized requesting that reform be undertaken of long standing abuses connected with the police-underlings of district and department Magistracies. The laws forbidding oppression of the people by police-underlings are of the most stringent nature; and if it be true, as the Censor affirms, that such things take place as intriguing with the criminal class and stirring in the proceeds of robberies, stirring up litigation with an eye to extort, and giving shelter to such practices on the part of the Magistrates, in order to escape the incidence of penalties, the laws are indeed most grievously violated. Let the governments of all the Provinces give stringent orders to the local authorities, to take active measures in discharging dishonest underlings; and if there be any who abuse their positions to give countenance to such men, let them be impeached with severity on the facts of the case, to the end that rectitude may be secured in the civil administration.

(2) A further decree, based on another memorial from the same Censor, who has represented the existence of illegal practices among licensed pawnbrokers and money changers, with especial reference to the Hwai-yan, Yang-chow, Si-ch'uan, and Hai-chow Prefectures in Kiangsu, and throughout the province of Szech'wan. He states that usurious interest is charged upon customers by the other. Injunctions are laid upon all provincial governments to repress abuses of the kind thus exposed.

(3) The Court of Censorate forwards an appeal lodged by Pu Ch'eng-siang, a native of Lao Chow, in Chihli, aged 64, and tythingman of his village. He complains that certain inhabitants of his village, having become accomplices in 1867 with a lawless native of Manchuria, in concert
with whom they robbed a treasury, he was called upon by the local Magistrate to assist in arresting them, upon which he was instrumental in causing two of their number to be apprehended and executed. The remainder were put on their guard by two of his grandnephews, and managed to escape. The grandnephews subsequently opened a gambling place, at the advice of the escaped desperadoes, conveyed by letter, as a device for getting together a band of ruffians to commit depredations. Appellant having lodged information at the department Magistracy, police were sent to make arrests, and a large number of men were captured thereupon. By bribing the police, however, they all managed to get released, and shortly afterwards they assembled to the number of a hundred and attacked appellant's house, which they broke into in search of appellant. He was luckily absent at the time, and so escaped destruction; and he now lodges the present complaint, after petitioning the prefect of his own jurisdiction without obtaining a direct hearing.—Referred in the usual manner.

(4 and 5) Memorials from the officiating Governor of Shantung with reference to two District Magistrates, who have, on previous memorials, been cashiered, and ordered to be imprisoned and proceeded against for defalcations of public money, on handing over charge to their successors. The first of these, an expectant Prefect by brevet, was short by Taels 14,323.7 when handing over charge of the Kwan-ch'ing Magistracy. He has now made good the due, Tia. 12,524.9.6.; to the Grain Intendant's Treasury, Tia. 1,630.1.6.7.; and to the Intendant of the Grand Canal, 168.5.7.3. Having thus made payment in full, it is requested that he be allowed to return to his former rank, position, and peacock's feather, and that the clothing, etc., seized under order of sequestration, may be returned to him, his offence being a technical one only. Rescript: Be it as is proposed. Let the Board take note. In the other case, restitution of amounts previously unaccounted for having been similarly made, a like indulgence is applied for and granted.

(6) In a postscript memorial, the same functionary forwards a statement of sundry officials with respect to the self-sacrifice shewn by Feng-shie, the wife of a sub-deputy assistant Magistrate named T'ang Ngan-yung, to whom she was married in October, 1873. Her husband fell ill in January whilst on a thief-taking expedition, and his wife, hearing of this, hastened from the provincial capital to join him. She cut a piece of flesh from her arm to mix with his medicine, and implored the powers of Heaven and Earth on his behalf, offering to lay down her life in his stead. Remedies proved of no avail, and he died on the 10th April last. After refusing all sustenance for three days, the inconsolable widow, then aged 24, committed suicide by swallowing gold-leaf.—In reply to the Governor's application for a mark of approbation of so laudable an act of self-devotion, a rescript grants permission for the erection of a memorial tablet.

Sept. 22nd. —(Court Circular). His Majesty will proceed at 5 a.m. to-morrow to the Chung Ho Tien, to inspect certain sacrificial scrolls, after which His Majesty will return to the Palace and receive presentations. After taking lunch, His Majesty will proceed at 3 p.m. by the western gates of the Palace, and the Fu Ch'eng Gate (the P'ing-tze Mên, or Central West Gate of Peking), to the Temple of the Evening Moon, to offer sacrifices. Thence returning by the Fu Ch'eng Gate to the Temple of Miraculous Answer to Prayer, to offer incense, and by the previous route to return to the Palace.

(1) A Decree, in reply to a memorial from the Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and the Governor of Kiangsi, announcing the extermination of certain affiliated banditti known as the Fu Fei 副匪 or Turban brigands, in the prefecture of Sii-chow. Troops proceeded lately under the command of General Yao Kwang-wu to the Su-ts'ieu district, where the leader of the banditti, Sun Hwai-wu, was slain on the spot, and his adherents were one and all put to the sword. Li Tsung-hi is commanded to give orders for stringent measures of search after any remnants of the confederacy, and honours are liberally awarded to the military officers engaged in the expedition, as well as to the memory of a sergeant killed in the fight.

(2) A decree conferring promotion in different degrees on all the civil and military officials concerned in the capture of Yang Fu-t'ung, the so-called Full Wang, an ex-Taiping-rebel leader, lately executed at Foochow. (See Gazette of Aug. 14).

(3) A memorial from the Governor of Ngan-hwei, proposing certain changes for sanction in the organization of the military establishment of the Province, with a view to a more efficient distribution of the regular forces.
Sept. 23rd.—The first five pages of the Gazette are taken up with one of the periodical lists of civilian appointments to Censorships, Taotaiships, Prefectures, Magistracies, and divers inferior offices.

The officiating Governor of Shantung reports the result of a judicial investigation into the conduct of two District Magistrates who had been cashiered under a charge of combination to perpetrate corrupt practices.

The first of the two, Yang Sien, a tsin-se graduate from Chihli, allotted to the rank of Magistrate in Shantung, was appointed to act as Magistrate of the Hwei-min District in 1867; and the second, named Lien Chih-ho, a kiu-ja graduate from Kiangsi, who had purchased his step of rank, was sent to take over charge of the aforesaid district in 1869.

The first incumbent had paid into the provincial Treasury in 1868 the sum of Tls. 16,000 and odd, on account of the first half of the yearly revenue collection of his district, but the second half-yearly payment, amounting to Tls. 12,000 and odd, was delayed on the ground that the official shroff was ill, and unable to melt down the sycee. The Magistrate, Yang Sien, being obliged to go into retirement owing to his father's death, a report reached his superior, the Prefect of Wu-ting Fu, that his returns of revenue did not tally with the amounts actually collected, and an enquiry was consequently instituted, in which the newly-appointed acting Magistrate took part. The result of the enquiry was to shew that considerable irregularities had prevailed in the revenue accounts, but without fraudulent intent on Yang Sien's part. Another charge against him was that of putting pressure on the pawn-brokers of the district city, forbidding them to close their establishments when the district was invaded by the Nien-fei, until paid by them for permission to do so. The facts of the case, as now elicited, are that Yang Sien acted in the interest of the people, who, in their impoverished condition at the time, had no resource but the pawnbrokers to keep them in funds, and he consequently required three of the nine existing establishments to continue their business, when all talked of closing; and as all the pawnbrokers had been robbed of the articles stored in pledge, he borrowed from the wealthiest man of the association a sum of Tls. 7,680, which he divided among the different concerns to enable them to pay pro ratâ a part compensation for the pledges lost. His successor was, in the first instance, charged with combining with him to cloak the irregularities with which he stood charged; but the result of the present enquiry goes to prove that he was guilty of no more than culpable neglect. For this it would be recommended that he be stripped of his rank, but as he has died since the investigation commenced, this step is needless. The restoration of Lien Chih-ho to his original position is recommended.

Sept. 24th.—(1) The Supervisor of Examinations (Literary Chancellor) of Shiu-t'ien Fu memorializes proposing a reform in the method of admission to the provincial examinations for the Kiu-ja degree. He represents that at each triennial examination it is customary for the candidates who possess the primary qualification to flock en masse to the provincial capital, where they have been led to consider it as a matter of course that at the test-examination they will all be permitted to enter for the competition to follow. The accommodation in the examination-halls having until lately been adequate, it has been usual to accede to this feeling, in view of the expense to which candidates are put in coming up to the provincial capital, from distances in many cases of hundreds of miles, and of the obloquy which rests upon a candidate who is refused admission, whereby his character at home is depreciated, and his means of livelihood as a teacher possibly taken away. Owing to the great increase which has taken place since the rebellion in the number of candidates, due partly to the augmentation in the number of degrees conferred in return for contributions, and partly to the facility of purchase of the primary qualification, the throng at each triennial period has become excessive. The object of the present memorial is to secure a limitation of the numbers, by the establishment of a rule to the effect that only such candidates shall present themselves as shall have obtained certificates at the annual primary examinations for the chu-shu degree held locally by the provincial supervisor. (A Rescript has already appeared, referring this proposal for the opinion of the Board of Ceremonies).

(2) The Governor-General of the Yellow River memorializes reporting that the chu-shu period (August 24th) has passed, and that both banks of the river have been maintained in security, by dint of unremitting efforts in sandy sections where danger from the force of the current has manifested itself. At one spot, while engaged in strengthening a part of the embankment, a squad of the government labourers were precipitated into the stream.
by the downfall of a newly-made earthwork, and a corporal and one soldier were swept away by the flood. Two months still remain during which danger has to be guarded against, and a deficiency of funds to meet the necessary outlay is among the contingencies to be apprehended.

(3) The Grand Secretary Jui-lin, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes reporting that the state of his health has compelled him to take a month's congé. The damp and relaxing climate of the South has undermined his naturally strong constitution, and made him subject to periodical attacks of bowel complaint, which have at length made repose an absolute necessity. The affairs of viceroyal government are in themselves multifarious and onerous, and in addition he is charged with the still more important duties arising out of relations between China and foreign powers. He will continue, during his temporary retirement, to attend to all matters of serious consequence in concert with the Governor, the daily routine of business being meanwhile discharged for him by the Financial Commissioner.

Sept. 25.—(1) The Brigadier-General of the Manchu garrison at Ts'ing-chow Fu in Shantung memorializes reporting that the civil and military population of that place have united in subscribing for the erection of a memorial temple in honour of Prince Seng-ko-lin-sin, entitled the Chung Ts'in Wang, in gratitude for his relief of the city and the adjacent region in 1861, when in imminent danger of falling into the hands of the Nien-fei, who had besieged the place.

(2) Yung-ts'ian, the Military Governor of Ili, forwards an explanation in reply to a charge of irregular recommendation brought against him by the Resident (amban) of Tarbagatai, Ying-lien, whose memorial, transmitted to him by a cabinet despatch dated the 17th May, he received on the 20th June. Ying-lien had accused him of arbitrariness in recommending for promotion a single officer, named Tai-kung, who, moreover, was acting as Secretary for civil affairs to Ying-lien himself. The reply of Yung-ts'ian is that, having been commanded the year before last to march westward, he set out from Uliaautai, and being in need of assistance he memorialized requesting that officers be sent from Peking to reinforce his staff. Upon this ten superior officers from the corps of musketeers, and a number of subordinates, were detailed to join him at Tarbagatai. Tai-kung was one of these, and was placed at the service of Ying-lien, then encamped with his force at Kur-kara Usu, as a capable assistant. He subsequently accompanied Ying-lien to Tarbagatai on the latter's promotion to the Residentship of that station. When a recommendation of Tai-kung for the service he had rendered was about to go forward, Ying-lien asked, in a personal interview, that certain other officials might be included in the list; but he was told that the recommendation then being drawn up was limited to cases of special merit at the different stations. As Military Governor of Ili, Yung-ts'ian begs to observe, he has at the same time control over the Eight Mahomedan Cities (Eastern Turkestan or Kashgaria), Tarbagatai, Urumtii, etc., and in times of peace the rule is that at the end of each year a confidential report is furnished on the conduct of all the superior commands and ambans of the Fu Lu and Nen Lu (Sungaria and Kashgaria.) Although, at present, Yung-ts'ian has not proceeded to take up his residence at Ili, the ancient Imperial system nevertheless holds good, and it was in pursuance thereof that the recommendation complained of was made. Tai-Kung died on the 28th May last, and it is requested that effect may posthumously be given to the recommendation in his favour, which had been suspended pending enquiry. Rescript: Be it as is requested.

(3) In a postscript memorial, Yung-ts'ian reports that while temporarily stationed with his troops at Tarbagatai he has required his men to raise crops with a view to provisioning the force, and has repaired or constructed storehouses in the N.E. angle of the city for the grain and supplies of munitions of war sent for ward to him. The ramparts being at some points in a ruined condition, and the open spaces at the South, East, and West Gates requiring a constant guard, he has been apprehensive that serious consequences might ensue if any alarm were occasioned by the enemy in the field; and in order to obviate the necessity of building an inner wall of defence he has thought it best to employ fatigue-parties of his men in patching up the ramparts, whilst at the same time he has blocked up the South and West Gates. He has built a palisade at the South Gate, which is guarded as the sole means of access. This has been done during the absence on a tour of inspection of the amban, Ying-lien, whom, on his return, he has notified of the work
performed. Returns of the expenditure incurred will be sent in.

(4) The Household Court represents that the key of the seal of office borne by the senior Comptroller Ts'ung-lun, should be handed over to the newly appointed Comptroller Ying-kuwei, whose rank as President of the Board of Civil Office entitles him to precedence.

Sept. 26th.—(1-3) Memorials from Superintendents of the Imperial Mausolea, representing the necessity for sundry works of repair.

(4) Jui-lien, Military Governor of Jeho, memorializes on the proposition, circulated for opinion at the instance of the Censor Teng K'ing-lin, respecting the withdrawal of the right of summary execution and a return to the regular system of criminal procedure. He represents that the condition of affairs within his jurisdiction is not such as to admit of delay in the infliction of capital sentences in cases of brigandage and the like; and he solicits the infliction of capital sentences in cases of criminal procedure. He represents that the withdrawal of the right of summary execution and a return to the regular system of criminal procedure is to be forthwith stripped of his rank. The late Comptroller, Kwei-pao, having been already deprived of his rank, is exempted from further penalty.

—Rescript acceding to this proposal.

Sept. 28th.—(1) A decree, Li Hung-chang has now memorialized Us, with reference to the case of Li Kwang-chao, which We commanded him to investigate, that he has elicited the full particulars concerning Li Kwang-chao's fraudulent offer to supply timber, and likewise with respect to his having unwarrantably made use of flags bearing the title “By His Majesty's appointment Purveyor of Timber,” and also “Director of works at Yuan-ming Yuan,” acts which have shown the most entire defiance of the law. We ordain, therefore, that in accordance with the proposed sentence, Li Kwang-chao be decapitated after a period of imprisonment, and that the sentence be executed after the autumn period. The Household clerk, Ch'eng-lin, who is found to have unwarrantedly left Peking and to have accompanied Li Kwang-chao in different directions, is to be forthwith stripped of his rank. The late Comptroller, Kwei-pao, having been already deprived of his rank, is exempted from further penalty.

(2) The Governor of Kwoi-chow forwards an application on the part of a brevet-General named Teng Ts'ien-fthong to be authorized to change the two last characters of his name to T'ing-chung, having found, on drawing up a new edition of his family genealogical register, that he now infringes upon the denomination of one of his remote ancestors. A certificate in proper form has been given by a Brigadier General, attesting that the applicant has never been the subject of a Rescript forbidding his further promotion, nor of a prohibition against his repurchasing his rank in consequence of any offence committed, nor of sentence of perpetual dismissal from the public service. These facts being established it is requested that the application be admitted.—Rescript in consent.

Sept. 29th.—(1) A decree postponing the assumption of the winter style of hat until the 5th October.

(2) The Governor of Hupel reports that Captain Wu Yu-ming, of the garrison
of Wu-ch'ang, having proceeded in July last year on a mission to collect taxes, was overtaken by a hurricane while travelling across the Fu-t'ow lake, near Kiang-hia, in the course of which his boat was capsized, and he with his followers was precipitated into the water. All lives were fortunately rescued, but the contents of the boat, including the seal of office belonging to the functionary in question, No. 14,040 of the K'ien (金) series, were sunk beyond recovery. Fishermen and divers were employed for several days in dragging for the seal without success. On report of the circumstance having been made, the proper official steps have been taken to verify the statement. The Magistrate of Kiang-hia has gone in person to the spot, has taken the depositions of the retainers present on the occasion, and has directed fresh attempts to be made for the recovery of the seal. As these have proved fruitless, a temporary wooden stamp has been issued, and it is now requested that a new seal may be issued from Peking, the penalties on the ground, as contemplated by the laws, that the loss proceeded from no fault of his own.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied with administrative details from the same quarter.

Sept. 30th.—(1) A decree. Wén-siang memorializes stating that his complaint is not yet relieved, and entreating that he may vacate his office. —Let him be further granted a congé of three months for the benefit of his health, without being required to vacate his office.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial by the Censor Wu Hung-ngén, requesting the introduction of increased efficiency in the constabulary system, for the protection of travel. The provincial governments are called upon to lay stringent injunctions upon their civil and military subordinates, to have the guard stations along the high roads put in repair, and the roads duly watched over by the constabulary forces.

(3) The Censor Wu Hung-ngén draws attention in a postscript memorial to the abuses prevalent in the civil administration, owing to the malpractices of the yamen retainers, who are constantly guilty of tyrannical and oppressive conduct toward the well-behaved and the weak. They enter into confederacy with local budgehases, and share in the proceeds of robbery with the perpetrators, giving warning to their confederates when pursuit is impending— and they are accustomed toleague themselves with promoters of litigation for dishonest purposes, practising extortion on defendants, who are seized by them on fictitious charges, to amounts which may vary from a few tens to hundreds of dollars. By such means they enrich themselves, become landed proprietors, and purchase official titles, at the expense of innocent people whom they have driven to utter ruin. The Magistrates wink at these proceedings in order to escape the incidence of penalties upon themselves, whilst, as a consequence of these acts, litigation is perpetually increasing.—For Rescript, see Gazette of Sept. 21st.

(4) A postscript memorial from the same Censor, representing that excessive interest, amounting to 6 and even 8 per cent. per month, is levied by unlicensed pawnbrokers in the northern districts of Kiangsu and also in Szch'wan, beside other abuses, such as a deduction of 50 cash per thousand in making payments, and fixing the limit of redemption at eight months.—Rescript as above.

(5) The officiating Governor of Shantung reports his having been informed by the Taotai at Chefoo of the arrival there of 15 shipwrecked Coreans, whose story is as follows:—They had gone out to fish in a boat, when they were overtaken by a sudden storm and driven out to sea. For nine days and nights they drifted at the mercy of the waves, reduced at length by starvation to a state of insensibility, when by good fortune they were picked up by the Kin Tung Ch'ün trading junk from Fukien, by which they were landed at Chefoo on the 23rd August. Their condition is reported as associated to the last degree. According to law, they are to be sent overland to Peking and thence to their homes. The Governor will see them on their passage through the provincial capital.

(6) The officiating Governor of Shantung further memorializes reporting that the treasury-building belonging to the yamen of the Financial Commissioner being almost a total ruin, it has been reconstructed at a cost of Taels 10,451.

(7) The same functionary reports in a postscript memorial that the Brigadier General commanding the Manchu garrison at Ts'ing-chow Fu has contributed at his own expense a new supply of arms, to wit, 32 wall-pieces, and 450 gingsalls and matchlocks, to replace the munitions which have been lost or destroyed during the campaigns on which the troops now under his command were employed some years ago. The gift of a peacock's feather in recognition of this liberality is solicited.—Rescript has already appeared.
Oct. lst.—(1) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang, the Governor of Kiangsu, and the acting Governor-General of the Grain Transport, jointly memorialize reporting the routing out and destruction of a band of depredators, who, under the name of Turban brigands, have for a length of time been the terror of the prefectures north of Yangchow. All local efforts being powerless for their suppression, a force of the regular troops has been sent against them, and after a fight, in which the military lost several lives, the leaders of the band have been either killed or taken prisoners.

(2) The constabulary yamen reports the following appeal case lodged by Wu Feng-che, labourer, aged 50, from a village in Honan. He complains that in January, 1873, a police runner from the district Magistracy of Hwa, stating that a robbery of some trees had been committed in the village, carried off his son, in concert with the head of the local thief-takers, and flogged him to extract a confession, but unsuccessfully. He then locked the young man up, and made use of illegal forms of torture, after having hoodwinked his superior, the Magistrate. Complainant, when he went to remonstrate, was told that if he did not pay a squeeze his life would be in danger, and he was forcibly prevented from proclaiming his wrong. When he managed to get together some cash, which he brought to the men aforesaid, they declared the sum to be insufficient, and at some time not precisely known they beat complainant’s son to death, and then buried him secretly. Complainant has petitioned the Magistrate, the Prefect, and the Governor of the Province, without obtaining redress.—Referred as usual.

(3) Wen-lin, the amban of Hami, reports his resumption of official duty on the expiry of his cong of three months, although his strength is not yet fully restored. His colleague, Ming-ch’un, being an invalid, recovering from a wound, he feels bound to exert himself to the utmost at such a juncture as the present, when warlike operations are in full development, and although unable to walk without support, he is carried about from place to place in a chair.

Oct. 2nd.—The Court Circular announces, among other things, that Ts’ung-lun is the officer of the household appointed to take charge for the year of the palace-city,—and also the route to be taken by his Majesty to-morrow in going to, and returning from, a visit to the Show Hwang Tien, to perform a religious service.

(1) A decree bestowing 500 picles of millet, in addition to the donation of 300 picles already ordered to be given to the charitable food-kitchens in the metropolitan department, for the relief of distress occasioned by the flooding of the lowlying lands.

(2) The Governor-General of Sze-ch’wan memorializes reporting the suppression of a local insurrection, the origin of which is described as follows. The province, he observes, has been affected by influences emanating from Tibet, giving rise to superstitions beliefs, so that, whenever families are afflicted with the presence of disease, youths and priests are called in to erect places of temporary worship, and perform ceremonies of exorcism. The common name for these practitioners is twan-k'ung, and they represent what the ancients knew by the name of Wu A — i. e., magicians, sorcerers, or Shamans. These people have not been addicted, heretofore, to unlawful practices, and to suppress the custom would be difficult in the extreme. The harvests having suffered last autumn from rain, the price of provisions rose to some extent as summer drew nigh this year, and at the provincial capital issues of grain were made at a reduced rate from the Government granary, which the Governor-General had set on foot experimentally in the course of last year. The same course could not be pursued, however, in the outlying districts, where no scarcity had been officially declared. In the Kwan district, lying as it does in proximity to the territory of the wild tribes, the population, unable to gain a full livelihood by occupations such as digging for minerals used in pharmacy and washing for gold, are noted practitioners of the twan k’ung arts on behalf of the neighbouring people. Their skill not being called into requisition, on account of the prevailing scarcity, they have betaken themselves to acts of robbery. On the 22nd July last a band of some 100 or more of these people made an irruption into a cluster of villages, where they committed depredations under cover of night. The local levies turned out and killed six of their number, on which the band took refuge in the hills; and the Governor-General directed two detachments of braves, each 500 strong, to march against them. A series of small engagements took place hereupon, the result of which has been the complete overthrow of the banditti and the capture of their leaders, who have been put on trial and executed in public at the provincial capital. Honours
are requested for the officers who have distinguished themselves on this occasion.

Oct. 3rd. (1)—The Governor-General of Min-čhéh and the Governor of Fuhkien memorialize reporting the full particulars with respect to the trial and condemnation of the rebel-leader Yang Fu-ta'ng, after perusing the Imperial Decree which appeared on this subject in the Gazette of the 4th August. Having referred to his capture and successive trials, they state that the ex-rebel in question was a native of the district of Kwei-p'ing in Kwantsi. His name originally was Yang Kin-shéng, but from his childish name of A Ta', he was familiarly known as Yang Pock-marked A T'ai. He changed his designation to Yang Fu-ta'ng when being adopted as a relative by Yang Sui-ta'ng. He joined the rebels with his elder brother on the departmental city of Yang-nan being made the first centre of operations by Hung Siu-ts'üan (the Taiping Wang) after his rising in 1850. He participated in all the subsequent campaigns of the rebels, during their career through Kwantsi, up to the taking of Nanking, and rose to occupy successive dignities in the rebel army, until created a "Prince," with the title Fu Wang. In 1864 he made good his escape from Huchow to Shanghai, and thence proceeded in disguise to his native home. He subsequently visited Kweichow, Kwantung, Hunan, and Ngnahwei, never venturing to remain long in any one place, and on hearing lately that bravos were being enlisted in Fuhkien, he was about to offer himself in this capacity, when he was arrested at Ts'in-k'iang. As already reported, he was sentenced as guilty of treason to suffer death by lóng-ch'ē (the slicing process), and this penalty has been accordingly carried out. A list of the officials who distinguished themselves on the occasion of his capture is submitted for awards of Imperial recompense.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied with administrative details from the same quarter.

Oct. 4th. — The Governor-General of Sza-ch'wan memorializes at great length reporting the recapture and execution of a prisoner who had escaped from his guard while on the journey back to a district jail, after having been sentenced at the "autumn assize" to death by strangling. The prisoner, P'an Yeo-fu, had been found guilty of causing the death, by wounds inflicted in a quarrel, of a woman with whom he had been carrying on a criminal intercourse, and was sent back in June, 1873, to the district city of Yün-lien, to await the period of execution. Whilst on the road one day, having gone into a wayside cookshop with his guards, he feigned a sudden attack of indisposition, and being taken outside by one of the police he seized an opportunity, when the watch was off his guard, to slip off his chain and to throw himself over a precipice down a ravine. Ridding himself of his fetters and clothing, he made good his escape. Two months afterwards, however, he was recaptured by the Yünnan authorities at his native home, toward which he had made his way, and having been handed over in due course, he has been sentenced as the law directs to undergo immediate execution of his original sentence. The police whose negligence permitted his escape are to suffer the penalty of one hundred blows, and transportation for three years, as the law provides.

Oct. 5th. (1) A Decree. Whereas, on receiving from the Censor Yüan Ch'ing-yeh his memorial soliciting that measures be devised toward the abolition of the likin tax, and that a prohibition of the poppy culture be renewed, We laid commands upon the Board of Revenue to consider and report upon the same (see Gazettes of August 30th and Sept. 7th.) We have now received a memorial from the Board, soliciting that orders be issued to the Governments of all Provinces in which the likin tax is in force, to take such action as circumstances admit, in conformity with the reports to the Throne made by the Board in past years, and further soliciting that orders be issued prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy plant. The Board has heretofore memorialized Us, in the 6th and 12th years of our reign (1869 and 1873), requiring the provincial Governors-General and Governors to take measures toward abolishing likin stations, and to scrutinize closely the conduct of the officials employed in the collectarates. For all such action precedents exist which may serve as guides. With regard to decisions as to the closing of barrier-stations in Provinces where the likin tax-system is in force, or to arrangements with a view to efficient concentration, let the government of the Province concerned take the necessary measures, as circumstances may shew to be advisable, in conformity with the memorials of the Board of Revenue. Let any of the barrier officials who may be found so unprincipled as to be guilty of peculation in the funds of the collectorate and of harassing traders in transitu, be stringently impeached and punished. As
regards the cultivation of the poppy-plant, the prohibition on this score is one of the most rigorous nature. It is reported to Us by Yuan Chung-yeh, that whilst the interdict is not unheeded, in certain departments of Shansi, no attention is paid to it, for the most part, in the remaining departments and districts of the province. Let the Governor of Shansi give the needful orders to his subordinates to institute effective examination, and forthwith to issue earnest notifications prohibiting the culture. As it is to be feared that evil practices of this description may not be wanting in other provinces, let general orders be likewise issued by the Governors-General and Governors of all the provinces, requiring their subordinates to maintain a constant vigilant supervision, and, whether the cultivation has or has not been heretofore carried out alike to proclaim the prohibition with all stringency. Let them not permit the underlings and others connected with official departments to make use of pretexts for extortion and for harassing the interests of the people. For the rest, be it as it is proposed.

(2) A Decree. Whereas the army has now passed in successive detachments beyond the Wall (i.e. in the direction of Hami), let the Imperial Commissioner and Grand Secretary, Tao Tsang-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, act as Director-General of commissariat supplies and transport; and let the Under Secretary, Yuan Pac-heng, act as Assistant Director-General. Let the commissariat head-quarters for the campaign in the West be removed to Shu Chow, and let Yuan Pac-heng proceed to take up his quarters at that place.

(3) A Decree. Let Wén-che in charge of the Manufacturing Department at Hangchow.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is occupied by memorials on administrative details from Fuhkien.

Oct. 6th.—The Court Circular announces that his Majesty will leave the Palace tomorrow morning, after a refection, by the grand entrances, and passing through the Central South Gates of the Tartar and Chinese Cities, proceed to the Nan Ting Temple and offer incense. Entering [the Hunting Park] by the Great Red Gate, his Majesty will rest for a while in the robing pavilion, and after visiting two other temples will halt at the old yamen, to transact business and receive presentations. Preparations for setting out to be made at 4.30 a.m.

(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the result of the trial of Li Kwang-chao. On the 17th August he received an Imperial decree, in reply to his report stating that Li Kwang-chao was unable to supply the timber of which he had made offer as a voluntary contribution; and on the same day he further received a Council despatch forwarding a decree with reference to the dispute between Li Kwang-chao and the French and United States Consuls. He was lost in reverent admiration at the endeavours of his Sovereign to regulate aright the system of official discipline, and to award punishment to the guilty. In pursuance of the commands received, he instructed the authorities of Tientsin to apprehend Li Kwang-chao, which having been done, he caused the Acting Customs' and the local Taotai, with the Prefect of Tientsin, to institute a rigorous enquiry into the attempt at imposition made by Li Kwang-chao in his fraudulent offer to supply timber. The Governor-General having subsequently held a trial in person, after receiving the preliminary evidence, he took the following statement from Li Kwang-chao:—"I am a native of Kia-ying Chow, in Kwang-tung, and have lived for some time at Hanyang, in Huph, where I carried on business in timber and tea. In 1862, I purchased by contributions a brevet as Prefect, for which I received only the certificate of payment, not the warrant from the Board. The certificate was subsequently burnt. I was sued at law some time since at Hang-how with reference to a dyke I had constructed, and the case has not been brought to a settlement. In July, 1873, I went to Peking to dispose of some building wood. I was personally acquainted with the lately deceased Comptroller of the Household, Ch'ing-ming, the late acting Secretary to the Household Comptrol department, Kwei-pao, and the Household writer, Ch'eng-lin; and as the building works at Yüan-ming Yüan were on the point of being commenced, Ch'ing-ming and the others aforesaid enquired of me respecting the purchase of large timber. As I calculated that by proceeding to Szech'wan and other provinces, and falling timber in the forests, I could offer to supply, as a dutiful contribution, Tls. 10,000 worth of timber at an outlay of Tls. 3,000, I stated to Kwei-pao that I was willing to make offering of Tls. 100,000 worth of timber, to be delivered within a period of ten years. Kwei-pao took me to see his chief, who agreed to the proposal, and directed me to hand in a writen
application to be further considered. Upon this I left Peking, accompanied by Ch'eng-lin. On reaching Hupeh, I ascertained that timber could not be felled and got out from the forests under three years, and that the cost of the undertaking would be too great. I went thereupon to Hongkong, in Kwang-tung, where, in substitution for my original design, I purchased imported timber. In April last I contracted with the foreign merchant, An-ki, for the purchase of 32,000 feet of Manila wood, and paid ten dollars as bargain money, signing at the same time a contract. An-ki having shortly afterwards died, the timber he had agreed to supply passed into the hands of his creditors, and the affair fell through. A French merchant named Po-wei-li (Bonville?) had at this time some timber for sale, but, as I was without means, no arrangement could be come to for the time being. Ch'eng-lin being desirous of availing himself of this chance of getting a substantive appointment, said that he could raise money among his friends, and upon this a contract for the purchase was entered into. Ch'eng-lin went back to Peking with musters of the timber, and I proceeded to Foochow, where I agreed with Po-wei-li for the purchase of 35,000 feet, foreign measurement, of timber, being three cargoes, at $1.55 per foot, making in all a sum of $54,250. Payment was to be made at $1,55 per foot, making in all a sum of $54,250. Payment was to be made on delivery of the timber at Tientsin, with the stipulation that the sum of $60 per diem was to be paid for any demurrage; and bargain-money to the amount of $10 was hereupon paid, on conclusion of the contract. In June last I came to Tientsin, and the first shipload of timber was brought up by Po-wei-li; upon which I went on to Peking and reported the arrival of the timber, falsely representing the quantity to be 55,500 feet, foreign measurement, and the value to be Tls. 300,000. In actual fact, I had no means with which to purchase timber to provide as a dutiful offering. My only property was land assessed at 50 piculs of grain. During the time I was in business I was in a position to obtain accommodation, but of late I have been unsuccessful on all sides in endeavouring to raise money. As Ch'eng-lin, likewise, had failed to obtain a loan, and as moreover the timber delivered was not of a suitable kind, litigation ensued between the foreign merchant and myself. I did cause blocks to be engraved bearing the title 'Li, by Imperial appointment, Purveyor of timber for Yuan-ming Yuan,' and I also had flags prepared with a similar inscription.

The Governor-General has had produced before him the foreign text of the contract entered into with the foreign merchant An-ki, of which he has caused a translation to be made. It contains words to the effect that "Li, Superintendent of Yuan-ming Yuan, contracts on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor of China with A-fu-to An-ki, a merchant of Hongkong." On demanding of the prisoner how it came to pass that language so treasonable as this has been used, he declared that the wording in question did not exist in the Chinese copy of the contract, and on pressing for this document, it is stated to be no longer in existence. He further alleges that the Chinese translation is erroneous; but on interrogating Tai Tze-chên, the linguist whom he engaged at Hongkong for the special purpose of seeing to the Chinese text, this witness states that the wording in question does actually exist in the foreign text, and that it has not been mistranslated. The Governor General proceeds to observe that in contracts entered into between Chinese and foreigners, the title assigned to the Chinese merchant is that which is declared by the contracting party himself, and that the designation now found in the English text must have been taken from Li Kwang-chao's own assertions. He goes on to quote the statutory enactments applicable to the present case, viz., one to the effect that "any person fraudulently promulgating an Imperial Decree, shall suffer death by decapitation;" and again, "any person fraudulently alleging himself to have official employment near the Imperial person, and interesting himself in affairs outside the precincts of the Court, with intent to commit fraud or stir up troubles, shall suffer death by decapitation." In a protracted legal summing-up, the Governor-General decides that the case of Li Kwang-chao falls under the above enactments. Observing, further, on the heinous nature of the offence committed, he remarks that the false pretences concerning his position which were put forward by the prisoner led to his being actually styled by the foreign merchants "the Imperial Commissioner Li." When, on his return to Tientsin, his imposture began by degrees to leak out, he besought the United States' Consul to mis-state on his behalf the cost of the timber, which finally led to an application being made by the French Consul for his arrest. In conclusion, the Governor-
General requests sanction to the capital sentence pronounced as above stated.
(For Rescript ordering execution of Li Kwang-chao, see Gazette of Sept. 28th.)

Oct. 7th-8th. Owing to the Emperor's absence from Peking, the Gazette is published only on alternate days.

(1) A Decree. Let Wang Shao-tsu and Kow Sze-p'eng, the men who presented supplications to Us by the roadside this day, be handed over to the Board of Punishments, to be rigorously placed on trial.

(2) A memorial from the Censor Chow Huh, requesting that the hardships of which certain classes of expectant officials have to complain, in the way of delay in nomination to office, may be removed.

(3) Tu-hing-ni, the Military Governor of Shantung, and his colleagues, memorialize reporting that the incursion of banditti into the eastern portion of Manchuria, which has heretofore been reported has been repelled by levies got together from among the garrison troops and the local militia, and that in an action fought on the 6th September, in the prefecture of K'ai-yüan (near Hing-king), more than 200 of the bandits were slain. The remainder were almost wholly exterminated by the village levies in the course of their subsequent flight. The occasion is taken to point out that the established force of troops in Hing-king, important as that city is as the cradle of the dynasty, is but 470 men all told, and further that the office of Military Prefect (城守尉), which is charged with the duties of watching over the Imperial Mausolea, superintending works, collecting taxes, commanding the police, and instructing the soldiery, is one which holds out very small inducements to capable and deserving officers. It is proposed that a step of brevet rank, at his Majesty's pleasure, be annexed to the post, and that after three years' tenure the incumbent be entitled to presentation at Peking, in order to make the office more acceptable.

Oct. 9th-10th.—(1) A Decree awarding sundry distinctions to a number of officials who have distinguished themselves in martial exercises under his Majesty's eye at the Hunting Park.

(2) A rescript ordering the removal from office and trial of the jail-warden of Kwan-ch'eng Hien, in Shantung, where, as reported by the Governor, a prisoner has effected his escape. As is invariably the case on occasions of the kind, the District Magistrate is reported as having been absent on business at the moment; but he is to be visited with the due official penalty, and held bound to recover the prisoner.

(3) The Censor Wu Hung-ngén memorializes urging increased efficiency in the measures for repressing crime, especially with reference to the prevention of highway robbery. He represents that on all the post-roads throughout the empire guardhouses are established at regular intervals, and that in exposed localities watch-huts are further placed, between which, according to the terms of regulations extremely stringent and minute in character, watchmen and constables should patrol the road on the look-out for suspicious persons, and to convoy travellers in safety. If these rules were actively carried out, brigandage and robbery would not be heard of so constantly as in the case. The Censor is informed that crime of this description is rife in the country districts around Peking, and he instances a case of robbery practised during the current month at Tow Tien, the first stage on the great South road from Peking, on an official proceeding to Shansi. He further alludes to reports of the great prevalence of crime of this description in Fêng-tien, Chihli, Honan, Hupêh, Hu-nan, and Shantung, and to robberies perpetrated during the last year on treasure in course of transportation to Peking, and on the Corean embassy whilst returning to its own country. The cause of this state of insecurity is the want of the local authorities, who allow the guardhouses to fall into decay, and reduce the number of soldiers on duty to a mere fraction of the proper amount. It is true that at the watch-huts along the highways flags and notice boards are displayed, declaring so many watchmen and so many constables to be on duty, but this is a mere piece of empty routine. The criminal class is consequently encouraged to commit the most daring outrages, which are either left wholly unnoticed by the authorities, or misrepresented to their superiors as acts of theft instead of robbery with violence. Unless a remedy be applied, the highways of travel bid fair to become looked upon with dread, and the criminal classes to increase to such an extent as to entail the most serious disorders.

It is consequently prayed that the civil and military authorities throughout the Empire be commanded to restore the efficiency of the constabulary system.—A rescript to this effect appeared on the 30th September.

(4) The Governor-General of Szech'wan memorializes with reference to the pro-
posal that the right of summary execution be withdrawn from the provincial authorities. He represents that owing to the vast area of the province, and its proximity to the frontier territories, it contains a very large floating population, and is distinguished above all the other provinces for cases of robbery with violence. It is needful, accordingly, to retain the power of inflicting summary punishment.

(5) In a postscript memorial the Governor-General reports that the magistrate of the Kiang-ngan District, having been directed to attend to the supply of timber for lantern-masts at the Temple of Heaven at Peking, had spent close upon two years of unremitting effort in procuring suitable spars from the forest, and in having them dragged over steep mountain-paths to the nearest water. Owing to the rapids, however, by which the course of the stream is interrupted, the only means of navigation available in conveying the timber downwards (toward the Yangtze) was the use of bamboo-rafts, and by the wrecking of one of these at rapids in the Ya-ngan District, the magistrate, with four chair-bearers and one personal attendant, found a watery grave on the 26th June last. His body has been recovered and buried; and a token of Imperial commiseration and efficient service.

(4) The Governor of Hunan memorializes reporting the suicide of a District Magistrate, while attached to the Sale of Titles' Office, in consequence of mental affliction due to the threatened loss of his eyesight.

(5) The Superintendent of the Manufacturing Department at Hang-chow memorializes acknowledging the receipt of orders from the Board of Works, calling for the speedy transmission of sundry rolls of silk for Letters Patent, and other silken fabrics for uniforms of imperial chair-bearers, etc., which are required to be delivered for immediate use at Peking before the middle of September. In reply he has to state that, although he has made every preparation in the way of obtaining estimates, etc., for the supply of the fabrics required from him, the embarrassed condition of the provincial treasury has precluded the issue of funds required for this purpose. All he has been enabled to provide has been 1,200 pieces of silk for Letters Patent, in addition to which, already forwarded, he has put in hand 2,300 more pieces of the same kind, 300 suits of chair-bearers' uniforms, and 50 pieces of green crape, on receipt of the
necessary funds. The materials for which he has orders in hand, but which he is not prepared to deliver, are as follows (arranged in tabulated form by translator):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imperial chair bearers' uniforms</td>
<td>715 suits</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms for eunuchs attending on chairs of Imperial concubines</td>
<td>400 suits, green silk, 40 pieces</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms for Imperial lacqueys</td>
<td>631 suits, green silk, 64 pcs.</td>
<td>5,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauzes, etc., of various colours, 20 pieces</td>
<td></td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velvets required by Board of Revenue, 10,000 catties</td>
<td></td>
<td>160,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satins ordered by Household for His Majesty's own wear</td>
<td>516 pieces</td>
<td>8,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satins for Mongolian Princes and nobles at Hami—alloctment from Hangchow, 77 pcs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Taels ...232,460 odd.

No funds for any of the above requirements have been provided, and the Superintendent can only do his best, under the circumstances, in consultation with the Provincial high authorities, to manufacture and supply the most important items as may be found possible.

Oct. 13th-14th.—(1) A Decree in reply to a memorial by the Imperial Commissioner King-lien (commander-in-chief of the army of Turkestan), who has denounced a tso-ling for remissness. The offending functionary is stripped of his rank, and left with the army, to redeem his fault by further services.

(2 and 3) Decrees conferring a series of rewards on military officers for their services at the Hunting Park, and money donations to soldiers of the guards and musketeer brigade. Two degrees of honorary rank are also conferred on the Prince of Ch'un, Wen-siang, Taung-lun and other high officers, as titular directors of the musketeer brigade.

(4) A Decree expressing the Imperial sorrow on learning the news of the decease of Ch'eng-ki, the Resident in Tibet. In addition to the regulation sum of Taels 300 payable on behalf of his funeral rites from the treasury at Lasas, a further payment of Taels 300 is ordered to be made from the same quarter, and permission is given for the performance of the obsequies at Peking. Sung-kwei is nominated a brevet Fu Tu-tu'ng, and appointed to the vacant post of Resident.

(5) A Decree in reply to an appeal case from Yunnan. The Governor-General and Governor are directed in the usual terms to have the parties to the case and the records of previous proceedings brought before them, assisted by the Judicial Commissioner, and to enquire into the circumstances with minute care. After pronouncing a decision they are to report to the Throne. The man Hiiung Shun, who appears as representative of the female appellant, T'eng Wang-she, a woman of official rank, is to be sent back to Yunnan under guard, as the law provides.

(6) The acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow memorializes reporting the results of his second scrutiny into the qualifications of the civilian functionaries of the Province (see Gazette of June 21). As has already been reported, the civil service of the province was filled up, during and after the recent period of disorganization, with persons who had gained their appointments either by purchase or by military service, and the degree of education attained by many of these is inadequate to the proper discharge of their duties as administrative and judicial officers, with moreover the position of the district examiners to fill. Although practical ability and natural capacity are not solely to be looked for among the lettered class, yet, for success in the conduct of government, the memorialist states, there is no standard apart from the canon of literature. In the examinations which have been instituted for the purpose of weeding the civil service of the province, 21 Department, District, and assistant Magistrates have been similarly examined and classed, and those who have failed to reach a place in the third order are required to resign their positions and devote themselves to study. A number of those who are rejected appear to have been unable to write out the official statement of service which every functionary is required to produce.

(7) In a postscript memorial, the same official reports that on the 25th April last a brevet General named Liu Ch'ung-k'ung had murdered his wife at his residence in Yunnan Fu, and that on an inquest being held on the remains of the deceased, she was reported as aged 25, and was found to have been pregnant at the time of the murder. Wounds had been inflicted on the forehead and the throat, and the sword with which these had been inflicted was taken into...
safe keeping. On Liu Ch'ung-k'ing being 
arraigned on the charge of murder, he 
deposed that his age is 37; that he has 
fought through the rebellion as a leader of 
braves, and that, having lost his first wife, 
he married deceased in 1867. The usual 
agency of a marriage-broker was employed, 
and deceased, the daughter of one Chang 
Shên-yen, was represented to him as an 
unmarried girl, whereas, in fact, she had 
been already married. Her conduct, after 
becoming his wife, was extremely un-
becoming, and, taking advantage of his 
absence from home on the 23rd April, she 
grew with no two nights in amusement, 
and, as he was informed, had joined a 
party of gamblers. He sent for her 
repeatedly before she at length returned 
home, and, indignant with indignation at her 
conduct, and the reflection that during his 
absence from home for six years previously 
she had probably been guilty of the most 
disgraceful conduct, he drew his sword as 
she alighted from her chair, and killed her.

According to law, the penalty he has 
incurred for the murder of his wife is death 
by strangling, and the confirmation of a 
sentence to this effect is applied for.—

Rescript referring the case to the Board of 
Punishments.

Oct. 16th.—(1) A Decree. The horse 
presented to Us by Yung-t'ai-an, We have 
ridden and found suitable. Let the name 
of Iron Dragon Colt be conferred upon it; 
and let by special grace donation be made 
to Yung-t'ai-an of two rolls of red silk, one 
dagger, one large and two small purses.

(2) The Censor Liang-king-aien memo-
ralizes requesting that measures similar to 
those instituted in Yunnan for weeding 
the civil service of ignorant and incompe-
tent persons, who have gained access to 
oficial positions by purchase or military 
service, be carried into effect in all the 
provinces of the empire. He states that 
for a number of years past the character 
of the public service has become more and 
more lowered, and that there are numer-
ous cases of totally illiterate persons in 
positions of administrative trust.—A Re-
script has already appeared referring the 
proposal to the Board of Civil Office.

(3) Tao Taung-T'ang, Governor-General 
of Shensi and Kansuh, reports the arrival 
of the Lamaist hierarch, the Chiptsundampa 
Hut'ukh-t'u, at Sining, on his way from 
Tibet to his future residence at Urga. 
After repeating for a time at Sining he will 
continue his journey, under the escort of 
Mongolian troops provided for the purpose.

Oct. 16th. (1) A Decree in reply to a 
memorial by the Censor Hia Huen-king, 
who has represented the alarming pre-
valence of robbery and thieving in and 
about Peking, which the police authorities 
show themselves inert in attempting to 
check. Injunctions are laid upon the 
gendarmerie and civilian departments for 
the display of greater efficiency, under 
penalty of severe punishment in case of 
further neglect.

(2) The joint Governors of Shun-t'ien 
Fu memorialize with reference to the 
opening of the relief stations supported by 
Imperial bounty for the benefit of the 
destitute poor of the capital during the 
winter months. According to rule, the 
charitable asylum called the P'ut-si T'ang 
should be opened on the 15th of the 10th 
moon, and be closed about the 5th April 
in the following year. The amount of 300 
piculs of millet is the quantity allotted to 
this establishment, out of which one-third 
is assigned to another asylum called the 
Kung-teh Lin. Owing to the great increase 
of distress in 1896, an additional annual 
allowance of 500 piculs of millet was 
granted. The joint Governors now ask 
that the asylum may be opened a month 
later during the coming season than the 
rules provide, in conformity with the plan 
already adopted in previous years.—

Already assented to by Rescript.

(3) Li Hung-chung, Governor-General 
of Chihli, memorializes forwarding the 
report of Li Ch'ao-i, the Taotai in charge 
of the Yung-ting Ho (Hwéi Ho), who 
announces the safety of both banks of the 
river, owing to the measures taken to pre-
save them wherever threatened by breach, 
during the autumnal freshet period. The 
Governor-General observes that the em-
bankments of the Yung-ting Ho, consisting 
of mere sand, have been neglected for years, 
and that breaches have of late repeatedly oc-
curred in consequence. He has provided funds 
for restoring sluice-openings, by means of 
which to divert a portion of the waters in 
seasons of flood, and has laid stringent 
injunctions upon his subordinates to use 
the most diligent efforts in keeping the 
banks in order. The activity of the Taotai 
and his staff have succeeded, during the 
present year, in guarding against any 
breach in the embankments,—and pro-
motion and honours are requested on their 
behalf. The depth of water at the Lu 
Kow bridge (near Peking), after the 
autumn freshet, was 6 ch'ih 8 ts'un.

(4) In another memorial, the Governor-
General transmits a further report from the 
Taotai of the Yung-ting Ho, attributing 
to the divine assistance rendered by the 
Cod of Rivers and the Warrior (將 軍)
of the River itself, the success that has attended the efforts made this year to guard against floods. Temples exist near the River where these divinities are worshipped, and in A.D. 1751 the title Tranquil Flow, was imperially conferred upon the God of Rivers, in addition to that of Loving-kindness and Beneficence, which had previously been attached to the temple. The Warrior of the River has not, however, as yet, been honoured with any imperial title, and it is now solicited on behalf of this divine protector. Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report hereupon.

Oct. 17th.—(1) A Decree. The Grand Secretary, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, Jui-lin, whose character was one of tried excellence, devotion to duty, experience, wisdom, activity, and ability, was repeatedly singled out for advancement by Our predecessors on the Throne. After having been promoted to subordinate ministerial posts he was admitted a member of the Grand Council of State, and in the third year of Hien Feng (1853) he was invested with a special mission to proceed to Tientsin and other parts of Chihli, in command of forces employed against the insurgents, in which capacity he was able to report the ample discharge of his duty. After ascending the Throne, We appointed him Commander-in-Chief of the Manchu forces at Canton, from which post he was transferred to the Governor-Generalship. During the ten years that he has resided in Kwangtung, his conduct of affairs has been in all respects satisfactory, whether in the training of troops, the instruction of officials, the tranquilization of the border regions, or the administration of the provincial affairs. When the time arrived for presenting himself before Us for audience, he was continued in his post of Governor-General, and, in regulating the affairs incumbent upon him, whether at the capital or in the provinces, he spared no effort toward the thorough discharge of his functions. Having lately been attacked by illness, We granted him leave of retirement from his duty for the benefit of his health, and it was Our hope that he would by degrees become restored, and long continue in the enjoyment of Our favour and cherishing regard. The intelligence of his decease, which has now reached Us, has filled Us with the most profound sorrow. We ordain that the title of Grand Guardian of the Heir Apparent be posthumously conferred upon him, that allowance be made for his obsequies in the manner due to a Grand Secretary, and that his name be enrolled for sacrificial worship in the Temple of the Wise and Good. Let all penalties recorded against him during lifetime be remitted without exception, and let the proper department examine and report to Us concerning the donations which should be issued in conformity with existing rule. We sanction the return of his remains to Peking for the conduct of the funeral rites, and We ordain that, whilst the coffin is in process of transportation to the headquarters of his Banner, the authorities along the route shall do all that is needful to facilitate its progress. With regard to his sons, We ordain that the expectant Prefect Hwei-ta-pu shall, on the expiry of his period of mourning, await appointment to a minor ministerial office in the 4th rank ;—that there be conferred on the expectant Secretary Fuh-ni-yin-pu a secretarysthip of the yüan-wai-lang degree; and that, on the expiry of the hundred days' deep mourning, Hwa-sha-pu and Ha-fan-pu be brought by the authorities of their Banner for presentation before Us. In this wise Our desire to bear in earnest remembrance a veteran servant of the Throne may be made manifest.

(2) A Decree, appointing the Governor of Ngan-hei, Ying-han, to be Governor-General of the Two Kwang; the Governor of Hupeh, Wu Yuan-ping, to be Governor of Ngan-hei, to which post he is to proceed at once, without being obliged to come to Peking for audience; and Ung T'ung-tao to be Governor of Hupeh. The Governor of Kwangtung is to act temporarily as Governor-General at Canton. On the arrival of Wu Yuan-ping to relieve him, Ying-han is to come to Peking for audience.

(3) A Decree referring to a memorial by Mao Ch'ang-hi and his colleagues (of the Board of Civil Office), to the effect that the decisions arrived at by the Board of Punishments concerning a prisoner sentenced to death at a state trial, and other cases, are in all respects correct—also to a memorial by Ying-kwei and his colleagues (of the Board of Civil Office), to the effect that the revised sentence upon Ch'eng-luh (the Manchu General sentenced to death last winter) is not in harmony with the decision pronounced by the Ministers of the Grand Council in concert with the Board of Punishments. A report in reply is called for from the Board of Punishments.

(4) The Vice-Presidents of the Granaries memorialize urging that larger quantities of grain be henceforward remitted from
the provinces for the supply of Peking. They state that owing to the disorders caused by the rebellion, the supply of grain has been so deficient for the last 20 years as to reduce the issue of the grain-allowance to officials to one-half of the proper amount, whilst to the soldiery no more than 1/5th of the regulation issue can be made. From the three provinces, Kiang-nan, Ngan-hwei, and Chekiang, from which tribute in kind is forwarded, not more than about 1,000,000 piculs of rice can be obtained annually, to which have to be added some 200,000 piculs of millet from Shantung. They now urge that the provinces bordering on the Yangtze be required to contribute annually some three or four million piculs of grain by way of revenue in kind, in order to meet the requirements of the capital. Arrangements might be made either for inland transportation or for shipment by the C. M. S. Co.'s steamers.

(5) An appeal case from Hunan. The murder of a man named Liu Yü-kwei is complained of.

(6) The Governor of Hunan reports that Tseng Ki-tseh, 齊紀澤, the eldest son of the late Tseng Kwoh-fan, at present aged 36, having completed his 27 months' period of mourning, is about to proceed to Peking to take up the hereditary second degree of nobility which descends to him from his father.

Oct. 18th.—The Governor-General of the Two Hu memorializes reporting the result of a final investigation into the case of a military subaltern named Hwang Yu-shu, the bearer of a hereditary title of nobility, who had been preliminarily degraded, pending enquiry. Being in charge of a military post at a district city in Hupeh at the close of last year, he received a report from two of the soldiers under his command to the effect that a certain householder named Li Chi'ung-wang was carrying on illicit distillation. The fact was that this man was distilling some spirits from a few measures of grain for his own use at the approaching New Year. He had the man arrested, and, refusing credence to his explanation, he ordered him to be punished with 40 blows, after which he let him go. On the trial that has now been held, this illegal action has been substantiated by proof, and it is decided that the offender be cashiered and stripped of his hereditary title.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Hu memorializes soliciting a mark of Imperial approbation in the usual form on behalf of a sister of Wang Wen-shao, the present Governor of Hunan. This lady was married in 1863, at the age of 27, as second wife to a Chekiang K'uején, named Wu Si-huang, who, unhappily, was carried off by illness when barely three months wedded. Since that period his widow has lived an exemplary life in the household of her brother, constantly mourning her bereavement, and the absence of an heir to keep up her late husband's ancestral line. She was lately on the point of adopting a child of her brother-in-law, when, before the infant could be brought to her from his parents' residence in Hupeh, she fell ill, in December last, and died. Her virtuous constancy is highly lauded, and commended to His Majesty's gracious consideration.—Rescript acceeding to the request.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang reports the apprehension of four members of a confederacy of gamblers, who had been reported as carrying on their trade along the banks of the Yangtze between Hankow and Ngan-k'ing, and as having committed a number of murders. One of the prisoners had confessed to participation in the murder of five persons, in the course of a piratical attack upon a travelling boat, and to two murders committed on the persons of individuals decoyed into gambling. A second prisoner, Li, the dwarf, confessed to having been the master spirit on board the boat where gambling was carried on, and to having instigated two murders. The two others made confession of accessory acts of the same nature. All four have been summarily executed, and the heads of the two principal offenders exposed as a warning.

(4) In a postscript memorial the Governor-General, Li Tsuung-hi, represents the expediency of postponing the triennial military inspection which he has been commanded to undertake, on the ground that it is not expedient for him at present to proceed to a distance from Nanking. He will undertake the duty as soon as circumstances admit.

Oct. 19th.—(1) A Decree, ordering that Liu Ch'ung-yao, Governor of Kwangsi, be mulcted in a year's salary, on the report of the Board of Civil Office, respecting his shortcoming in the dilatory transmission of an address of congratulation.

(2) Ngeh-leh-bo-pu, the military Governor of Ulanhsutai, referring to his previous applications for sick-leave, reports his health as now to some extent restored, and states that although still weak and needing care and repose, he is prepared to
devote himself to his duty. He intends setting out from Kalgan on the 18th inst., to proceed to his post.

(3) The Controllers of the Household memorialize stating that the annual period of office is about to expire in the Superintendency of Manufactures at Hangchow, which has been filled since 1871 by Wen-ch'e, and the Imperial pleasure is asked regarding the appointment.—For rescript see Gazette of 5th inst.

(4) The Board of Revenue memorialize in obedience to Imperial commands with reference to the statement laid before the throne by the Censor Yuan Ch'ung-yeh (see Gazettes of Aug. 30th and Sept. 7th).

After quoting largely from the Decree and Memorial, the Board proceed to observe that the revenue from li-kin in no wise forms part of the regular financial system, but has been introduced as a necessary adjunct at a period of drain on the exchequer. Whilst its abolition cannot be precipitately undertaken, measures for its due regulation are at the same time indispensable. So far back as 1869 the Board memorialized, stating that in Ngan-hwei and six other provinces the li-kin offices were too thickly planted, and the respective governments were ordered to do away with some of their number. In August last year, moreover, the Board requested, when commenting on a memorial on finance presented by Ssu T'ung, that orders be issued to the provincial governments to administer the li-kin revenue economically, and to take severe measures for the punishment of any officials or underlings guilty of malpractices in the collectorate. It is admitted that matters must be on a very scandalous footing if the Censor's late allegations be true, and it is requested that renewed commands be issued to the provincial Governments for a reduction in the number of barrier-stations. As regards the question of poppy cultivation, this is totally opposed to the law, and the Board solicited in 1868 Imperial disapproval of the action proposed by the Governor of Shansi, in respect of levying a tax by way of fine on all lands found actually employed in producing poppies. This, it was held, would be tantamount to encouraging the growth. The Board, in concert with the Board of Punishments, drew up thereupon a penal clause, directed to the prohibition of the poppy cultivation, which has been issued to all the provincial Governments after receiving Imperial sanction. It is now proposed that fresh orders be sent to the Governor of Shansi, to repress the abuses complained of by the Censor; and that general orders to the same effect be sent to all the remaining provincial Governments.

Oct 20th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wu Yuan-ping 大元炳 be transferred (see Gazette of 17th) to the post of Governor of Kiangsu, and proceed forthwith to his post, without being required to come to Peking for an audience. Let Yu-luh 裕祄 be made Governor of Ngan-hwei, Shao Hien be made Financial Commissioner of Ngan-hwei, and Hing-kw'ei Judicial Commissioner of Honan. Until Wu Yuan-ping's arrival, let the Governor-General Li Tsang-hi act likewise as Governor of Kiangsu.

(2) A Decree. The 10th day of the 10th moon of this year (November 18th) being the fortieth birthday of her Majesty Ts'ze Hi T'wan Yeo K'ang I (the Empress-mother), the Board of Ceremonies have requested that a ceremonial be held and a banquet be given in accordance with established rule. To this her Majesty has replied in a benign mandate as follows: "Let the ceremonial be held on the day in question in the Ts'ze Ning Pavilion. After its conclusion, there will of course be a banquet in the private apartments. The proposal that a banquet be held in accordance with precedent need not be carried into effect. Let the Imperial princesses, consort princesses, and official ladies beyond the precincts of the Palace be permitted to enter the Palace to offer homage. For the rest, be it as is proposed." This being reverently received (欽此), let it be promulgated to all the departments concerned, to be by them respectfully obeyed.

(3) The Governor-General of Chihli applies for rewards on behalf of the officers through whose exertions a piratical junk has been captured by a steam gunboat of the Chinese navy. The Taotai at Chefoo has reported as follows: On the 6th Nov., 1873, complaint was lodged by a merchant belonging to Kai Chow, in Manchuria, to the effect that a junk chartered by his firm had been captured and carried off with her whole cargo some ten days previously, while lying windbound at the island of Sien-yün, near Kai Chow, by a piratical junk. The Taotai, hereupon, without hesitating on the ground that the crime had been committed in another jurisdiction, felt it his duty to take stringent measures toward the apprehension of the offenders, and he communicated at once with Wu She-chung, the officer in command of the Foochow arsenal gumbant Fei-yün, detailed for service at Chefoo.
He also sent a party of foreign-armed soldiers on board the gunboat. The pirate having been overhauled at Ju-shan K'ow, in the Hai-yang District, Wu She-chung, followed by his first and second officers, captured her, with seventeen of her crew. One of his men, in jumping on board, missed his footing and was drowned. Four of the ringleaders have been summarily beheaded, and the remainder sentenced according to law. The junk and cargo have been given back to the owners. Upon this report the Governor-General, referring to a late case in which honours were awarded to the commander of the Mei-gun steam gunboat, a vessel built by the Chinese Government itself, (see Gazette of July 3rd), requests that Major Wu She-chung be breveted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and his first and second officers be breveted respectively as a captain and a lieutenant. Also that sergeants' grades be conferred on five of the most meritorious of the crew, and a money gratuity be paid on behalf of the seaman who was drowned. Rescript according to the requests.

(4) In a postscript Memorial the Governor-General requests sanction to the appointment of an officer named Chang Shu-teh 張曙德 as captain commanding the cantonment of Koh-ku, a position important from its command of the rear of the Taku forts. The appointment is in some respects contrary to regulation, but as the officer in question is eminently qualified for the post, being an adept in European gunnery and words of command, beside having shown great efficiency in the discharge of military duty at the port, it is requested that his appointment to the command in question may be allowed. He is at present serving with the howitzer train of the Governor-General's body-guard.—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

Oct. 22nd.—(1) The Governor-General of Szech'wan, Wu Tang, memorializes requesting sanction to two months' remission of charges of robbery with violence, owing to the difficulty of obtaining confession or the evidence of witnesses. No remedy to the existing state of affairs can be suggested, as the idea of circuits of judicial delegates is shewn to be impracticable; and the only thing to be done is to issue renewed injunctions to the Magistrates to deal as speedily as possible with the arrears in question.

Oct. 21st.—The Civil Governors of Shuangking (Manchuria) memorialize forwarding their report upon the arrears of judicial cases in the Magistracies under their jurisdiction, respecting which the Censor Tung King-lin complained at the close of last year. From enquiries made by delegates sent for the purpose to the different districts now in question, it appears that the judicial cases in suspense vary from a minimum of fifty or sixty, some being of recent and others of long-standing origin. The cause assigned for the protracted delays on the part of the courts of first instance in pronouncing their judgments, is the apprehension of erring on the side either of leniency or of severity on the part of the Magistrates, where evidence is of a conflicting nature. Thus, in the case of charges of homicide, the accused, who has taken a life, in dread of the penalty of the law will invariably seek to put the best face possible on the circumstances; whilst the relatives of the deceased, in their desire to gain redress, will with equal certainty falsify their statements to enhance the gravity of the charge. The truth cannot possibly be arrived at without adequate witnesses; but persons dwelling in the immediate vicinity of the scene of the crime complained of, and actual eyewitnesses thereof, either hesitate to give straightforward evidence, lest they incur enmity by doing so, or fearful of being involved in trouble themselves, they take refuge in flight. The decision of such charges is consequently impeded through the difficulty of arriving at the facts of the case. A similar difficulty makes itself felt in connection with charges of robbery with violence, owing to the difficulty of obtaining confession or the evidence of witnesses. No remedy to the existing state of affairs can be suggested, as the idea of circuits of judicial delegates is shewn to be impracticable; and the only thing to be done is to issue renewed injunctions to the Magistrates to deal as speedily as possible with the arrears in question.

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Commissioner of Finance to conduct correspondence on his behalf.—Rescript granting the request.

(2) The officiating Governor of Shantung memorializes denouncing the officials responsible for the escape of a prisoner from the jail of the Kwan-ch'eng District in Shantung. The acting Magistrate has reported that he was deputed on the 28th July by his superior, the Prefect of Ts'ao-chow Fu, to proceed to the Ch'ao-ch'eng District to take part in certain judicial proceedings, and on the 29th he received a report from the sub-deputy Magistrate in charge of the jail, to the effect that at 3 a.m. of that day, during a storm of wind and rain, the jailers and others being fast asleep under shelter within doors, a prisoner named Li Yung had broken his fetters, wrenched off the lock of his cage, forced open a door, and escaped over the wall. On his flight being discovered, the jailers had followed in pursuit, but without success. The prisoner in question was under remand from last year to the present, under sentence of death by strangulation, for the homicide of a person named Chang Fu-t'ung, in revenge for the death of prisoner's father, in which he had borne a share. The Magistrate is adjudged guilty of carelessness, both before and after the escape, although he states that he was absent at the time on duty, and the keeper of the jail with his subordinates is exposed to suspicion of guilty connivance at the act. It is requested that sanction be given to his being stripped of his office and brought to trial, the Magistrate being held answerable meanwhile in the usual manner for the recapture of the prisoner.

Oct. 23rd. —(1) The Governor-General of Chihli reports the result of a rehearing in an appeal case, referred back from Peking, on the complaint lodged by Wang Wang-she, a woman of the Ho-kien District, who charged one Wang-kwang, owing to his sudden departure from home, and she further suspected the tythingman and neighbours of hushing up his connection with the affair. As he was not apprehended, after petitioning the Prefect, she came to Peking. By omitting to lodge her appeals with the superior provincial tribunals before resorting to the capital, she has by law incurred the penalty of fifty stripes, and sentence to this effect is passed upon her, with liberty to redeem the corporal punishment by a fine. The allegations brought in her appeal are declared unfounded. Search is to be continued for the actual murderer, and for the missing man, Wang-kwang.

(2) In a postscript memorial the Governor-General transmits the report made by the Customs' Tower of Tientsin, respecting the remission of duties, according to regulation, on the merchandise imported at Tientsin by the grain junks from the South. Each junk is allowed to import one-fifth of her carrying capacity in merchandise free of import duty; and the amount of
duties remitted on junks arriving up to the end of the transport season, in June-July last, was Taels 29,679.1.2.

Oct. 24th.—(1)—The Court of Censorate memorialize forwarding the appeal of T'eng Wang-she, widow of an official, which has been lodged on her behalf by her messenger Hsiung Shun. Appellant, who is aged 41, a native of Szech'wan, complains to the effect that her husband, now deceased, took up in 1869 his appointment as Assistant Department Magistrate of Luh-liang Chow, in Yunnan. His superior officer, Ma Tsung-chow by name, was a man of harsh and grasping character. On his endeavouring to impose an increase in the amount of taxation, the notables and people of the department set up an inscribed slate, which appellant's husband was ordered to destroy, but he did not venture to obey this order. This led to ill-feeling on the Magistrate's part. Somewhat later, a criminal under sentence of transportation from Honan arrived at the department as his allotted station, whereupon the Magistrate ordered him to receive two thousand blows with the heavy bamboo, and to be confined in a wooden cage, there to be kept standing upright until he should die. This order also appellant's husband did not venture to carry into effect, and the Magistrate's anger against him increased in consequence. Last year, two of the education officers came to warn him that the case in the usual manner, see Gazette of 13th inst.)

(2)—The Governor of Chekiang reports that on the 26th July a dismasted Liu-chuan trading junk was brought into the port of Ts'iao-t'ou, in the Yii-hwan department, having been found drifting about at the mercy of the waves, by some fishing junks. The Magistrate, whose report is forwarded, states that on proceeding to the anchorage he found the junk lying there, and on inspecting the vessel he found the hull to be about 10 chang in length, by 2 or 3 chang breadth of beam. The masts, rudder, sails, rigging, &c., were all gone, as were also the cargo, clothing, coverings, and money belonging to the crew. None of the persons on board could speak Chinese, but one of them could write a little, and from him the names of the crew were elicited. They were ten in all, beside four who had been lost overboard; and they stated that they had sailed from Napa, in Liu chiu, on the 16th July, on a trading voyage, but, having been overtaken by storms on the 20th and 21st, they lost all their masts
and gear, and were obliged to throw everything overboard to save the vessel. After this they drifted at the mercy of the waves until fallen in with and rescued by the fishermen. The Magistrate has caused the junk to be repaired, and supplied with fresh masts and other necessary gear; and the Governor is about to forward her with her crew to Foochow, in order that they may thence be sent back to their own country.

Oct. 25th.—(1)—The Court Circular announces that the General-in-chief of Yunnan, Ma Ju-lung, has paid his respects on arrival at Peking, and had audience. (N.B.—This is the well known Mahomedan General who maintained the defence of Yunnan Fu against his former brothers-in-arms, the Panthays, and whose relations with M.M. Lagrée and Garnier are described in the records of the French Cambodian Expedition).

(2)—The Governor of Honan reports the trial and sentence proposed in the case of a man named Hwáng Chchang-tsai, for the crime of accidental matricide. The man in question lived with his wife and a young girl, his affianced wife, who had been brought up from childhood at his home in that capacity, and who at the time the offence was committed had reached the age of 15. On the 20th June last, Hwáng Chchang-tsai came home from his work the worse for liquor, and on counting the chickens in the yard noticed that one was missing. The girl, on being asked about this, replied that one had been carried off by a crow (kite),—upon which, in a fit of drunken rage, Hwáng Chchang-tsai drew a knife from his belt and made a lunge at her. The girl took to flight, and as she ran into the house, pursued by Hwang Chchang-tsai, she was met by his mother at the door. In attempting to stab the girl as he ran, he plunged the knife into his mother's breast, and she fell dying to the ground. On trial being held, the sentence passed, in conformity with sundry precedents, is that the prisoner do suffer death by decapitation, in lieu of the "slicing to death," which is the penalty for acts of intentional parricide. This sentence is referred by Rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

Oct. 26th.—(1)—The Governor of Honan reports the rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking, with the sentence passed on appellant. A man named Fu Wu had complained, stating that certain individuals had caused the death of his wife by assaulting her and bringing about a premature delivery. On investigation it is found that appellant had borrowed money in 1871 on the mortgage of his dwelling, and having been unable to repay his debt, was sued in the Magistrate's Court, when judgment was given ordering a foreclosure to be made. Fu Wu, having no other place of abode, delayed obedience to this order, and when at length the creditor went to demand possession of the premises, an altercation arose between his wife and the wife of one of the parties concerned. The same evening she gave birth to a child, which died three days afterwards from cramps. The charge brought by Fu Wu having been proved false and calumnious, he is sentenced according to law to the penalty of 100 blows, and to transportation for four years.

(2)—The same official reports the escape from his guards of a criminal under sentence of strangulation, while under convoy from one prison to another. He seized an opportunity to break his manacles and escape. The District Magistrate responsible is exposed to the usual penalties.

Oct. 27th.—(1)—The Censor Hia Hien-k'ing memorializes representing the alarming increase of crime in and around Peking, which he ascribes to the inefficiency of the police authorities, and to the mutual shifting of responsibility between the civil and military departments. (A Rescript enjoining increased care in this respect has already appeared).

(2)—The Governor-General of the Two Kwang reports in a postscript memorial the arrest and execution of a noted malefactor at Swatow, named Yang Tsink-wuang, under charges of piracy and kidnapping. The offender in question was in past years compradore to a foreign firm, and had made himself a terror to the country around Swatow through his misdeeds—daring. At Swatow itself he had set up a hong under the name Sin-hsing, and, among other acts, he had appropriated to himself beachlands belonging to Government, for building purposes. Persons able to testify against him were fearful of coming forward, lest he should avenge himself upon them, but on his being at length seized by the authorities, evidence was forthcoming, and he confessed to the crimes alleged against him. He acknowledged that about the years 1859-1860 he had established a hong at Double Island, nominally for trading purposes, but in reality as a kidnapping depot, and that in 1863 he had removed from thence to Swatow; and he further admitted that in 1859 he had been concerned in a piratical seizure of a junk at sea, when two lives were taken. His brothers A-mow and A-pat had been concerned with him.
from 1859 to 1861 in the kidnapping business. On these crimes being brought home to the prisoner, he was sentenced to summary execution, and on the 12th July last was beheaded, in order that a salutary warning might be afforded.

Oct. 28th.—(1) A Decree. We have received a memorial from the Grand Council and the Board of Punishments, presenting an appeal offered by the prisoner Ch'eng-luh, requesting that a High Commission be appointed to hold a further investigation. In the case of Ch'eng-luh, now removed from the office of Commander-in-chief of Urumtai, who was accused of causing the death of a large number of persons under a false charge, the Grand Council and the Board of Punishments have already held a trial, and sentenced the accused to summary execution, in accordance with analogous precedents. As, moreover, it appeared that Ch'eng-luh had actually been misled through giving ear to the representations of others, and his case accordingly differed from that of falsely representing well-conducted persons in the light of robbers, Our pleasure was asked as to the expediency of communting this sentence into that of execution after imprisonment. Upon this the Ministers of the Presence, the Grand Secretaries, and the Presidents of the Six Boards and the Nine Courts sat in council, and memorialized recommending that the sentence as proposed be carried out. Our rescript was issued hereupon, commuting the sentence to that of execution after imprisonment. This was in very fact an exercise of clemency beyond the limits of the law. Is it possible, then, to allow the prisoner in question to indulge in further obvinate contention at his own pleasure? Let the sentence already passed, of execution after imprisonment, be carried into effect; and let the appeal and other papers presented by Ch'eng-luh remain unnoticed. (N.B. — This rescript would have decided the fate of the prisoner in this notorious case, as regards his execution before the approach of winter, were it not that in respect for the 40th birthday of the Empress-mother, His Majesty signs no death warrants this year. A respite of at least a twelvemonth consequentially ensues).

(2 and 3)—Memorials by the Governor of Shantung respecting defalcations in the accounts of two District Magistrates, deceased. Their assets are to be seized on behalf of Government.

Oct. 29th.—(1) A Decree. Let Shen Tiu-lan be appointed to the vacancy of Taotai of the Ch'ang-Chên-T'ung circuit. (The official thus appointed to the Taotai ship at Chinkiang was lately promoted from a senior clerkship in the Yamên of Foreign Affairs—a post similar to that held by the Burlingame "co-envoys," Chih-kang and Sun Chia-ku—to a post as Censor. He now succeeds to the vacancy caused by the death of the late Taotai Li Ch'ang-hwa).

(2)—The President of the Board of Civil Office, Mao Ch'ang-hi, and his colleagues, memorialize stating that in conformity with a recent decree issued on application of the Board of Punishments, they have proceeded to act as tribunal of revision for the sentences in capital cases which have come up for final decision, whether in the category of "immediate" or "postponed" execution. The present proceeding, they recite, is in conformity with a Decree issued in the 22nd year of K'ing (1817), providing that, whereas as regards all sentences passed in the Provinces at the ts'ai shên, or "trials for the Autumn assize," the Board of Punishments has the duty of revising the judgments given as regards the urgency or otherwise of execution, and whereas no revision had previously been constituted for sentences passed by the Board of Punishments itself, subject only to confirmation at the ch'ao shên, or Palace assize, from the year following the date of the Decree there should be appointed annually a commission of high officers of State to revise the sentences passed by the Board of Punishments in capital cases. The tribunal appointed this year has now accordingly revised and confirmed the sentences passed on eight prisoners, in eight distinct cases, of which four, including one official, belong to the "immediate" category, and four to that of "postponement." The members of the Tribunal are Mao Ch'ang-hi, Ta'ung-k'í, Yin Chao-yung, Yung-luh, K'ing-shêng, Wên Pao-shên, and Sî T'ung. Four of these hand in a separate report (see below).

(3)—Ying-kwei, Manchu President of the Board of Civil Office, Ta'ung-k'í, Yung-luh, and K'ing-shêng, (all Manchus) memorialize, reciting their appointment (as in the foregoing paper) to serve on the tribunal of revision for sentences passed in capital cases by the Board of Punishments; and after stating that they have agreed with their three (Chinese) colleagues in confirming seven out of the eight sentences subjected to their revision, they proceed to remark upon the remaining case, that of the General-in-chief of Urumtai, Ch'eng-luh. In this case, they observe, the
grounds on which his Majesty was originally moved to grant a reprieve from immediate execution was that, in causing the death of upwards of 200 persons as he did, Ch'êng-luâ was misled by listening to the representations of others, and did not personally head the troops who caused the wanton destruction of life, for which he has been found guilty. Now, in the sentence submitted by the Board, the wording is merely as follows: "A high official who has caused the death under misstatements of upwards of 200 persons, heretofore reprieved from instant execution; his case admits of no further exercise of leniency." This sentence, however, does not agree with the declaration appearing in the confession of the prisoner, to the effect that he was misled, etc., as above stated; and a separate memorial is accordingly lodged to this effect.

Oct. 30th.—(1)—The Governor of Shansi memorializes with reference to the proposal of the Censor Têng K'êng-lin, for the withdrawal of the right of summary execution from the provincial local authorities. The Governor represents that the condition of affairs in Shansi, owing to its proximity to the Mongolian frontier, as also to the regions lately in the possession of insurgents in Kansuh and Shensi, is such as to necessitate the continuance of summary powers for the infliction of the death penalty. Mounted brigands still flourish, and the province is much infested with disband ed braves, whorove about committing depredations. This state of affairs is connected in a measure with the campaign still in progress in the direction of Siniigar.

(2)—The same official reports his resumption of office after retirement for a month on sick cong. His health is still enfeebled, but some improvement has been obtained by repose.

Oct. 31st.—(1)—A Decree handing over to the Board for punishment certain officers of the Palace guards, whose remissness allowed a runaway horse and cart to dash yesterday through two of the palace gateways.

(2)—The Governor-General of Szech'wan forwards the address presented to him by certain notables of the province, headed by Sieh Ilwan (who in 1860-1862 resided in Shanghai as Imperial Commissioner for Foreign Trade), in the interest of the diffusion of knowledge. They represent the paucity of well-qualified instructors in Szech'wan, and the lack of good editions of the national classics and historians,—to meet which essential requirements of education the provincial notables have subscribed funds, and provided a site at the provincial capital for the erection of a college, where they propose engaging professors of distinction, and establishing moreover a block-cutting office for the reproduction of the standard classics and historical works. This praiseworthy undertaking is commended to the Imperial notice.

(3)—The Governor-General of the Yellow River reports the safety of the embankments up to the end of September.

Nov. 1st.—(1)—The Court of Censorate memorialize forwarding the petition of 36 literary graduates, of whom two have appeared in person, complaining against exactions and oppression at Tao Chow (40 miles south of Peking). They state that the departmental city in question is the thoroughfare for the road to sixteen provinces, and that couriers to all parts of the empire are perpetually passing to and fro with despatches. The Imperial postal station there is required to maintain 192 horses, with an annual provision of nine hundred thousand catties of grass (or hay). The official allowance is 500 cash per thousand catties, which is paid to the country people, who are required to procure the forage. Certain underlings of the Magistracy, in whose hands these arrangements are placed, are now complained against as making the supply of forage a means of enriching themselves at the expense of the people. They send out to the more wealthy villages, and require the community to pay a commutation in lieu of providing forage, whilst from other places they exact more than the proper amount to make good the shortcoming elsewhere. The number of horses actually kept is no more than 100, and in cases of urgent need for a greater number squeezes are levied from the inhabitants by a series of underlings in order to provide the necessary means. Appeals having been made to the department Magistrate, he has been so blinded by his underlings as to deal most harshly with the appellants, some of whom have been stripped of their rank, imprisoned, and cruelly beaten; and, after divers ineffectual attempts to obtain justice, the present appeal is now lodged at the capital.

(2 and 3)—The Governor-General of the Two Kiang memorializes reporting that, through the death of his stepmother, the Governor of Kiangau has been compelled to retire from office; and further that the Brigadier-General commanding at Pûhsian (on the Yangtse) has been similarly compelled to resign his post through the death of his mother. In the case of the
last named official, whose services are peculiarly important at the present juncture in the post which he has filled for a number of years, and with the duties of which he is familiar, it is requested that he may be left in command, as holding an "acting" appointment.—Assented to by rescript.

Nov. 2nd.—(1)—A Decree expressing the Imperial regrets on the decease of Sun Tain, a Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, who for upwards of 30 years has done good service to the State in his successive appointments. The usual remissions and honours are accorded.

(2)—A Decree.—Let Ma Ju-lung be transferred to the post of General-in-chief in Hunan, and Hu Chung-ho be transferred to the post of General-in-chief in Yunnan (from Szechwan). Let Sung King be appointed to the post of General-in-chief in Szechwan.

(3)—The Governor of Hupeh reports the apprehension of a gang of disbanded braves, who have been committing depredations for some time past. Such of them as have not died in prison before execution, have been beheaded.

Nov. 3rd.—This day's Gazette contains nothing of importance.

Nov. 4th.—(1)—A Decree expressing the Imperial regrets on the decease of the ex-Grand-Secretary Kia-chung, who has for some years past been in retirement on full pension. His name is to be enrolled in the Temple of Worthies.

The remainder of the Gazette is taken up with memorials on administrative details from the Governor of Yunnan.

Nov. 5th.—The Governor of Shensi memorializes reporting the result of an investigation into certain charges brought by and against a military officer of the rank of captain stationed at Yang Hien. On taking over charge of his post in 1869, he found that a balance of Taels 110 on account of a certain government fund, which should have been handed over to him by his acting predecessor, had not been accounted for by that officer before his departure, and he reported him accordingly in the proper quarter. On enquiry it has been found that the officer placed in temporary charge of the command, after the death of a previous incumbent, finding the supply of arms to be deficient, had used 60 Taels of the amount in question in completing the equipment in this respect; whilst the remaining 50 Taels he had given to the family of the deceased officer, who were without the means of returning to their home with the remains. It was his intention to make good the total sum out of his own pay, so soon as he should take up his proper post elsewhere: and on this account he had said nothing about the deficiency when handing over charge to the new arrival, King-fuh. Having now replaced the amount in full, it is requested that further proceedings may be dropped against him. As regards the charge against King-fuh, which was to the effect that he had carried off a girl by force, and eventually caused her death, the facts are as follows. Having no hope of offspring from his concubine, (his wife being already dead), he arranged for the acquisition of a second concubine through certain middlemen, who found for him the daughter of one Li Tai-yung. The marriage was delayed by the death of the girl's father, but in October, 1871, the event took place, and it is noted that the mother of the girl, wishing to invest the occurrence with as much dignity as possible, sent her daughter to King-fuh's house in a small chair attended by a band of music (as though she had been a legitimate bride.) II feeling subsequently arose through King-fuh having forbidden any intercourse between the girl and her mother; and some few months later, not being able to agree with the elder concubine, the girl fled from the house, taking refuge with a relative named Wang Ping. All trace of her whereabouts was lost for a time, and as a shoe of hers was found on the riverbank, her mother jumped at the conclusion that she had been drowned by King-fuh. She lodged a complaint to this effect with the Governor-General; but the girl's brother subsequently came forward to declare that she was safe and sound in Wang Ping's house, and the accusation has been withdrawn. It is now requested that King-fuh, who had been stripped of his rank and suspended, may be restored to his original position, subject to any penalties that his Majesty may authorize the Board to decide upon for allowing a concubine to be sent to his house accompanied by a band of music.

Nov. 6th.—The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes stating his views with reference to the Censor Tung King-lin's proposal that the right of summary execution be withdrawn from the hands of local authorities. He represents that the summary execution of criminals in cases of brigandage and offences of the sort are devised with the object of affording a salutary warning by the swiftness of retribution, admitting at the same time the system is one of but temporary expediency for the suppression of disorders. As regards the province of
Shantung, the position of which makes it an outwork of the Imperial domain, the southern prefectures abutting on the provinces of Kian-kau, Nganhwei, and Honan, are noted as the haunts of the Nien-fei and the Ful-fei (Turban brigands). The northern divisions, again, are infested by mounted robbers, and by bands of salt-smugglers, who require to be put down with a strong hand. The number of summary executions does not fall short of 140 or 150 per annum, and it is to be feared that, if the existing rule were annulled, not only would encouragement be given to the criminal class through the postponement of retribution, but the jails would become filled to overflowing, and attempts at escape would be meditated. The infliction of the death penalty in summary cases is only proceeded with after a second trial has been held before the Taotai and Prefect of the Intendantship, by whom the evidence is transmitted to the provincial Government. Where guilt is established beyond all question, authority is given for execution on the scene of the crime; but where the slightest doubt exists, the accused is required to be sent to the provincial capital for further trial. The Governor urges on the foregoing grounds that it is advisable to leave the system at present existing without alteration until better times.

(2)—The same official reports that the Colonel commanding at Kiao-chow has been placed in mourning retirement through his mother's death, and begs that this officer may be left in charge of his command as an "acting" appointment, his local experience and aptitude being of much importance.

(3)—In a supplementary memorial the Governor reports two minor civilian officials as guilty of embezzlement of the funds supplied to them for the provision of materials for the repair of the Yellow River embankments, and applies for their suspension.

Nov. 7th.—(1)—A Decree in answer to a memorial by the Governor-General of the Yellow River, reporting the safety of both banks of the river at the setting in of late Autumn, when no further rise of the water is to be apprehended, the emergencies which have occurred at various points since last Spring having been successfully met by the exertions of the Governor-General and the officials of his staff. For the divine protection to which this safety is due, His Majesty feels reverently grateful; and he commands that ten sticks of Tibetan incense be sent to the Governor-General, to be offered on the Imperial behalf at the temple of the God of the River.

(2)—The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes reporting the issue in an appeal case reheard, in conformity with a rescript dated the 26th May, 1873, to the Court of Censorate's report of the 25th idem. The appellant, named Wan She-mei, had accused his nephew, Wan Si-pao, of wantonly injuring his property, causing the death of his grandmother, Wan Twan-shie, and combining with the official underlings to frustrate the ends of justice. On the trial now held, it appears that appellant, who farmd a small property of his own, had mortgaged it to his nephew after the insurrectionary troubles, and in 1870 he transferred, through the agency of certain other relations, one-half of the land to Wan Si-pao, in extinguishment of the mortgage. Wan Si-pao allowed him to make use of two sheds which stood on the ground transferred, to keep his farming implements in, but some time afterwards he wished to pull one of these buildings down for the sake of the materials. To this, however, the grandmother, Wan Twan-shie, raised objections. Ill-feeling was further entertained on her part with reference to a widowed niece, whom Wan Twan-shie wished to have married again from her house, in order that she might obtain a share of the wedding gifts, whilst, on the other hand, Wan Si-pao's mother had got the young woman at her own house, and kept her employed at needlework. One day, at length, Wan She-mei having gone away with his brother to a fair, Wan Si-pao came with a number of workmen to pull down the shed, notwithstanding the objections of Wan Twan-shie, who raised a commotion, and dashed her head against the door-frame until induced to leave the spot by some of the family. Led away as she was by anger, she took advantage of the absences of the two brothers to commit suicide by hanging herself from a door-post, and life was extinct by the time Wan She-mei hastened to the spot. He proceeded to lodge accusations against Wan Si-pao, whom he charged with having come with a large number of comrades to cut his crops, set his house on fire, and flood his fields, and moreover with being in league with the official underlings. The accused person not having been apprehended, on orders to that effect being given by the department Magistrature, an appeal was lodged at Peking. The judgment is that Wan Si-pao is guilty of the charge of having caused by violent conduct the death of a relative within a close degree of affinity, the penalty for which.
the degree of relationship considered, is by statute fixed at two degrees lower than that of strangulation, viz., 100 blows and transportation for three years, besides a payment of ten taels for the funeral expenses of the deceased person. The appellant, his charge being partially substantiated, although not altogether true, is, by special act of leniency, exempted from any penalty.

Nov. 8th.—(1) A Decree with reference to enquiry held by the Governor-General of Chihli into charges brought by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun against the Magistrate of the Lo-ting district, whom he accused of winking at extortion practised by his underlings, exacting Government service from the villagers to an oppressive extent, and selling public ground without due authority. The enquiry shows that whilst not guilty in intention, the magistrate has erred through lack of proper care, and he is therefore, at the Governor-General's suggestion, compelled to resign his position in the public service.

(1) Among sundry memorials on administrative details, the Governor-General of the Two Hu reports the burning of some of the offices of the Financial Commissioner's yamen on the 22nd August last, during a conflagration which spread from the adjoining streets. The buildings have been restored, and archives lost in the fire are in course of being supplied by fresh copies. The Financial Commissioner submits himself to a penalty for the occurrence.

Nov. 9th.—(1) A Decree in reply to a memorial by the Governor of Shanai, reporting that rains were obtained at a time of drought last summer, on prayers being offered up in certain temples. Memorial boards with inscriptions in the Imperial hand are ordered to be transmitted and suspended in the temples, in token of thanksgiving.

(2) The Governor of Yunnan memorializes reporting certain changes introduced in the commands of different cantonments of the regular forces of the province.

Nov. 10th.—The Court Circular announces the route to be taken to-morrow by his Majesty in proceeding to the Tsze Kwang Koh, to preside at the archery display of the candidates at the military 65th-226 examinations.

The Grand Council has been personally commanded that on the 17th, 18th, and 19th inst., no attendance will be required in the Palace on account of the festivities on the birthday of the Empress Mother.

(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a descendant (apparently) of the sage Mencius, named Meng Kwang-t'ien, who comes forward as representative of his kinswoman Meng Wang-she, to complain of oppressive conduct on the part of the local officials. Meng Kwang-t'ien states that he is a farmer at Meng-kia Chwang (the village of the Mencius family) in the Ngan-k'ii district in Shantung, and that certain police of the Magistracy having some time ago endeavoured to exact a double payment of taxes from his kinsman Meng Kwang-yeh, an appeal against this demand was carried up through the different local courts, and eventually lodged at Peking. On the case being referred back for enquiry, instead of justice being done, the villainous underlings conspired together to have the facts misrepresented, and through their machinations Meng Kwang-yeh was made to suffer the penalty of blood and imprisonment. He was forcibly required to acknowledge the case as settled, and was sent back in custody to his home, and after all he and another relative of the appellant were locked up in jail. Meng Wang-she, Meng Kwang-yeh's mother, has consequently deputed appellant to Peking on her behalf, and to carry with him copies of the tablet handed down from old setting forth the privileges (優免碑文) enjoyed by the families of Confucius, Mencius, Yen Tsze, and Tsang Tsae, and of the documents connected with the previous appeal; of all of which the Censorate takes note. A rescript has already appeared, referring the case back for further enquiry in Shantung.

(2) The Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council memorialize with reference to the last appeal presented by the convicted General Ch'eng-luh on the eve of the Palace asaize for capital sentences. Referring to the preceding trials and consultations in this cause célèbre, they state that on the 22nd ult., when the Palace asaize was on the point of being held, the President of the Board of Punishments and his colleagues received from Ch'eng-luh an appeal which they were beseigned to hand to the Grand Council. The Prince and his colleagues hereupon recapitulate the facts of the case, which are briefly as follows. Ch'eng-luh, commanding in the north of Kansuh as General in-chief of Uruntsei, having had it reported to him that a certain Ma Ko-ch'eng and others had forcibly resisted the collection of a war-contribution, sent T'ow Hing, Taotai of the Ngan-Suh circuit, at
the head of a body of troops to enforce submission. The recalcitrants opened fire on the party, killing one (or more) of the General's body-guard; whereupon Tow Hing, in view of this violent outbreak, and considering the case as akin to the crime of rebellion, sent the Magistrate of the Kao-t'ai district to Ch'êng-luh's camp, where he verbally reported the occurrence. Ch'êng-luh, hereupon, fearing lest serious disorders might ensue, without making more minute enquiry sent Ming-ch'un at the head of a body of troops against the place, with the result that Ma Ki-chêng and more than 200 others with him were put to the sword. On being brought to trial for this conduct (see denunciation by the Censor Wu K'o-tuh in Gazette of August 12th, 1873, and accounts of the trials in Gazettes of January, 1874), he was finally sentenced to deferred execution. In the petition now presented Ch'êng-luh seeks to defend himself on the plea that lie was misled by his subordinates, and the case cannot have been so bad as it has been represented, since several years elapsed without any person coming forward to make complaint. He confesses that, as a soldier, he was accustomed to act on the spur of the moment. In commenting on this appeal for mercy, the Grand Council rejects the plea that Ch'êng-luh's responsibility can be shifted upon others; whilst, as regards his statement about absence of complaint, this is not to be wondered at, since the population of the place attacked was butchered to the last man. On the previous trials, his guilt has been established beyond all doubt, notwithstanding which, in lieu of awaiting in silence the execution of the law, the prisoner has made this last effort to secure a reversal of his sentence, on the plea that the Palace assize is the solemn occasion provided for redressing the wrongs of those who have been convicted, whilst at the same time, after entrusting that his appeal be laid before his Majesty, he adds the words that "if, in actual fact, the matter be involved in difficulty, he will not venture to entreat an exercise of clemency on his behalf." This hesitation is remarkable; but as he has presented the appeal, the members of the Grand Council, having already acted as judges in his case, feel it their duty to withdraw from expressing a further opinion, and beg that a High Commission be nominated to consider the case again. The prisoner's name is withdrawn from the list for the present assize. (For rescript rejecting the appeal see Gazette of Oct. 28th.)
the four chief honorific degrees to candidates at the Military Examinations.

The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes with reference to the case of certain prisoners who had been sentenced provisionally by the provincial authorities to "perpetual imprisonment," for their share in a plot formed at the close of the year 1872, to surprise and plunder the prefectural city of Kan-chow Fu. Several vagabonds of that neighbourhood had conspired together to this effect, intending to escalate the walls on a night when all the civil and military authorities would be assembled for an act of worship in the temple of the God of War. Their design was to make a rush in the town with the gages of confederates they severally collected, massacre the officials, and seize the contents of the treasury, armoury, and powder-magazine, which would enable them to swell the list of their adherents and keep possession of the city. The scheme broke down on the appointed night owing to the failure of one of the bands to arrive at the rendezvous fixed upon, and the leader thereupon postponed the enterprise for a month. Meanwhile, intelligence of what was on foot was brought to the military authorities, and on precautions being taken, the conspirators lost heart and fled. Six were apprehended in different places; and on their being brought to trial at the provincial capital, the authorities decided that a sentence of death, under the statute against conspiracy to rebel, would be too severe in their case, as their design had never been carried into effect, and they had shown their dread of the law by absconding before any actual crime had been committed. The Board of Punishments has ruled, however, that the proposed sentence is not in accord with the intention of the Penal Code, and the case has consequently been sent back for the drafting of a new sentence. This has now been proceeded with, and sentence is submitted in conformity with the statute on acts of rebellion. A penalty is imposed less by one degree than that of decapitation, viz., one hundred blows, and transportation to a distance of three thousand li, aggravated by the order that the prisoners be sent to Sungaria and given as slaves to the soldiery. Pending the possibility of reaching Sungaria, they are, as the law provides, to be kept in prison. Two of the number died shortly before the receipt of the Board's instructions.

Nov. 13th.—The following are the names of the military candidates honoured by degrees Imperially conferred in the Palace yesterday:

- Chwang Yüan, Chang Feng-ming, 張鳳鳴, of Honan.
- P'ang Yen, Chao Jui-yün, 趙瑞雲, of Honan.
- T'an Hwa, Chang Che-p'eng, 仇志鵬, of Chihli.
- Ch'wan Lu, Liu Yun-hwei 劉雲會, of Chihli.

(1)—A Decree imposing penalties on certain of the military graduates for shortcomings in their performances before his Majesty. Seven persons who acquitted themselves imperfectly in either archery, sword, or athletic exercises are debarred from the advantages of the Palace competition until the next triennial period; and one individual, Liu Chao-hung, 呂兆熊, from Kwangtung, is turned back for twice that length of time, as deficient in both sword exercise and athletics. The ministers who presided at the preliminary performances of these persons are exposed to penalties.

(2)—The Governor of Shensi memorializes, pronouncing a panegyric on the conduct of the late ex-Governor Lin Jung, the admission of whose name into the State Temple of Worthies he applies for. (This has already been proposed in Szech'wan—see Gazette of Aug. 1st). Granted by rescript.

(3)—The Tartar General at Canton and his Lieutenant-General, Kwo-leh-min, memorializes extolling the virtuous conduct of a young lady named Urh Yu, aged 22, the daughter of a Manchu officer of rank. Her own mother (a concubine) had died a number of years ago, and she was noted for her dutiful affection to her father's wife, who, having reached the age of 70, was attacked with illness in May last. The young lady offered incense and prayers on behalf of her stepmother, but as the sickness increased in violence, and the physicians folded their hands in despair, Urh Yu achieved her purpose by casting herself into a well. Her devotion and constancy merit recognition, and it is requested that sanction be given for the erection of a memorial structure. Granted by rescript.
Nov. 14th. — (1) — The Vice-Presidents K'ing-che and Ts'ung-k'i memorialize reporting their proceedings as Examiners to revise the performances of the successful graduates at the triennial military competition lately concluded. They held their scrutiny on the 30th ult., when one hundred and thirty-five graduates were passed in review before them, each repeating his performances in horse and foot archery, sword-practice, and stone-lifting. Eleven of the graduates were pronounced deficient in sword-practice, and stone-lifting. Of these, five were turned back three times, and, in accordance with rule, his record of graduation is cancelled. Three others are turned back.

(2) — The Superintendent of the Imperial manufacturing department at Soochow memorializes reporting the despatch of court robes and materials ordered for the birthday of the Empress-mother. Orders for the supply of the requisite dresses were received last year, and on funds being provided, the work was commenced. On the 29th July there were sent forward dresses to the number of 357, consisting of robes embroidered in relief with dragons, veils and under-veils, and caps of different kinds, together with 400 pieces of gold satin and silver satin, and 487 clothes' boxes of rosewood and glass. Certain articles that were ordered at the same time had not been sent with the first lot, viz.: 32 dragon embroidered robes for imperial wear, three other suits of dragon embroidered robes, and 95 under dresses; but they had followed in charge of a treasurer officer, who left by steamer on the 2nd September. Accounts of the outlay will be made up and transmitted.

(3) — The same functionary adds a postscript to the effect that on the 21st May last he received instructions calling for embroidered jackets (ma-kwau) of three different styles, 81 of each kind, and 200 pieces each of gold and silver satin, to be delivered at Peking before the middle of October. On this work being estimated for it was found that the cost would amount to Tls. 90,000, and it was represented to his Majesty by the Governor of Kiangsu that no funds were available for this outlay. The statement was replied to in the vermilion pencil, directing that funds be provided in instalments, and the articles supplied by degrees. The Superintendent was about to commence work when he received a further communication from the Governor, to the effect that, at the present juncture, being commanded to provide for measures of defence, by which a heavy expenditure is entailed, he finds it impossible to supply funds at the same time for the purpose in question, and that he must wait till a more convenient opportunity. The superintendent, sorely embarrassed, has betook himself of a fund accumulated during past years for orders for work, amounting to about Tls. 20,000, which could be made use of on the present occasion; and with this he has been able to manufacture 72 jackets and 45 jute-aucorps, which he will shortly send forward to Peking. The remainder of the order will be executed as soon as the Governor provides the funds.

Nov. 15th. — (1) — The Superintendents of the Granaries memorialize recommending to favourble notice the officials who have distinguished themselves in connection with the transport of rice to Peking during the past season, which has been most successfully accomplished through their exertions.

(2) — The Governor-General of the two Kiang reports the decease of Li Ch'ang-hwa, late Taotai at Chinkiang, whose death by apoplexy on the 9th October has been announced by the Prefect of Chinkiang. The office of Taotai thus left vacant, having annexed to its duties the Superintendentship of several Customs-houses, and moreover entailing the frequent transactions of business relating to foreigners, is a post of a very onerous nature. Pending an appointment from Peking, the Governor-General places in charge of the vacant office a Taotai awaiting employment, named Tu Wen-lan, who is thoroughly skilled in public administration, and fully conversant with foreign affairs. (Rescript appointing a new Taotai appeared on the 29th Oct.)

(3) — In a further postscript Memorial, Li Tsung-hi reports that an expectant Prefect on the Kwangtung establishment named Lo Chang, who fought heretofore with distinction under General Pao Ch'ao in the campaigns in Kiangsi, Hupah, Kwangtung, &c., being about to proceed to Peking for presentation on nomination to his present grade, left his native province, Szech'wan (of which also the Governor-General himself is a native), last year on his way to Peking. As he was passing through Nanking, and as he has had great experience of...
warafe, the Governor-General has thought it expedient to retain him for service in the present emergency, when men of capacity are needed. After the termination of defensive operations, he will be forwarded to Peking.

(4) The assistant Resident at K'urun (Urga), Chang T'ing-yoh, reports the receipt of intelligence by the messengers who were sent to meet the convoy of the Chiptsundampa Hut'u-kh'tu, on his way to K'urun, stating that on the 8th August the Emembodiment, eighth of the line, had reached Khindam (in Mongolia), and that after resting there awhile and getting his train in order, he would continue his journey. He might be expected to reach K'urun by about the 8th November. Upon this the lamast functionaries had been desired to select an auspicious day for the enthronement, and the 13th November has been appointed for this purpose.

Nov. 16th.—The Court Circular announces that the Imperial party will take their seats at 7 a.m., to-morrow, in the Ning Show apartments, to witness a theatrical performance.

(1) A Decree, referring to the commands recently issued for donations to the parents, if of the age of 80 and upwards, of high officials throughout the Empire. The Grand Secretary and Governor-General Li Hung-chang, and his brother, the Governor-General of the two Hu, Li Hanchang, are now specially singled out for distinction in the person of their mother, who is verging on fourscore, and upon whom a tablet in the Imperial autograph is conferred, beside sundry gifts of silks and satins of the most costly description, together with a jade sceptre.

(2) In a second decree, awards similar to those above mentioned are assigned to the mothers of sundry high functionaries at Peking, who have been reported as of the age of 80 and upwards.

(3) The Manchu General Kin-shun memorializes acknowledging the receipt of the Imperial decree of the 23rd August, in which he is appointed Assistant to King-lien, nominated Imperial Commissioner for the campaign in Sungaria. He has upon this caused a new official seal, for temporary use, to be cut, the employment of which he intends to inaugurate on the 12th October, on which day the seal formerly used will be destroyed.

(4) Kin-shun further memorializes observing that, on the approach of cold weather, it becomes necessary to serve out sheepskin cloaks to the oldiery. It has been the rule with him in previous years to commission officials of his staff to attend to the manufacture of the requisite supply, an appropriation for which is afterwards asked from his Majesty. The garments required for Kin-shun's force have now been made up in the districts about Kweihwa and Suiyuan, at a total outlay, including cost of transport, of Taels 26,000. It is consequently asked that this amount be provided and sent forward, in order to reimburse the funds from which advances have been made.

Nov. 17th.—The Court Circular announces that his Majesty will proceed to-morrow by certain gates of the Palace to the Ts'ze Ning Kung (apartments of Parental Affection and Repose—the dwelling-place of the Empress Mother), to offer salutation, and thence return to the imperial apartments. Preparations to be made by 6 a.m. At 7 a.m. the imperial party will take their seats for a theatrical performance.

(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding the appeal of Li Kwang-wen, deposited on his behalf by a messenger, complaining as follows. Appellant, a native of Honan, holds the rank of expectant captain, and last year lodged an appeal at Peking, accusing a pawnbroker named I King-fen of having conspired to defraud him of certain property, and an official underling named Lo Tsung-che of having unlawfully imprisoned appellant's brother and caused his death. On orders being sent down to the local authorities to institute enquiry, the two accused persons, conscious of their guilt, kept out of the way; the pawnbroker sending, however, one of his clerks to bribe an underling of the Prefect's, named Niu Sin-kiao, and certain of the yamen clerks, who caused appellant to be brought to the yamen and placed in strict confinement. He was subjected to cruel ill-treatment, and his servant, when sent with money for his expenses, was robbed of it, and himself thrown into prison. The two accused persons, hiding in their respective abodes, have bribed the District Magistrate to report that they have gone away to their native places; and appellant remains in prison, without hope of a hearing of the case in which he is plaintiff. He is convinced that the intention is to compass his death like that of his brother. —Referred in the usual manner.

(2)—The Court of Censorate forwards another appeal lodged on behalf of a woman of the Yü-hang District in Chuekiang, complaining that her husband has been falsely accused of murdering a man named Koh Pin-lieh, the accuser being his wife, who had in reality poisoned him
herself. Appellant's husband having been apprehended on this false charge, has been compelled under torture to confess the act. A previous appeal has already been lodged and referred back for a fresh enquiry; but the Prefect has slurred over the affair.—Referred in the usual manner.

Nov. 18th.—(1)—A Decree conferring a step of honorary rank on a long list of officials, in honour of the birthday of her Majesty the Empress-mother.

(2)—A Decree, remitting on the same account all penalties in the shape of loss of honorary steps and pecuniary mulcts now standing against the names of civil and military officials throughout the Empire, as also all sentences of degradation from rank combined with retention of office.

(3)—King-lien, Imperial Commissioner for the campaign in Sungaria, etc., memorializes reporting His Majesty the Emperor-mother.

Nov. 19th.—(1)—A Decree in reply to a Memorial by the Governor of Kwangtung and the Superintendent of Customs at Canton, in which the occurrence of a typhoon, accompanied by great devastation and loss of life at the Customs and li-kin stations in the districts of Hiang-shan and Sin-ngan (near Macao and Hongkong) are reported. His Majesty has learnt this with great solicitude. The Governor and his colleagues are directed to do all that is useful for the relief of the distressed districts, and not to allow a single individual of the sufferers to be left homeless. The proper Boards are to determine appropriate tokens of compassion on the death of Lieut.-Colonel Ch'en Pu-yün and five other military officers, as also of a civil functionary attached to one of the tax-stations. The remaining measures proposed in the Memorial are sanctioned.

(2)—A Decree. Let the fourth son of the Beileh Tsai-che, a titular K'un Wang (Prince of the second degree), receive the name of P'u-lun 關.

(3)—The Governor-General of the Two Hu memorializes commending the activity of the Taotai Kw'ai Te-piao, the delegate in charge of the New Custom-houses of Hupel, which specially collects the duty on bamboo and timber exports. From the 1st day of the 7th moon last year to the 29th day of the 6th moon (Aug. 11) this year, he has collected the full prescribed amount of duty, viz., T$ 25,000, in addition to which he has collected over and above the prescribed limit an excess of T$ 12,268.1.6.4. According to the standing regulation he should be replaced by another officer on the expiry of his year of service; but in view of his proved efficiency, it is requested that he be left in office for another twelve months.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(4)—The Governor-General of the Yellow River reports the safety of the embankments up to the middle of October, thanks to the efforts used in meeting the emergency of recent freshets. The rise which took place was something quite extraordinary, and for a time the banks were in imminent peril. The expenditure incurred
through the sudden strain on the defensive establishment has amounted to Tia. 25,000, and it is requested that orders may be given to the provincial government of Honan to provide this amount, and also that the Tia. 90,000 herefore applied for may be paid over before the beginning of next year.

(5)—In a postscript memorial, K'iao Sung-nien deplors the death of a corporal and a soldier of the guard, who were precipitated into the stream whilst engaged in securing the embankment during the September freshet, and were carried away by the fierce current.

Nov. 20th.—The Governor-General of Chihli memorializes reporting the result of an inquiry he has instituted, in obedience to Imperial commands, into the conduct of a District Magistrate who has been denounced as being addicted to the vice (of opium-smoking), and for tolerating misconduct on the part of his underlings, etc. The report presented by an official who was sent to enquire into the case, exculpates the Magistrate from the graver aspects of the charge, but represents him as in feeble health, and it is recommended that he be compulsorily retired from the service.

Nov. 21st.—(1)—A decree in reply to a Memorial by the supervising Censors of the Capital, requesting an Imperial donation, in accordance with former usage, for the supply of wadded garments to destitute persons on the approach of winter. It is ordered that Tia. 3,600 be contributed from the Household Treasury for this purpose.

(2)—The Governor of Honan reports the result of a rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peiing. The appellant, Ta'o Shu, had complained of having been thrown into prison on a false charge trumped-up against him by the wives of rebels. The new trial that has been held shows that Ta'o Shu, as headman of a village, had been in search of a former inhabitant of the place, who, having been expelled from the community for misconduct, had joined the Nien-fei, and had led a band of the brigands to attack and plunder the village. This man having been reported as having privately returned to his home, was searched for in August 1868 by Ta'o Shu, accompanied by a local posse, and, on entering a house where it was thought likely he would be concealed, two women were found whose dress indicated that they were from some other part of the country, but no trace of the offender was discovered. Suspecting the women to be in some way connected with him, however, Ta'o Shu and his posse seized and carried them off, with all their clothing and effects. The next day it was discovered that the two prisoners were the wives of respectable persons, who were being sent to their homes by the military authorities; and out of their seizure the proceedings grew which have led to the present appeal. The appellant is found guilty of an act of unlawful arrest, and is sentenced to the penalty of 100 blows, and transportation for three years.

Nov. 22nd.—(1)—The Constabulary yamen reports an appeal lodged by a youth named Li Wén-hien, of Ta'ing-ho in Chihli, complaining to the effect that in January, 1873, his home was broken into by a gang of robbers, who murdered his grandfather and grandmother, and finally wounded a servant of the house, after which they carried off such property as they could lay hands on. An inquest was held, and the wounded man deposed to having recognized two noted desperadoes of a neighbouring village among the robbers. These men were apprehended, and when confronted with their accuser had not a word to say in their defence; but they bribed the yamen underlings to put the charge on one side until the wounded man had succumbed to the result of his injury. They then boldly denied the crime, and were subjected to no torture whatever to compel a confession. Appellant petitioned the superior authorities, whereupon the Magistrate, acting under instruction, apprehended certain others of the gang, who incriminated the previous prisoners. The law-clers, however, in revenge for being petitioned against, still kept the case in abeyance, and instead of allowing the criminals to be punished, have thrown appellant into prison and robbed him of the money he had got together to prosecute his case.—Referred in the usual manner.

Nov. 23rd.—(1) The Governor of Honan reports, on the proposition made by the Censor Téng K'ing-lin for a return to the old system in the execution of capital sentences, that the withdrawal of powers of summary execution is highly inexpedient. Vestiges of disorder still remain in the province since the close of the Nien-fei rebellion, and the Governor insists that brigandage and robbery with violence can only be checked by means of summary punishment.

Nov. 24th.—(1) A Decree. With reference to the memorial and postscript memorial already received from the Yamen of Foreign Affairs, stating that the envoys
from Japan and the United States have
presented letters from their governments,
ordaining that they be permitted to have
audience.

(2) A Decree in reply to a memorial by
the Inspector General of the customs of
the capital, who have reported that one
Chang Chao-shao, heretofore stripped of his office
as lieutenant-colonel and sentenced to
death, by rescript, on the ground of com-
plicity with rebels, has been discovered
at Peking, having had the audacity to
enroll himself under the name of Chang
Ju-lung (lately transferred to the command-
in-chief in Hunan). It is ordered that the
individual who has thus been detected be
brought to trial by the Board of Punish-
ments, and that Ma Ju-lung be suspended
from his rank in order that he may appear
as a witness at the trial.

Nov. 25th.—(1) A Decree expressing the
imperial sorrow on receiving intelligence
of the death of Yih Jen, entitled
Prince of Chwang (a descendant of the
Emperor Kia King), who was honoured
by high distinctions and the command of the
guards at Yuan-ming Yuan during the late reign. Imperial honours are to be
paid on the occasion of his obsequies.

(2) The acting Governor of Shantung
reports, in a long Memorial, the inves-
tigation and settlement of a case in which the
in-coming and out-going heads of the
official courier agency at Peking of the
Province of Shantung have accused each
other of malversation of certain funds.

Nov. 26th.—The Governor of Honan
reports the result of an inquiry into a
case of outbreak in the Sze-shuei distri-
cut in that province. The occurrence had its
origin in the unauthorized act of the tax-
clerks whose illegal action was the cause of it.

Nov. 27th.—(1 and 2) Decrees appointing
Li Chao-tang, to fill the post of Customs' Taotai for the Province of
to Chihli, and Wu Tsan-ch'eng
Wu to the post of Taotai of Tientsin.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is
occupied with memorials on administrative
details in Hupeh.

Nov. 28th.—(Court Circular). His Ma-
jury will proceed to-morrow by certain
gates (named) to the Spring Lotus Pavilion,
where business will be transacted and
reception taken, after which His Majesty
will proceed, halting for a short time at
the Wu Ch'ing Hall, to the Tsze Kwang
Koh, for an audience. This being com-
pleted, His Majesty will return by the
same route to the palace. Preparations to
be made at 8 a.m. (N.B. The audience
referred to is that of the Ministers from
Japan and the United States).

(1) A Decree conferring donations in
honour of the Empress Mother's birthday
on the mothers of three official dignitaries,
respecting whom the Boards have further
memorialized, reporting them as beyond
the age of eighty.

(2)—A Decree withholding assent to the
prayer of Ming-shan that he be allowed to
relinquish his office as Comptroller of the
Household. He has served for a number
of years, and has given proof of practical
experience in the post he is ordered to
retain.

(3)—The Governor-General of Chihli
reports the result of a trial in which a
Mohommedan of T'sang Chow, named
Wu Pau-shung, was arraigned on a charge
of presenting a supplication to his
Majesty by the roadside. The sup-
plant had accused certain police of
murder, in having caused the death of his
father, Wu Kwoh-hing,—the fact being
that Wu Kwoh-hing had placed himself
at the head of a gang of desperadoes
during the Nien-fei troubles, and had
committed a long series of lawless outrages.
He was at length slain in a fight provoked
by an attempt on his part to seize the
person of a sub-district magistrate. The
accusation brought is consequently dis-
mised, and the suppliant is condemned to
the penalty of 100 blows and to be sent into military servitude.

(4)—The Governor-General of Chihli further memorializes reporting the result of a trial for the crime of matricide. The accused, Shen Wu-héh, was a native of the T'sing-yüan District, and a dissipated character of no settled occupation, living with his mother. Early in the present year he stole from the house of a relative an iron hoe, which he pawned. The relative, having fruitlessly demanded it of him, went himself and redeemed it from pawn. On the 6th July last the prisoner again went to his relative’s house, and shortly after he had left the place the hoe was again missed. He was pursued and remonstrated with, and in the course of the ensuing altercation his mother came forward to chide him as he was standing beside a well. Being at the time under the influence of liquor, Shen Wu-héh grabbed his mother’s hand, exclaiming: When people falsely accuse us of theft, how is it that you do not yourself throw yourself into the well? At the same time he gave her a push which caused her to lose her footing, and she fell down into the well. Her son shouted for help, but before her body could be recovered, life was extinct.

These facts having been established, the prisoner has been sentenced according to law to suffer the penalty of being sliced to death, and this has been inflicted with the usual formalities on the scene of the crime. His head has been exhibited on a pole as a warning. The relative and his brother, whose demand for the recovery of the hoe led to the perpetration of this crime, are adjudged to have been guilty of improper conduct, in view of the awfui consequences, although their action does not amount to the legal offence of “causing a death through an unfounded accusation of theft,” and they are sentenced to the penalty of eighty blows, commuted to thirty as the law allows.

Nov. 29th.—(1)—A decree conferring brevet promotions, at the application of the Governor of Ngan-lweii, on the military officers of that province who were concerned in effecting the capture of the ex-rebel leader Yang Fuh-ting (see Gazette of Aug. 4th.)

(2 and 3)—Memorials from the Governor-General of Chihli, reporting the result of trials of two women, who have severally been charged with attempting to present supplications to His Majesty by the roadside. In both cases the matter complained of was a dispute with relatives about the ownership of land. In the first case the suppliant is condemned to the penalty of 100 blows, but having passed the age of 70 she is entitled to redeem this by a money payment. In the second case, the offender is sentenced to one hundred blows, and to transportation into military servitude.

Nov. 30th.—(1)—A decree referring for the consideration of the Boards of Civil Office and of Works a proposal, submitted by the Governor-General of the Yellow River, for the abolition of the office he holds, and for its amalgamation with that of the provincial Governor.

(2) The Governor of Kwangtung reports the occurrence of a destructive typhoon, which commenced at about midnight on the 22nd September, raging with great violence at Canton and along the seaboard, especially on the coasts of the Hiaug-shan and Sin-nyan Districts (i.e., near Macao and Hongkong). The tide rose and broke over the land to a height of from ten to fifteen feet, and the hurricane raged until about 7 a.m. on the following morning. When the flood had receded, it was found that almost all the buildings constituting the opium li-kin stations at Casa Branca, the Kap-shui Mun, Kow-lung, Cheong-chow, and other points, had been blown down, and the cruisers employed in guarding the tax-stations had been either dashed to pieces or driven from their anchorages. At Casa Branca, a corporal and twelve men were drowned. The steam gunboat Fei-loong was at the same time sunk in the Kum-sing Mun anchorage, with the following loss of life, viz.: the commanding officer, lieutenant-colonel Ch’o’en Pu-y’in, a second military officer, a linguist and 27 seamen, and three Englishmen employed as engineers, etc. A junk belonging to the Ch’ang-ts’ang gunboat was sunk, with a loss of eleven lives. Several steam launches and junks were sunk at the other stations, with a loss of 5 officers and 49 men. (The loss of life enumerated above makes a total of exactly 100 persons). The names of the officers who have thus perished are submitted to his Majesty, with a request that the Imperial compassion be manifested on their behalf. Measures have been instituted for the recovery of the bodies of the drowned, and for raising the sunken vessels, which will, if possible, be repaired for further use.

(3) The Governor of Kwangtung and the Superintendent of Customs at Canton jointly memorialize with reference to the damage occasioned at the li-kin stations around Macao and Hongkong by the typhoon of September 22nd. The buildings having been blown down, and the land overflowed by the rise of the tide, the
officials and underlings in charge were compelled to seek refuge in flight, clambering over the rocks in the darkness, with the books and papers under their charge, and in this way many missed their footing and fell into the sea. The sub-magistrate in charge of the Customs’ Station at Casa Branca was swept by the waves into the village, and killed by the falling of a wall. A large steam launch was dashed into fragments, and two others were totally wrecked. Fourteen junk employed in the preventive service were sunk, and 38 seamen were drowned. At Macao and Hongkong great destruction was caused among the Chinese and foreign trading community, and many vessels were sunk. At Macao, the damage inflicted was the most severe of all. Trade has fallen off, and the receipt of duties is reduced to a minimum. Measures are being taken for the interment of the bodies of those drowned and for rebuilding the tax-stations destroyed. It will be necessary to replace the steam-vessels lost, although this cannot be done for the moment, owing to the impossibility of meeting so great an outlay as is required for the purpose.

(4) The Governor of Honan applies for a mark of Imperial distinction on behalf of an aged lady, the mother of several officials, who, in addition to having reached the extraordinary age of ninety-nine, has four generations of male descendants at present living.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Ceremonies.

Dec. 1st.—(1)—A Decree commanding that a donation of one month’s pay, according to the present scale of issue, be awarded to all the soldiery, both Manchu and Chinese, constituting the garrison of the capital, in view of the approaching inclemency of the weather.

(2)—The Governor of Shansi memorializes reporting the trial and execution of a lunatic found guilty of the murder of his mother. The prisoner, named Wu K’iao-yün Ts'ai, was found by the commission appointed to try the case to have become insane in consequence of loss of money as a vendor of fruit, but his friends and relatives, trusting that by medical aid he might be restored to sanity, refrained from reporting his case to the authorities to the end that he should be chained up. On the 20th July, about a week after the mental alienation had manifested itself, he murdered his mother by dealing her a heavy blow on the head with an iron cooking-pot, having first barricaded the door of the room in which the crime was committed, so that the neighbours who came up on an alarm being given were unable to prevent the act. On being placed on trial, he for the most part raved incoherently, but in a comparatively lucid moment he pointed to the back of his head, when asked how he had done the deed. In conformity with the law, he has been sliced to death, the execution of this sentence taking place at the provincial capital, as it is beyond the limit of 300 li from the scene of the offence.

(3)—The Military Governor of Kirin memorializes reporting the apprehension of a native of Shantung in the act of attempting to smuggle a parcel of ginseng. The delinquent, Chang Sho-ho, had been employed as a labourer in a village in Kirin, where he had come to seek work, and he was apprehended on the 12th February last at the seaward pass through the Great Wall (Shan-hai Kwan) with 10 catties weight of ginseng in his possession. The account he gave of himself was that his mother had written to say that she was ill, and that knowing the virtues of ginseng as a medicine, he was taking a quantity home to her. He had bought it of a certain man named Meh Ch’üng-kung. The ginseng is impounded, and forwarded to the Imperial Household; and for his own village, and on information being received, measures were taken for apprehending him. On finding recapture imminent, he committed suicide by cutting his throat. The offending police have been condemned to the penalty of 100 blows and banishment for three years.

Dec. 2nd.—(1)—A Decree. Let Kwang-shou (one of the presidents of the Board of Censorate), andHis T’ung-shan (a vice-president of the Board of War), proceed express to Shensi to hold an investigation. Let the Secretaries who accompany them proceed likewise by post express.

(2)—The Governor of Shansi memorializes reporting the trial and execution of a lunatic found guilty of the murder of his mother. The prisoner, named Wu K’iao-yün Ts’ai, was found by the commission appointed to try the case to have become insane in consequence of loss of money as a vendor of fruit, but his friends and relatives, trusting that by medical aid he might be restored to sanity, refrained from reporting his case to the authorities to the end that he should be chained up. On the 20th July, about a week after the mental alienation had manifested itself, he murdered his mother by dealing her a heavy blow on the head with an iron cooking-pot, having first barricaded the door of the room in which the crime was committed, so that the neighbours who came up on an alarm being given were unable to prevent the act. On being placed on trial, he for the most part raved incoherently, but in a comparatively lucid moment he pointed to the back of his head, when asked how he had done the deed. In conformity with the law, he has been sliced to death, the execution of this sentence taking place at the provincial capital, as it is beyond the limit of 300 li from the scene of the offence.

(3)—The Military Governor of Kirin memorializes reporting the apprehension of a native of Shantung in the act of attempting to smuggle a parcel of ginseng. The delinquent, Chang Sho-ho, had been employed as a labourer in a village in Kirin, where he had come to seek work, and he was apprehended on the 12th February last at the seaward pass through the Great Wall (Shan-hai Kwan) with 10 catties weight of ginseng in his possession. The account he gave of himself was that his mother had written to say that she was ill, and that knowing the virtues of ginseng as a medicine, he was taking a quantity home to her. He had bought it of a certain man named Meh Ch’üng-kung. The ginseng is impounded, and forwarded to the Imperial Household; and for his
offence against the statute which for­

bids the unlicensed digging of ginseng, he

is condemned to the penalty of 80 blows and

banishment for two years.

Dec. 3rd.—The Military Governor of

Jeh-ho reports the issue of an examination

into a case of suicide committed by a sub­

deputy Magistrate and his wife. The

Magistrate of the Feng-ning district having

had occasion to hold an inquest at the

village of Kwol-kia Tun, his underlings

endeavoured to extort from the village

headmen a sum of money for the burial

of the remains. This was resisted, and a

slight disturbance was the result. After

returning to his magistracy, the Magistrate

accused one of the police of his sub-deputy,

whose station was at the village, of

inciting the people to the demonstration

they had made, and flogged him severely.

Upon this the sub-deputy, believing that

the Magistrate was bent on ruining him by

a denunciation, threw himself with his

wife into a well, and both were drowned.

The motive for this act having been proved

to be the oppressive and illegal conduct of

the Magistrate, a sentence has been

pronounced to the effect that he has

incurred the penalty of 60 blows and

banishment for one year. Being a com­

missioned officer, he should be transported

to the military frontier, to redeem his

offence. This sentence is referred by

rescript for the consideration of the Board

of Punishments.

Dec. 4th.—(1)—A Decree based upon a

memorial from the Court of Censorate,

presenting a complaint brought by one of

the writers of that department against a

head clerk, for attempted extortion. The

incriminated person is handed over to the

Board of Punishments for trial.

(2) The Governor of Shansi memorializes

reporting the issue of an investigation into

alleged malpractices on the part of official

underlings. The acting magistrate of the

district of Hia had forwarded a complaint

which the magistrate was cashed over by Rescript, and a full enquiry

was ordered. It appears that the district

in question is divided into 25 li or towns­

ships, and that according to existing usage

a survey was held every five years for the

purpose of registering the individuals liable to calls for State service. A

proclamation was issued after each such survey, determining the amount of service

assessed on the population registered. Early in 1872 the period of these quin­

quennial surveys had arrived, and one of

his underlings named Sung Yu with a

revenue-clerk named Kao Lien-sheng, was

appointed by the Magistrate to superintend

the arrangements. The man Sung Yu

schemed upon this to extort certain sums

of money by way of fees, and as Kao

Lien-sheng had on previous occasions

received douceurs from the different towns­

ships, he let Sung Yu into the secret, and

they agreed to divide the proceeds of their

exactions between them. On a demand

for fees being made, the people of the
different townships fearing that they would

be unjustly assessed if they refused pay­

ment, subscribed a sum of 50,000 cash

which they handed over to the two clerks.

The Magistrate know nothing of this, but, as he took upon himself personally the

task of going over the details of the survey, the issue of the proclamation an­
tancing the result was retarded and the minds of the people became filled with suspicion.

The result of this was an angry gathering of the people, by whom Kao-Lien-sheng's

house was demolished. As a result of the

trial that has been held, the two delin­
quent clerks are sentenced to transporta­

tion and branding, whilst the chief com­

plainant is also condemned to undergo the

penalty of 100 blows and one month's can­

gue, for lodging an accusation in a matter in which he is not personally in­

terested.

Dec. 5th.—(1)—A Decree in reply to a

memorial by the Governor of Hupeh, who has denounced a brevet Taotai named

T'ang Sheng-wu as having gained his

advancement under false pretences, being debarred by his antecedents as an official

underling from holding office. It is com­

manded that the accused person be strip­

ped of his rank, and subjected to the

penalty of one hundred blows, after which

he is to be delivered into the custody of the local authorities and kept under rigo­

rous restriction.

(2)—The Court of Censorate forwards

an appeal lodged by a native of Honan,

named Chang I-shen, who complains of

sundry outrages perpetrated upon him by

a neighbour named Chao Sze-ying, a man

of some local influence, owing to his being

involved with the wo-kü military degree.

This man, at the head of a band of 30

confederates, with faces smeared over and

wearing false beards by way of disguise,

made a raid upon complainant's homestead

in the beginning of 1873, during his

temporary absence, carried off his personal

effects, cattle, and agricultural implements,

and cut his mother about the face. A sub­

sequent clerks are sentenced to trauporta­

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penalty of 100 blows and one month's can­
gue, for lodging an accusation in a matter in which he is not personally in­
terested.
of the outrage.—Referred in the usual manner.

(4) — The General-in-Chief of the naval force of Fu-hien, P'ung T'au-han, memorializes reporting his arrival at his post. Having been promoted from the Brigadier-Generalship of Ta-ming in Chihli, he arrived at Foochow on the 22nd Aug., and after taking counsel with the Provincial Government as to the measures of policy required, he proceeded to Amoy, where the silver seal of office was handed over to him by the acting incumbent of the post. After the customary recapitulation of his own humble origin, incapacity, and successive services, the newly-appointed official refers to the gravity and difficulties of his charge, consisting as it does in the repression of disorder along the coast and the rivers of Fuh-kien. With the islands which lie near at hand, and traders who come from afar, that task of maintaining control is no easy one. Beside this, the Japanese being at present engaged in a warlike enterprise against the aborigines, it is necessary to provide in all directions for coast-defence. Conscious of his own lack of ability, the General-in-Chief will nevertheless strive to do his best. (N.B. — The above is the first explicit reference in the Peking Gazette to the presence of the Japanese in Formosa.)

Dec. 6th.—(1) — The supervising Censors of the north division of the outer city of Peking memorialize reporting the detection and seizure of an ex-official over whom a sentence of death is pending. A Decree was issued in 1866, in reply to a memorial by the Governor of Yunnan, ordaining the arrest and immediate execution of Chang Chao-show, who had held office as a Lieut.-Colonel, wherever he might be found. A report had lately reached the Censors that this fellow had secretly come to Peking, — and while they were engaged in taking measures to trace out his whereabouts and effect his arrest, an application was handed in to them privately by an official from Yunnan, acting as a secretary to the Board of Civil Office, and two other officials connected with the same province, relating to the same subject. It was stated in this document that Chang Chao-show, formerly acting Lieutenant-Colonel of the garrison troops of Chien-hung Chow, had headed a band of lawless desperadoes, and pillaged the house of one of the present complainants, a district Magistrate by rank, named Tseng King-fu, within two days after he had taken office, and that a captain of the garrison, who had remonstrated against these proceedings, had been murdered by him on the spot. After this he embarked on a thoroughgoing career of rapine, and in 1866 he surprised and took the city itself, when Tseng King-fu's entire family perished, and the city was destroyed by fire. The entire department was ravaged, and many tens of thousands of the inhabitants perished. After this, the criminal in question placed himself in the suite of Ma Ju-lung, the General-in-Chief of Yunnan, under a false name, and with official rank fraudulently obtained, and had come to Peking in his train. The Censors having ascertained from the complainants the place at which Chang Chao-show was known by them to be residing, sent an officer to arrest him; and a party of police having been secretly stationed within the house, he was captured on the 21st Nov. On being searched, there was taken from his person the following property; in silver, Tls. 100; five bank-orders, of the value in all of Tls. 100; a watch, some opium, gold dust, &c. The name under which he was passing was Chang Jui-ch'en. The Censors request a rescript directing his transfer to the custody of the Board of Punishments, to be tried and dealt with. They further request that his Majesty will decide what steps should be taken with regard to Ma Ju-lung, who, while invested with a high military command, has for so many years given shelter to a proscribed felon, and has further been so bold as to bring him to Peking. (For rescript see Gazette of 24th November.)

(2) The Governor-General of Chihli reports the measures taken with respect to a breach in the embankments of the Ch'ao-peh river, an affluent of the Pei Yün-ho (the Peihoh) above Tung-chow. This river burst its banks in July last for a distance of 200 chang, and swept over the adjacent country. A commission despatched to survey the scene of damage reported that it was necessary to build a dyke behind the one previously existing, and gradually close in upon the breach, beside throwing out a line of embankment several hundred chang in length at either end of the new dyke, to cut off the flood. Imperial sanction having been obtained, work was commenced on the 6th October; but as the entire volume of the river had been diverted to the eastward, the old dyke had come to lie on the western side of it, and it was found to be impossible to restore the current to its proper course without demolishing this. The bed of the river at the point where the new works were
to be executed was 130 chang broad, in addition to which channels had also been eaten out on either side to a further breadth of 120 chang. The difficulties of repair, aggravated by the force of the torrent sweeping down from the hills, were enhanced by the absence of any store of proper materials, as this is not one of the areas of embankment repair. Supplies were purchased, however, and 7,000 of the sufferers by the inundation were employed upon the works. Working day and night, under great difficulties from weather, the nature of the soil, and the approach of cold, the officials in charge succeeded in completing the new channel for bringing back the river to its proper bed, and the two ends of the dyke had been brought to within 50 chang of each other by the 15th November. The depth of water opposite was at this time from 17 to 22 Chinese feet. By immense exertions on the part of the officials in charge, and those employed on the works, the labour was completed in a single day and night, and the river was re-admitted by the newly dug channel, 24 li in length, to its proper bed, flowing once more into the Pei Yin-ho. This successful achievement will not alone facilitate the grain transport of next season, but, by draining the flooded lands in six departments and districts, will enable spring wheat to be sown. Tokens of his Majesty’s approbation are solicited for the officials engaged in the work. In a postscript memorial, the Governor-General reports the disbursement of Ta. 54,375, obtained from different sources, on the above mentioned work.

December 7th.—The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes soliciting an acknowledgment of the divine protection afforded by the presiding spirit of the Yellow River. It was requested last year, by the Governor Ting Pao-cheng, in consequence of the aid supernaturally manifested on divers occasions on behalf of the embankment works at Kiu Chi'eng by the Great Prince Li 栗毓美 (the canonized spirit of a former Governor-General of the Yellow River, named Li Yu-mei), that an honorific title be imperially conferred upon this divinity, and that he be included for purposes of worship within the temple of the Four Great Golden Dragon Princes. The latter portion of this request was acceded to, on confirmation by the Board of Ceremonies, but the bestowal of a title of honour was ordered to be held in suspense pending further manifestations of divine response in time of need. The Governor now reports that in the sixth moon of the present year, when officials were employed under his orders in attending to the safety of the embankments, the waters of the river became swollen, and a time of danger presented itself at the confluence of the Tsi Ho. The banks appeared as though shaken, and a day and a night were spent in labours of repair without ensuring safety. It was not until the following day, when [the effigy of] the Four Great Golden Dragons and of the Great Prince Li were brought to the scene of the works, that the current abated its force, and the abutments were securely strengthened. At another moment of danger on the 3rd of September, when the banks were in imminent peril, the civil and military officials, with the people and militia, threw themselves for a long while on their knees and offered up supplications; the effigy of the god having arrived at the spot, no further sapping away of the embankment took place. Earlier in the year, when the grain-junks from the South were waiting at Pa-li Miao to enter the northern section of the Canal, on prayers being reverently offered up by the acting Governor, the waters suddenly rose to the needful height,—and the Governor proceeded to Chang-ta-tiu to prostrate himself in the temple and return thanks. (See Gazette of Aug. 4th). Similarly, when the grain-junks were on their way back, after discharging their cargoes, and were stopped at Tung-chiang for want of water, the Yellow River rose sufficiently to increase the volume of the Canal, and the squadron sailed on its way southward. These repeated instances of divine interposition are considered sufficient to warrant the bestowal of a title of honour.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report.

Dec. 8th.—The Superintendents of the Granaries report the delivery of the total amount of the year’s supply of grain, remitted from the provinces, in the storehouses at Peking and Tung Chow, and apply for appropriate rewards on behalf of the officials concerned in the service. They have already reported the delivery in full of the contingents due this year on account of the regulation supplies from Kiang-su and Chekiang, forwarded by sea, and from Kiang Peh and Shantung, forwarded by canal, as well as the quantities purchased and sent forward from Kiangsu and Chekiang, together with the complementary amounts of grain from Newchwang on account of the years 1872 and 1873. The officers in charge at Tung Chow
have now presented their report to the
effect that by the 22nd November there
had been carried into the granaries at
Peking ration rice and grain to the amount
of 1,276,030 piculs of rice, 6.8.8.3. It is
further reported that there had been lodged
in the T'ung Chow granaries 87,326 piculs,
1 tow, 6.7.8.6. of white, "king," and "no-
mii" rice; making a total of deliveries,
in the T',
including rice, millet, wheat, and peas,
smashing of piculs 1,362,356.7.6.6.9. There have
further been swept up, under the orders
of the superintendents, piculs 5.9.4. of rice
between T'ung Chow and Peking, which
have been duly carried into store.—The
remainder of the Gazette is chiefly occupied
with recommendations for promotions and
brevets.

Dec. 9th.—(1)—The Governor-General of
Chihli reports that the Taotai of Tientsin,
Ting Shou-ch'ang, has been placed in
mourning retirement by the death of his
father, and dwells upon the necessity for
an officer possessed of special capacity to
succeed in the ensuing vacancy. The
Taotai has two prefectures, embracing
eighteen departments and districts, under
his rule, and has to attend to duties con-
rected with the grain transport service and
the conservancy of the Grand Canal, be-
side supervision over military affairs and
the defence and police of the coast. He
is likewise constantly required to act in
concert with the Customs' Taotai in matters
affecting foreign relations, and it follows,
therefore, that the incumbent of the post
must be at once skilled in the duties
of civil administration, and versed in
foreign affairs and military matters. An
officer who unites these requirements with
general capacity and an upright character,
is the Taotai Wu Tsan-ch'ang, whose ap-
pointment to office in the vacant post
is consequently recommended.

(2)—The Governor-General of the Two
Kiang reports his temporary assumption
of the seals of office as Governor of
Kiangsu, pending the arrival of Wu
Yun-ping from Hupeh.

Dec. 10th.—(1)—A Decree commanding
that a district Magistrate, who has been
impeached by the Governor of Kiangsi
as a defaulter to the extent of Taels 5,000, be
stripped of his office, made a prisoner,
and proceeded against.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is
occupied with administrative details.

Dec. 11th.—The Court Circular an-
nounces that the Grand Secretary Wên-
siang, and the President Shên Kwei-fen
members of the Grand Council, who are
on congé from duty), offered enquires
respecting his Majesty's health. (This in
consequence of the attack of small-pox
with which the Emperor has been visited
since the 9th inst.)

The Governor of Yunnan memorializes
reporting the result of the trial of certain
yamen underlings and police implicated
in the case in which a military officer
had been fatally injured after a dispute
with the Prefect of Tung-ch'wan Fu, who
was subsequently assassinated in revenge
for this by Yang Ju-tai, the son of his
victim. (See Gazette of March 29th). The
case occurred as follows. In June, 1870,
a denizen of the district of Hwei-tä-hä
brought a complaint against a native of
the district for the abduction of his wife,
justice for which was delayed by means of
bribery on the part of the accused. The
complainant had a connection, Major Yang
Yü-lin, who was at Tung-ch'wan Fu await-
ing the delivery of certain military supplies,
and he moved some of the retainers of this
officer to seek redress on his behalf.
The retainers attacked the district magistrat's police and gave them a
beating; but on complaint being made,
they were handed over by Yang Yü-lin
and placed in custody. After some further
disputes about the affair, the Prefect
requested Major Yang to call at his yamen,
and asked him to explain his conduct in
allowing his retainers to meddle in public
concerns. Major Yang stated his case,
upon which the Prefect, growing irate,
ordered him to be beaten as a criminal and
shouted out: "Tie him up!" A number
of his servants hereupon rushed up, with
weapons and sticks in their hands, and
beleaguered Major Yang, whom they felled
to the ground. The Prefect at the same
time ordered him to be beaten as a criminal and
sent to the magistrate's jail, whither his
son, on coming forward to remonstrate,
was shortly afterwards likewise sent. His
house was next broken into by the police,
and plundered of its contents by them
and by the populace. A number of the
police who were guilty of this outrage
have been made prisoners, and it is ruled,
in the sentence now proposed for the sanc-
tion of the Board of Punishments, that
they should rank as accessories to the
crime of which the principal guilt rested
with their master, the Prefect. Of the
prisoners in question, the greater number
have died in confinement. Three remain,
who are sentenced to the penalty of 100
blows and transportation for three years.

December 12th.—(1)—The Governor-
General of the Yellow River, K'iao Sung-
nien, memorializes urging the abolition
of the office he holds. Beginning with the observation that the establishment of offices is decided in general by the requirements of circumstances, and may be modified either by addition or reduction according as special attention may be needed or duties may be taken in conjunction with others, he goes on to point out the changes which have taken place of late years in connection with his own post. The functions it formerly involved were of a highly onerous nature when the Yellow River pursued its ancient course through Honan and Shantung, and when, in addition to the 14 guard stations connected with the Yellow River embankments, there were six other stations appertaining to the Grand Canal, and the continuous stream of junks proceeding northward with grain tribute in its full amount of some millions of piculs, requiring administration and control. A change supervened when the Yellow River burst its banks at T'ung Wa Siang early in the reign of Hien Feng, whereupon five of the stations in Honan were abolished, and the whole of the river-work service in Shantung was done away with. What remains for the Governor-General of the Yellow River to do lies wholly within the province of Honan, and he is of opinion that greater efficiency would be secured if the functions of his post were concentrated in the hands of the provincial Governor. A change in this sense was recommended so far back as 1862 by a Censor, and in 1863 by Seng-ko-lin-sin. There is now the greater reason for urging it, inasmuch as in the whole of Shantung there no longer exist any embankment works supported by Government, the river being wholly embanked by the people of the adjacent country. Although there might be reason to look forward to some future resumption of Government works in Shantung, such a period is still distant, and the office may well be done away with in the meantime. The seal, however, need not be destroyed, but may be preserved in the Provincial Treasury until such time as it may be again required, should circumstances change in the course of some tens of years from now.—For rescript referring this memorial for consideration, see Gazette of Nov. 30th.

(2) The Financial Commissioner of Kiangsu (on behalf of the Governor-General) memorializes reporting that he has received the following statement from Tseng Ki-tseh, eldest son of the late Tseng Kwoh-fan: "Having left my home on the 4th September for the purpose of proceeding to Peking to prostrate myself in gratitude for the Imperial favour (see Gazette of Oct. 17th), I had reached the district of Ta'iu-ho in Kiangsu on the 9th October, when I received letters from my family informing me that my mother had died on the 3rd of the same month. I am consequently bound to return to my home, it being the mother who bore me, to conduct the funeral arrangements and observe the prescribed period of mourning. I beg that a memorial to this effect be presented on my behalf." The fact is accordingly brought to his Majesty's notice.

(3) The same official, as acting Superintendent of the Grain Transport, refers to decrees heretofore issued with respect to increased supplies of revenue in kind from the Southern provinces, and to the consequent necessity of attention to the maintenance works on the River and Canal. Since the Yellow River broke its way across the Canal, the passage of the junks both ways is dependent upon the rise of the river water, and if the breaches in the banks at Shih Chwang Hu 石庄戸 and elsewhere be not repaired, it is to be apprehended that the course of the Yellow River will gradually move southwards. This work is consequently urged on the Imperial attention.

(4) In a further postscript, the same official speaks of the rise of the waters in the autumn freshet season, as reported in a previous memorial (not yet published.) The floods in P'ei-Chow and Suh Chow shew no sign of abating, although the commencement of winter is at hand, and the Hung-tseh Lake has risen to a height of eight ch'ih and upwards. Fortunately, the continuance of fine weather has been favourable to the works of maintenance. The population of Sii-chow Fu and Hai-chow Fu who have been driven from their homes by inundations are moving southwards in search of means of subsistence, and it is proposed to establish relief agencies, as has hitherto been done at T'sung-kiang P'iu.

Dec. 13th.—(1) A Decree according memorial boards to the temple of the God of the Sea at Hai-ning Chow and Jên-ho in Chekiang, on the application of the Governor, who has represented the divine assistance rendered in maintaining the solidity of the coast embankments.

(2) The Governor of Shantung, Ting Pao-chêng, memorializes reporting his departure from his home in his native province of Kweichow, after completing the repairs of his ancestral tombs, on the 29th August, in order to return to his duty within the year graciously accorded him for leave of absence. He
arrived at Wu-ch'ang Fu on the 19th October, and reports the harvest abundant and the condition of the people happy and contented along the line of his journey through Sze-ch'wan and Hupeh. As five years have elapsed since he was granted an audience, he is possessed with a continual anxiety to gaze upon the countenance of Heaven, as a dog or a horse longs for a sight of its master, and he entreats permission to visit Peking for this purpose before resuming his office. He intends to travel overland from Ta'ing-Kiang P'u northwards, and hopes to meet on the way the answer to his request.—Rescript in the vermilion pencil: There is no need for him to come and have audience.

The remainder of the Gazette is occupied with administrative details from Nangan-hwei.

Dec. 14th—(1)—A Decree. For the great sacrifice to be offered on the 22nd of this month at the altar of Heaven, We ordain that the Prince of Ch'ung, Yih-hwan, do reverently perform the ceremony in Our stead.

(2)—The Governor-General of the Two Hu and the Governor of Hupeh memorialize reporting the outbreak of a popular disturbance at Lao Ho K'ow, in the Kwang-hwa district, bordering on the province of Honan. A military officer having been sent to that place to superintend the proper working of the system of salt supply from the Sze-ch'wan government agency, and to guard against the introduction of smuggled salt from the northeast (Liang Hwai) division, he discovered that a great abundance of counterfeit cash were in circulation, and both issued notices in concert with the local authoritiesstringently prohibiting this practice, and likewise took measures to arrest the offenders. Upon this a number of lawless vagabonds leagued themselves with the police of the district Magistrate, and taking advantage of an opportunity when the Magistrate had gone out of town, they convoked a public gathering on the 26th April last, compelled the shopkeepers to close their shops, and attacked and pilaged the Salt-office. One of the rioters was killed in the fray by a soldier of the local force. Some arrests have been made, but the confessions obtained are unsatisfactory, and a rescript is requested stripping the Magistrate of his button and holding him answerable for the apprehension of the actual ringleaders.

Dec. 16th—The Tartar General and Superintendent of Customs for the Province of Fuhkien memorializes as follows. It has already been reported that the junk with tribute from Liu-ch'iu arrived at Foochow toward the close of last year, when duties were remitted upon the merchandize imported by her, as the regulations provide. Her business being now at an end, the junk has sailed on her return voyage. The Customs' deputy at Nan-t'ai has reported to the effect that the envoy who was on board the junk, named Tung She-hien, has handed in a list of the Chinese merchandize purchased and shipped on board, from which it appears that the amount of duty for which exemption is to be accorded is Tael 283.1.9.8. The Superintendent of Customs has given orders hereupon to waive the payment of this sum, in accordance with precedent, and in furtherance of the profound benevolence displayed by the Sacred Ruler in tenderly cherishing the men from afar. He has notified the same in a mandate addressed to the foreign envoy. The Customs' deputy has further reported that the envoy, followed by his attendant officials and the crew of the junk, has performed the ceremony of the Kotow at the Custom-house, all with faces turned in the direction of the Imperial abode, in thanksgiving for the celestial favours, which have filled them with joy and gratitude. After this they had set sail on their return voyage.

December 16th.—(1)—The President of the Court of Censure reports that an accusation has been lodged by Wu-ying, a writer of the Court, against Teh-ta'uau, a head-clerk of the same department, for extortion and intimidation. The complainant states that, on being posted to his appointment as writer, he lent Teh-ta'uau Tael 30, and that, on sending in an application for leave to go to meet his parents, he made the same person a further loan of a like amount. On applying subsequently for repayment, he was told that these sums were amounts due on his appointment and obtaining leave; in addition to which various payments by way of gratification have been repeatedly demanded of him, and for two years past the whole of his office allowance has been withheld. Beside this, a claim of twenty odd taels by way of interest has been pressed against him, and he has not ventured in consequence to present himself at the office for the discharge of his duty. The accused person denies these charges; and it is requested that both parties may be handed over to the Board of Punishments for judicial investigation.—For rescript see Gazette of Dec. 4th.

(2) The Governor of Hunan exposes an individual holding the appointment of
has since then remained in retirement.)

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announces that Teiang Yih-li

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to the request. In deep apprehension,

respite ia unequal to the effort of sustaining

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as our bodily frame at the present juncture ia unequal to the effort of sustaining fatigue, it behoves Us consequently to give ear to the request. In deep apprehension,

however, lest any neglect be entailed in the absence of attention to affairs, We have addressed reiterated applications to their Majesties the Empresses Dowager, entreating that, in consideration of the fact that Our person is for the time being under restorative treatment, they will deign to suffer the submission of all representations from departments of the government in the capital or the provinces to their perusal and decision. To Our deep joy and gratitude their Majesties, in the affection with which they overflow toward Us, have consented to act in this manner. Let this be promulgated for the information of all, throughout the Empire.

Dec. 17th.—The Court Circular announces that Tsang Yih-li 蒋 益，

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holding office as Judicial Commissioner of Shansi, has paid his respects on his arrival at Peking. (N. B. This is the once-famous Governor of Kwangtung, whose activity and zeal for financial reform led to his removal and degradation to a Judicial Commissionership in 1897. He has since then remained in retirement."

(1) The Ministers of the Presence have received his Majesty's verbal decree as follows. Henceforward, in all cases when memorials are handed in from any of the departments of the Government in the Manchu language, let them be written in parallel columns with the Chinese text. (This is for the convenience of the Empress Dowager, during his Majesty's illness; as the Imperial ladies do not read Manchu.)

(2) The Governor-General of Fuhkien memorializes reporting that the chief perpetrators of a daring robbery on a pawnshop within the city of Ts'ian-chow Fu (Chiuchew) which took place a year and a half ago, have at length been apprehended. From the confession of the prisoners, ten in number, it appears that the gang consisted of 17 individuals. The prisoners are condemned to death.

Dec. 18th.—Imperial Decree. Whereas, on the happy occurrence of a visitation of smallpox which has this month befallen Us, We have been besought in unison by the Prince of Tun and his colleagues to undergo restorative attention in undisturbed tranquility of mind, it has nevertheless seemed impossible, as We reflected on the solemn importance of the affairs of State, that We should dare to take thought for Our own comfort and repose. Yet, as our bodily frame at the present juncture is unequal to the effort of sustaining fatigue, it behoves Us consequently to give ear to the request. In deep apprehension,

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impossible, as We reflected on the solemn

in unison by the Prince of Tun and

in the affection with which they overflow

toward Us, have consented to act in this manner. Let this be promulgated for the information of all, throughout the Empire.

(2)—A Decree. Let Pao-yün 袍 雲 be appointed to the vacant post of Grand Secretary.

(3)—The Governor of Kiangsi denounces the late Magistrate of the Lin-ch'wan District for defalcation and acts of violent misconduct. When handing over charge to his successor he was found to be a defaulter in the amount of Tls. 5,430, under different heads of revenue collection. In the month of May last his daughter-in-law, having fallen out with him on her demanding payment of her expenses for the journey back to her native place, lodged complaints at the Magistracy and Prefecture, and with the Financial Commissioner, accusing her husband's younger brother, Li Wén-shên, of having in his possession amounts appropriated from the public revenue. Upon this Li Wén-shên was arrested and imprisoned. His father subsequently burst into the Yamén of the Prefect of Fu-chow Fu, and insisted on having his son set at liberty; and some time afterwards he forced his way into the Yamén of the Financial Commissioner of the province, despite all opposition, and intruded within the private apartments, where he stormed like a madman on reaching the Commissioner's presence. It is requested that he may be stripped of his official rank and made a prisoner for trial. —Granted by rescript.

(4)—The Governor of Kiangsi further reports an attempt at insurrection in the province. From the reports addessed to him at sundry times by the prefect of Jao-chow Fu and the magistrate of the Po-yang District, it appears that a number of desperadoes have been captured, upon information received, together with arms of different descriptions, such as daggers, spears, etc., and on being brought to trial the following facts were elicited. Wang Shēng-yang and four other prisoners were agricultural labourers from districts
bordering on the Poyang Lake, and another prisoner named Chow Yu-hien, a native of Hupeh, was an itinerant professor of the arts of self-defence and medicine, with whom they were acquainted. Wang Shêng-yang had fallen in by the roadside with another Hupeh man named Lin, who had entered into conversation with him on the advantage to be derived from combining with others to form a brotherhood, by which means aid could be mutually looked for in times of trouble, and resistance be offered to oppression from any quarter. Wang having agreed in this, Lin said he could set out at once to repair to the Ma-chêng district in Hupeh. In the month of January last, Wang had secured two confederates, named Li T'ien-ki and Chow Jih-hwei, who, in turn, had obtained the participation of sundry others whose names are given, and had further compelled or inveigled an additional number of persons into joining the brotherhood. In May last Chow Yu-hien came to Wang's lodge, where he took lodgings, and set up a pugilistic school, and he agreed to become a member of the confederacy. He devised for it the name of T'ai-p'ing T'ien-shun 太平天順, and it was arranged that confederates should be enlisted with a view to raising a rebellion. Wang Shêng-yang was unanimously elected as chief, with five assistants, two of whom respectively agreed to collect a body of 1,000 adherents, and it was further arranged that all were to meet on the 2nd September at a given rendezvous, using the password T'ien shun 天順, and kindling conflagrations as their signal. They were to be armed with daggers, but had no banners or firearms. If they should succeed in obtaining a numerous band of adherents, it was intended to capture the city of Jao-chow, and proceed to form a government; but if the numbers should be few, their object would be to gather plunder and go their several ways. It was while they were in the act of recruiting confederates that the civil and military authorities got wind of what was going on, and one of the party, named Chow Jih-hwei, having come forward to betray the rest, the prisoners were apprehended as above mentioned. The Governor reports that Wang Shêng-yang and two others have been summarily executed, some of the remaining prisoners being resipited in order that they may be brought forward to give evidence when further arrests are made. Eleven of the persons who are proved to have been intimidated into joining the confederacy, without any complicity in the design to engage in rebellion, are sentenced to the penalty of the cangue and beatings, after which they are to be released under security.

Dec. 19th.—(1 and 2) Decrees appointing the newly-made Grand Secretary Pao-yün to the post of Controller-in-chief of the Board of Civil Office; Kwang-shew 廣壽 to succeed him as Manchu President of the Board of War, and Kw'eii-ling 魁齢 to succeed the latter as President of the Court of Censorate.

(3) The Governor of Nang-hwei reports a peculiarly horrifying case of murder. The parties concerned belong to the district of Wu-hu, where they earned their livelihood in a small way, owning besides a trifling area of land. The family consisted of the following persons, viz., Wu Ts'ai, a worthless, dissipated fellow; his father, Wu Ting-fu; his wife, Wu Panshe; and their son, Wu Kwang-yung. Frequent quarrels took place on the subject of money between Wu Ts'ai and his wife, and one of which having occurred on the afternoon of the 11th September last, when he endeavoured to get his wife's consent to the sale of a piece of ground. She refused, and he subsequently beat her until she gave him 100 cash, the woman, in her anger, exclaiming to her father-in-law and her son, after the husband had gone out, that they would all be ruined unless they put this ruffian out of the way. Wu Ting-fu, himself reduced to despair, agreed that he should be put to death, and the woman then prepared a bag with some lime in it, heedless of the remonstrances of her son. When Wu Ts'ai returned home at night in a state of intoxication, he began again to abuse his wife, and she thereupon summoned her father-in-law and her son, who assisted in tying the victim's arms and legs. The bag of lime was then slipped over his head to smother him, and while the son held his legs down, his father sat upon his head until all struggles were over and life was extinct. On the following day, Wu Ting-fu alleged to a neighbour that the deceased had died during the night in a fit of intoxication, and induced him to assist in carrying out and interring the corpse. Information having reached the Magistrate, however, an inquest was held and the parties were made to undergo a peculiarly horrifying case of murder.

Temporary members of the District Court of Nang-hwei consisted of the following persons, viz., Wu Panshe himself reduced to despair, agreed that he should be put to death, and the woman then prepared a bag with some lime in it, heedless of the remonstrances of her son. When Wu Ts'ai returned home at night in a state of intoxication, he began again to abuse his wife, and she thereupon summoned her father-in-law and her son, who assisted in tying the victim's arms and legs. The bag of lime was then slipped over his head to smother him, and while the son held his legs down, his father sat upon his head until all struggles were over and life was extinct. On the following day, Wu Ting-fu alleged to a neighbour that the deceased had died during the night in a fit of intoxication, and induced him to assist in carrying out and interring the corpse. Information having reached the Magistrate, however, an inquest was held and the parties were made to undergo an apeculiarly horrifying case of murder.
the usual formalities. The father of the murdered man is liable according to statute to the penalty of 100 blows for his share in the crime, but being beyond the age of 70, he is entitled to commute this by a pecuniary mulct.

(4) The military authorities of the Amoor region report that a gioro (member of the Imperial lineage) named Che-ch'eng, alias Che-kwang, originally borne on the rolls of the blue banner at Peking, but without specific employ, who was transported into penal servitude at the Amoor in 1862, after being implicated in eight different cases of theft and burglary, has now made his escape from custody. Since his transportation, he has already committed the same offence on five occasions; and having been imprisoned lately on a charge of concerted robbery, he managed to break out of jail on the 24th September and get away. Reports have been sent concerning him to the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Punishments.

Dec. 20th.—(1) A Decree ordaining that, by special grace, the Associate of the Court of Physicians, Li Teh-li, be awarded promotion to an appointment in the 3rd or 4th grade among the Government departments of the capital, and that a second professor of the art of medicine, named Chwang Show-ho, be similarly advanced to a grade one degree lower than the above. (N.B.—The two individuals above named are the physicians who have attended His Majesty during his attack of small-pox.)

(2) The joint-Governor of Feng-fien (Manchuria) memorializes reporting the appointment of an official to take charge of the post of Taotai at Newchwang, in consequence of the death of the late incumbent of the office, on the 21st October. The importance of the post is dwelt upon, as also the command of the foreign drilled force which pertains to it.

The remainder of the Gazette is occupied with memorials from Nganhwei, on the Governor handing over the seals of office to his successor.

Dec. 21st.—The Governor of Kwang-si, in a voluminous memorial, reports the result of a judicial enquiry into the conduct of a brigadier-general named Ch'en Teh-kwei, on sundry charges of wrongdoing in connection with affairs on the Tonquin border. Some time ago a communication was received by the Governor from the King of Anam, Yian Fuh-shhe, by name, (his title of Sze Teh, or Tuduc, not being admitted into Chinese correspondence), complaining that

the officer in question had written directly to Anamese officials, calling upon them to grant free transit to certain foreign vessels conveying cargoes of arms; and further that he had sent a force to extort compensation, on account of a collision which had taken place between some messengers of his and the "barbarian" inhabitants of the Kin-ying district, whom he had therefore chosen to consider as robbers who had pillaged a treasure convoy. In June, 1873, the Governor received a rescript ordering Ch'en Teh-kwei to be stripped of his rank and brought to trial, and this command has now been fulfilled. It appears that, having been stationed on the border of Tonquin in 1872 to guard the frontier against the barbarian rebels, Ch'en Teh-kwei, who has fought his way up to his late position from the ranks of the Kwangtung irregulars, sent an agent to Ho-nui (Hanoi) in Tonquin to report on affairs at that place. On arrival there, the emissary, Liao King-shen by name, met an acquaintance, a cashiered official from Hupheh, named Li Yü-lui, who was employed as assistant to the French Consul Tu Pu-i (Dupuis), who was engaged in transporting a consignment of arms and ammunition on behalf of the General-in-chief of Yunnan, Ma Ju-lung. Li informed the emissary that the barbarian officials of Anam had stopped the vessels, in the absence of any communication from the authorities of Yunnan, and he exhibited to Liao the official instructions given to himself by the General-in-chief of that province. He further drew up in concert with Dupuis a despatch, which he sent by Liao to Ch'en Teh-kwei, requesting him to call on the Anamese officials to allow them to proceed on their journey. On finding that the military stores in question were actually destined for use by the Yunnan authorities, Ch'en Teh-kwei wrote as requested to the Anamese; but they, on finding out some discrepancies of quotation in the despatch, still refused a passage to the steamers. Dupuis upon this transhipped his cargoes, and found his own way of getting on into Yunnan. The remaining charges have been similarly investigated, with the result of clearing Ch'en Teh-kwei of the liability to punishment beyond the temporary deprivation of rank, which it is proposed that he be allowed a further chance of redeeming; but Liao King-shen, who exceeded his functions by meddling in affairs that did not concern him, is adjudged guilty of a grave offence, and it is requested that he be deprived of his
Amoor, there to be consigned to penal servitude. The memorial is referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

Dec. 22nd.—(1)—Commands have been issued through the chamber of address, to the effect that all the princes, ministers, and officials going on duty within the Palace shall, up to the 18th of March next, appear in full embroidered uniforms. The government departments will continue to send in their documents as usual.

(2)—A Decree. The rank to be taken by Pao-yün, as Grand Secretary, is next below Tso Taung-t'ang.

(3)—Yih-tsun (the Prince of Tun, commonly called the fifth Prince, eldest of the Emperor's four surviving uncles,) and his colleagues, memorialize as follows, laying before his Majesty their report in obedience to commands received. On the 11th Dec. the Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council memorialized in the following terms: "Whereas your Majesty has happily met with an attack of small-pox, the Sacred Person should enjoy rest and restorative care, and it would seem fitting that the sacrificial ceremonies to be performed at the Temple of Heaven and the Imperial Temples, as well as all presentations of officials on the part of the various departments of government, beside all matters of business in general, should be arranged in obedience to the exigencies of the case. We beg, therefore, that the Prince of Tun, the Prince of Fu (youngest of the four imperial uncles), and the Ministers of the Presence, may take action with ourselves in drawing up suitable rules and in laying them before your Majesty as the system to be pursued."

To this the rescript was returned: "Be it as is proposed." This having been reverently received, your servants have jointly taken counsel, and they now submit a copy of the rules they have drawn up, for the imperial sanction.—Rescript: Be it as is proposed.

Upon the above follow the proposed rules with reference to the delegation of his Majesty's ceremonial functions during the hundred days of seclusion, ending March 18th, 1875.

(4)—The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the completion of the works undertaken for the restoration of the Temple of the God of the Sea at Haining Chow, the building heretofore existing on the spot having been almost totally destroyed during the Rebellion. Only a portion of the several buildings which formerly constituted the temple have been restored, at a total cost of Taels 36,000, to which an additional sum of Ts. 9,000 has to be added for internal fittings and decoration. This amount is provided from the fund allotted to embankment expenditure. The divine assistance rendered by the God of the Sea since this temple for his worship was first built, by Imperial command, in A.D. 1729, has been most conspicuous. It is requested that a memorial board be conferred by his Majesty upon the building.

Dec 23rd.—(1)—The Governor of Chehkiang reports the conclusion of a trial for the murder of two men, father and son, named Chao Kwoh-kün and Chao Ping-lieh. The elder Chao, who was manager of a commune temple in the Si-ngan district, having interfered on one occasion, in July, 1872, to prevent some disorderly fellows named Lü from gambling with bamboo slips belonging to the temple, a fight ensued in consequence, and on Chao lodging a complaint against them at the district magistracy, one of their number, Lü Wu-urh, was apprehended and flogged. In revenge for this he determined to take Chao's life, and a couple of months later, having previously obtained the promise of assistance from four others of the same surname, he looked out for an opportunity of carrying his purpose into effect. Having watched Chao Kwoh-kün leaving the village one day, and surmising that he would return by the same road, he called together his accomplices, and arming himself with a bill book, while another carried a chopper, he lay in wait for his victim. When Chao Kwoh-kün made his appearance, he was set upon and hacked to death, wounds being dealt all over the body. Shortly afterwards, the son of the murdered man, finding his father had not returned, went out to look for him, whereupon the assassins resolved upon murdering him also, to prevent his denouncing them. The young man was consequently set upon and cut to pieces as his father had been. A villager happened to approach the scene of the crime, and saw what had been done, but he was intimidated into holding his tongue, and the murderers got away. The eye-witness informed the relatives, however, of what he had seen, and pursuit having been instituted, the two principal criminals have been apprehended, and are sentenced to death in due form of law.

(2)—The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes presenting on behalf of the gentry and people of the province an
application for permission to erect a memorial temple in honour of the former Governor of Chekiang (afterwards a Grand Secretary), Yuan Yün (who died in 1850). This high official is revered in the province not only for the literary attainments for which he is celebrated, but also for his skill in repressing disorder and in putting down piracy on the coast. He likewise conferred great boons upon the people by his amelioration of the water system and his arrangements for the relief of distress. In 1852, an application to admit his name upon the list for sacrificial honours received Imperial sanction, and the gentry of the province now wish to take the further step of erecting a temple dedicated to his memory.

Dec. 24th.—(1) — A Decree. We have received the benign mandate of their Majesties the Empresses-as follows:—

Whereas on his Majesty being this month happily attacked by smallpox, safety from harm has been vouchsafed through the silent protection of the Azure Vault above, profound indeed is the gratitude with which we are inspired. Remembering how paramount a consideration it should be with a humane and virtuous government to bestow a reverent regard upon those who lie in bondage, it is fitting to dispense a special act of grace, bestowing a measure of compassionate relief. For all prisoners whose trials have already been concluded by the Board of Punishments or any of the provincial Courts, with the exception of those guilty of crimes of serious magnitude and such as are not embraced within the action of a general pardon in ordinary, let the Grand Council join with the Board of Punishments in considering the circumstances of each case, and submit propositions for Imperial sanction as regards a reduction in the degree of penalty to be inflicted. In the case of criminals whose sentences are lower in degree than those of transportation, punishment (with or without penal servitude), and blows, let them at the same time have decisions recorded on a reduced scale of penalty. Thus, refreshed with the dews and blows, let them at the same time have leniency with or without penal servitude, and a number of the other high officials of the Court, and upon the sons of the princes, and their colleagues in the Grand Council, Shon Kwei-fen and Li Hung-ta'ao, are granted the distinction of the two-eyed peacock-feather, which is also extended to a number of the other high officials of the

(2) — A Decree. Whereas, on Our being this month happily attacked by smallpox, their Majesties the Empress (dowager) Te'zo Ngn Twan Yu K'ang K'ing, and the Empress (mother) Te'zo Hi Twan Yeo, have tended Our person with a care which knew no bounds, and as moreover, in their loving affection, their Majesties have also deemed it fit to give ear to Our request that the memorials handed in from all the Government departments be submitted for their perusal and decision, Our heart has been filled with the most profound gratitude and satisfaction. It is fitting that an addition be made to the titles of respect appertaining to their Majesties, as a return, however small, for their abounding love.—Let the proper department take, with all reverence, the steps which are needful for the accomplishment of the ceremonial.

(3) We have received the benign mandate of their Majesties the Empresses as follows: Let the imperial concubine of the second class, Hwei Fei 皇貴妃, be invested with the rank of the first class, as Hwang Kwei Fei 皇貴妃; the imperial concubine of the third class, Yu Pin 瑜嬪, be invested with the title of the second class, as Yu Fei; the imperial concubine of the third class Sun Pin 䄌嬪, be similarly promoted to the second class; and the lady-of-honour Si-lin 西林覺羅氏 be invested with the title of Tsin Pin 晉嬪, as a concubine of the third class. (Note. The foregoing constitute one-half of the number of concubines, in addition to the Empress, who are said at present to complete the imperial seraglio, viz., two fei, two p'in, and four kwei-jen).

(4) A Decree bestowing honours and rewards on all the Princes and high functionaries of the court and capital, in token of rejoicing for his Majesty's convalescence. The Princes of Tun and Ch'un have their State salaries as Princes of the blood-imperial doubled; and as this has already heretofore been done on behalf of the Prince of Kung, the salary of his Highness is now to be trebled. The Prince of Fu is granted the salary of an imperial Prince, and similar allowances in different degrees are conferred upon the Mongolian princes of the Court, and upon the sons of the three imperial uncles and others. The Grand Secretaries Wen-siang and Pao-yün, and their colleagues in the Grand Council, Shon Kwei-fen and Li Hung-ta'ao, are granted the distinction of the two-eyed peacock-feather, which is also extended to a number of the other high officials of the
Boards, etc. Two reserve degrees of rank are conferred upon all nobles and officials throughout the Empire; and a donation of half a month’s pay is bestowed upon the entire Manchu and Chinese garrison of Peking.

Dec. 24.—(5)—The acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow memorializes observing that, in consequence of the obstruction to intercourse with Burmah during the late rebellion, no tribute has been sent forward for years past; and six Imperial decrees addressed at various intervals to the King of Burmah have lain in the provincial treasury for some time awaiting transmission. Last year, after the overthrow of the Mahommedan rebels, a Burmese official found his way to Yunnan Fu, bringing a letter which, on being translated, was found to be to the effect that the King of Burmah, having heard of the restoration of order, had sent his hand to the Imperial throne, which was done by the same Censor, to the effect that the king has received the address to the Throne, which is here after to be presented with the tribute sent, and the Governor-General therefore asks that a proper form be supplied from Peking, to replace that which was lost among the official archives destroyed during the rebellion.

Dec. 25th.—(1)—A decree in reply to a memorial from the Censors superintending the north division of Peking, denouncing the conduct of a member of the Imperial lineage, the *tung-shih*, Siang-nung, alias Siang-ling. Having been found to be dwelling at an opium-shop, he was called to account by the Censor Lin Kwok-kwang, at whom he roared back in an unseemly manner, and on enquiry it was found not only that he was keeper of the shop, but that he was in league with a pretended *tung-shih* and a number of other bad characters, who made his house a rendezvous and a receptacle for stolen property. The accused person is handed over to the Imperial clan Court and the Board of Punishments, to be stringently dealt with. In reply to a further representation by the same Censor, to the effect that members of the Imperial lineage who take up their residence in the outer city are constantly resorted to by bad characters for protection against official pursuit, it is ordered that all *tung-shih* are for the future to confine themselves, as the regulations provide, to residence within the Tartar city alone.

(2 and 3.)—Decrees setting forth mandates from the Empresses Dowager—the first conferring one degree of advancement in rank respectively on five of the surviving concubines of the Emperor Tao Kwang (who died in 1850), and the second similarly on seven of the concubines of the Emperor Hien Fung (died 1801)

(4) — A Decree in reply to the report handed in by the Board of Punishments on the conduct of General Ma Ju-lung in connection with the rebel outlaw Chang Chao-show, who came to Peking in his train. (See Gazette of Dec. 6th). Ma Ju-lung’s offence, in having failed to detect this, admits of no excuse, and it is ordered that, as the Board proposes, he be stripped of his official rank, but left as incumbent of his post (as General-in-chief of Hunan).

Dec. 26th.—The Court Circular records the return of thanks by Ma Ju-lung on being deprived of his rank and left in office. (See Gazette of Dec. 25th).

Dec. 27th.—This day’s Gazette contains nothing beyond administrative details.

Dec. 28th.—(1) The Governor-General of Sze-ch’wan renues his application for leave to retire from the service on the
score of ill health. He has already received by Imperial grace a congé of two months, but his maladies, which date from the period of his tenure of office as Taotai in Northern Kiangse, 15 years ago, continue to weigh him down, and he feels incapable of sustaining the burden of his important office longer. He begs that he may be allowed to retire to his native home, and assures his Majesty that so soon as amendment declares itself in his condition he will ask again to be employed.—Rescript. Let Wu T'ang have a congé of two months.

(2)—The Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan further memorializes reporting the devotion of two wives to the memory of their deceased husbands. In the first case, a daughter of an official was married in 1864 to a licentiate from Yunnan, who came to Szech'wan for a wife in consequence of the troubled state of his own province. Two years afterwards he returned to Yunnan, to compete at the examinations, and it was not until June last that he came back to fetch his wife home. Having been unhappily attacked with cholera, he succumbed to the disease. In her grief for his loss, his wife took no sustenance of any kind after his death, but she kept silence respecting her intentions in order to spare the feelings of her parents. When the funeral ceremonies were completed, she swallowed gold-leaf, and then, kneeling down to beseech her parents not to grieve overmuch, and saying that her husband's concubine in Yunnan was with child, and that it was her hope that she might bring forth a son to continue the ancestral sacrifices on her husband's behalf, she passed away, seated decorously beside her husband's coffin. In the second case, a bereaved widow is reported as having led a life of chaste devotion to her husband's memory for 26 years after his death. A mark of Imperial approbation is solicited on behalf of both these virtuous ladies.

(3)—The same high official reports that the timber for masts cut in the wild forests of the western frontier of Sze-ch'wan, to serve as lantern-poles for the Temple of Heaven at Peking, was to a large extent injured or destroyed whilst being floated down through a mountain stream, the district Magistrate in charge being at the same time drowned (as already reported; see Gazette of Oct. 9th.) On a survey being held by the district Magistrate of Wu-Shan, it is found that only eleven spars of six chang in length remain available for use. Thirteen pieces of timber forming part of the convoy, were dashed to pieces among the rapids. Officials have now been sent into the country of the barbarian tribes to provide a fresh supply, but as they have been obliged to go further than before in search of trees of fitting magnitude, the forest now selected being at a distance of more than 100 li from any river, with steep and rugged precipices intervening, over which roads must be made to drag the timber along, no time can be named for the probable completion of the work.

Dec. 29th.—(1).—A decree cashiering an official holding an appointment in the Board of Punishments at Mukden, for the offence, as reported by his chief, the vice-President Ming-igan, of making a special application to him, at his private residence, for actual employment.

(2).—The Brigadier-general of the T'ai-nan division memorializes reporting his proceedings in connection with the care of the Western Imperial Mausolea. It was provided in 1852 that a sum not exceeding Tls. 300 should be expended annually in keeping the small river or canal which runs through the approaches to the tombs in repair and free from weeds. The total length at present requiring attention is 22,867 ch'ih. The same official, feeling it incumbent upon him to offer a loyal contribution from his own resources, proposes to provide 3,540 young cedars, which are required for replanting some of the Imperial grave-mounds. He has likewise supervised the usual autumn clearing of the boundary road encircling the mausolea.

Dec. 30th.—(1).—A Decree. Wên-siang memorializes again beseeching leave to resign his office on the ground of protracted ill health. Let him be granted a further congé of three months without resigning his office.

(2)—The acting Governor-General of Yunnan applies for the issue of a new Imperial mandate constituting the death warrant, with the usual official archives and books of reference, for the Brigadier-General commanding at T'êng-yüeh (Moumein) on the south-west frontier of the province, to replace those destroyed on the capture of the city by the Mahomedan rebels.

Dec. 31st.—(1)—The Governor of Honan reports the rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking. A man named Han Wên-têh having been fatally stabbed in 1869 by a fellow-villager named Sung Kwook-kin, and the murderer having taken to flight, the victim's brother, Han Wên-ping, brought a groundless charge of complicity in the murder against certain of his fellow villagers, who were tried and discharged as innocent.
He subsequently complained at Peking against these men and the police of the magistracy, whom he represented as having connived at the escape of the murderer. These charges have been reinvestigated, and found to be devoid of foundation; but as the appellant was actuated by grief for the loss of his brother in taking the steps in question, he is exempted from punishment.

(2)—The same Governor reports that a district Magistrate who was stripped of his official button in 1870 for a deficit of Tls. 6,000 and odd in the revenue, for which he was accountable, has now made good the amount; and he begs that the button may be restored in consequence.—Rescript: Let the request be granted.