ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

1889.

SACRIFICES TO SPIRIT OF DECEASED SAINT AT DOLONOR.

January 1st.—The Lieutenant General at Kalian received instructions some months ago to proceed to Dolonor and there make certain offerings to the spirit of the deceased saint Chang-Chia. He started from his post on the 21st November, and, reaching his destination on the 27th, proceeded to carry out the object of his mission, which he did to the great satisfaction of the disciples of the deceased, who expressed their warm gratitude for this token of the Imperial bounty. After a sojourn of two days at Dolonor he started on the return journey, and reached his post at Kalgan on the 5th of December.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui reports the receipt of Tls. 1,000 each from General Wei Ju-kuei, Brigadier-General Yeh Chih-ch’un, and a retired official named Yang Yung-chi, residing at Po Chou, as subscriptions towards the relief of the suffering caused by the Yellow River in Anhui. All these donations were prompted by the dying wishes of the donors' parents and as the amount is large enough to justify an application for permission to construct honorary portals, it is suggested that structures of this kind should be erected at the expense of their living descendants to the memory of the benevolent dead and have engraved upon them the epitaphs: "They delighted in charity and loved to do good."

EXPENSES OF REVISION OF THE HUI TIEN.

A revised edition of the Hui Tien or Codified Institutes of the Empire under the present dynasty has been in course of compilation for some time past, and on the 29th of September last the Board of Civil Office drew up a scheme to provide funds for meeting the expenditure connected with the work. A copy of this Memorial was sent to Hupeh, and the province was required to furnish Tls. 6,000, the sum which represented the arrears due on account of "maintenance allowance" for the first six years of the reign of Hsien Feng. The Financial Commissioner, to whom the matter was referred, admits the indebtedness of the province, but points out that the arrears were long ago cancelled owing to the devastation caused during the above period by the rebellion. He considers it, however, his duty to lend some assistance towards defraying the heavy outlay incurred in issuing a new edition of the codified Constitutional Usages of the Empire, and he has accordingly appropriated a sum of Tls. 2,000 from the Waste Allowance Fund, which he is forwarding along with the eighth instalment of the Peking subsidy.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

January 2nd.—Yü Shan, the Chief Justice of Hunan, having been promoted to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Shan-si, he has been obliged to vacate his post, and as it will be some time before his successor, Hsiüeh Fu-ch'eng, can reach the province the Lieutenant-Governor, Sun Yi-mou, is during the interval to combine with his other duties the judicial functions of the vacant office. As regards Sun Yi-mou, the Governor states that he considers him a capable officer, but not having yet been himself three months in the province, he is precluded by law from passing any formal criticism on the merits of his subordinates.

MEMORIAL TEMPLE TO TING PAO-CHEN.

January 3rd.—More than two years ago an application was forwarded through Ch'en Shih-ch'ieh for permission to build a temple in Shantung to the memory of Ting Pao-chên, the late Governor General of Szechuan. Shantung, it was represented, was under a great debt of gratitude to the deceased Viceroy for the valuable services he had rendered during the time he held office as Governor of the province. In the suppression of rebellion, the management of river works, the organisation of relief measures, the clearing off of judicial arrears, and in all other administrative measures, he had worked with a will and energy which had promoted the best interests of the people and gained him their love and esteem.
The erection of the memorial temple having been sanctioned, the work was entrusted to Li Ch'ing-ao, formerly Governor of Honan, and a number of officials and gentry in the province. In the suburbs of Chi-nan Fu there is a College which was established during the Governorship of Ting Pao-chên, and at the rear of it there was a house occupied by the President, which it was decided to convert into a memorial temple to the deceased. A new building was to be constructed for the President on a vacant piece of ground a little to the west. The Governor, Chang Yao, now reports the completion of both structures, which have been inspected and found to be strong and durable. The total cost has been defrayed by private subscription. It is asked that the temple should be placed on the consecrated list by the Board, and that as a tribute of respect for the eminent services of the deceased, sacrificial rites should be performed in it for the eminent services of the deceased, every spring and autumn by the local authorities.—Granted by Rescript.

REMITTANCES TO PEKING FROM SHANTUNG.

Chang Yao reports the transmission of the following sums on various accounts to Peking: the sixth instalment of the Peking subsidy, Tls. 50,000, forwarded to the Board of Revenue by the Financial Commissioner: Tls. 6,250 transmitted by the Salt Commissioner to the Board of Revenue as interest on funds lent to the province, together with Tls. 156.2.5 for difference in weight and Tls. 50 for portage; Tls. 6,250 to the Imperial Household for interest on borrowed capital, with similar allowances for portage and loss by exchange; Tls. 20,000 sent by the Grain Intendant as the second instalment towards defraying the outlay on frontier defence; and Tls. 20,000 from the fourteen small roots of ginseng, weighing altogether 9.4 ounces. The coat, amounting to Tls. 1,557.4, will be defrayed from the duties collected on ginseng and if a further supply can be procured, it will be forwarded later on.

SCRUTINY OF STAFF OF LITERARY CHANCELLOR.

When a Literary Chancellor arrives in a province, one of his first duties is to furnish the Governor with a list of the Secretaries he has engaged to assist him in examining the essays. This list is scrutinised by the Governor to see that it contains no names belonging to the province, and a report on the subject is submitted to the Throne. A memorial from Chang Yao published in this number of the Gazette sets forth the names of the Secretaries of the new Literary Chancellor of Shantung.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE PAY AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE NORTHERN FLEET.

January 4th.—The Board of Admiralty recently drew up a set of rules introducing certain changes in the salaries and wages assigned to the officers and men in the Northern Fleet, a copy of which was forwarded to the Viceroy Li with a request that they should be enforced. The Viceroy now proposes that they should take effect from the beginning of next year, and states that their earlier enforcement would lead to much confusion, as payments have up to the present been made on the old scale. For the sake of uniformity, he suggests that all promotions which have been made since the promulgation of the new rules should, as far as salary is concerned, date from the beginning of the ensuing year, when a new system of accounts based upon the rules will be adopted. The Admiralty regulations give merely an abstract of miscellaneous expenditure, and the distribution of the total allowance under this head will be arranged by the Viceroy as circumstances may require.

REMITTANCES FROM CH'ANG-LU SALT REVENUE.

During 1887 the salt revenue of Ch'ang-lu was to have furnished a sum of Tls. 196,010.9.2.8, being interest upon money due to the various Boards in Peking. The Board of Revenue cancelled 20,000 of the warrants, and from this a deduction of Tls. 6,323.2.4.9 had to be made, leaving a total liability of Tls. 189,687.6.7.9. Of this amount however, Tls. 51,784.6.2.9 represents the defalcations of merchants who have been denounced to the Throne, and payment of the remainder, Tls. 137,903.1.5, has now been made. The following additional sums have also been at the same time remitted to Peking: Tls. 8,133.4.6 as maintenance allowance to the officials of several Boards; Tls. 30,667.7.3 as a votive contribution towards ginseng for the Palace, and the expense of repairing certain buildings in the department of the Imperial Household.

ABORTIVE REBELLION IN KUEI-CHOU.

January 5th.—The Governor of Kuei-chou gives a curious account of an unsuccessful attempt at rebellion which took
In the district of Wei-ning Chou on the Yunnan frontier there lived a man named Chu Lung-pao, who was a tailor by trade.

One day in the previous spring a neighbour came to his house with a stranger from Szechuan, who examined his horoscope and told his fortune, predicting for him and his father indescribable greatness. After this, frequent visits passed between the two houses. One day the stranger said that he understood magic, and bade Chu Lung-pao look into a bowl of water. Gazing at the reflected image the diviner declared that Chu Lung-pao was the embodiment of Hung Wu. [Note.—Hung Wu was the renowned founder of the Ming Dynasty. The family surname of the Mings was Chu, and the unfortunate victim in the present story was doubtless selected on account of his possessing the same name.]

Next Chu Pao-lung and his father were invited to the house of a Mrs. Ch'en to see some charms. The woman who had previously been prompted by the stranger, persuaded her visitors that rebellion would bring them wealth and honour. She said that she was a sorceress and could by her enchantments vanquish the troops of the Emperor. As a proof she produced a bowl of rice, which she declared to be possessed of magical qualities. It was inexhaustible and could produce food for any number of men and horses. Chu Pao-lung was duped by these stories and agreed to rebel as soon some adherents could be collected. A day was appointed for the swearing of followship by the principal conspirators, at the house of the neighbour above-mentioned. When the time came Chu Pao-lung met there five or six men who had been induced by the stranger to join in the plot. A fowl was killed by the master of the house and its blood dropped into a bowl of wine, of which all present partook. Chu Pao-lung was unanimously proclaimed chief, the others promising to assist him by finding followers. He then went home and busied himself with making some red flags and procuring arms with the deliberate intention of commencing a rebellion. In September a couple of hundred men and more had been induced to join the plot and met together at his house, with a view to rising. As a preliminary they asked the stranger to give a manifestation of his supernatural powers. When he failed to do so more than a hundred of them saw that they had been duped and quietly dispersed. The remainder held together, with the intention of making a separate effort. But in the meantime news of what was going on had been carried to the authorities, who immediately sent a small body of troops and militia to suppress the rising. The rebels thereupon carried off Chu Pao-lung and his family to a certain cave where they hoped to be able to beat off the troops. They maintained their defence for one day; but on the following morning the place was taken, right of the rebels being killed and more than twenty persons committing suicide by throwing themselves over the cliffs. Chu Pao-lung's father and two of the sworn conspirators were captured. Chu Pao-lung himself was afterwards discovered concealed in the cave, and with him were two flags bearing treasonable inscriptions. The pretended sorceress Mrs. Ch'en was arrested later, with a number of unlawful charms in her profession.

The Memorialist finds that death by slow degrees is the penalty which the law awards for the crime of high treason and rebellion, no distinction being made as to principal and accessories. Chu Pao-lung and the woman Chên have therefore been condemned to suffer this punishment; and on account of the heinousness of their guilt the sentence has been carried into effect without reference being first made to Peking. The three other prisoners have all died in gaol; but their corpses will be cut in pieces and exposed. The wife and the mother of the principal criminal lived with him and were privy to his offence. They should both of them therefore be condemned to decapitation; but as they were killed by throwing themselves over rocks, no further notice need be taken of them. The husband of the woman Ch'en was away from home at the time of the plot and had no knowledge of it whatever. He is the notwithstanding this liable to punishment, and search will be made for him together with the remaining conspirators who have escaped. The crowd of followers were got together from all quarters, no register was left of them, their names are not known, and there is no means of discovering them. Lastly it is thought that the activity and success with which the local officials suppressed the rising should be allowed to compensate for their previous want of watchfulness.

Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.
sea to Chihli and Shantung has been carried on there with the approval of the government. The harvests indeed have been inferior of late years; but the import of grain into the province from other parts of Manchuria has kept down prices and enabled the population to supply itself with food. This year however the corps in other parts have not been very plentiful; while a large part of Sheng-ching has been visited by the most terrible floods. Moreover the portions of the province which escaped this calamity, suffered from drought in the spring and summer, so that even in them the harvest has proved deficient. The result in that there is fearful distress in the districts which were inundated. The people are crying out for food and the price of corn is gradually rising. If things are allowed to go on as before and nothing is done to prevent grain being taken away to other provinces, it is to be feared that the inhabitants will have nothing to eat. The Memorialists therefore pray that in accordance with the precedent set in 1874 the Emperor will forbid the export of kao-liang and small millet from Sheng-ching, without interfering with the trade in other kinds of grain. Towards the end of next summer, if there be a prospect of a good harvest and prices fall to a reasonable level, the Memorialists will petition His Majesty to remove the prohibition.—Sanctioned.

CHANGES AS TO ARTILLERY IN KIRIN.

(2) The Military Governor of Kirin represents that last summer his predecessor obtained permission to convert two battalions of cavalry into horse artillery, with the object of forming a powerful force for the defence of the country. Looking however at present circumstances, the Memorialist is of opinion that cavalry would be more useful than horse artillery. Mounted banditti are the chief cause of danger; and to cope with them a force is required capable of swiftly traversing the wide and thinly inhabited wastes. The guns though light and excellent pieces must still form an obstacle to rapidity of movement. He therefore proposes to reconvert the horse artillery into cavalry, and distribute the guns, which are forty in number, among ten battalions of infantry, who will continue their drill as before.—Approved.

FUNDS FOR ALTAI POST STATIONS.

(3) The Governor of Chahar presents his annual application for the funds allotted to him for the maintenance of the forty-four stations on the government post road to the Altai Mountains. This sum in ordinary years of twelve months amounts to Tls. 22,877, and is paid from the funds in the hands of the Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan. It is intended to cover the pay of officers and men, and to defray the cost of horses and sheep, and of stationery and such items.

January 7th.—No documents of interest.

MANCHURIA, PATROLLING OF FRONTIERS.

January 8th.—(1) The high authorities of Fung-tien and Kirin report that the frontier between the two provinces has been patrolled according to annual custom. The service was performed by a combined force, under the charge of officers belonging to the two jurisdictions. The commanders report that they found the whole region in a state of peace. The country was not troubled by mounted banditti, nor was there any lawlessness of any kind.

YUNNAN, ADVANCES AT SALT WORKS.

(2) The Governor of Yunnan reports that a sum of six hundred taels has been advanced from the salt revenue for the purchase of firewood to be used in the ensuing year for boiling the brine at the A-lou salt wells. The money will be handed to the principal salt makers and will be deducted from the payments to be made next year.

MORTUARY HONOURS TO A MONGOL PRINCESS.

(3) Shakotu-linechopu, the Chief Controller of the territory of Kobdo, has received a report from the Acting Captain General of one of the Leagues or combined tribes of the Tourgouth Mongols. The Captain General states that he has been informed by Prince Misko-tungkulabu, who is a member of his league, that the Prince's grandmother Alashan fell sick and died last August.

The Memorialist finds that there are special regulations for the territories of Ili, Ulia-tai and Kobdo with regard to what should be done in the case of the death of a Mongol Prince, Noble or Princess. According to these regulations, which were instituted by the Mongolia Office and approved by the Emperor, in an elegy be granted by His Majesty for the deceased, it will be composed in Mongol or Manchu by the Grand Secretariat in Peking and forwarded though the government post. On its arrival the Military Governor or Controller will depute an officer to convey it to the place where the remains are lying, and there perform the ceremony of presentation. (Note.—It appears that the elegy here spoken of is a laudatory composition which is read in front of the coffin of the deceased and then solemnly burnt.) Also in the case of the death of a princess the
sacrificial offerings allowed are five sheep and five jars of wine, the cost of which is defrayed from the public funds in the hands of the Military Governor or Controller.

Accordingly the Memorialist prays that the Emperor will be pleased to bestow an elegy upon the deceased Princess Alashan, upon which the prescribed ceremonies will be performed. Rescript:—Let the Office concerned take note.

**MONGOL DANCES IN PALACE.**

January 9th.—(1) At noon on the 10th the Emperor will proceed to the great central hall and there witness the performance of some Mongol Masquerade dances.

**EXTRA PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.**

(2) In order to commemorate his assumption of sole power, and as a special act of favour to the scholars of the country, the Emperor desires that an extra examination for the Ch'ü-jen degree be held in every province during the autumn of the present year (1889), and that it be followed in the spring of the succeeding year by an examination for the Metropolitan Degree at Peking.

**VICTORY OVER LOLOS IN SZECHUEN.**

(3) The Emperor has received a report from the high authorities in Szechuen announcing several victories over the Lolos in the neighbourhood of Ma-pien Ting and Liang Shan. A rebellious chief has been executed, several of his followers slain and the terrified people have given their submission. His Majesty is much pleased at the success with which the operations have been conducted. He directs that the officers who have most distinguished themselves be recommended for rewards.

**GENEALOGICAL RECORDS AT PEKING.**

(4) As appears from a Memorial presented by a member of the Han-lin Yuan, there was formerly a complete record compiled of all the families of the Manchus and other bannermen at Peking. This record which gave an account of the official honours of every individual who obtained any, was commenced in the thirteenth year of Yung Ching (A.D. 1735) and completed in the ninth year of Ch'ien Lung (A.D. 1744). The Memorialist proposes that the record should now be continued up to the present time, and that in future it should be revised every forty or fifty years.—Decree issued separately.

**NATIVE OPIUM DUTY AT HUAI-AN.**

(5) The superintendent of the Custom-house at Huai-an Fu, who has just taken charge of his post, reports in a supplementary Memorial that he has received a communication from his predecessor on the subject of the collection of duty on native opium. From this despatch he learns that some time ago instructions were received at the Customhouse to the effect that in future no charges were to be levied on foreign opium; but nothing was said about stopping the collection of duty on opium of Chinese origin. The taxation of the native drug was therefore continued, and during a period of sixteen months up to the end of last September the receipts from this source amounted to £1,169.5.2. This sum has been remitted to the Board of Revenue at Peking by bills of exchange on a Shansi Bank. The Memorialist in conclusion explains that he makes this statement on behalf of the late superintendent who having vacated his post on account of mourning, is not able to address the throne himself.

**HISTORY OF THE MAHOMMEDAN WARS.**

January 10th.—(1) After referring to the military glory of his dynasty, the Emperor notices that official narratives have been published of the suppression of the Mahommedan wars, viz. the Taiping and Nien-fei rebellions. But in addition to these there have been the great uprisings of the Mahommedans in Yünnan and Kueichow and in Shensi, Kansu and Turkestan, which lasted from the time of the Emperor Hsien Feng into the present reign. The first successes of Hsien Feng were followed by those of Tung Chih, who saved the people from their imminent danger by following the principle of making no difference between Chinese and Mahommedans and only distinguishing between the good and the bad. Finally the work of twenty years was ended by the present Emperor himself who ruling under the guidance of his mother reconquered the whole of Chinese Turkistan and Ti. He now desires that for the information of future times the history of these wars be undertaken by the Military Archive Office. The work will be executed under the supervision of five of the members of the Grand Council, who are named in the Decree.

**PAY FOR TROOPS IN SHANTUNG.**

(2) There is a force of eleven battalions, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, stationed in the neighbourhood of Chinkoo for the defence of the coast. For the maintenance of this army £6,480 are furnished monthly from the revenue of Shantung, and £18,500 per month are provided by the Board of Revenue from other sources. The Governor of Shantung now presents a Memorial requesting that the Board may be directed to order the payment of the allowance for the first half of the coming year
(1889). The accounts for the last half of the expiring year will be forwarded to Peking as soon as the term is completed.

**OFFICER EXCUSED FROM ARCHERY.**

(3) There is a rule that, if any military officer be crippled by wounds received in action, he may be excused from archery practice on foot or on horseback as ordinarily required. The Viceroy at Nanking now reports that there is a Lieutenant Colonel Tseng Yu-chü belonging to the garrison at Soochow, who begs to be allowed to avail himself of this rule. It appears that he was wounded twice in the right arm, once by a bullet and once by a spear, while fighting against the Taipings in Kiangsi in 1858; and whenever the air is damp, his arm becomes painful and useless. A superior officer has been deputed to examine the applicant's arm. He reports that he finds it scarred by two wounds, one from a bullet six-tenths of an inch in depth, and one from a spear point, eight-tenths of an inch in diameter. He considers that the injury is really serious and that the applicant is fairly entitled to the remission that he asks for.—**Granted.**

**EMPEROR PRAYS FOR SNOW.**

January 11th.—(1) As very little snow has fallen this winter, and it is much needed in the fields, the Emperor will proceed on the 14th instant to the Temple known as the Ta-kao-tien and there offer incense. He further appoints four high officers to represent him on the same day at the other state temples where it is customary to worship on such occasions.

**TS'EN YÜ-YING'S HEALTH.**

(2) After inspecting the army of western Yünnan at Tali Fu, the Viceroy Ts'en Yu-ying returned at the end of November to Yünnan Fu. There he received an Imperial Decree assuring him of the Emperor's solicitude regarding his health and bidding him take care of himself while performing the duty of inspecting the troops. Hitherto, it states, he has recovered from the distemper and diarrhoea which vexed him, but he is still troubled by freshness in his feet and by asthma which destroys his rest at night. The Doctors tell him that he can only be cured by rest; and the cold of the present season renders travelling dangerous. He therefore humbly takes advantage of the Emperor's kindness and begs that he may be allowed to put off inspecting the troops in the east and the south of the province till after the commencement of the coming spring.—**Approved.**

**DISBANDMENT OF IRREGULAR FORCES IN I LI.**

January 12th.—The Governor of Chinese Turkestan submits a Memorial respecting the proposed disbanded irregular troops in Ili which clashes to a great extent with the views held by Sê-lêng-ô, the Military Governor of the latter district. Sê-lêng-ô, it seems without consulting the Governor, formulated certain proposals of his own on the subject and obtained sanction from the Throne, to incur an expenditure of Tls. 150,000 in giving effect to them. The Governor now points out that a scheme of the kind had been under consideration for some years and that Sê-lêng-ô's ignorance of the past history of the case has caused him to fall into a number of mistakes. Over three years ago the Governor and Hsi-lun, then General of the forces in Ili, were instructed to deal with the question of arrears of pay due to the irregular army there, and after much consultation it was decided that from the beginning of 1887 the Hupei regulations on the subject should be introduced in Ili and that no arrears should be allowed to accrue after that date. A certain proportion of the soldiers were to be retained in the province and a sum of Tls. 99,000 was to be devoted to this object. Certain allowances to cover travelling expenses were to be granted to such as were disbanded and wished to return to their homes, while separate treatment was provided for others who preferred to remain and settle in the country. Sê-lêng-ô has ignored all these distinctions and has based his calculations upon the supposition that a uniform scale of compensation should be enforced. The Governor considers the General's proposals impracticable, and sketches out the plan which he intends to adopt in dealing with the matter. Sê-lêng-ô will be asked to furnish separate lists of the men who wish to return to their homes and of those who desire to settle in the country. These lists will be carefully examined by the Governor and allowances will be issued in Ili to those who propose to settle there. The General will issue certificates to all who wish to return to their homes on the production of which allowances will be made to the holders. The Governor has already drawn up certain rules respecting the constitution and payment of the forces at Aksu, Pali-k'un and elsewhere, which, he thinks, ought to be made applicable to the army in Ili. As, however, the troops in the latter place are under the control of a military Governor and Sê-lêng-ô has never furnished him with any statistics on the subject, he
does not care to interfere.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

APPOINTMENTS.

Ho Liang-chên is gazetted Chief Justice of Kweichow, and Lung Chan-lin is appointed President of the Imperial Supervisorate of Instruction.

GRANT OF GRAIN FOR A REFUGE.

In response to an application from the Metropolitan authorities, the Emperor has been pleased to make a second grant of 300 piculs of rice for the supply of refuge in the Western city.

APPOINTMENT.

January, 13th.—O-lô-ching-o is gazetted Salt Commissioner at Ch'ang-lu in Chihli.

FORCIBLE ABDUCTION OF A GIRL.

The following case is reported at considerable length by the High Authorities of Feng T'ien. At the village of Liu-t'un in the district of Chin there lived a man named Li Ho with an unmarried daughter, called Huan-tzu. A soldier of the name of Chang Tien-fu who was quartered in the same neighbourhood conceived an attachment for the girl and determined to carry her off by force. For this purpose he secured the co-operation of a number of his friends who were to assist him in various ways in effecting his object. Shih Ch'ang-yu was to play the part of the go-between, while on the other hand, he saw an enraged man brandishing a weapon and vowing vengeance on one of his men. After a hurried investigation, he gave a decision by which the girl was to become the wife of Chang who was to marry her with the usual ceremonies. As a matter of fact, however, her father was constrained to give her over by the village constable who, as already explained, had already explained, had been previously squared by Chang. The girl wept bitterly and refused to cohabit with him, but he tied her hands together with his girdle and forced her to submit. The story of the forged marriage deed and the rumours which had been industriously circulated in the regiment respecting Chang's engagement and its repudiation eventually came to the ears of the Commanding officer. The latter, seeing that he had been duped, had the man at once placed under arrest and forwarded for trial to the civil authorities before whom the facts as above related were fully established.

The following are the various statutes cited as being applicable to the case of the principal and accessories to the crime:

1.—Where a number of people conspire to carry off a girl belonging to a family with which they have had no previous relations and fail to effect their object, the punishment in the case of the principal offenders is strangulation, and in that of the accessories, banishment to a distant and unhealthy frontier.

2.—Rape is punished by strangulation.

3.—Where, as in the above two cases, the same punishment is provided for two offences committed by the same person, he is to be convicted on the first of the two counts.

4.—The penalty for grave acts of deliction is 80 blows of the bamboo.
Chang Tien-fu has been sentenced to strangulation under the first of the foregoing provisions for being the principal agent in the attempted abduction of a girl with whose family he had no previous acquaintance: Shih Ch'ang-yu has been condemned to banishment in an unhealthy climate for having taken up the rôde of go-between in the transaction, and Liu Hai's conduct in disseminating the false report about the girl's engagement should be visited with a punishment of 100 blows and banishment to a distance of 3,000 li. Both of them, however, died in prison and no further notice need be taken of their case. A number of the other conspirators have received eighty blows, and the commanding officer of the troops has been permanently removed from the service for adjudicating in a case, jurisdiction over which appertained exclusively to the civil authorities. The girl has been given back to her parents who are to find a suitable husband for her.

PROPOSED RESTORATION OF AN IMPERIAL TEMPLE IN MANCHURIA.

January 14th.—On the hill of I-wu-lii, in the district of Kuang-ning, in Feng-t'ien, which is mentioned in the Ritual of the Chow dynasty, and was included among the Five Guardian Mountains of the Empire in the reign of K'ai Huang of the Sui dynasty, there is temple at which worship is celebrated simultaneously with that at the Temple of Heaven in Peking, and to which the Emperors of the present dynasty have always repaired when visiting the tombs of their ancestors in Manchuria. It is possessed of divine powers of unusual efficacy, and last summer when the province was visited with severe drought prayers offered there to the deity of the Hill obtained an immediate response in a plentiful downpour of bounteous rain. The Temple which is only five li to the west of the town of Kuang-ning was kept in a good state of preservation during the Ming dynasty, but not having been repaired since the time of K'ang Hai, it has been allowed to fall into neglect during the last 160 years. The woodwork is all decayed, the grounds are overgrown with weeds and grass, and only the rafters being left of the roof, the images are exposed to the open air. In anticipation of the present Emperor following the example of his ancestors and visiting the place, the Governor of the province has drawn up plans for the restoration of the building. To complete the work at once would require a sum of Tls. 100,000 but he proposes to distribute the expenditure over a number of years, and use for this purpose the interest of various sums which were assigned to the province as far back as 1845 for the extirpation of brigandage. This will afford a revenue of about 6,000 strings of cash every year, and by making use of this and finally of the principal he hopes to be able to complete the work in five or six years. January, 16th.—No papers of interest.

TOUR OF INSPECTION BY THE MILITARY COMMISSIONER IN MANCHURIA.

January 16th.—Ting-an, the Military Commissioner in Manchuria, reports the results of a tour of inspection which he made to Hei Lung Chiang. He reached Petuna on the 10th November and found that the ice on the Songari was not sufficiently strong to allow his carts to pass. He was thus delayed for over a fortnight and did not reach Tsitsihar until very late in the season. He complains of the great scarcity of recruits in the Northern province as compared with the two Southern ones. He was only able to procure 1,500 men to replace the force that had been drilled and converted into regulars last year. He is suffering from numbness of the hands and feet and had intended to spend the remainder of the year in Hei Lung Chiang, but inspection duties have called him back to Kirin whence he proposes to return to Feng-t'ien. In inaugurating military reforms in Manchuria, the Court has evinced a far-sighted policy of safeguarding the cradle of the dynasty, and though his lot is cast in a bleak and snowy region, Memorialist will spare no pains to make himself worthy of the high office which he now holds.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION IN KIRIN: EXCESSIVE ISSUE OF PAPER MONEY.

January 17th.—The Governor of Kirin states that the currency system of the town of Kirin is carried on on a most pernicious system, and as a remedy for the great inconvenience and suffering which it entails upon the people, he suggests that a portion of the subsidy which the province receives yearly from Peking should in future be remitted in copper cash. Cash, he states, is the proper standard for the monetary requirements of the people and paper money is only to be resorted to when it proves insufficient. If the latter could be made to circulate freely and the price of commodities whether paid in cash or paper could be equalised it would prove a real convenience for the people, to which no objection could be raised, as in the other provinces where paper money is
used to supplement the ordinary currency. In Kirin, however, the case is quite different. Here the notes no longer represent a cash value and being inconvertable, have given rise to abuses greater than any ever resulting from the financial expedients of the Sung dynasty. The commercial transactions of the town are all based on a gigantic system of credit, against which prohibitions have been issued from time to time without effect. The notes of the system lay in its convenience for use in the market where money was required to pass rapidly from hand to hand, and in course of time its use was extended until it assumed its present dimensions and afforded facilities to dishonest merchants for fraudulent practices and overtrading. The notes were put on the market without any regard to the capital possessed by the establishment issuing them, and people seeing that they could buy sycee or goods with mere paper, naturally preferred to hide away their cash, and make gain without employing money at all. Merchants who came to the city to trade, observing the high price of silver and articles of commerce, feared that they would lose heavily on any goods purchased there, and took their cash to other places where they could invest it better. The consequence was that there is an unusual scarcity of cash in Kirin, and that prices have gone up to an enormous height. The soldiers and officials suffered more than any other part of the population. By an old regulation a part of their salary was paid out of the local revenue, and to begin with was issued at a discount of twenty per cent. The chief source of revenue is a tax upon distilleries paid in inconvertible paper of which it took considerably over four tiao to make a Tael, but which was issued to the officials and soldiers at the rate of three tiao to the Tael. But this did not represent the total loss. The other cities in the province would not accept the inconvertable paper of Kirin, therefore the soldiers was obliged, if he wished to return home, to exchange his paper money for silver at the current high market rates. When he reached home he had to convert his silver into cash, and as the price of silver was lower than in Kirin he again sustained a heavy loss. The country people who brought produce into town found themselves unable to sell it unless they took the price in paper money, and as this was utterly useless in the country they were obliged to exchange it at a ruinous loss before returning. Vendors of firewood and other poor creatures who had carried heavy burdens from a long distance into the city would often want a few cash to buy food to appease their hunger, and would find themselves unable to obtain it, to such a pitch had the abuses of the currency system attained. After a consultation with the local civil and military authorities, Memorialist drew up a set of regulations for reducing the price of silver, and placing the copper and paper money on a uniform basis, and took steps to have them enforced among the mercantile community. During a specified period when outstanding notes were presented for payment, at least 20 per cent. of the amount was to be given in cash, and after the third moon of next year, the further issue of inconvertible paper was to be entirely discontinued. It is feared, however that in making such a radical change, a difficulty might at first be experienced in obtaining cash to meet the requirements of trade. The late Governor proposed to open a local mint for the coinage of cash, but the difficulty of procuring copper renders this scheme unsuited to the exigencies of the case. Kirin draws from the Board of Revenue in Peking quarterly subsidies for defence purposes, and half yearly allowances for the maintenance of a drilled force in the province. It is suggested that of each of these payments, Tls. 10,000 should be issued in copper cash at an exchange of 3,000 cash to the Tael, and be forwarded in carta to Kirin along with the remittances in silver. Or if it is thought better, the Board might direct one of the provinces which coins copper cash and has communication by sea with Manchuria to forward a similar amount of cash by steamer to Newchwang, whence it could be sent overland to Kirin, where it might be used in the payment of salaries instead of a direct remittance from the Board.—Referred to the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

FIRE IN THE IMPERIAL CITY, PUNISHMENT OF GUARDS.

January 18th.—A Decree.—On the night of the 16th January a fire broke out at the Chêntu gate of the Palace which spread and burnt the T'ai-ho gate, and a number of store houses and other buildings. For their shocking carelessness in not exercising proper surveillance within the Forbidden City, We order that the Secretaries and officers of the guards on duty at the time be handed over to the Board of Punishments for rigorous examination and trial by law. En-ch’üan, the Commandant of the Guard’s division, cannot be absolved from blame and We command the Board to determine the penalty that should be imposed upon him.
THANKS AND REWARDS TO ALL WHO EXERTED THEMSELVES IN EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE.

A Decree. We have received from the Privy Council a list of the Princes, Dukes, and High Officers, who came with their Staffs and assisted in extinguishing the fire which occurred at the Chên-tu gate on the night of the 16th January and destroyed the T'ai-ho gate, the storerooms and other buildings (Here follows a list covering 8 pages of the Gazette beginning with Prince Kung and containing the names of nearly all the Princes, Dukes, and other members of the nobility and high officials residing in Peking) The energy all the above officers displayed on this occasion deserves our highest commendation, and We command that a donation of Tls. 2 be conferred on every soldier of the Guards, the Peking Field force, the Gendarmerie and other departments who assisted in extinguishing the flames. We further allot a sum of Tls. 10,000 to be distributed amongst the members of the fifteen Fire Brigades and Tls. 10,000 for the workmen from the various timber yards who came to the rescue. Several of the soldiers and workmen received injuries and on each of these an additional Tls. 10 will be bestowed. The money will be provided by the Board of Revenue and its distribution will be superintended by Fu-k'un, Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Gendarmerie. Looking on this conflagration in the light of a warning, We have been deeply affected in the seclusion of Our Palace, and standing in awe of the Majesty of Heaven We feel constrained more than ever to search Our conscience and purify Our heart. In all the details of Our administration We shall not venture to show the least indifference or neglect. Let all our officials, high and low, realize the necessity of supporting the Court in its earnest solicitude and let them, with pure hearts and clear understanding, zealously discharge the duties of their position so that disasters may be averted and harmony and good fortune attained. Let this Decree be promulgated for the information of all our people.

REFORMS IN MILITARY EXAMINATIONS.

January 19th.—(1) A Censor presents a memorial requesting that orders be issued to institute certain changes in the present practice at military examinations for the two higher degrees. Having stated that military and literary competitions are of equal importance as means of obtaining for the state the services of capable men, he goes on to say that trials of skill in archery, whether on horse or on foot, are very different from sword exercises or lifting weights. Unlike these latter they cannot be carried out during storms of wind and rain. Nevertheless it is the custom now-a-days to make all the candidates whose names are down on the archery list for a certain date, complete their competition that very day, no matter what may be the weather or how late the hour may be. It even happens that the shooting goes on after dark, red lanterns being substituted for the targets. As an instance of this, Memorialist has heard that on the 8th of last November the archery competition was delayed by the unwillingness of the candidates to come forward in the wind and rain, and the proceedings were not concluded till after eleven o'clock at night. The Memorialist suggests that in future the examiners be instructed to postpone till the morrow all trials of archery, if the weather be too bad or if darkness come on before they be completed. A rule to this effect is actually in existence although it has fallen into disuse. The proposed change therefore will not be an innovation in any way. Decree issued separately.

In a supplementary Memorial the same writer suggests another alteration. When the out-door competitions are terminated, a list is published on the examination ground of all the candidates who have distinguished themselves. These are required to continue the examination afterwards by doing a certain quantity of paper work. The rest know that they have failed and their chance of success is gone. In their disappointment they often become riotous, tearing down and destroying the list, stopping the examiners' chairs, or otherwise misconducting themselves; and where a large number of young men of this class are assembled together, it is quite impossible for the officials or the police to exercise efficient control over them. The Memorialist therefore suggests that the list, instead of being published as now, should be sent in a sealed cover to the Board of War, and posted up on the following morning on the wall outside the great gates there. This he thinks would enable order to be preserved without causing any injurious delay. Decree issued previously.

IRREGULARITY AT AN EXAMINATION.

(2) According to a Memorial presented by the Viceroy at Foochow, last September, just before the commencement of the literary examinations, one of the inspectors
went into the hall and found there two officers belonging to the salt collectorate, but at the moment in mourning and therefore out of employment. They were seated at a table with the other officials and engaged in stamping the papers to be issued to the candidates. Being much surprised at this, he deemed it his duty to make a report to the Memorialist, who thereupon gave orders for an investigation to be held. It appears from the enquiry that the two salt officers were intimate friends of the superintendent of the Provision Department, which supplies food to those taking part in the examination; and the Superintendent who had a great deal to do, requested them to come and help him. Meanwhile there was an unusual press of business in the hall itself. The candidates being extremely numerous, some ten thousand and more, the numbering of the cells took a long time. When that was concluded there only remained a few hours in which to stamp the candidates' papers. The proctor, whose assistants were but few, was obliged to seek for help in order that the papers might be ready before the time for opening the doors. He was unwilling to have recourse to the clerks and servants; but he heard that the two gentlemen above mentioned were engaged in the provision department, and he therefore sent to ask them to lend him their services. The Memorialist showed negligence in allowing the employment of officers in mourning, and it is requested on that account that the Board of Civil Office may take cognizance of his conduct. — Approved.

RETRENCHMENT ON ACCOUNT ON PALACE FIRE.

Jan. 20th, and 21st.—(1) The Empress publishes a decree with reference to the recent fire in the Palace. Apart from the undoubted carelessness of the guards she considers the calamity to be an admonition to herself. As an act of retrenchment and in order to invoke prosperity she desires that all public works be stopped at the I-ho Gardens excepting the Temple to Buddha and the buildings on the principal road.

MURDER OF A HUSBAND BY HIS WIFE'S PARAMOUR.

(2) Some time ago in the territory of Ili a man was killed by his wife's paramour without her being privy to the crime. The murderer was condemned to immediate decapitation and the woman to strangulation after the autumn assizes. The Memorialist proposing these sentences was referred by the Emperor to the Board of Punishments. The Board, while recognizing their correctness, suggested that the Ili government should take into consideration the propriety of reducing the woman's punishment to that of banishment. This having been approved by the Emperor, the execution of the murderer was carried out, and a report giving a detailed account of the affair is now presented by the present Governor of Ili. The murderer was a bannerman belonging to the Sibo Tartars, twenty-five years of age, and frequently visited the house of his victim with whom he was well acquainted. One day he found his friend's wife in the backyard and succeeded in seducing her. After this the illicit intercourse was continued whenever opportunity offered. One day a little more than a month afterwards he saw the woman getting firewood in the courtyard, and learned from her that her husband and all the family except a sister-in-law were away from home. He thereupon arranged to visit her that night and sleep with her. The husband however returned home unexpectedly just after dark. In the middle of the night when he and his wife were fast asleep on the kung, the lover entered the room by the window and found that the husband was there. Overcome by rage and disappointment, he groped about and found a knife which was lying under the mat on the kung. Armed with this he stabbed the sleeping man in the side, and when the latter cried out with pain, he threw down the weapon and made his escape by the door. The wife waking up and seeing some one in the room cried out "Robbers." The sister-in-law lit a lamp and came in, and then went to fetch a cousin who lived close by. As there were no signs of thieves, they thought that the woman had stabbed her husband and they therefore took her next day to the police station. There she made full confession of the truth; and through her evidence the assassin was arrested, and the above facts were elicited. The husband lingered for eleven days, after which he died. The Memorialist again states that strangulation after imprisonment is the penalty to which the woman should according to law be sentenced, as an adulteress whose husband has been murdered by her paramour without her knowledge or consent. But still it should be remembered that she confessed the truth and caused the murderer to be identified, and that in her grief for her husband's death she espoused his quarrel instead of being blinded by her unlawful
love. For these reasons the Memorialist thinks that she should be respited, and begs that the death penalty may be commuted for banishment. As sentences of banishment or corporal punishment are not carried into effect in the case of women, the result of this would be that she would be delivered to her family, who would keep her or cast her out as they please.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

VICTORIES OVER LOLOS IN SZECHUEN.

January, 22nd and 23rd.—(1) The high authorities in Szechuen present a Memorial giving an account of some military operations undertaken for the sake of punishing and reducing to submission certain Lolo tribes in the neighbourhood of Ma-pien T'ing in the south of the province. The immediate act which called for the chastisement of these aborigines was the burning of a Chinese guard-house on the frontier and the murder of the officer in charge. In a previous report the Memorialists described the first successes of the troops, and stated that further measures would be taken as soon as circumstances allowed. Afterwards, when more troops had been brought up, it was ascertained that a band of three thousand Lolos had collected on Great Liang Mountain, and their marauding bands were plundering part of the neighbouring country. Several battalions were despatched at once to meet them in front, and two detachments were moved up so as to take them on either flank. The Lolos awaited the attack in three divisions, and a desperate conflict ensued. One of their chiefs, Tzu-to by name, distinguished himself by his great daring. A wound deprived him of one of his eyes; but he continued to lead his followers, till he was taken in the course of the fight and immediately put to death. Seventy Lolos were killed in the combat, when the rest retired with their dead. At this moment one of the flanking detachments came up. The Lolos were taken at a disadvantage, and a large number were shot or fell over the rocks. A great quantity of weapons were captured, and a number of headmen of the Black or the White Lolos were killed in the course of the fight. The fugitives fled into the thick forest where they were followed for six or seven miles, after which the pursuit was relinquished, on account of the difficulty of the ground. After a few days a movement was made against a group of villages on Little Liang Mountain. The road was strongly barricaded; but the Chinese troops rushed gallantly to the attack, the swordsmen in front and the musketeers supporting them behind. The stockade was taken and the savages driven headlong into the thick forest. Their loss of life was very great, and all their houses were burnt. At about the same time two more expeditions under different commanders were made against other clans in the same neighbourhood. In each case the troops were conducted by fifty guides, and similar success crowned their efforts. Altogether in these operations more than four hundred aborigines were killed and fifteen hundred huts were burnt. Also bows, spears and felt coats of armour were captured to the number of six hundred and twenty. The Chinese loss was eighteen killed and fifty-seven wounded.

Preparations were being made for another forward movement, when word was brought by the spies that the Lolos of Little Liang Mountain were thoroughly cowed by their severe chastisement, and were talking of giving in. Soon afterwards two or three headmen came into camp and begged for mercy for themselves and the other clans, all of whom desired to surrender in hope of escaping destruction. The proposal was referred to the Memorialists, and as they found that two-thirds of the nineteen clans to the right of Ma Pien-t'ing belonged to Little Liang Mountain, thought it better to give their consent, in order to allow the whole strength of the troops to be turned against Great Liang Mountain. Thereupon two of the chiefs in the camp went off to their villages and shortly returned with the people of all the twelve clans, whose promises of submission were at once accepted.

Meanwhile two columns marched by different roads against Great Liang Mountain. The first found itself confronted by a strong barricade. While half the force attacked the obstacle in front, the remainder climbed up the hillside, holding on to the canes and climbing plants, and took the enemy in the rear. The latter fled precipitately, leaving a hundred and eighty men on the field. The second column, nearing the force by which it was opposed, concealed two thirds of its men in the thick forest by the roadside. The other third advanced upon the enemy and after fighting for a time withdrew slowly followed by the Lolos. When they had passed the place of ambush, they turned again. The concealed men rushed out at the same time and took the foe in the rear. A complete victory resulted, and the troops encamping on the spot sent out parties for
several days to destroy the surrounding villages. While a fresh advance was in contemplation all the headmen of the locality came and sued for peace. This was at first refused by the generals. But the Lolas persisted in their prayer. They said that the chief who had originally attacked the guard house had been killed in the first action; they would rebuild the guard house, surrender all the captives they had ever carried off, and promise never to give trouble again. Reference was made to the Memorialists, who sanctioned the proposal. On a fixed day two hundred Lolas, the representatives of the nineteen tribes inhabiting the two mountains assembled on the drill ground at Mapien Ts'ing. There, after drinking wine and drawing blood from themselves, they swore perpetual fidelity. In return rewards were given them and they were exhorted to be virtuous. The more useful of them were retained at the camp in official employ and put in charge of the mountain passes. From first to last more than ninety Chinese captives of both sexes were recovered and restored to their homes.

In conclusion the Memorialists make the usual request for rewards for the officers engaged in the campaign.—Decrees issued separately.

FRAUD AT AN EXAMINATION.

January 24th and 25th.—A literary student of the Han Ch'ên, or Chinese Ban¬nermen, has lodged a complaint at the Board of Censors to the effect that two Chinese of Ch'ing Hsien near Tientsin have passed themselves off as Bannermen and obtained degrees as such at the recent military examinations. The Emperor desires that a full enquiry he made into the case by the Board of Punishments.

MURDER OF TWO PERSONS IN ONE FAMILY.

January 26th and 27th.—The following case is reported by the Governor of Shensi. Han Chi'en-yeh was a pedlar living in the department of Sui-tê and had for neighbours a man named Huang Wei-kwo and his wife who were notorious for their violent behaviour. Some years ago Han hired from Huang a mud hut, for which he agreed to pay a yearly rental of 800 cash. Shortly afterwards Han happened to be badly off for money and applied to Huang for a loan of two strings of cash which he received on condition that he was to pay a monthly interest of 100 cash. Han soon got tired of paying such an exorbitant rate of interest and found an opportunity of getting on more favourable terms sufficient money to clear off the debt due to Huang. The latter was enraged at finding himself deprived of such a good investment and took every opportunity that offered of showing his displeasure. Not content with abusing him whenever they met, he had Han and his wife expelled from the village, though they earnestly begged him to relent in view of the difficulties they experienced in finding quarters elsewhere. After he had left the place, Han came back one day hawking some crockery ware, and had occasion to pass the house of Huang, who was working in a field close by. The old feud was commenced again by Huang accusing Han of still owing him part of the rent of the house, and by his attempting to detain the crockery in lieu of payment. Han having resisted the forcible detention of his property, Huang picked some stones up and smashed the crockery to atoms which resulted in a claim for compensation on the part of Han. A passer by intervened and succeeded in restoring peace between the two men for the moment, but the loss of his property and the series of insults which he had endured so ranked in the breast of Han that he determined to have the life of his tormentor. Waiting until his wife was fast asleep, he armed himself one night with a knife and proceeded to the hut where his victim resided. Opening the door quietly so as not to disturb Huang and his wife, whose snores were audible from the outside, he groped his way in the dark to the bedside and thrust wildly with the knife at the man's face. Huang cried out, and his wife, who was sleeping in an adjoining room, on hearing his screams, ran to his assistance, and in the struggle which ensued both were fatally wounded. When their cries ceased, the murderer, to make sure that they were dead, lit a candle and examined their wounds. Realising his own position and the necessity of making his escape, he picked up a bundle of clothes which were lying on the bed, hoping to defray his travelling expenses by the proceeds of their sale. On reaching his own home he was closely questioned as to the cause of his absence by his wife, to whom he confessed the crime, and who bitterly upbraided him for what he had done. The two victims recovered so far as to be able to identify their assailant, but their wounds subsequently mortified and ended fatally. The case being an important one was tried by the Court of first instance and subsequently reviewed by several Commissions of inquiry until it reached the Governor himself. The
provisions of the law which are quoted as being applicable to it are the following:

I.—Where two members of one family are murdered, one deliberately and the other in a fray, decapitation is the punishment of the crime, without however, the confiscation of the murderer’s property.

II.—Where the law contains no special provision for the punishment of an offence, the criminal may be tried and sentenced under an analogous statute.

III.—Where a man murders another and carries off his clothing, repayment of the value is made from the property of the murderer.

Han Ch’ang-yeh has been sentenced to death under the foregoing statutes, and his property is to be held responsible for the confiscation of the murderer’s clothing as has not been recovered. A woman who repaid of so much of the clothing as property is to be held responsible for the death under the foregoing statutes, and his property carries off his clothing, repayment of the value is made from the property of the murderer.

Han Ch’ang-yeh has been sentenced to death under the foregoing statutes, and his property is to be held responsible for the confiscation of the murderer’s clothing as has not been recovered. A woman who has knowledge after the event of a murder committed by her husband is permitted by the law to screen him, and in the present instance no notice is to be taken of Han’s wife having failed to report his offence.

REMITTANCE FROM FOREIGN CUSTOMS.

The Governor-General of the Hu-kuang provinces reports the transmission to Peking of the following sums from the Ichang Foreign Customs during the period extending from the 109th to the 112th quarters inclusive:—Tsls. 141,064.1.5.6.1.6.1 towards the Peking subsidy; TsIs. 1,288.2.5.5.6.1 duty and likin on foreign opium, TsIs. 29.2.7 representing three-tenths of the fines for the Taung-li Yamên.

YELLOW RIVER WORKS.—SUPERIORITY OF FOREIGN CEMENT TO CHINESE CHUNAM.

January 28th and 29th.—Wu Ta-ch’êng observes that stones and bricks have hitherto been almost exclusively used in the construction of breakwaters in the Yellow River. In making even a single breakwater of moderato dimensions as much as 2,000 fang of stones have been thrown into the river, before the structure reached the surface of the water. Owing to the lightness of the bricks and their want of cohesion the breakwaters have been undermined every year by the violent scour of the summer and autumn freshets, and even the stones have been carried away in such quantities as to render repairs and additions indispensable every year for the safety of the work. The expenditure on river works being limited, and insufficient to provide such a large quantity of stones, the breakwaters have gradually been allowed to fall into disrepair, owing to the necessity of attending to other works of equal importance. Memorialist has heard that in Western countries, there is a kind of cement (舖門德), which in combination with sand possesses peculiarly adhesive properties, and not being injured by the action of water is far stronger and more durable than the chunam, or tri-partite earth used in China. He proposed therefore to take the opportunity while the bed of the river was comparatively dry, and before the drainage canal had been opened, to construct a number of breakwaters at various places where they were required, and to cover the brick facings and fill up the interstices between the stones with foreign cement. This would bind together the loose materials into one compact mass, and by giving firmness and adhesiveness to the foundations of the embankment render it capable of withstanding the full force of the current. It might cost more labour at present, but it would economise stones and save trouble ever afterwards. Accordingly in the eighth month of the present year Memorialist telegraphed to Li Hung-chang, and procured from him 3,000 barrels of cement which were stored at Port Arthur. He also sent agents to Shanghai and Hong-kong to procure a further supply of 600 barrels, all of which has now arrived. Should the experiment prove a success this cement will be a great assistance in river conservation works and in the construction of breakwaters.—Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.

BURNING OF MILLET STALKS AT YELLOW RIVER. RESTORATION TO FORMER RANK OF OFFICIAL CONCERNED.

About three months ago eight stacks of millet stalks caught fire accidentally and were burnt down at the Yellow River, and the official in charge of the depot, Pai Tsêng-hui, was stripped of his button, and ordered to make good the amount of the damage within a specified period. Wu Ta-ch’êng now reports that within a month after the occurrence the official in question purchased eight other stacks of the same dimensions as those destroyed, and as he has shown great penitence for his carelessness, he suggests that he should now be restored to his former rank, which has been granted by Imperial rescript.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO LIU CHIN-T’ANG,

GOVERNOR OF TURKESTAN.

Liu Chin-t’ang, having applied for an extension of leave for six months to enable him to visit his grandmother at his native place in Hunan, the Emperor in a decree expresses himself constrained to grant such
an earnest request, but adds that at the expiration of that period he counts upon being able to avail himself of the valuable services of the applicant, whose post in Turkestan is to be filled in the mean time by Wei Kuang-tao.

PROGRESS OF WORKS AT YELLOW RIVER.

Wu Ta-ch'êng presents a Memorial reporting that the works at the Yellow River have been making very favourable progress up to the date of the winter solstice, that the excavation of the drainage canal has been completed, and that there is now every prospect of speedily closing the breach. In his previous Memorial he reported that the works at the western and eastern embankments had been resumed on the 16th and 27th November respectively, and he has since kept the Throne informed from time to time by telegraph of the condition of the works and the advance that has been made. At that time the opening was 32 chang in width and it was proposed to divide it into seven sections, three on the eastern side, and four on the western with an ending stage on either side and a small opening between, which was to be filled up last of all. Owing however to the great scour on the eastern side, and the consequent difficulty of carrying on the work, it was decided to make only three stages on the eastern side and to consider the third the end stage. On the western side four stages have already been completed and as soon as the end stage on the eastern side is finished, the boats carrying materials will be moved aside to allow room for proceeding with the fifth section which on the western side will form the end stage. This will leave an opening between the two ends of about three chang in breadth below and five or six chang above, the closing of which will complete the work. The whole staff are working night and day and it is confidently expected that under the present favourable circumstances the breach will be closed about the middle of the 12th moon (about 15th Jan., 1889.) Altogether 4,600 stacks of millet stalks have been procured, and the supply being sufficient for all possible requirements, the depôts have been closed and further purchases discontinued. The excavation of the drainage canal in 43 sections has been completed, and it is found to be of the requisite length, breadth and depth. The winter solstice is now passed, and with the present favourable weather there is every prospect of the breach being closed in a few days—Auto-

graph Rescript. We are deeply gratified to learn that there is a prospect of the breach being closed, and we command the Acting Director General to make use of the present opportunity of finishing the task. Let him direct his subordinates to press on with all haste, so that our anxiety may be dispelled by the announcement of its early completion.

BREACH IN YELLOW RIVER CLOSED.

31st January, 1st and 2nd February.—
(1) A Decree of the Emperor records the closing of the great breach in the embankment of the Yellow River near Chêng Chow in Honan. The officers previously entrusted with the task having failed in their efforts to accomplish it, they were superseded last summer, and Wu Ta-ch'êng was appointed Acting Director-General. On the 11th of January operations were sufficiently advanced to allow the opening of the canal, which should conduct the water away from the gap. On the 17th the embankment heads were united by cables stretched across; and on the 20th, after two days and nights of unremitting exertions, the narrow opening was completely closed, all the waters in the river flowing away by the old channel. The Emperor feels that this speedy success is due to the unseen aid of Heaven and the Gods. As a sign of his deep gratitude, he sends ten sticks of Tibetan incense, which he desires Wu Ta-ch'êng to offer, with prayers and thanks on his behalf, at the temples of the River Gods in the vicinity of the works.

In recognition of the promptness and sagacity displayed by Wu Ta-ch'êng in the performance of the duty entrusted to him, that officer is given a button of the first class, and is confirmed in the appointment of Director-General of the Yellow River. The Provincial Governor, Ni Wên-wei, receives back the rank and the button of which he had previously been deprived, and the Board will select some substantial reward for bestowal upon him. Four high officers, Li Hung-tsaо, Ch'êng-fu, Li Hon-nien, and P'ün Chên-wen were punished for their failure to close the breach before last summer. As the portion of the embankment constructed by them has stood firm, and the whole work has now been completed, His Majesty is pleased to extend his grace to them and remit their penalties. Li Hung-tsaо receives back the rank and the button of which he was deprived. Ch'êng-fu is released and takes the position of Expectant Provincial Judge. Li Hon-nien is also released, and his title and
their trial.

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with anonymous placards did he report any­
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thing to the Governor. And when the
attempted to curb the fierce temper of the
severity of the punishments with which he
offered to the rebels; but it was
doubtful whether this ought to be allowed
to weigh against his shortcomings or not. The
Governor now reports that an enquiry has
been held under his orders. It is found
that there are no proofs of the charge made
against the Magistrate of having allowed
general extortion to be practised by his
clerks and subordinates, who were engaged
in measuring the land in the district and
assessing it for the purpose of taxation.
But in the first place the Magistrate made
himself unpopular by the arbitrary nature of
his decisions in his court of justice, and by the
severity of the punishments with which he
attempted to curb the fierce temper of the
inhabitants. Later, when the rebellion was
brewing, he entirely disregarded the symp­
toms. Not even when the place was covered
with anonymous placards did he report any­
thing to the Governor. And when the
country was actually in revolt he did not
give a full and explicit account of what
was occurring. Lastly, in his dealing with the Shih Clan, to which the leader of the
rebellion belonged, he showed great laxity
and negligence. It is, therefore, recom­
manded that he be dismissed from the
public service. Two members of the Shih
Clan, both holding official rank, are con­
sidered by the Governor really to have
instigated Shih Chin-t'ouan, the actual leader in the overt rebellion. After its suppres­
sion they were required to produce him,
and promised to do so. But before giving
information of the place where he was,
they sent private intelligence to him of
what they were doing, so that when the
tsolds arrived at the spot, nothing was
found but an empty house, with neither
man nor property inside. The Governor
therefore recommends that these two men
be stripped of their rank and placed on
their trial.—Approved.

CHANG-HUA MAGISTRATE CASHERIED.

(2.)—In a recent Memorial recounting the
suppression of the little rebellion at Chang­
hua in Formosa, the Governor of the island
stated that the conduct of the Magistrate of
Chang-hua would be made the subject of an
investigation. That officer had much
hated distinguished himself by the bold resistance
which he offered to the rebels; but it was
doubtful whether this ought to be allowed
to weigh against his shortcomings or not. The
Governor now reports that an enquiry has
been held under his orders. It is found
that there are no proofs of the charge made
against the Magistrate of having allowed
general extortion to be practised by his
clerks and subordinates, who were engaged
in measuring the land in the district and
assessing it for the purpose of taxation.

But in the first place the Magistrate made
himself unpopular by the arbitrary nature of
his decisions in his court of justice, and by the
severity of the punishments with which he
attempted to curb the fierce temper of the
inhabitants. Later, when the rebellion was
brewing, he entirely disregarded the symp­
toms. Not even when the place was covered
with anonymous placards did he report any­
thing to the Governor. And when the
country was actually in revolt he did not
give a full and explicit account of what
was occurring. Lastly, in his dealing with the Shih Clan, to which the leader of the
rebellion belonged, he showed great laxity
and negligence. It is, therefore, recom­
manded that he be dismissed from the
public service. Two members of the Shih
Clan, both holding official rank, are con­
sidered by the Governor really to have
instigated Shih Chin-t'ouan, the actual leader in the overt rebellion. After its suppres­
sion they were required to produce him,
and promised to do so. But before giving
information of the place where he was,
they sent private intelligence to him of
what they were doing, so that when the
tsolds arrived at the spot, nothing was
found but an empty house, with neither
man nor property inside. The Governor
therefore recommends that these two men
be stripped of their rank and placed on
their trial.—Approved.

EXCULPATION OF GENERAL YANG TSAI-YUAN.

(3.)—When Chang Po-i-lun was in charge of the defence of the Fukien coast in 1884, he reported that Yang Tsai-yuan, Acting
Brigadier-General at Taiwan Fu, was
guilty of concealing the fact of his being in mourning for his father and mother, and was moreover a disgraced man, who had
been dismissed from the public service after
his conviction on a criminal charge. Yang
Tsai-yuan was therefore cashiered and
ordered to return to his home. The Governor-General at Foochow now reports
what he finds to be the actual state of the
case. Long ago, at the time of the foreign
trouble at Tientsin, Yang Tsai-yuan was in
command at Taiwan Fu. In consequence of the urgent state of affairs he took some
money destined for the pay of the troops
and devoted it to raising an additional force
and purchasing munitions of war. On
account of this he was tried for embezzle­
ment. He was entirely acquitted of the
charge, but was ordered to refund the
money spent, which he did without delay.
His Majesty, however, further directed
that he should be dismissed from the
service. He afterwards joined the army in
Kansu, where he greatly distinguished him­
self; and on the application of Governor
Liu Chin-t'ang, he was restored to his
original rank once more. He was there­
fore in no sense of the words a disgraced
criminal. In 1883 his father and mother
died, and as has been proved by a reference
made to the Viceroy Tseng Kuo-ch'uan, he
reported both deceases when they occurred.
In 1884 he went over to Formosa at the
head of some troops intended for the defence of the island. The General commanding at
Taiwan Fu was called away on special service,
and the Viceroy at Foochow, in view of the
urgent state of affairs, obtained permission
from the Throne to put Yang Tsai-yuan
temporarily into the post instead of filling
it according to the regular routine. The
Memorialist also finds to be unfounded a
further allegation made by Chang Po-i-lun,
namely that the General's conduct caused
general disgust among the people of the
island. For enquiries have been made, and no
trace of any such feeling can be found. The
Memorialist therefore requests that Yang
Tsai-yuan may be restored to his rank.
His only fault seems to be that when
coming to Foochow he did not give an
official account of himself, so that the
Viceroy did not report to the Throne that
he was in mourning, and secondly that he
did not earnestly beg to decline the ap­
pointment offered to him. For these faults
the Memorialist proposes that the Board
concerned should inflict some fitting penalty.
—Referred to the Board of War.

DISPUTE BETWEEN TIBETAN TRIBES.

February 3rd and 4th.—An Imperial Decree notices the termination of a quarrel which has been going on for the last ten years between the tribes of Chaya and Kham or Chamdo in Eastern Tibet. It commenced in the year 1878, when the men of Chaya plundered a town or fort in Chamdo. The dispute has now been arranged through the offices of the Chinese Resident at Lhassa. The Chaya people have given up their plunder, and in addition the Resident has bestowed a thousand taels upon the tribe attacked. The Emperor is much pleased with the conduct of the Hutukhtu, or Saint of Chamdo. In spite of the outrage committed by the Chaya tribe, the Saint was able to restrain his people, and prevented further troubles from arising. He also, though with much difficulty, continued faithfully to perform the official services due by him to the Emperor. As a mark of his favour and approbation the Emperor desires that the Han-lin Yuan will prepare a tablet with a suitable inscription for presentation to the Saint.

HIGHWAY ROBBERIES NEAR PEKING.

February, 5th and 6th.—The arrest of four men guilty of highway robbery is reported by the police authorities at Peking. With the men were seized a number of foreign firearms, iron whips, and swords. The prisoners acknowledge, that, in conjunction with other men still at large, they have committed during the last few months no less than six robberies in the immediate vicinity of the capital. In several cases they fired upon and wounded the travellers whom they attacked. Their plunder consisted of all sorts of property, clothes, bedding, and money. On more than one occasion they robbed carts drawn by two mules, and besides carrying off the contents of the vehicles, they took the animals to Tientsin, where they disposed of them. The Memorialists have sent the criminals to the Board of Punishments, and request that the Board may be directed to subject them to a rigorous examination, in order to find out if they have participated in the commission of any other crimes.—Decree issued previously.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS TO KUO SHU.

(2) In the year 1861 a Chinkiang Bannerman named Kuo Shu was sent to take charge of the district of Hsin-ning in Southern Szechuen. In the first month of the following year the city was attacked by rebels from Yûn-nan. The place was taken; and the Magistrate, and a younger brother who was with him, were killed fighting in the streets. It was at the time decreed that posthumous honours should be conferred upon them; but owing to the loss of some important documents, the matter has never been settled till the present day. It is now proposed to bestow a hereditary military title on the son of the magistrate, and another on the son of the younger brother. The last mentioned was in reality without offspring; but a child has been transferred to him in adoption by a third brother still living.—Referred to the Board.

NEW EDITION OF THE "HUI-TIEN."

February 7th and 8th.—The last edition of the Hui-tien, or Collected Institutes of the Reigning Dynasty, was published in the year 1818. In the year 1873 orders were given that preparations be made for the issue of a new edition. The high authorities of each province were consequently required to search their archives from the year 1813 downwards and furnish an account of all matters which should be included in the new work. As no returns, or only incomplete returns, have been sent in from several provinces, the Emperor is requested to order the authorities concerned to supply the necessary materials for the information of the compilers without further delay.—Decree issued previously.

A MAN BURNT TO DEATH.

(2) The Governor of Yûn-nan states that in some of the country districts of that province the villagers have a horrible custom of burning to death any man caught stealing corn or fruits in the fields. They at the same time compel the man's relations to sign a document giving their consent to what is done, and then make them light the fire with their own hands, so as to deter them from lodging a complaint afterwards. Sometimes the horrible penalty is exacted for the breaking of a single branch or stalk, or even false accusations are made and men put to death out of spite. This terrible practice, which seems incredible when heard, came into use during the time of the Yûn-nan rebellion; and the constant efforts of the authorities have not succeeded in extirpating it since. Last autumn a case of the kind occurred in the Ch'ü-ching Prefecture. One evening a man named Pêng Chao-sheng was going down to watch his own field. His path led him along the side of a patch of maize belonging
to another man. As he passed he pulled off a head of corn. The owner saw him and shouted out, upon which he dropped the corn and fled. The owner went and told his landlord, upon which the latter proposed that the pilferer should be burned. The two men having agreed, next morning they laid the matter before an assembly of the villagers. As the matter was so trifling, some advised that it should be let drop, but their opinion was not listened to. On the following day the two men seized their victim and bound him. The poor man's mother came with all her relations and begged for mercy. She offered to make atonement by forfeiting the whole of her property to the community; but all she could say was of no avail. The men refused to give way and ordered her to give her consent to the murder in writing, threatening her that otherwise they would put her to death also. Overcome by fear she asked a stranger, a travelling doctor, who cannot be identified, to write the required paper for her. They then piled up a heap of brushwood in an empty place outside the village, and the next day at noon carried the man out and laid him bound upon it. The woman was compelled to set fire to the faggots, and her son was burnt to death. Afterwards, as soon as she could, she stole away to the town and gave information to the authorities. The two men were immediately arrested. One of them, the landlord, died in prison; but the other was sent to the provincial capital for trial. The Memorialist finds that in the fifteenth year of Ch'ien Lung (A.D. 1750), at the request of the Governor of Szechuen, it was decreed that in the case of any person's being burnt to death by a body of men, the principal offender should be executed by the lingering process and the participants in the crime be beheaded. The landlord, who in this case was the principal, has already died. His fellow offender has been condemned to immediate decapitation, and the sentence has been carried into effect without delay.—Approved.

RESTORATION TO HEALTH OF THE VICEROY LI.

February 9th and 10th.—At the end of last autumn Li Hung-chang caught a severe cold in his head which affected the muscles of his face, and produced great thirst and redness of the eyes. He obtained at first twenty days' leave and was subsequently granted two extensions of a month each, on both of which occasions the Emperor expressed great solicitude about the state of his health and urged him to procure the best medical advice available. Prince Ch'un sent him twenty pills which had been specially prepared in the palace, one of which was to be taken every day before food. Externally he applied a lotion to dry up the tears in his eyes, and internally he took medicine to relieve his kidneys and promote circulation. During the last month the redness of the eyes has greatly disappeared; there has been a stoppage of the tears, and his face has no longer the drawn appearance it formerly had. The doctor's bulletin states that the disease is already eight parts gone. The muscles are, however, still weak, and the patient will require to keep out of the wind and take rest. With the mildness of spring he will be able to go out once more, and under the vivifying influences of that health-giving season his muscles will resume their proper functions and the dryness of the mouth will disappear. At present the food retained by the stomach is insufficient, the circulation is still weak, and a course of treatment must be pursued for some time longer. The patient expresses himself profoundly grateful for the many tokens of regret which he has received from the Throne, and assures the Emperor that nothing is farther from his thoughts than to take his ease at such a moment as the present. Though he has been on leave for the past month he has been daily occupied in transacting business and seeing his subordinates, and has often forgotten to take his food until after the going down of the sun. All through the stillness of the night his mind has been troubled with the thought that his sickness might cause some miscarriage of public business; now, however, that his sickness is gradually disappearing he proposes to cancel his leave, and resume entire supervision of his office.—Rescript: We have carefully perused the above and must again urge upon the patient to be still more careful in sparing himself anxiety and labour, and to continue a course of medical treatment, in the hope that his early restoration to health may remove the earnest solicitude which We feel on his behalf.

RETENTION OF AN OFFICER FOR SERVICE IN CHIHILL.

Li Hung-chang submits a request for permission to retain the services of T'ang Chi-shang, an expectant sub-prefect on the Kiangsu establishment, who was transferred some years ago to Chihill and who has been there engaged in connection with coast defence and foreign questions. This officer accompanied Wu Ta-ch'êng to Hun-ch'un and assisted him in the delimitation
of the Chinese and Russian frontier. Under the regulations fixed by the Board of Civil Office, subordinate officials who have been transferred to another province, and whom it is proposed to retain there are allowed to keep their original rank and remain on pay­ment of the usual transfer fees. T'ang Chi-shang is ready to accept these conditions, and it is asked that his transfer may be sanctioned.—Granted by Rescript.

CHOU FU ASSUMES OFFICE AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF CHIHIL.

Chou Fu who was recently appointed Chief Justice of Chihli came to Peking for Audience before taking up the duties of his post, and was detained there for some time to assist in drawing up the new regulations for the Board of Admiralty. He subsequently received a month’s leave of absence to enable him to visit his ancestral graves in Anhui. He has now returned to Tientsin, and having received instructions from the Viceroy to proceed to his new post, he has taken over the seals of office from Fang Chen-shin, who returns to his proper post of Director of the Yung-ting River. The new Chief Justice will still continue to perform the duties of Superintendent of the Secretariat of the Military and Naval Forces of the North.

APPOINTMENT.

Chang-chin is appointed Brigadier-General at Hsi-nung in Kansu.

PUNISHMENT OF THE OFFICIALS FOR FIRE IN THE PALACE.

February 11th and 12th.—The President of the Board of War and his colleagues, acting upon instructions received from the Throne, submit a Memorial prescribing the punishment to be inflicted for the negligence which caused the fire in the Palace on the 16th January last. The Secretaries and Guards on duty at the time are to be dealt with separately by the Board of Punishments, and the present Memorial is directed specially to the case of the Commandant of the Guards, En-ch’i’an, who is to be fined one year’s salary, and to lose one step of commutative rank.

RELIEF MEASURES IN FENG-T’IEN.

The Governor of Feng-t’ien reports that the Shanghai Committee have at different times forwarded contributions amounting in all to Tls. 40,000 as well as 3,180 wadded garments for the relief of the sufferers from the recent inundations in Feng-t’ien. The money has been distributed in the neighbourhood of Newchwang, Hai-ch’eng and Liao-yang by agents of the Committee working in concert with an officer deputed by the Viceroy of Chihli. A further contribution of 5,000 wadded garments has been received from the Tientsin Taotai, and the Military Governor of Kirin has remitted a sum of Tls. 4,000 which has been collected by himself and his subordinates for the same object. The Governor considers that the various donors, as also the agents of the Committee, who, shrinking from no toil, have crossed the seas to assist in the good work of distribution, are worthy of high commendation, and he recommends them for the favourable consideration of the Throne under the Regulations applicable to subscriptions for relief of distress in Chihli, Shantung and other provinces.

MUTINY IN THE ARMY AT TARBAGATAI.

About a year ago a mutiny occurred in some regiments stationed in Tarbagatai, and Hsi-lun, who was then Acting Military Governor of Ili, having been dissatisfied with the manner in which the matter was dealt with, proposed to send a special commission to report on the subject. On the death of Hsi-lun the conduct of the investigation devolved upon his successor who in a report now furnished, attributes the cause of the outbreak to the harsh and domineering attitude of two of the commanding officers. The soldiers in revenge for the treatment they had received rose in a body, killed both officers, and broke out into regular mutiny. Fortunately, however, Mongol troops from the adjacent stations promptly reached the spot, and the movement was suppressed before it had spread beyond the limits of the camp. A few of the ringleaders having been summarily executed order was quickly restored. A sum of Tls. 38,000, intended for payment of the soldiers was seized and carried off, and some military accoutrements were destroyed. The full amount of the losses was deducted from the pay of the mutineers, and the offending regiments were subsequently disbanded. The Memorialist remarks that the troops beyond the frontiers are continually making arrears of pay a pretext for violent behaviour, and the least dissatisfaction with their position makes them break into revolt. The present occurrence had, it is true, nothing to do with the question of pay, and was merely a sudden outburst on the part of the soldiers to revenge themselves on their officers, and could not have been anticipated. It is asked that the Resident should be exonerated from any blame that might otherwise attach to him in consideration of the promptitude which he showed in restoring order after the event.
APPOINTMENT.

February 13th and 14th.—Hsü-t'ung, President of the Board of Civil Office, is raised to the rank of Assistant Grand Secretary.

Chang Chih-wan is appointed Grand Secretary and Comptroller of the Board of Revenue in place of Yen Ching-ming, whose connection with the public service has now entirely ceased.

Sun Yu-wfen, a member of the Taung-li Yamen, is gazetted President of the Board of Punishments.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Ch'i Shih-ch'ang, Senior President of the Censorate, applies for a further leave of absence of one month on the ground of ill-health, which has been granted by Rescript.

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY LI HAN-CHANG AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GRAIN TRANSPORT.

Li Han-chang, who was received in audience twice before starting for his post, announces his arrival at Ch'ing-chiang, where he took over the seals of office on the 24th December from Hsü Wen-ta, the Taotai of the Huai-Yang-hai Circuit, who has been temporarily filling the post of Director-General of the Grain Transport. At the time he wrote the breach at Ch'ang Chou was still unclosed, and this added greatly to the importance of his post, which he does not consider himself particularly suited to fill.

ILL-HEALTH OF PRINCE TUN.

February 15th and 16th.—A month's leave of absence is accorded to Prince Tun, who is suffering from an old infirmity of his legs.

PRESENTATION OF SCEPTRES TO THE EMPRESS AND EMPEROR.

A verbal Decree of the Emperor fixes the days on which ju-i (the curved batons or sceptres, well known as Chinese curiosities) shall be presented to the Emperor and Empress by those officers who have the right to present them, on the occasion of His Majesty's marriage, or his assumption of power, and on Her Majesty's reception of an honorific title.

YELLOW RIVER RETURNED TO SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports that on the night of the 23rd January the stream of the Yellow River reached Shantung. As it came rushing down and carrying masses of ice, the sound could be heard at a distance of several li. All breakwaters or bunding that are exposed to the direct force of the stream, have been protected by piles in order to prevent damage to them from float-
Yên-shou, in which he takes upon himself to give an unreserved expression of opinion respecting the approaching assumption of government by the Emperor in person. In view of the important questions pressing at the moment, he asks Us to issue a Decree directing that Memorials from the provinces, as well as sealed reports from the Officers of the Court, should continue to be addressed to Us, and he requests that such documents should be perused by Us before effect is given to the proposals to which they refer. The Censor’s suggestion has caused Us profound astonishment. A female Regency was only resorted to as a last device, and looking back in Our solu­tion upon the abuses which it caused in previous dynasties, We issued special com­mands that the Government should revert to its proper Head the moment the right time arrived, in order that the constitu­tional usages of Our revered predecessors might be duly preserved, and that no ground for adverse criticism might be furnished to future ages. Our decision was taken with firm resolve and our object had a deep significance. Besides, We have already issued Decrees fully expounding Our views to Our subjects, and all classes under our rule have cheerfully acquiesced in Our action. Were We now at the very beginning of a new order of things to require that Memorials should be addressed to Us, we should be stultifying our previous action by cancelling instructions which have been only recently issued. In what light would posterity regard Us? The analogy adduced by the Censor is quite irrelevant, as a female Regency and that instituted by the Emperor K’ien-lung are totally different things. After the assumption of personal government by the Emperor, Prince Ch’un alone will be required to address Memorials directly to Us in his own name. The secret documents referred to by the Censor which have been submitted to Us by Prince Ch’un treated of important concerns of state which at the outset of the Emperor’s assumption of government it was thought he should submit to Us on such occasions as he paid Us visits of re­spect. It was never for a moment intended that this practice should be sanctioned as a permanent institution, or that Our tutelage of the Emperor should be indefinitely pro­longed. The Censor’s suggestion is made in manifest disregard of Our former De­cree and has the further objection of furnishing grounds for adverse criticism of our action in future ages. Having regard to the extravagance of his proposals and the very important issues to which they relate, we feel bound to administer to him a severe warning, unless reckless interference with accepted institutions is to go unpunished. We command therefore that T’u Jên-shou be required to vacate his office of Censor, that he be handed over to the Board for determination of a penalty, and that his Memorial be flung back to him.

APPOINTMENTS.

Prince Li is appointed President of the Imperial Clan Court in succession to Prince Chun, and the Vice Presidentship of the same Court has been conferred on Prince Ch’ing, who is succeeded in his former post of Assistant Director by Prince K’o-ch’in.

COINAGE OF CASH IN SHENSI STOPPED THROUGH WANT OF FOREIGN COPPER.

February 21st.—About eighteen months ago steps were taken for the erection of a mint to coin copper cash in Shensi. Ch’ên­an is the only district in the province which produces copper, but the quality is so poor that for coinage purposes it can only be used in combination with the foreign metal, and supplies of the latter had to be procured from Shanghai. During the time that the mint has been working, eleven castings have been turned out, representing a total of 19,800 strings of cash. The supply of foreign copper is nearly ex­hausted, and the officers who were sent to Shanghai to make further purchases report that owing to the stoppage of the Japanese copper works and other causes the price of the article has so gone up as to place it out of their power to procure any more. Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that the experiment of using the native copper alone has not proved a success, the Governor asks permission to be allowed to postpone further coinage operations until foreign copper can be procured at reason­able rates.

BANQUET AT THE TSUNG-LI YAMEN TO FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE OCCASION OF THE EMPEROR’S MARRIAGE. A DECREE BY HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS DOWAGER, Tzu Hsi Tuan Yü K’an Yü Chao Yü Chuang Ch’eng.

February 22nd.—The appropriate cere­monies connected with the marriage of the Emperor will take place during the 1st moon of the present year, and the assump­tion of the government by the Emperor will be celebrated in due constitutional form in the 2nd moon. All the people within the Empire manifest unbounded joy and delight, and We feel that the great rejoicing of the nation will be shared by China and foreign countries alike. Ever
since the conclusion of the Treaties and the establishment of friendly intercourse with the various Powers, relations of amity and mutual confidence have with lapse of time been more conspicuously manifested, and the Representatives of the various Powers residing in Peking all exhibit an eminent capacity for evincing a clear perception of the great principles of propriety, and of carefully maintaining international comity. As they are now present in Peking on the occasion of this august ceremony, it is fitting that they should participate in the joyous event. We command, therefore, Prince Ch'ing, Yi K'ang, President of the Tsung-li Yamên, and his colleagues to select a day in the second moon on which to entertain with due courtesy at a banquet in the Yamên, Brandt, Denby, Shioda, Walsham, Oumany, Rodriguez, Lemaire, and Verhaeghe, all of whom are present in Peking, and we further confer upon them sceptres, rolls of satin, and other articles. On De Luca and Ferguson also, who are now absent from Peking, We command that the same presents be conferred in order to evince the earnest desire of Our Court to celebrate the joyous occasion with a friendly regard towards Our neighbours. Let the Yamên concerned proceed at once to give effect to Our commands.

HONOURS TO SIR ROBERT HART ON THE OCCASION OF THE EMPEROR’S MARRIAGE.

Decree by Her Majesty the Empress Dowager. Hart, Inspector-General of Customs, an officer of the First Grade with the privilege of wearing a Peacock’s Feather, has long been charged with the conduct of the Foreign Customs and has shown great ability, earnestness, and devotion in the discharge of all his duties. The annual increase in the revenue which has recently taken place year after year is clear proof of the conspicuous success which has attended his administration. It is fitting that on the occasion of the approaching assumption of government by the Emperor We should bestow on him a special mark of Our esteem in recognition of his past service, and We hereby command that a Title of Honour of the first class of the first rank be conferred upon him in perpetuity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCE CH’UN’S SERVICES.

In a separate Decree the Empress Dowager acknowledges the great obligation which she owes to Prince Ch’un for the sagacious advice and strength of purpose with which he has assisted Her Majesty in conducting the Government through all the trials and difficulties of a long Regency. In all that concerned the interests and the security of the Empire, the Prince has shown a devotion and a capacity of action which the Empress extols in terms of the highest praise. Special reference is made to his powers of organisation as shown in the Peking Field Force, which owes its existence and present state of perfection entirely to him, as also to the courage which he exhibited in establishing in the face of much opposition the Board of Admiralty at Peking. In all grave questions of State the Empress has always found that the Prince expressed his opinion with much freedom and yet with due respect, and she boldly affirms that his equal as a Minister of worth and dignity is scarcely to be found in the annals of the country. Now that her term of office is about to expire and the Emperor is shortly to assume the government in person, she considers it a fitting opportunity to evince her deep gratitude for the Prince’s services, by conferring upon him a special mark of her esteem. She accordingly commands that the Prince receive a sword with a scabbard of yellow peach-tree bark, and grants him permission to use the same material for the cases of all the bows and the scabbards of all the swords that he may wish to employ. He is further to receive a tablet with an inscription from the Classics written in the Emperor’s own hand.

HONOURS TO HIGH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES.

Another laudatory Decree issued by the Emperor confers distinctions upon the most prominent of the high civil and military officers in the Empire. The Viceroy Li receives a purple bridle, Tseng Kuo-ch’uan and Ts’ao Yü-yüan are granted the title of Guardian of the Heir-Apparent; Yang Ch’ang-shih, Chang Yao, Liu Chin-t’ang, and Liu Ming-ch’uan are raised to the rank of Junior Guardians of the Heir-Apparent, and nearly all the provincial Commanders-in-Chief are advanced two steps of commutative rank. P’eng Yu-lin and a number of other retired military magnates are handed over to the Board for the determination of fitting honours, and civil and military functionaries of the first or second grade who have been omitted from this Decree are to receive one step of commutative rank from the Board of Civil Office and the Board of War respectively.

HONOURS TO HIGH METROPOLITAN OFFICIALS.

To the Members of the Cabinet and the high officers who have served in the Capital during her Regency, the Empress expresses
herself as specially indebted for the counsel and advice which they have tendered her in all important questions of State that have come before her in the seclusion of the Palace. Now that Her Majesty is soon to be relieved of the load of anxious care which only the loyal support of her Ministers has enabled her to sustain, she cannot allow the opportunity to pass without conferring tokens of gratitude upon the Chief Ministers of her Government. Prince Li, the Grand Secretaries, O-lo-ho-pu and Chang Chih-wan, Hsii Kêng-shên, President of the Board of War, and Sun Yü-wên, President of the Board of Punishments, are each to receive tablets with appropriate inscriptions written by the Emperor, and other suitable rewards to be determined by the Board. Prince Kung is recommended to the Imperial Clan Court for the bestowal of a high distinction, and his former colleague, Pao-yün, is to receive full retiring allowance. Yen Ching-ming, Wêng T'ung-ho, Li Hung-tao, P'an Tau-yin and Wang Wên-shao are likewise to receive such forms of commendation as the Board may consider appropriate, while Wên-hsiang, Ts'o Tung-t'ang and a number of other deceased worthies are to have sacrificial rites performed to their memory.

MEMORIAL TEMPLE IN PEKING TO SENG-KOLINCH'IN.

The services of Prince Sêngkolinch'in will, the Empress states, secure him a lasting reputation with prosperity, and although his portrait has been placed in the T'âu Kuan Ko and his tablet is worshipped in the T'ai Mino, yet Her Majesty considers it fitting that at the close of her Regency she should add still another tribute of grateful affection to the memory of so devoted a servant. A memorial temple is therefore to be erected to his honour in Peking, at which sacrificial rites are to be performed twice a year.

HONOUR TO DECEASED VICEEROYS, TARTAR GENERALS, AND GOVERNORS.

Decree by the Empress Dowager which covers three pages of the Gazette enumerates a list of the leading Viceroyos, Governors, and Manchu Generals during the past quarter of a century to whose memory worship is to be paid in recognition of their eminent services to the State. Many of the names are now nearly forgotten by foreigners, but the following may be extracted as still living in the recollection of many: Tsêng Kuo-fan, Lo Ping-chang, Ting Pao-chên, Liu Chêng-yu, Chang Shu-shêng, and Chin Shun.

MEMORIAL FROM SHENG-T'AI, IMPERIAL RESIDENT IN TIBET, REPORTING THE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF A LONG-STANDING FEUD BETWEEN TWO TRIBES OR PETTY KINGDOMS IN EASTERN TIBET, KNOWN AS THE CHAYA AND CHAMDO TRIBES RESPECTIVELY.

It appears from the Memorialist's report that the Hutuktu, or ecclesiastical dignitaries, were placed over these tribes in the reign of K'ang Hsi, being invested with patents of office and granted judicial powers. The Chaya region is wide in extent and sparsely populated, the inhabitants being of a turbulent and unruly disposition. The clerics of Chamo have strong commercial instincts and are given to hoarding money, but taxation is heavy, and the common people poverty-stricken. Twelve years ago, when the Chaya Hutuktu was returning from Lhassa, where he had been studying the sacred books, he stopped at a monastery called Tan-ta-ssu in the Chamdo region, and was not treated with the amount of attention he expected, and his subjects regarded this as a personal slight. On his return he sent a letter to the Chamdo Hutuktu demanding the surrender to himself for punishment of the Abbot of the temple. His request was ignored, and the following spring a body of Chaya troops made a raid upon the Abbot's home, which they plundered and burnt. The Chamdo people were indignant at this outrage, and recriminations followed which eventually resulted in an organised attack by the Chaya people, who marched 7,000 troops into Chamdo. Three engagements took place, in all of which the Chamdo people were defeated and their country was pillaged and laid waste in all directions. At this time a Nepaulesse and a Tibetan Tribute Mission were passing through Chamdo, and the Heads of these Missions endeavoured to effect an understanding, but the Chaya people refused to accept their arbitration. Two Chinese officials then came forward and drew up an agreement in several articles which was accepted by the Chaya people, who withdrew their troops. The Chamdo people, however, protested against the decision as unjust, and lodged a complaint at Lhassa, which was renewed time and again. Matters remained in this unsettled state for several years, during which time the postal service through Chamdo was much impeded by the people, but thanks to the energy and enlightenment of the Hutuktu, the duties were performed, although with difficulty. Early in 1886 Sê-lêngê, who was then Resident in Tibet, fearing that the cou-
tinuance of this feud would block the postal road, memorialised the Throne requesting that the Viceroy of Szechuan should be directed to instruct the same two officers to go to Chamdo and deal with the case. One of these, however, died of fright on the receipt of his instructions, and the services of the other were unavailable, as he had been cashiered. The feud continued unabated and the Chamdo Hutuktu became unpopular with his people, who charged him with submitting tamely to insult and leaving the wrongs of his subjects unredressed. In April, 1886, when Wên-shuo, the late Resident, was passing through Chamdo, the district was almost in a state of civil war, and when Sêlêngô and Ch'ung-kang were passing through the region on their way back to Peking, attempts were made to stop them both, and the grievances of the Chamdo people were pressed upon them with persistent reiteration. In May, 1888, when the Memorialist was passing through Chamdo and doing his best to push on to Lhassa, he was pestered with petitions from the clerics and laity, who threatened to abandon their postal duties and quit the country unless their wrongs were redressed. He promised to send somebody to look into their affairs, and in due course deputed for this purpose a commissary named Chi Chih-wên. He in his turn sent a military officer to Chaya to see what he could do, and after much negotiation, the Chaya people agreed to return all they could of the plunder and to pay an indemnity of Tls. 1,000. The Chamdo claim, however, amounted to Tls. 60,000 and as they had lost over 100 men in the engagements, the satisfaction offered by the Chaya people was certainly insufficient. Under these circumstances the Memorialist was appealed to for instructions as to what was to be done, and the result of his efforts, which are detailed ut sufficient. Under these circumstances the Memorialist was appealed to for instructions as to what was to be done, and the result of his efforts, which are detailed ut sufficient. Under these circumstances the Memorialist was appealed to for instructions as to what was to be done, and the result of his efforts, which are detailed, was that the Chamdo people accepted an apology, offered with the usual hata or silken scarf, from the Chaya tribe, who returned what articles they could and paid a money indemnity of Tls. 1,000, to which the Memorialist added another Tls. 1,000 from the postal funds. The Memorial concludes with an application for the bestowal of honours upon both the Hutuktu and other persons who were instrumental in bringing this long standing feud to a satisfactory termination. —Decree already published.

SAIIT REVENUE IN NORTH HUAI AREA.

February 23rd.—In a sub-memorial the Viceroy, Têng Kuo-ch'üan, states that the number of licences issued by the Board for the salt trade of the Northern Huai district during the year 1884 was 296,982. The issue of the 1884 licences was started on the 16th January, 1888, but owing to the floods from the Yellow River in the North of Anhui and the drought prevailing during the present autumn in the same province, the consumption of salt was for a time greatly restricted. Fortunately, however, when the vegetable crops came upon the market, things showed a considerable improvement, and Hunan merchants arrived in great numbers and made up for their previous dilatoriness by large purchases. The result was that on the 29th November, or only a month after the fixed time, the whole of the salt permits for 1884 had been placed on the market.

February 24th.—[No papers of interest].

THE YELLOW RIVER IN CHIHILI.

February 25th.—The Viceroy Li acknowledges the receipt on the 18th January of an Imperial Decree informing him that the waters of the Yellow River would very soon be diverted into their old channel and directing him to make timely preparations for the safety of the portion of the river which runs through his jurisdiction. In reply, he states that the southern bank of the river in the Tung-ming district and the northern bank in Chi'ang-yüan and K'ai Chou had already been strengthened in anticipation of the breach at Ch'ang Chou being closed at an early date. He again instructed the Intendant of the Ta Shun-kuang Circuit to see that the channel was in a proper state for the reception of the water. At noon on the 21st January the water appeared at the upper station in the Tung-ming district, and during the night it rose to a depth of several feet. The current was very rapid, and its course being unimpeded, it carried down with it quantities of floating ice. At 10 a.m. on the 22nd January it reached the middle station, and by the morning of the 23rd the lower station was reached. The direction of the water was towards Shantung, and in some places it was level with, while in others it was actually above, the fascines on the banks. Owing to the lowness of the ground on the southern as compared with the northern bank of the river, the force of the current was felt so strongly on the latter side that piles had to be driven in to keep away the floating masses of ice. So far the embankments have stood firm, and as measures are being taken to strengthen them, it is hoped that all danger of floods may be averted.
WANG CHIH-CH'UN ASSUMES OFFICE AS CHIEF JUSTICE AT CANTON.

Wang Chih-ch'un, who was Taotai in Hainan in 1884, and subsequently took an active part in the campaign against the French, was recently promoted to the post of Chief Justice at Canton. He came to Peking last year for audience, saw the Emperor twice, and records the deep impression which the consciousness of being "within a foot from his August Sovereign" has left upon his mind. On his way back to Canton he spent a month in repairing his ancestral graves, and having been detained for another month at Nanking by illness, he did not reach his post till lately. He dwells at some length upon the importance of the functions which will devolve upon him in his new office, noticing in particular the relations with the Treaty Powers which often give rise to embarrassing questions.

RETURN OF YELLOW RIVER TO SHANTUNG.

February 26th.—In amplification of a telegram forwarded to the Emperor through the Taung-li Yamen, the Governor of Shantung presents a Memorial giving an account of the return of the Yellow River to Shantung, and its passage through the province to the sea. As already reported by him, the water reached the provincial frontier on the night of the 23rd January. On the 25th it arrived at Tung-a Hsien, and on the next day it had come to the neighbourhood of the capital, Chi-nan Fu. On the 27th it was at Ch'yi-yang Hsien, on the 28th at Pen Chou, on the 29th at Li-ching Hsien, and late on the 30th it began to enter the sea. In places where the bed of the river is narrow, the course of the water was much impeded by masses of ice, and in those localities the flood rose to a height of from ten to fifteen feet. The Governor himself was on the river bank stimulating the energies of his subordinates, by whose strenuous efforts the embankments were preserved from all damage.

RIOT AND LOSS OF LIFE IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports the occurrence of a serious riot in the Prefecture of Lai-chou, in which a number of government servants lost their lives. It appears from the account given by the Memorialist that the salt bureau for the district of Wei Hsien has a branch depot at a place called Fu-ko Chuang. One day last December an exciseman employed at the depot arrested a man for selling smuggled salt. The prisoner was handed to the officer in charge of the local preventive service and was about to be sent before the Magistrate of the District, when a number of people from the surrounding villages came to the depot and begged for his release. Their request not being granted, they began to make an uproar. The exciseman before mentioned fired upon the crowd and killed one of them. This so excited the wrath of the villagers that, not content with attacking the excisemen with knives or swords, they even proceeded to burn down the depot. The officer in charge, two assistants, nine excisemen, and one private person, all lost their lives in the flames. There are also five more excisemen reported as missing. The Magistrate hurried to the spot to restore order and hold an inquest; and later his superior, the Prefect, arrived. The latter having made an enquiry into the cause of the riot reported the facts of the case to the Memorialist. The Governor remarks that salt excisemen, in the performance of their duties, are certain to incur the resentment and hostility of those who sell or consume unlicensed salt, and unless the Magistrate of the district exercises proper control over them, trouble will infallibly arise. It is certain that the Magistrate of Wei Hsien allowed ill-feeling to be engendered by always taking the part of the preventive officers when smuggling cases were brought before him, and so paved the way for a riot and serious loss of life. It is therefore proposed that the Magistrate be dismissed from the public service and that an enquiry be held into his conduct.—Approved.

HONOURS DISTRIBUTED AT EMPEROR'S MARRIAGE.

February 27th.—The greater part of this day's Gazette consists of Decrees issued by the Empress conferring honours or rewards on a large number of persons to celebrate the joyful occasion of the Emperor's marriage.

Among the members of the Imperial Family and persons attached to the Court, the principal recipients of favours are Prince Kung and Prince Ch'un. To both of these Princes are granted additional members of the bodyguard to attend upon them, and further dignities beyond those already enjoyed are bestowed upon their various sons. Prince Ch'un will also draw from the Board of Revenue sixty thousand taels for the restoration of his newly acquired palace.

A number of Mongol Princes and Dukes likewise receive marks of honour. The chief of these are two Korchin Princes, and the Princes of the Alashan and the Kara-chin tribes, to each of whom is presented
a yellow riding jacket. The rest on the list are permitted to use purple bridles. A third class are created Imperial Chamberlains, and a fourth are allowed the distinction of riding in the Forbidden City. Besides these special marks of favour all the Princes and lesser nobles who yearly visit Peking are presented with "Dragon" robes, one or more pieces or rolls of silk, and boxes of hat fringes according to their several ranks.

Lastly, the chair bearers who carried the young Empress into the Palace receive two taels of silver each, and the torch-bearers one tael.

**REWARDS FOR MAKING TELEGRAPH LINES.**

Last year the Viceroy at Canton reported to the Emperor the progress that was being made in the construction of telegraph lines in the provinces under his jurisdiction, and requested that, when the lines were completed, the officers concerned in the work might be rewarded similarly with those who had erected the earlier lines in the provinces. The new lines in question which have now been entirely finished, run from Nanning to Po-ai in Yunnan, from Wu-chou to Kuei-lin, from Swatow to Ch'ao-chou, and from Canton via Shao-chou and Nan-hsiung to the Yü-ling Hills, where connection is made with Kiangsi. There have also been new lines or extensions in Hainan and Ch'in Chou. The Emperor at first acceded to the Viceroy's request; but later the Board at Peking protested successfully against the proposed scale of rewards. It held that the officers were entitled only to ordinary and not as before to special recompense or marks of distinction. On the earlier occasion the work was undertaken for the first time, while on the latter it was merely in extension or continuation of what had already been done. Secondly, the circumstances were different. The original line was specially required at the moment for the transmission of military intelligence, while there was nothing of pressing importance with regard to the later ones. The Viceroy combats this view with great animation. With regard to immediate importance, he holds that the new lines will bear comparison with the old one. For one of them was required for the operations against the Hainan aborigines, and another for the transmission of instructions at the time of the demarcation of the Tongking boundary; in both of which cases, moreover, they materially contributed to the success which was happily achieved. Or if dangers and difficulties be taken into consideration, they will be found greater in the later case. In Hainan, sixty officials died of malaria during the progress of the work. The line to Yunnan was carried through mountains and wildernesses, uninhabited and most unhealthy from miasma. There were dangers from wild beasts and from robber gangs. Regions were traversed where it was difficult to protect the party from the suspicious aborigines who had never heard of such things as telegraphs. For the above reasons, on which he enlarges at great length, the Viceroy begs that his original request may be finally approved.—Sanctioned by Rescript.

**FIRE BRIGADE AT PEKING.**

February 28th.—In consequence doubtless of the recent fire in the Palace, an Imperial Decree desires the Comptroller of the Imperial Household and the General of the Gendarmerie to undertake the formation of a military fire brigade from the soldiers of the Tartar garrison at Peking. Such a brigade formerly existed, though it has now disappeared. The new force will be modelled on the old one with merely such alterations in the rules as may seem advisable.

**LADY WITH GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN.**

The Governor of Shansi requests that some mark of the Imperial favour may be bestowed on a lady who has descendants living with her to the fourth generation. The aged dame, who is now in her eighty-third year, is the mother of the Magistrate of Wu-t'ai Hsien. She has one son, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

**SALE OF OFFICES IN FUKIEN FOR YELLOW RIVER FUND.**

March 1st.—Reference has frequently been made in the Gazette during the past few months to the temporary re-introduction of the system of purchasing titles and offices, which has been permitted for the space of one year in order to procure additional funds for the repair of the Yellow River embankment at the breach in Honan. The Governor-General at Foochow now reports that in the province of Fukien Tls. 21,970 have been raised from this source during the third quarter of last year. The contributors were one hundred and fifty-three in number, and obtained various positions from the rank of licentiate upwards.

**TURBULENCE OF TS'AO-CHOU PEOPLE.**

In recommending an officer for the acting Generalship of the Ts'ao-chou military
district, the Governor of Shantung enlarges on the difficulty and importance of the post on account of the prevalence of brigandage, the fierce nature of the people, and the proximity of the place to the frontier of Honan and Chihli, whose border districts are inhabited by men of a similar character.

**GRAIN TRANSPORT BY GRAND CANAL.**

Last year the carriage of tribute rice by the Grand Canal was entirely stopped, all the grain which should have been sent by that route being retained for the relief of the districts suffering from the great inundation. The Governor of Shantung now prays that two or three thousand piculs of the rice which should properly go by sea may be sent by the Canal instead. From this it would appear that the grain ordinarily sent through the Canal has again been diverted to charitable purposes. The Governor argues that if two years be allowed to elapse without using the Canal, the barges will all disappear, and it will be impossible to get them together again when required. Also the local authorities along the line will not clear out the Canal bed, as they are obliged to do yearly for the passage of the fleet. This will be a serious inconvenience to the private boats which now travel by the Canal, and will make the task of dredging a very difficult one when the time comes that it must be resumed. Finally, the prosperity of the traders and poor people along the two banks depends greatly on the Canal traffic.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

**PURCHASE OF OFFICE IN SZECHUAN.**

March, 2nd.—During one month last autumn the sales of titles in Szechuan for the Yellow River Embankment Repairs Fund amounted to Tls. 55,581. The contributors were sixty-one in number, most of them only purchasing the position of literary licentiate.

**RE-HEARING OF AN APPEAL TO THE EMPEROR IN PERSON.**

March, 3rd.—The Governor of Anhui reports the hearing of an appeal presented by a woman who stopped the Emperor's chair while proceeding through the streets. From the facts which have been elicited it appears that between five and six years ago the petitioner's husband borrowed fifty dollars in different sums from two neighbours in order to pay the expenses of his father's funeral. There was no written acknowledgment of the debt, but he promised to pay it before the end of the year. On the 10th day of the 12th month, the two creditors went to his house to ask for their money. The debtor was unable to satisfy their claims at the time, but said that he would do so by the 20th. In the course of the next few days, however, the worry and anxiety caused by pecuniary difficulties brought on an attack of a wasting sickness, and on the 17th he died. That he was in the habit of suffering intermittently from a disease of this kind was a matter which every one in the village knew. The widow had no money to provide a funeral for her husband, and was in a great state of distress. But two of his relations came to see her, and borrowed a coffin for her, in which with the help of some other persons the deceased was buried. A month afterwards the widow lodged a charge against the creditors in the Magistrate's court. She stated that her husband's debt to them had been settled by delivering them the title deeds of some land; nevertheless, on the 17th they had come to his house with a number of people and attempted to carry off some lime by force; her husband had resisted, upon which one of the party seized him by the throat, thereby so injuring him that he died; finally they had taken him and buried him against her will. The case was hard, and the Magistrate found the complaint was unfounded. The woman then appealed to the Military Inspector of the Yangtze, H.H. Peung Yu-lin, who directed that the case be re-heard. She, however, would not appear before the Magistrate, and the case went against her by default. She then petitioned the Viceroy at Nankin, and, before he had time to do anything, went off to Peking, where she presented an appeal to the Emperor in person. The Memorialist is thoroughly satisfied that the above account represents the true state of the case, though he has been unable to bring the woman to acknowledge that it is so. Among the points which he mentions as tending to prove it are: first, that the date on which the lime was alleged to be removed was before the day to which the credit was extended; secondly, that the lime was found by the Magistrate at the time of the first trial still to be in the house. Again, at the time of the funeral she made no complaint of foul play, and the relatives of the deceased who saw him before and after his death were convinced that he died from disease. Also, among the persons accused was one man who had long been away from home and did not return till after the affair. As the evidence of all the witnesses is perfectly in accord, the Memorialist suggests that it would be unadvisable to let the case drag on on account of the perverseness
of one woman. He therefore proposes to terminate it by sentencing the appellant to the punishment of a hundred blows and banishment to a near frontier for her offence of stopping the Emperor's chair. From this punishment she will be allowed to redeem herself, being a woman, by a payment of money.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

PUNISHMENT OF THE CENSOR, T'U JEN-SHOU.

March 4th.—A few days ago the Empress removed from office a Censor named T' u Jen-shou, who had presented a Memorial making certain suggestions which amounted virtually to a proposal that Her Majesty should continue to superintend the government of the country in spite of the Emperor's accession to full power. She at the same time desired the Board of Civil Office to determine a fitting penalty for the Censor's offence. The Board sent in a Memorial advising what should be done; but their statement not being sufficiently explicit, a fuller one was demanded. From this further Memorial it appeared that the Censor would receive some fresh appointment of about equal rank with the Censorship from which he is removed, and that his only punishment would be that of being under nominal sentence of dismissal, while actually holding the post. Her Majesty is very angry with the Board for their attempt to deceive herself and to screen the offender. The Censorate is instructed to determine a penalty to be inflicted on the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board, and a severe penalty for the secretaries actually employed in the case. The Censor himself is summarily dismissed from the public service without possibility of re-employment.

DIGNITIES FOR PRINCE CH'UN DECLINED.

The Empress has received a Memorial from Wu Ta-ch'eng, Director-General of the Yellow River, who suggests that some special dignities be conferred upon the Emperor's father, Prince Ch' un. Her Majesty notices the modesty and indefatigable zeal with which the Prince has performed all duties entrusted to him both during the reign of his brother and in later years when she herself has conducted the government. If honours have been at any time conferred upon him, he has repeatedly and earnestly begged to decline them. Though some time ago he was granted the right to ride in an apricot-yellow chair, he has never availed himself of the privilege. His sincerity and humility are known to all the world and not to Her Majesty alone. At the commencement of the present reign the Prince represented the danger that was likely to arise if worthless officers should endeavour to curry favour with their sovereign by aducing instances from history in order to persuade him to exalt his parent. It was best, he said, that no honours should be conferred in such a case, and he prayed that this might hereafter be publicly established as the rule for the future. Nothing could be nobler than such conduct; and it was with feelings of deep admiration that Her Majesty felt constrained to comply with the Prince's wish. The proposal of Wu Ta-ch'eng shows that the time has come when it is necessary to publish to all the empire the Memorial previously presented by the Prince. It will then be manifest how the present dynasty surpasses its predecessors, and what are the feelings of the illustrious Prince. At the same time a stop will be put to the secret schemes of any who would desire to elevate themselves into lofty positions by making flattering proposals.

March 5th.—[No documents of interest.]

ABDUCTION AND MURDER IN ANHUI.

March, 6th.—The Governor of Anhui reports the execution of three men who had been guilty of abducting a woman and murdering several persons. The principal criminal was one Chang Hsiao, the owner of a boat, in which he and three companions were in the habit of travelling up and down the rivers in the northern part of the province, robbing and plundering as opportunity offered. One day the summer before last they arrived at a quiet spot in the neighbourhood of Meng-ch' en Hsien. One of the party, Tu Chii-san, went on shore for a stroll and saw a woman cutting grass. As she was quite alone, he determined to carry her off and sell her. Coming up quietly from behind, he threw her down on her face, tied up her eyes and mouth with cloths, and carried her off to the boat. As soon as she was untied she began to scream, but was reduced to silence by a threat to kill her. The kidnapper told his companions what had happened, and promised to share with them the money got by selling the captive. They sailed away down stream, and anchored for the night in a desolate place. Chang Hsiao, who was taken with the woman's appearance, gave her kidnapper some money, and with his permission took her and ravished her. In the meantime, the husband had discovered his wife's loss, and, after reporting it to the authorities, set out to look for her with his elder brother and a
working man in their employ. On the third day they discovered her, and with the help of the local constable, as well as a policeman, who was also engaged in the search, went on board and arrested the party. The woman told how she had been carried off by Tu Chi-san, but from shame said nothing of what Chang Hsiao had done. The kidnapper was promptly put in irons; while Chang Hsiao succeeded in persuading the police that he and the rest knew nothing of the affair, their boat merely having been hired in the ordinary way. The policeman therefore determined to take the prisoner back with the party in the boat and hand him over to the Magistrate. The local constable wanted to hire a guard to go with them, but that was considered unnecessary. In the meantime Chang Hsiao and his men had already formed a plot. Before starting, one of them went on shore and bought materials for a feast; and as the boat sailed along, the party were plentifully regaled with food and wine. After this they went to sleep in different parts of the boat, the policeman staying with his prisoner. Towards midnight when the boat was in a lonely place and the guests were all slumbering soundly, the robbers attacked them with knives and killed them one after another. The policeman grappled with Chang Hsiao, but was slain by the others from behind. The police­man formed a plot. Before starting, one of them went on shore and bought materials for a feast; and as the boat sailed along, the party were plentifully regaled with food and wine. After this they went to sleep in different parts of the boat, the policeman staying with his prisoner. Towards midnight when the boat was in a lonely place and the guests were all slumbering soundly, the robbers attacked them with knives and killed them one after another. The policeman grappled with Chang Hsiao, but was slain by the others from behind. The woman, seeing what happened began to scream, but was silenced by threats of a similar fate. They then threw the bodies on to a bank, cleaned up the traces of blood, and sailed away. The corpses were soon discovered and a hue and cry was raised. As the search was becoming very hot, Chang Hsiao sold his boat, and the party separated. He kept the woman, but gave five dollars to Tu Chi-san, and promised something to the rest. One of the gang also remained with him; and he was shortly afterwards joined by his mother. They took a passage together in a boat, the woman being passed off as his wife. When, however, they came to a place where a number of soldiers were making a search, she availed herself of the opportunity to give the alarm. Chang Hsiao disappeared, but the rest of the party were seized and sent to the authorities. Shortly afterwards both Chang Hsiao and Tu Chi-san were captured, one only of the gang thus remaining at liberty. In the ordinary course of things, after their trial by the local authorities, the prisoners should have been brought before the Memorialist for a final examination. But as the facts of the case have been established beyond all doubt and their correctness has been acknowledged by the prisoners, it has been thought better for once to dispense with this formality. Meng-ch'i'en Hsien lies to the north of the Yellow River floods, and some accident might happen during the long journey which it would be necessary to make. Without taking notice of the lesser offences committed by them, Chang Hsiao has been convicted of being the principal in the murder of three persons of one household, namely two brothers and their servant, and the two other men were accessories and actual participants in his crime. In accordance with the law the first mentioned prisoner has therefore been condemned to the punishment of death by slow degrees, and the two others to immediate decapitation. These sentences were carried out immediately on account of the seriousness of the case, without previous reference to Peking. The mother of Chang Hsiao, who was not concerned in his crimes, and the woman who was kidnapped, have both been set at liberty.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

March 7th.—[No document of interest.]

FENG TZU-TSAI REBUKED.

March 8th.—It appears from a Decree of the Emperor that General Feng T'ai-ta'ai has made certain complaints against the clerks in the Board of Civil Office at Peking. The General alleged that for the sake of extorting gratuities, the clerks of the Board subjected to improper manipulation the lists of officers for whom rewards or honours were proposed, and he requested that certain officers might receive the advancement which had been asked for them in spite of the objections formulated by the Board. A clerk against whom he seems to have made a distinct charge is found not to exist; but one of a somewhat similar name who appears to be the person designated, and two individuals, a substitute clerk and a workman, have been handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial. The lists of proposed honours have been scrutinised by the Board, and all the approvals or objections are found to be in accordance with the law and regulations in force. The recommendations which were made by Chang Chih-tung on account of the campaign against the Hainan aborigines have been considered by him in consequence of the Board’s comments upon them; and the amended list has been finally approved. Last, the Memorialist is taken to task for having asked whether his son might receive promotion as promised. This, the
Decree says, was granted eight years ago, and has never been in doubt in all. The Memorialist's request therefore is stupid and foolish; and the Board is directed to determine a penalty for him.

REWARDS FOR RELIEVING DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

The Viceroy Tseng Kuo-ch'\u0101ian presents a Memorial. He says that the distress in Anhui and Kiangsu is so widely spread that the funds at the disposal of the government are insufficient to cope with it. In consequence of this state of affairs the Emperor consented that honours should be conferred upon the donors of contributions for the benefit of the sufferers. At the present moment, when extreme cold prevails, raiment for the poor is especially needed. Five officials, therefore, in different parts of the country have come forward, each with the gift of a thousand wadded coats, or a thousand complete suits, which they desire to be presented in accordance with the expressed wishes of their deceased parents. The Memorialist suggests that permission should be given for the erection of portals in honour of the donors of these charitable bequests.—Granted.

REWARDS TO OFFICERS FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMPEROR'S MARRIAGE.

March 9th.—The various public departments in Peking are instructed by a Decree published in to-day's Gazette to recommend for preferment all their members who were detailed for duty in connection with the celebration of the Emperor's marriage. Approval is expressed of the manner in which the arrangements for the auspicious event were carried out and a tribute of praise is bestowed upon the active services of all concerned.

PRINCE CH'UN ON HIS OWN POSITION AS FATHER OF THE EMPEROR.

March 10th.—In a Secret Memorial which purports to be written fourteen years ago when the boy Emperor entered the Palace, Prince Ch'\u0101un, with a view of preventing unauthorised proposals regarding himself being made by intriguing persons at any future date, sets forth his views on the position to be occupied by the father of an Emperor who has succeeded to the Throne by adoption. He quotes a number of historical precedents on the subject, in some of which he considers the course followed to have been very appropriate, and in others he finds it the reverse. As an instance of the former class, he adduces the case of Prince Hsiu, during the Sung dynasty, whose title remained unaltered after his son became Emperor with the appellation of Hsiao Tsung. On the other hand the discussions which took place regarding the etiquette to be observed towards the fathers of Ying Tsung of the Sung dynasty, and of Shih Tsung of the Ming dynasty, led to endless confusion and trouble. Passing over as unworthy of consideration the opinions expressed by Chang Ts'ung and Kuei, the Prince finds that even such loyal and devoted Ministers as Hau Ch'i and Ssu Ma-Kuang took diametrically opposite sides in the discussion. The reason for this is not far to seek. Such exceptional circumstances naturally give rise to difference of opinion and heated controversy, and although among the disputants there are not a few who have the interests of the Imperial House really at heart, yet there are others who, making the occasion a stepping-stone for their ambition, force their views upon the Sovereign as sound doctrine. Since the present dynasty entered upon the Sovereignty by Divine Command, the succession has been transmitted for ten generations from father to son in an uninterrupted line of splendour and prosperity, which has rarely if ever been equalled throughout all past ages. When, however, the Emperor T'ung Chih was suddenly called away from his people in the prime of manhood, and the Empress in her anxiety for the maintenance of the Imperial line and the welfare of her subjects commanded the present Emperor to enter upon the Great Succession, she graciously made the title of Prince held by Memorialist, his father, hereditary in the family for ever. The Memorialist feels certain that the upright policy pursued by H.M. the Empress during the Regency will have the effect of stifling all such mischievous proposals but he dreads that hereafter, when the Emperor enters upon the Government in person, some unprincipled characters who have only recently been advanced to office from their thatched huts, may in their anxiety to find a short cut to the post of Prime Minister, try to obtain a hearing from the Emperor for such dangerous schemes, and should His Majesty unfortunately show the least indecision on the subject, serious trouble may be caused to the dynasty. He would ask therefore that his present Memorial should be held back until the Emperor assumes personal control of the Government, and that it should then be published as a Manifesto of his own wishes regarding himself, both now and for all time to come. Promoters of such obnoxious theories should be regarded as dangerous to the State and treated with
WU TA-CH'ENG’S PROPOSAL THAT A HIGH TITLE SHOULD BE CONFERRED ON THE EMPEROR’S FATHER.

In a secret Memorial printed immediately after that of Prince Ch’un, Wu Ta-ch’eng requests the Empress to issue a decree directing that some high titles of honour should be conferred upon the Prince on the occasion of the Emperor's assumption of Government, in order that a precedent may be established on the subject, and the relations between the Emperor and his father duly accentuated. The Memorialist observes that Prince Ch’un has laboured loyally and disinterestedly for the welfare of the State, and his conduct has been uniformly humble and respectful. In the inauguration of the Board of Admiralty and all the details connected therewith, he unostentatiously performed great services, which have secured him the respect and esteem of all classes in the Empire. To the Emperor he acted the part of a faithful servant and adviser, while to the Emperor he stands in the relation of father to son. The principles of Government pursued by the present dynasty are based upon filial piety, and it is essential that clear distinctions in nomenclature should be made under this head. In the case of ordinary public servants the dignity attained by the son applies retroactively to his parents, and the promptings of filial affection are thus satisfied. This principle holds good still more strongly in the case of the Emperor whose parents should receive high titles of distinction. Mencius says that the holy man is the highest embodiment of human relations, and a code of etiquette based upon these relations can have no other object than the furtherance of propriety and mutual good will. If the Emperor’s heart is at rest so will be that of the Empress and of all the people under their sway. The Memorialist has searched through the annals of the past and finds that a prolonged and complicated discussion resulting in no final decision, took place regarding the honours to be conferred upon Prince P’u, the father of Ying Ysung of the Sung dynasty, and Prince Hsing Hsien, the father of Shih Tsung of the Ming dynasty. In his Commentaries on the Mirror of History, the Emperor K’ien-lung has dealt with both of these cases. The Imperial commentator after stating that the idea of ennobling Prince P’u arose with Han Ch’ü, combats the views of those who held that the Emperor by adoption ought to pay no regard to his own father as being inconsistent with the Book of Rites, and pertinently asks, suppose Prince P’u had still been alive, what treatment would he have received? He adds that the Emperor by adoption cannot properly address his own father as uncle, and that an Imperial designation cannot be added to that term. The contentions of Wang Kuei and Ssu Ma-Kuang appeared to him to be entirely forced, and based upon no authority and he preferred to follow Ou-yang Hsiu, who took his stand upon the Book of Rites. In the second case of the same kind which occurred in the Ming dynasty, the circumstances were different, but an attempt was made to follow the same line of conduct, and in this case also the Imperial commentator protests against the use of the term uncle instead of father, and expresses his opinion that it would have been better to recognise at once the father by birth, and confer upon him as such an honorary title. This is the course which the Memorialist suggests should be adopted in the case of Prince Ch’un, who as the Emperor’s father by birth should be given an honorary epithet to distinguish him from the adoptive father, the Emperor, Hsien Feng. In conclusion, the Memorialist states that although he has been serving in the provinces for several years, yet his heart still yearns for the metropolis and as he sympathises in the joys and sorrows of the Court, he cannot but prefer a request that instructions should be issued for the consideration of a proper style of address to be issued towards Prince Ch’un on the assumption of Government by the Emperor.

Decree rebuking Wu Ta-ch’eng already published.

FIRE BRIGADE FOR THE PALACE.

March 11th.—Prince Li reports that he is taking steps in compliance with Imperial instructions to organise a Fire Brigade for service in the Palace. It seems that such an institution formerly existed, but that the drill of the men has been neglected and the apparatus allowed to go out of working order. A set of regulations in eight clauses has now been drawn up by the Members of the Cabinet and the General of the Gendarmerie, the object of which is to restore the Brigade to an effective condition by increasing the strength of the corps and by providing a supply of suitable apparatus.
ignominy. Should the Empress be pleased to issue stringent instructions on the subject, the Emperor will not venture to disregard them, and the Memorialist's reputation and loyalty will be safeguarded. Decree already issued.

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STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF AN OFFICER OF THE LIFE GUARDS.

A Censor reports that when sitting at home one day last month, an officer of the Life Guards of the name of Li K'ai-yang asked to see him, and walked straight into his drawing-room before he had time to withdraw. He knelt down, and pointing to some wounds on his person, sued for redress, but when questioned as to his assailants, was unable to give any account of them. A woman, however, whose reputation was not above suspicion, subsequently appeared upon the scene and charged the man with having created a disturbance in her house. The woman was placed under the surveillance of an official female guardian, and her house was closed up. The officer turned up another day in plain dress in the Censor's Court, and when ordered to state his grievances, if he had any, upon his knees, he became refractory and regardless of the decorum proper to the place. The Censor suspects that the maltreatment which the man received was brought on by his own rowdy conduct, and requests that he should be cashiered as a preparation for the full investigation of the case.

DEGRADATION OF OFFICIALS OF BOARD OF CIVIL OFFICE.

March 12th.—Hsi Chen and Hsiu-t'ung, the Presidents of the Board of Civil Office, and Sung Kuei, Hu Ying-k'uei, Chingshan, and Sun Chia-nai, the Vice Presidents of the same department, have all been stripped of their rank, but left in their posts, on account of the blunder they made in determining the punishment to be inflicted upon Tu Jen-siu, the Censor, who recently asked the Empress to continue her tutelage of the young Emperor.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF YUNNAN AND HIS CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS TO THE THRONE.

Feng Tzu-ts'ai, the Commander-in-Chief of Yunnan, who has been engaged for some time past in work of defence on the Tongking frontier, forwarded a congratulatory address to the Throne on the occasion of the Emperor's assumption of Government. These addresses should be couched in a special phraseology, and Feng Tzu-ts'ai, who was formerly an active Taiping rebel, fell into the error of adopting an epistolary style of writing, which so incensed the Empress that she ordered the General, who, it seems, has committed similar gaucheries before, to be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

ACTING APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF SZECHUAN.

March 13th.—Yu Chih-k'ai, the Chief Justice of Szechuan, having been transferred as Lieutenant-Governor to Canton, the vacancy is to be temporarily filled by the Taotai Huang Yün-ku, pending the arrival in the province of Ho-shu, the new incumbent of the post. The acting Chief Justice is a metropolitan graduate who served for some time in the Board of Punishments in Peking and has risen by successive stages to his present rank.

SETTLEMENT OF AN APPEAL CASE.

March 14th.—The Governor-General at Foochow reports the settlement of a long standing dispute, which had been made the subject of an appeal to Peking. The appellant, Lin Kuang-t'ing, as well as the defendants in the case, are natives of the Fu Ch'ing district, where they have lived and known each other for a number of years. One morning about ten years ago, the appellant's brother, Lin Kuang-t'eng, went out with a relative in a fishing smack, and when engaged at his work, a boat belonging to one of the defendants named Wu Teng-kuan, in passing close by the smack, caught the net, dragged it for some distance and destroyed it. Lin Kuang-t'eng having made a demand for compensation, a brawl ensued in which he was beaten to death by the owner of the boat and his partner. The only witness was the above mentioned relative, who after informing the father of the deceased, took passage on board a foreign steamer, went abroad, and has not since been heard of. Wu Teng-kuan, the owner of the boat, made his escape and is still at large, while his companion died in prison. The father and the appellant brought action against a number of other men belonging to the same clan whom they accused of having been implicated in the transaction, and after dragging on for nearly ten years, the case was at last taken to Peking, whence it was sent back to the lower Courts for a final investigation. It was heard by the Chief Justice and Prefect of Foochow, who, although the chief offender was not before them, decided to bring the case to a final settlement, in order to save the accused from any further hardship. The men have all been found innocent, and though the appellant's conduct would, under other circumstances, render him liable to punishment, he has been pardoned in consideration of the fact that he had a real grievance in the death of his brother.
MAN KILLED IN A BRAWL.
The following case has been reported by the Governor of Turkestan. Two Mohammedans named Su-ti-k'oo and Mai-mai-t'i agreed last year to rob a man's house in the city of Yarkand. They succeeded in securing plunder to the value of Tls. 20, and Su-ti-k'oo lodged his share at his companion's house. The latter sold it and made use of the proceeds, and when Su-ti-k'oo came to claim his share, his right to it was denied on the ground that the whole was stolen. A scuffle ensued between the two men in which Mai-mai-t'i received wounds which caused his death a few days later. His assailant has been condemned to strangulation, and the family of Mai-mai-t'i has been ordered to pay a money compensation to the original owner of the property.

CHANGE OF TAOTAI AT WUHU.
The Governor of Anhui reports that Shuang-fu, the Taotai at Wuhu, has been suffering severely for some months past from dysentery, which has lately become so bad that he has been obliged to make an application for leave to retire to enable him to return to Peking and recruit his health. As the Taotai at Wuhu is invested with the control of two Custom houses, and is constantly called upon to conduct important international questions, it is essential that the post should be held by an officer of experience, and an acting Taotai named Sun Ch'en-ch'ian, who has twice been in charge before, has been appointed to fill the vacancy pending the arrival of the new Taotai, who is one of the Secretaries of the Tsung-li Yamen.

REFUSAL TO CONFER HONOURS ON ACCOUNT OF THE EMPEROR'S MARRIAGE.
March 15th.—The Imperial Board of Astronomy and the department which superintends the parks and hunting grounds having submitted recommendations on behalf of several of their members for services alleged to have been rendered in connection with the Imperial Marriage, the application has been refused on the ground that the event imposed no duties of importance on either department.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS TO A DECEASED GENERAL.
The Governor of Kueichow submits an application for permission to erect a memorial Temple in the departmental town of Ku-chow to General Chang Wên-tê, to whose services the district is indebted for preservation from destruction during the Taiping rebellion. The building has already been erected, but as the subscribers were unaware that an application to the Throne was necessary, it still bears an unofficial character. Permission to erect the Temple has been granted, but the accompanying request for the bestowal of an honorary title has been refused.

ALLUVIAL LANDS NEAR CANTON TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT.
March 16th.—Some time ago a Provincial Graduate and Board Secretary, named Wang Pao-chên, was cashiered at the request of the Canton authorities. The offence which he was charged was that of aiding and protecting a number of persons of the Wang clan at Tung-huensien who had taken possession of some alluvial land belonging to the Government, and refused either to surrender it or to make any payment for the time during which they had occupied it in the past. The land in question was a large tract, being as much as three thousand mu in extent. The Viceroy now reports that it has been relinquished by its irregular occupants and has been transferred to other parties who have purchased the right to lease it. Also the cashiered officer and the other members of the clan have paid to the Government a sum of Tls. 20,000, which has been assessed as a fair equivalent of their profits during the time of their unauthorised occupation of the land. This money has been credited to the Provincial Coast Defence Fund. Finally, in accordance with a representation made by the local authorities, the Viceroy requests that Wang Pao-chên may be restored to his former rank and position, as the case has been satisfactorily terminated, and it further appears that he had not taken the general lead of the members of the clan in their opposition to the Government.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS AT CANTON.
Kao Ch'ung-ch'i, Grand Treasurer for the Province of Kuangtung, has been made Governor of Kuangtai, and Yu Chih-k'ai has been appointed Treasurer in his place. Till the latter can arrive at Canton, by the Viceroy's recommendation, the Provincial Chief Justice, Wang Chih-ch'un, will act as Grand Treasurer, and Wang Ching-hsien, Taotai for Kao-chou and Lien-chou, will act as Chief Justice.

CHARITABLE GIFTS FOR HONAN.
The Governor of Honan reports the receipt of three liberal donations for the benefit of the distressed poor in his province. The first donor is Chao Hung-ch'i, General of the Ts'ao-chou District in Shantung. He has given a thousand suits of
wadded clothes, in accordance with the wishes of deceased grand-parents, who when alive had often exhorted him to take pleasure in acts of benevolence. The second is Captain Fan Chin-shou, Commander of the garrison at Hsi-chou Fu in Kiangsu, who following the wishes of his late parents has given a sum of a thousand taels. Thirdly a widow lady named Chou of Ho-fei in Anhui has presented five hundred piculs of rice, equal in value to twelve hundred taels. The Memorialist begs the Emperor to grant permission for the erection of pai-lous in honour of the widow lady and of the grand-parents and parents of the other donors.

—Granted.

TABLET FOR RIVER GODS IN HONAN.

The Governor of Honan represents that when in September 1887 the Yellow River burst its banks and flowed away to the south, the city of Wei-shih lay in the direct course of the torrent, by which it was surrounded on all sides. The town wall having fallen down for some hundreds of feet, subscriptions were raised, materials bought, and strenuous endeavours made to repair the damage. Still for six days and nights, as the flood increased, the place was in the most imminent danger. Suddenly the transfigured forms of the River Deities and spirits appeared, and the waters at once were calmed. The re-inspirited people doubled their efforts and succeeded in putting the town into a condition of safety. Next year the spring and summer freshets both passed by without doing harm. The grateful inhabitants have now raised a temple on a fair spot within the walls, in order that they may there offer worship to the deities and lesser spirits, officially recognised by the state. They also pray that His Majesty will be pleased to present the deities and lesser spirits with a commemorative tablet, and to allow it to be included among the temple with a commemorative tablet, and to allow it to be included among the measures taken by him for replacing them.

MISBEHAVIOR AT A CEREMONY IN THE PALACE.

March 19th.—Tuan-liang, Censor of the Shantung Circuit, reports that on the 5th March he was in humble attendance in the great hall, where it was his duty to keep watch over the ceremonial arrangements at the time of His Majesty's public appearance. When the assembly was dismissed he went out to the Gate of Heavenly Peace, just at the moment when the officials of the Board of Ceremonies were proclaiming aloud the imperial mandates. At the bridge were collected His Majesty's officers, civil and military, clad in their court robes, kneeling down and respectfully listening. But on the bridge and to the north of it were a number of other officers in their usual dress and a hundred or more men in common clothing,
sitting or lying about and laughing or talking; while to the north, in front of the left wing Waiting Room, were a good many gentlemen, some of the second grade and wearing decorations, and the others of the third or fourth grade. They were arranging seats and sitting down, regardless either of their own behaviour or of that of the bystanders whom they allowed to come and go as they pleased. This relaxation of all vigilance in keeping the gates results from the guards having been allowed gradually to neglect the Decrees which have been repeatedly issued by His Majesty in consequence of comments made by the Censors. As the officers on duty fail to be careful of their own conduct, it cannot be expected that they will keep other people in order. In conclusion the Memorialist prays that steps be taken to ascertain the names of the officers on duty upon the said day, and that the Board concerned be ordered to determine a penalty to be inflicted upon them, in order to warn others against such impropriety and remissness in future. In what way such conduct should be treated, if it ever occurs again, is more than he dare take upon himself to suggest. — Decree issued previously.

CENSUS OF THE POPULATION IN CHEKIANG.

March 20th. — The Governor of Chêkiang reports that at the end of last year the population of Chêkiang, male and female, young and old, amounted to 11,720,391 souls. These figures were taken from the returns collected in the course of the registration of the inhabitants of each district for police purposes (pao chia).

NEW BARRACKS AT CANTON.

The high authorities at Canton represent that when repairs are required for the buildings belonging to the Tartar Garrison at Canton, it is the custom to advance the necessary money from the public funds, and recover it gradually within a limit of eight years from the pay of the officers and men. This was done in the years 1846, 1848 and 1862 as well as on previous occasions. Since then the buildings have gradually suffered from the effects of age and weather and more especially from the heavy winds and rain last spring and summer. Not only have these repaired on the earlier dates become uninhabitable, but many of the others have fallen down. Unless they be put to rights as soon as possible, greater damage will ensue and greater expenditure be necessary. There are ninety-three public offices or residences to be repaired, consisting of 2,344 rooms, for which the estimated cost will be Ts. 14,320. This sum will be advanced from the garrison chest and repaid in eight years from the pay of the officers. The barrack rooms are 9,350, which at the regulation estimate of Ts. 8 will come to Ts. 74,800. It was proposed to borrow this from the Provincial Treasury; but the Treasury authorities say that they really have not so large a sum at liberty. It is therefore arranged that an advance of Ts. 40,000 shall be made immediately, in order that advantage may be taken of the fine weather at the present season, and the most absolutely necessary repairs be executed. Next year the matter will be taken into consideration again. The advance will be a charge upon the pay of the soldiers and spread over eight years—Approved.

GENERAL FENG TZU-TS'AI'S COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE CLERKS OF THE LI PU.

March 21st. — The Board of Civil Office presents a Memorial replying to the complaints of General Feng Tzu-ts'ai, who alleged that the clerks of the said Board were guilty of extorting gratuities and improperly manipulating the lists of officials recommended for rewards. The Board reports that it has examined into the cases which the General brought forward to prove that distinctions were corruptly made in promotions or honours meted out to different individuals, and it finds that the procedure in each instance was in exact accordance with law. Thus, though extraordinary rewards were approved by the Board of War for the military engaged in the campaigns against the Hakkas and the aborigines in Hainan there is a distinct law in force that civil servants taking part in such expeditions are only eligible for ordinary rewards; and by this rule the Board of Civil Office was obliged to abide in the instance in question. On the other hand, exactly the opposite occurred in the case of the demarcation of the frontier between Kuangtung and Tongking. The first time that recommendations were made for services rendered under such circumstances was only five years ago, the occasion being the delimitation of the frontier of II. The High Commissioner Chang-shun then requested that the officers engaged might be rewarded according to the more liberal scale. As there was no precedent by which to be guided, and the work accomplished was of great moment, affecting the international relations of the country, the Board therefore made no objection to the proposal. This example was followed in the case of the
Kirin frontier and again in that of the Yünnan and Tongking frontier; and so in
the present question of the Kuangtung delimitation, the Board merely continued what had become the established practice. The Board of War on the other hand, looking at the matter from a military point of view, held that the services rendered by the officers of the army on such occasions could not be compared with actual fighting in war, and therefore that the rewards for ordinary merit were all that could be granted to them.

There were, further, two civil servants for whom it was asked that they might be given promotion and placed on the Kuangtung list. The rank demanded for each was conceded by the Board, but only one was allowed to be placed on the Kuangtung staff. The reason for this was simple. The officer to whom the favour was refused belonged to the Kuangsi service; and transfer to another province is never given as a form of reward. The other officer was once on the Kuangsi list, but had been dismissed from the service, and therefore belonged to the staff of no province at all. To appoint him to Kuangtung was merely to retain him in the province to which he was temporarily attached. There was thus no discrepancy in the treatment of the two men.

Feng Tzu-ta'ai had also given the name and address of a clerk belonging to the Board who had written a letter to a certain Prefect using language which amounted to a demand for bribes. On examining the letter, which had been forwarded to them, the Board found that it spoke of "the necessity of spending money in important places." But there was no clerk on the rolls of the Board bearing a name such as that given. The Memorialists, however, sent to the place indicated and arrested three men, one of whom had a similar surname to that mentioned by Feng Tzu-ta'ai. These men have been handed to the Board of Punishments by whom they will be regularly tried, in order that the truth may be elicited.

In a postscript Memorial the Board deals with another petition addressed to the Throne by the General, who asks whether his two sons ought to be allowed to receive the honours conferred upon them for services rendered in 1879, when they were only fifteen and fourteen years of age. The honours were for each of them, an Expectant Sub-prefecture on the list for immediate employment, and a peacock's feather decoration. The Memorialists observe that these rewards were bestowed by
APPOINTMENTS.

March 23rd.—Yo-ch'i is gazetted Commissioner of the Office of Transmission; Liao Shou-heng is transferred to the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Ceremonies; Hsü Yung-i is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, and No Huan becomes Junior Vice-President of the same Board.

APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL AT KIUNGCHOW.

Chiang K'uei-t'i, an officer who has held a command for some time past at Port Arthur, tenders his thanks for his appointment as Brigadier-General at Kiungchow, the announcement of which reached him through the Viceroy Li. He has seen over a quarter of a century's active service, and was stationed at Port Arthur during the French troubles when he professes to have spent his nights with his arms under his pillow ready for action at a moment's notice. He has still some arrears of work to clear off at Port Arthur and as soon as they are completed, he proposes to start for Peking where he is to have audience before entering upon the duties of his new post.

REWARDS TO OFFICERS FOR SUPERINTENDING CONSTRUCTION OF IRONCLADS IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

Some time ago the Viceroy Li recommended for various distinctions a number of officers who had assisted in bringing to China the four ironclads purchased in England and Germany and he now submits for the bestowal of similar rewards the names of several subordinate officials in the Foochow Arsenal and in the Legations in London and Berlin who were deputed to superintend the construction of the vessels. It being the first time that China had arranged for the acquisition of such powerful armaments, the task entrusted to these officials was one of very great importance and they executed it in a manner which secured them the Viceroy's warm approval. Not only did they note carefully the principles and method of construction but they showed a minute acquaintance with the armour, gear, rigging, etc., and by their general supervision prevented the contractors from making use of bad materials. The Minister in London and the superintendent of the Arsenal had both reported in very favourable terms of the part played by their subordinates in the matter.

AGED CANDIDATES AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

March 24th.—The Governor of Honan reports that at the recent examinations for the second degree one candidate over 90 and thirteen over 80 years of age went through the whole nine days' ordeal and wrote essays which were perfectly accurate in diction and showed no signs of failing years. The prescribed period of 60 years having elapsed since they obtained their first degree, the Memorialist asks that these hoary veterans should receive from the Throne the distinctions accorded by law to those who have paid a lifelong devotion to letters without securing the object of their ambition.

DEATH OF BRIGADIER GENERAL AT CH'AO-CHOW FU.

March 25th.—Teng An-pang, who held office for some years as Brigadier General at Ch'ao-chow Fu, and whose death is now reported by the viceroy, was next to Fang Yao and Cheng Shao-chung the military officer of highest repute in the province. Towards the end of last year he received a telegram from the Viceroy summoning him to Canton, and on his arrival there he was sent on a special mission to Tung-an and Hain-an. These two districts lie near Hong-kong and part of the General's business was to suppress the brigandage which went on there, while he was at the same time to devote his attention to certain schemes for the reclamation of land along the coast. The sea air and the constant exposure to the weather seem to have had a bad effect upon his health and to have brought on an attack of a long complaint. He died at his private residence in Canton towards the close of the year and the Viceroy laments the loss which the province has sustained in being deprived of the services of one whose long experience had made him so intimately acquainted with its conditions and needs. His successor at Ch'ao-chow Fu is Wang Hsiao-ch'i, the present Brigade General at Pakhoi, whose place is to be temporarily filled by T'ao Ting-sheng.

REMITTANCE TO PEKING FROM NATIVE CUSTOMS AT NINGPO.

Last year the assessment which the Native Customs at Ningpo were required to forward to Peking was fixed at Tls. 40,000, one half of which was to be furnished in the first six months of the year and the remainder before its end. The Governor of Chekiang now reports that the second instalment of the above amount has been transmitted to Peking, accompanied by Tls. 2,500 representing ginseng money for the Imperial Clan Court.

INSPECTION OF PROVINCIAL FORCES.

The inspection of the provincial forces is distributed over a term of years, those in
four provinces being generally assigned to one year. As soon as the New Year's holiday is over, it is the duty of the Board of War to indicate the provinces which have to undergo a military inspection during the current year and to submit a list of the high officers who are eligible to perform the inspection duties. Though the list is generally very comprehensive, embracing all the officials with the exception of the Princes and other members of the Imperial family, the duty has now become a mere matter of routine and is almost invariably entrusted to the Governors of the provinces concerned. During the present year the armies of Fukien, Chekiang, Kiangsi and Kuangtung will be subjected to a formal inspection of this kind.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM KIANGSI FOR RELIEF OF SUFFERING CAUSED BY YELLOW RIVER OVERFLOW.

March 26th.—Soon after the breach occurred in the Yellow River, one of the Censors proposed that money should be raised by the sale of office for the repair of the damage and the relief of the suffering caused by the floods. The suggestion obtained the Imperial sanction and the provincial authorities were allowed to revive and carry on for one year the system of raising funds by the sale of official titles which had been previously employed as a means of defraying the cost of defensive operations along the coast. The Governor of Kiangsi now reports that the total amount realised by him under this head during the past year is Tls. 107,216.9, part of which has been applied towards defraying the cost of defensive operations along the coast. The Governor for a further supply of 9,000 bricks.

PASSPORTS FOR MONGOL PILGRIMS.

The Assistant Governor of Kobdo reports that he has issued passports to two parties of Mongols, one consisting of six and the other of 30 "black persons" of both sexes to enable them to make a pilgrimage to Wu-tai Shan and Hai-ning. They are to return to their homes immediately their devotional exercises are over, and the Resident at Hai-ning as well as the authorities en route have been requested to see that their progress is the cause of no disturbance.

BRICK TEA FOR PRESENTS TO MONGOLS.

The same officer mentions that a supply of 2,000 cakes of tea is annually required to furnish presents to Mongol institutions, lay and clerical, in the neighbourhood of Kobdo. The tea is procured through the Governor of Shansi, and as at present there is scarcely sufficient in stock to meet the requirements of the current year, the Memorialist asks permission to indent upon the Governor for a further supply of 9,000 bricks.

GOVERNMENT ANIMALS AT KOBDO.

By an old regulation the Government farms at Kobdo are to be inspected every autumn and a list of the live stock furnished to the Throne. The Assistant Governor reports that last autumn there were 56 horses and 576 camels at pasture, all of whom had been branded with the official mark.

UNAUTHORISED OPENING OF AN OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

March 27th.—Memorials addressed to the Throne from the Provinces are forwarded in small wooden boxes which are protected on both sides by boards fastened together by strips of bamboo. The Board of War recently received one of these packets from the Governor-General at Foochow, which had been opened on the way, the box taken out, and nothing but the outer boards left. The Governor-General was instructed to make a full enquiry into the loss of the documents and to forward duplicate copies at once. He now reports that he has communicated with the postal authorities, and directed an investigation to be made stage by stage along the whole route. The missing Memorials are three in number, one reporting the remittance of Tls. 60,000 as a contribution towards the Kuansu subsidy, a second announcing the transmission of Tls. 6,000 from the four-tenths of the Customs revenue for supplementing the salaries of Peking officials; and a third stating that Tls. 33,000 had been sent from the likin duties on opium towards defraying the expenses of the repairs of the breach in the Yellow River. Duplicate copies of all these documents have now been furnished.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

Several administrative changes of considerable importance have recently been made in Turkestan. III and Tarbagatai have been converted into the I Ta Intendancy, a Prefecture-ship of III has been instituted and Magistrates have been appointed at Sui-tung and Ning-yuan. All these offices are to have their proper staffs of subordinates and the Governor now requests that seals should be issued for the new appointments.
AGED CANDIDATES AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

The Governor-General reports that at the Examinations which took place last autumn at Foochow two candidates over 90 and nine over 80 years of age went through the prescribed tests and sent in Essays of which the composition was good and the handwriting firm and distinct. Aged candidates who have passed through an interval of 60 years from attaining their bachelor's degree and who have attended the three last examinations for the higher degree are, if unsuccessful the fourth time, entitled to an honorary degree, which the Memorialist now requests should be conferred upon the above-mentioned candidates.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF SURVEYORS FOR THE YELLOW RIVER.

March 28th.—Amongst the ancients, says Wu Ta-ch'êng, the art of map-making never reached the state of perfection which it has attained in modern times. The charts which have been made of the sea-board and of the Yangtze have proved of the utmost service in carrying on the work of river and coast defence, and captains of steamers rely upon their charts as guides in determining their course through the ocean. In making a sketch of a mountain it is necessary to fill in the whole outline, and the ground covered by its base must be accurately surveyed in order to ascertain its dimensions; so in drawing up a chart of water the shoals and rapids must be marked and the configuration of the bed of the river must be accurately examined in order to ascertain its depth. In the case of the Yellow River a knowledge of the direction and windings of its course, and of its relative breadth at different points is an important element in arranging plans for its conservation. The charts hitherto made of the River have been mostly the work of Yamên underlings, and have merely given a rough outline without marking the degrees of latitude and longitude or noting the distances. Memorialist has been at great pains to obtain the services of an expert in chart making, but has completely failed to find one. There is no person amongst the officials or literati of Honan who possesses any exact knowledge of mathematics or surveying, and until a taste for these studies is introduced, no improvement can be expected in this respect. Memorialist therefore proposes to establish in K'ai-fêng Fu a Board of River Surveyors and with this object in view, he has written to the Viceroy at Tientsin and Canton and the Superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal asking them to select and send him twenty officers and students well acquainted with surveying and map making. In this way he will have a complete survey made in sections, and an accurate chart drawn up and printed, of the whole course of the River from Wei-hsiang where it enters Honan to its mouth at Li-ching in Shantung. This he considers the most important step in his task of re-organising the river works. A mere glance at such a map will shew at once the deflections of the course of the river, the breadth of the banks at different places, the points at which the force of the current is greatest, the sandbanks, the junction of its tributaries with the main stream, the trend of the hills on both sides and the distance from each other of the different towns and villages on its banks, while additional details can be filled in from time to time. As however the members of this new Board cannot be expected to come from a distance and undertake such a difficult task without some encouragement, Memorialist proposes as soon as they have arrived to forward a list of their names for record in the archives of the Board at Peking and requests that they may be held entitled to the same rewards as those granted to officers employed inaugurating the Telegraph Service. The request is supported by the Viceroy Li and the Governors of Honan and Shantung.

Rescript by the Emperor: We sanction the transfer of a number of officials for the work of surveying and chart-making, but as the proposed establishment of a Board of Surveyors and the consideration of the rewards to be conferred upon them is premature and ostentatious, We command that no notice be taken of the suggestion.

EARTHQUAKES IN KANSU.

The Governor-General of the Shen Kan provinces states that an earthquake which lasted only for an instant occurred at Lanchou Fu on the 2nd November, 1888. The reports which have been received from the different districts nearly all give the same account of the shock. At a place called Lu-t'ang in the Ching-yüan district the walls of the town and nearly all the public offices and private buildings were demolished. Thirty-two people were killed or injured, and 2,400 families were left destitute. The place which sustained the worst injury after the above was Chiang-shui but in this case no details of the loss are published. Agents have been sent to distribute food and money in the afflicted districts.
PROGRESS OF THE NEPAULESE MISSION ON ITS RETURN JOURNEY.

The Governor of Honan reports that the Nepaulese Mission entered his province on its return journey on the 13th December last and was safely escorted to the Weihsiang district where it was handed over to the care of the Shensi authorities on the 2nd of January.

APPOINTMENT.

Wang Lien-san is gazetted Brigade-General at Ts'ao-chou in Shantung.

RETURN OF GENERAL TS'U T'ING-KUEI TO HIS POST IN HONAN.

During the operations connected with the repair of the breach at Ch'ang Chou, Brigadier General Tsai T'ing-kuei was entrusted with the superintendence of the excavation of the drainage canal, and his post at Hupeh was taken over for the time by General Li Hsien-ch'êng. Now that the breach has been closed the General has resumed his proper command.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION HALL AT CH'ENG-TU FU.

March 29th.—The Governor-General of Szechuan states that the Examination Hall in the provincial capital contains 13,700 apartments for the accommodation of candidates and that last year the number of those who presented themselves for the degree examination was nearly 17,000. Temporary quarters were provided for a considerable portion of the excess but over 2,000 candidates had to be refused admission on account of want of accommodation. During the present year a special examination has been granted in honour of the Emperor's accession, and as it is expected that there will be a large number of candidates, it is proposed to add 1,000 more apartments to the examination hall, the expense of which will be defrayed from the provincial funds. It is also asked at the same time that two more assistant examiners should be appointed and that the staff of copyists and essay readers should be increased. Rescript.—Referred to the consideration of the Board of Ceremonies.

AGED CANDIDATES AT THE EXAMINATIONS IN NANKING.

The Governor of Anhui who conducted the Triennial Examinations last autumn at Nanking reports that among the unsuccessful candidates there were 18 over 90 and 25 over 80 years of age, all of whom sent in accurately composed and clearly written essays. As they have all fulfilled the prescribed conditions he asks that honorary degrees should be conferred upon them in recognition of their life-long devotion to study.

SUSPECTED EMBEZZLEMENT OF STORES AT JEHO.

March 30th.—The two Superintendents of the Imperial Buildings at Jeho present a Memorial calling attention to the conduct of three officers under their orders. Last autumn the officers in question reported to the Memorialists that some of the buildings attached to the palace had suffered greatly from the weather. There were roofs which were leaking, and walls and bridges which were tumbling down. After making a personal inspection, the Memorialists gave orders that the necessary repairs should be executed and their cost defrayed as usual from the interest on certain invested moneys. Afterwards, however, the officers in question represented that they had effected the repairs, but they had not yet drawn the money, which they had advanced out of their own pockets. They said that there was only a small balance in hand upon the interest account, and, as the end of the year was near, that would very soon be required for the pay of the troops in spring. They therefore suggested that in accordance with the regulations formerly instituted they should sell some of the dirty corn at the bottom of the palace granary and the overplus corn in store, and pay for the work with the proceeds realised. As this was stated to be the authorised procedure, and there were no other moneys available, the Memorialists gave their consent in a moment of carelessness without going into the matter. Afterwards in the month of December, when the headmen of the farms were delivering corn at the granary, the officers removed a quantity from the premises. Just at the time when this happened, the Memorialists' accounts were being made up for presentation to the Throne. The Memorialists noticed that there were no entries made for palace repairs; and, their suspicion being aroused by this, they began to make enquiries into the matter. While they were so doing, the Military Governor of the district sent them a copy of a Memorial which he had presented to the Throne together with His Majesty's reply. In it attention was drawn to the fact that corn had been removed from the granary of the palace. The Memorialists then demanded from the officers exact particulars concerning the precedents of which they had formerly spoken. No reply could be obtained for a long time; but at last it was explicitly acknowledged that there had not been any precedent of the kind. As the officers have thus flatly contradicted themselves, the Memorialists think this conduct is
FILLING UP POSTS IN NORTHERN FLEET.

March 31st.—The Viceroy Li Hung-chang recommends a number of officers for posts on the vessels of the northern fleet. An Admiral and a Commodore having already been appointed, the Memorialist is now dealing with the officers from the rank of senior post-captain (Fu-ching) to that of junior lieutenant (Shou-pai). According to the newly established regulations of the Admiralty, in the ordinary course of things only an expectant junior lieutenant, with the actual rank of sub-lieutenant, can be promoted to a junior lieutenancy, and so on through the ranks of senior lieutenant, commander, junior post-captain and senior post-captain. Also if at any time a vacancy should occur, which no one is qualified by seniority to fill, the post may be given, but with brevet rank only, to some lower officer of long standing and experience; and, if he does well, he will be confirmed in the appointment as soon as he has served his time. Again, an officer may hold a lower post than is consistent with his actual rank. Lastly, if any one has passed through the naval school as a student, and has afterwards obtained civil rank, which he is not willing to exchange for an equivalent grade in the navy, he may be allowed to take a naval appointment, should the interests of the service seem to require it. As the northern fleet is only in the process of formation, there are a number of appointments for which there are no candidates possessing the actual rank required by the regulations quoted above; nor are the expectant officers many in number. For, during the ten years and more that the fleet has been in existence, there have been no special recommendations made except for Corea and for bringing ships home from Europe. It thus happens that the various commanders, lieutenants and engineers hold but very low nominal rank; though most of them have passed through the naval school, and they have served a long time and performed the duties of senior officers. Seeing therefore that, if the strict rule for promotion be observed, many places must be left vacant for want of men to fill them, the Memorialist thinks that the case is eminently one for giving brevet rank to junior officers; but afterwards when there are officers qualified, the regular rule will be brought into force. In the recommendations now presented for brevet appointments, the rule has been made that no one must be advanced more than three steps. Thus a senior post captain must have been at least a senior lieutenant, a junior post captain a junior lieutenant, and so on. The officers selected are all men of ability and experience, who in the ordinary course of things should long ago have received promotion. The places to be filled are five senior captaincies, four junior captaincies, nine commanderships, twenty-seven senior lieutenancies, and sixty junior lieutenancies. But of these, four lieutenancies have not been filled for the moment on account of there being some gunboats in dock, and nineteen other posts of various ranks have also been left vacant for future promotions. For the remaining appointments a list of names is submitted. Of them one is a civil officer, who fulfils the required conditions, and two others are given lower appointments than correspond with their rank. The Admiralty accounts commence with the beginning of the present year; but there is no need for the officers to receive their increased pay or allowances until the date on which their appointments are approved. They will be sent to Peking in small detachments, as they can be spared from their duties, in order that they may be presented to His Majesty by the Board of War.—Approved.

RICE TRANSPORT BY CANAL POSTPONED FOR A YEAR.

April 1st.—The Governor of Shantung having requested in a recent Memorial that two hundred thousand piculs of tribute rice from southern Kiangsu might be sent north by Grand Canal instead by sea, his application was referred to the Board of Revenue and, after they had reported on it, was approved by the Emperor. A telegram announcing this was sent to the Viceroy Tsang Kuo-ch'ian at Nanking, whose business it would be to make the necessary arrangements. The Viceroy now presents a Memorial, in which he states that he immediately took steps to carry out the Emperor's orders; but his subordinates, the Provincial Treasurer and the Grain Taotai, informed him that the tribute rice for this year having all been forwarded to Shanghai, it was too late to send any portion by the Canal; and he
telegraphed to the Board of Revenue to that effect. He further remarks that after the Yellow River trouble, the tribute rice from northern Kiangsu and Anhui, which ordinarily went by the Canal, was retained in the south for the relief of distress in Honan, and the hundred thousand piculs from southern Kiangsu sent the year before last by the same route, was by His Majesty’s orders carried by sea instead. When this latter quantity of rice was diverted to the Canal route, the plan was instituted of buying the necessary amount in the neighbourhood of Yangchow before the close of the year and despatching it north in the early spring. But this season’s rice is now already in Shanghai. To convey it from there to Yangchow would cause very considerable delay. For the Grand Canal is much silted up in the neighbourhood of Chinkiang, and the quantity of water is less than usual owing to the drought last autumn. There would therefore be a great deal of dredging to be done, which must consume a large amount of time. It would be easier by far to sell the rice stored in Shanghai, and buy a fresh supply in the districts north of Yangchow. But the sale of such a large amount at Shanghai would make the price drop there, and the hurried purchase of a similar quantity in the other locality, which is not a great market, would make it go up with a violent jump. There would thus be a serious pecuniary loss, which there are no funds to meet. Moreover, whichever plan were chosen, the difficulty would remain that the thousand boats or so required have not been collected, and that along the line of the Grand Canal no preparations have been in the way of dredging and of storing water, as it is always the custom to do in the previous year.

The Memorialist is aware of the importance of resuming the Canal route now that the Yellow River has returned to its channel, and he knows that small difficulties should not be allowed to stand in the way of the accomplishment of the task. But under present circumstances he thinks it better to explain the real position of affairs rather than to court failure by attempting impossibilities.—Approved.

FRONTIER PATROLLING IN HUPEH.

April 2nd.—In consequence of the wildness of the mountainous and forest-covered country where the Province of Hupeh borders upon Shensi and Szechuan, there are standing orders enjoining the patrolling of the frontiers every winter. The Governor-General of Hunan and Hubeih reports that the frontier between Hupeh and Szechuan has recently been patrolled by the General at Ichang in conjunction with an officer and troops from Szechuan, and similarly the Shensi frontier by the Yun-yang General together with a force from Shensi. They find that there is no brigandage and the country is enjoying the most profound peace.

RECLAMATION OF WASTE LANDS IN SHANSI.

April 3rd.—The Governor of Shansi refers to a previous Memorial in which he recommended for promotion a number of officials. The work in which they had distinguished themselves was the colonising of a quantity of waste land in the Dumet country near Sa-la-ch’i T’ing in the northern part of Shansi. The list of recommendations was not approved by the Board at Peking, which considered the names too many in comparison with the work accomplished. The Memorialist has now reduced the number, and he begs very strongly that no further diminution may be necessary. The duty of finding cultivators and assessing the land for taxation was one of great importance, and it was, he considers, very successfully performed by the officers concerned, who had a most laborious and unpopular task.—Referred to the Board.

GINSENG FOR THE PALACE.

April 4th.—A further collection of ginseng for the use of the Emperor is reported from Kirin. The amount consists of eight large and twelve medium-sized plants, weighing eight ounces and eight-tenths, and all of superior quality. The cost of procuring it came to Tls. 1,605.54, which will be taken as usual from the ginseng duty receipts. The season for gathering ginseng is now past, but orders have been given to resume the search for it as soon as the summer has come.
PUBLIC CHARITY IN CHIHILI.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang states that in consequence of the floods which occurred last autumn, it has been necessary to distribute charity in parts of Chihli during the past winter and the present spring. Besides the moneys raised by the Charitable Relief Board, a sum of Tls. 25,000 has been drawn from the provincial revenue, and has been expended partially in direct gifts and partially in the institution of relief works.

RESERVES OF GRAIN IN KUEICHOW.

A memorial from the Governor of Kueichow states that there is but little cultivable land in that mountainous province; consequently there are never large stocks of grain reserved, and there is much suffering in years of scarcity. The memorialist's predecessor instituted a system of collecting contributions of grain, and the subscriptions mounted up to 119,820 piculs. But, as the memorialist found when making a tour through the province last year, a portion of this had merely been promised and had never been actually delivered. Even were it all safely collected, the quantity did not seem to the memorialist sufficient for the purpose. He therefore commenced a new collection, heading the list himself with a gift of 2,000 piculs, and his example being followed by many officials, who have generously devoted a portion of their pay to the good work. Thus encouraged, many gentlemen came forward and subscribed with much willingness. Those who had promised before and had not given, were invited either to carry out their old undertaking or to put their names on the new list; but in no case were they asked to do both. The officials concerned now report the receipt of 211,090 piculs, making with the former amount 330,929 piculs all of which has been safely stored away. The memorialist considers the quantity a large one, and is highly impressed by the public spirit displayed. The corn will be stored in the official granaries and will only be issued in times of real distress and after the sanction of the higher authorities has been obtained.

DEFICIENT CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT PEKING.

The officers in charge of the Right Wing and Left Wing Custom-houses at Peking present their annual return of moneys received. As usual they state that they have not been able to collect the full amount which they ought by law. The deficiency they ascribe to diseases among the flocks and herds in Mongolia, and to distress caused by floods and general poverty among the people of Chihli, which prevent them from buying readily even the small amount of cattle offered for sale. Decree issued previously.

APPOINTMENTS.

April 6th.—Chi Shih-ch'ang is to act as President of the Board of Ceremonies while Li Hung-tsao is engaged with the Metropolitan examinations and Hsii-t'ung is to act as President of the Board of Works while P'an Tsu-yin is similarly employed.

RESULT OF TEST EXAMINATION AT PEKING OF PROVINCIAL GRADUATES.

Before proceeding for their final degree the provincial graduates are subjected on their arrival in Peking to a test-examination at which they are divided into several classes according to the degree of proficiency with which they acquit themselves. Such an examination has just been held of all the graduates who obtained their degrees last autumn and the result, which is now published by the Board of Ceremonies, awards first honours to 100, second honours to 300 and third class honours to 60 candidates. Of the remainder, eighteen, who made slips in their essays or produced verses with faulty rhythm, are debarred from competing for their final degree for three years, thirteen whose papers were of very inferior merit are not allowed to proceed for the final degree for six years and one whose composition was outrageously bad is deprived of his provincial degree.

RETENTION OF TAOTAI IN HONAN.

Some time ago Shen Ping-ch'eng, the Governor of Kuangsi, asked that an Expectant Taotai in Honan named Chu Shou-yung should be transferred for services under his orders. Chu Shou-yung was at the time doing good service in connection with the Yellow River works and the Honan authorities applied for permission to retain his services until the breach was repaired. In the meantime, Shen Ping-ch'eng himself was transferred to the Governorship of Anhui and naturally the Taotai was no longer anxious to proceed to Kuangsi. An application having been submitted to the Throne on his behalf, his retention in Honan has been sanctioned.

DISTRESS IN SHANTUNG. GOVERNOR REQUESTS THAT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXPORT OF GRAIN FROM MANCHURIA SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN.

April 7th.—The Governor of Shantung presents a memorial in which he requests that the prohibition against the export of grain from Manchuria may be withdrawn in order that supplies may be procured for
the relief of the distress which prevails in Shantung owing to the failure of last year’s harvest. Shantung, the memorialist remarks, is a hilly province with a comparatively small area of arable land and a very dense population. Cotton is grown to a considerable extent and even in good years the production of cereals is insufficient for local consumption. Some forty districts and departments in the north and east of the province draw in ordinary years a portion of their grain supplies from Manchuria. The drought of last spring and the floods that followed in the autumn caused a general failure of the harvest in Shantung. Coincident with this in point of time was the prohibition against the export of grain from Manchuria which forced up the price of food in Shantung and made it scarcely procurable for money. The people had to dig up their crops and live upon the young shoots. Under these circumstances it became urgently necessary that grain should be procured from some quarter and sold at reduced rates for the benefit of the sufferers. The Famine Relief Committee accordingly proposed to send some of their members to buy up grain in the country lying between Shensi and Honan which had enjoyed a good harvest. Owing however to the great distance to be traversed this measure was found to be unsuited to the urgency of the case which, it was felt, could only be properly met by purchasing grain in parts adjoining the sea coast and importing it by steamer through the port of Ts‘eh-men-kuan. The task was entrusted to Shéng Hsiian-huai, the Taotai at Chefoo, who borrowed money from wealthy merchants at Shanghai to enable him to carry it out. The chief staples of consumption in Shantung are sorghum and small millet both of which are produced in far larger quantities in Manchuria than in Shantung. Access to the supplies of Manchuria being closed by the prohibition the Taotai had recourse to Tientain but was informed by a letter from the Viceroy Li that the grain supply of Chihli was insufficient for local requirements. The Viceroy stated the distress in Feng-t‘ien was acute in the districts to the South of Moukden, but that in Chin Chou and the country lying to the West of the province very large quantities of grain were stored up by people. The Viceroy himself had already obtained the Imperial sanction for a relaxation of the prohibition formerly enforced against the export of cereals from Manchuria. On receiving this information the memorialist wrote to the Military Governor at Moukden on the subject and received a telegraphic reply from the latter stat-
April 8th.

LIKIN AND OTHER DUTIES AT HULAN IN MANCHURIA.

Last year a tax office was established at Hulan in Manchuria to collect duties on opium and weights and measures. A year having now elapsed since its establishment, a change of officers has to be made and the Governor reports his intention of deputing a Colonel named I Kang-oo to take up the post. The returns of last year have not yet been received, but the Governor anticipates that there will be a considerable deficit on account of the bad harvest.

April 9th.

SUBJECTS FOR ESSAYS AT THE FIRST SITe OF THE METROPOLITAN EXAMINATIONS.

CONFUCIAN ANALECTS.

Speaking of the best method of Government, Confucius said:—

“Follow the Calendar of the Hsia dynasty: employ the state chariot of Yin: wear the Crown of Chou, and let your music be that of Shun with posture accompaniment.”

DOCTRINE OF THE MEAN.

“In the selection of men, let their character be made the important consideration; the formation of a perfect character depends upon adherence to a high moral standard.”

MENCius.

Mencius told Pang Keng; “If we did not follow different vocations in life and exchange the products of each other’s labour, the farmer would have a surplus store of grain on his hands and the housewife would have more cloth than she required. The effect of such an exchange is that the tradesmen and skilled workmen are able to procure food.”

April 10th.

COPPER MINES IN YÜNNAN.

T’an Chüng, the Superintendent of Mines in Yünnan, presents a Memorial asking that the Board of Revenue should be directed to supply him with funds for prosecuting mining industry in Yünnan which is now beginning to show signs of future success. The Board, having become impatient at what it considered unnecessary delay in the transmission of copper from the new mines, recently obtained the issue of a Decree by which T’an Chüng was instructed to forward a supply at once. The latter now reports that he has lately inspected in person the mines in the two Prefectures of Tung-ch’uan and Chao-t’ung, and that he is in a position to state positively that there is every prospect of the enterprise being attended with ultimate success and of the fixed amount formerly required being supplied in full to Peking. The mines have been disused for over ten years and re-opening them was precisely the same as starting a fresh enterprise. They are situated in a mountain fastness where there is a great scarcity of labour, and great difficulty of transport, and considerable time was required in making preliminary arrangements. The mines were opened early in the present year by a syndicate of merchants and a report is forwarded once every five days to the superintendent of the progress that is being made, and of the quality of the metal that is being mined. Unfortunately, the shafts have in some instances been flooded and the depth to which they have been sunk made the air so stifling that it had constantly to be replaced by a fresh supply. However, two reports that came in some time ago were very reassuring, but as the position of the seams is very uncertain and nothing definite was known of their richness or extent, the memorialist did not venture to make the matter the subject of a representation to the Throne. At the present moment 1,200,000 catties of mineral in the rough are lying at the mouth of the mines and the daily output amounts to 300,000 catties. Smelting furnaces are now in operation and it is estimated that during the present year a million and several hundred thousand catties of copper will be forwarded to Peking. The greatest difficulty lies in the want of means of transport, which renders it possible that the whole amount may not reach Lu-chou Fu before the end of the year. The mines in the Yung-shan district are being worked with great enthusiasm by the people but their success is greatly retarded by lack of capital. On a general survey of the whole position the memorialist feels himself justified in asserting that the supply of copper will go on increasing year by year and that the former embarrassment will not occur again. Capital however is required to work the enterprise, and to secure a continuance of the supply the syndicate of merchants must be paid for the copper they have already produced. The Board of Revenue appropriated a sum of Tls. 500,000 for this purpose but during the six months that memorialist has been in charge of the mines he has only received the following amounts under this head. Tls. 40,000 from Kiangsi, Tls. 40,000 from
SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY.

The Viceroy at Foochow states that Captain Wu-chieh who was until recently in command of the forts on the Chao-pao Hill at Chénhai is a man of an utterly depraved and reckless disposition. Not long ago he started to build a house for himself in the district city of Chénhai and at a moment when work at the forts was of pressing importance, he employed the soldiers in the construction of his own private residence, the materials for which were all taken from the forts. At one time all the five forts at Chénhai were under his sole control, but subsequently when three new forts were built on the south side and two were added on the north, the Commander-in-chief, Ou-yang Li-chien, after consulting with the Governor of Chékiang, decided that owing to the distance between the two lines of forts which are separated by the river, those on the south side should be placed under a separate command, and Wu-chieh was ordered to hand them over with guns, ammunition and all complete to his successor Ch'èn Shèng-yung. This he obstinately refused to do in defiance of explicit instructions from the Commander-in-chief, who now joins the Viceroy in asking that he should be cashiered by way of purifying the service.

April 12th.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS TO THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF CEREMONIES.

A Decree—Pi Tao-yüan, the late President of the Board of Ceremonies, was an officer of great judgment, learning and experience who rose by successive stages to his high position from being a graduate of the Hanlin College, and acquitted himself in every department with great loyalty and devotion. He was recently obliged to retire from the public service on grounds of ill-health, and the news of his death has now caused us deep sorrow. We commanded that the penalties which he incurred during his official career be remitted, and that he be accorded all the posthumous honours due to the President of a Board. Let his son, Pi Nien-ch'üng, who is now an expectant Secretary in the Board of Works, receive the substantive appointment as soon as his mourning for his father is over.

HONOURS TO DECEASED TARTAR-GENERAL OF HANGCHOW.

A Decree worded in almost the same phraseology as the above accords the posthumous honours due to his rank to Ku-ni-yin-pu, the late Tartar-General at Hangchow.

ERECTION OF A CUSTOM HOUSE AT CHUNG-CHIANG FOR THE COLLECTION OF DUTY ON THE OVERLAND TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND COREA.

In the year 1883 a set of regulations was drawn up and agreed to between China and Corea for the conduct of the overland trade at Chung-chiang near the Yalu River and a Custom house for collecting the duties on the above trade was to be built at Chiu-lien Ch'êng which was to be placed under of the control of the Taotai of the Eastern Frontier. This establishment has now been erected at a cost of Tls. 3,830, and a discussion has ensued between the Board of Revenue at Peking and the Manchurian authorities regarding a reduction which the former wished to make in the payment of the above amount. The latter insist strongly that it should be paid in full and adduce the following arguments in support of their contention. The building was erected at a point which forms a meeting place for trade between the two empires, and as a matter of prestige vis-à-vis a subordinate country the arrangements connected with it had to be carried out in a somewhat imposing style. The site also was very low and had to be
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raised some five feet and the materials and workmen had all to be brought from a distance. The amount reported to the Board represents the actual disbursements, and as it was drawn from special funds allotted for frontier purposes it is earnestly asked that it should be sanctioned in full. — The Board of Revenue are directed by rescript to reconsider the matter.

MILITARY HORSES FOR LI HUNG-CHANG’S ARMY.

The Viceroy Li states that many of the horses in the army at Tientsin having died or become disabled through age and other causes, it now becomes necessary to replace them. Unfortunately the supply of horses fitted for drawing gun-carriages has now become very scarce at Lama Miao and orders have been sent to Ta-lai-pei-szu outside Kalgan to procure 100 strong animals of the requisite height and strength. Their forage on route will be supplied by the local authorities.

13th April.

SALT TAX RECEIPTS SENT TO PEKING FROM HUPEH.

According to a Memorial presented by the Viceroy Yü-lu, the Hupeh Government has been ordered this year to furnish the Board of Revenue at Peking with a sum of Tls. 100,000 from its receipts on account of salt tax. It was also originally required to send to the Imperial Household Tls. 50,000, from the same source; but it has since been desired to forward this sum to the Board of Revenue as well. The Memorialist has now given instructions to despatch an officer to Peking with Tls. 30,000, forming the first instalment of the subvention.

AN OFFICER CASHIERED FOR DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT.

The Tartar Lieutenant-General at Ch’ing-chou Fu in Shantung represents that last month, when one of the Captains in the garrison was issuing to his men their spring pay, a widow lady, the mother of one of the subalterns, came into the office and asked that she might be given five taels out of her son’s pay. In reply the Captain desired her to wait a minute. While she was so doing, a great noise was heard. The cause of it turned out to be the subaltern in question, who came into the room and began to abuse the Captain in a loud voice, apparently on account of the request which had been made to him. As it was impossible to pass over such behaviour to an officer occupied in the public discharge of his duty, the matter was laid before the memorialist in order that he might deal with it as seemed proper. The memorialist finds that dismissal from the public service is the penalty laid down by law for the employment by a subordinate officer of abusive language towards his superior, and he begs that this punishment may be inflicted in the present case, in order to deter others from similar misbehaviour in the future. The rank of the subaltern was that of Yun-chi’i-Lyu. — Approved.

14th April.

ADULTERY AND MURDER, REVISION OF THE SENTENCE.

According to a memorial presented by the Governor of Turkestan the year before last, there was a Chinese living at Turfan, whose wife had without his knowledge formed an adulterous connection with another man. As her husband kept strict watch over her, her paramour hired a room from another woman living close by, so that they might be able to meet. One evening she had gone to the place of assignation, and was sitting talking with her lover, but they had not yet committed adultery. Suddenly the husband, who had traced her there, came to the room, dashed in the door with his foot, and seized the man by the pig-tail. The woman immediately ran away, but the man, while trying to escape, kicked the husband in the lower part of the body and so caused his death. The guilty couple were arrested, and after being duly tried, the man was sentenced to decapitation and the woman to the lighter punishment of strangulation. When the matter was laid before the Emperor, the Board of Punishments reported that as the adulteress did not call for help at the time of the commission of the crime, and did not come forward as the prosecutrix of the murderer afterwards, the judges made the mistake of sentencing her to death as a participant in the crime. But the offence being considered as merely that of committing adultery, the punishment to which she should be condemned is
a flogging of a hundred blows and one month’s wearing of the cangue. The latter part of the punishment, however, must be remitted, the offender being a woman. The other woman from whom the room was hired, is ordered to receive ninety blows as a procuress.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

15th April.

RETIREMENT OF CHINKIANG TAOTAI.

The Viceroy Ts'en Kuo-ch'üan reports that the Taotai at Chinkiang has been obliged to vacate his office on account of the death of his mother. The post is one of great importance, and its occupant is charged with the preservation of order at a treaty port, besides acting as Superintendent of Customs. The Memorialist therefore has lost no time in sending an officer to take temporary charge until His Majesty shall appoint some one to fill the vacancy.

CHARITABLE GIFT BY DISGRACED OFFICIAL.

The Viceroy Ts'en Kuo-ch'üan reports another case of the contribution of a large sum of money to a charitable object by a disgraced official, who hopes to be reinstated in his former position. In the present instance the donor is a former sub-prefect on the staff of the Kiangsu province. He has presented the Anhui and Kiangsu Relief Fund with ten thousand wadded clothes, which are considered as the equivalent of the same number of taels of silver. The officers of the Relief Board represent that the sub-prefect had a younger brother, a manager in the service of the China Merchants' Steamship Company, and by mistake he was considered implicated in some affair in which this younger brother had become involved. In consequence he was denounced to the Throne by The Viceroy Li Hung-chang and dismissed from the public service. Afterwards the Company laid a statement of the facts before the Viceroy, who thereupon ordered that the case should be closed and no further proceedings taken. Apart from this affair there was nothing whatever against the sub-prefect. Under these circumstances, as his contribution is more than would suffice to secure for an ordinary donor promotion to such a position as he held, it is suggested that he should be restored to his former dignities, as has been done with other persons who subscribed similar sums to the Honan Relief Board or the Yellow River Works Fund.—Granted.

16th April.

GRAIN EXPORT FROM MANCHURIA TO CHIHLI.

On account of the distress caused by floods last year the Emperor allowed the authorities of Sheng-ching in Manchuria to forbid any grain’s leaving the province. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang now reports that numerous representations have been made to him by the territorial officials under his jurisdiction, begging that he will obtain the removal of the prohibition so far as to permit the resumption of the export trade to Chihli from Chin-chou and neighbouring place in Western Sheng-ching. It is stated that on account of the want of fertility in the land, even in good years Chihli does not produce enough corn for its own necessities. It depends on Manchuria for a portion of its supply, and the exchange of corn for money which thus takes place is a great benefit to both districts. Last year the export from Manchuria was stopped on account of the distress in the southern part of Sheng-ching. This has caused a rise of price in Chihli, which is severely felt by the
inhabitants. The difficulty, moreover, is aggravated by the failure in the harvest throughout a part of Shantung, which has made the people from there come to Chihli to buy food. It is feared that in a very short time the question will be not merely one of high or low prices, but the stocks in Chihli will be entirely exhausted and the poor people there will have nothing to eat. In endorsing the truth of the above statements, the Viceroy remarks that the ordinary insufficiency of the food supply in Chihli has been increased of late years by floods and droughts. Though the crop last year was an average one in most parts of the province, still there were low-lying districts, which suffered severely from floods. Rice from the south is dear and the people are not in the habit of eating it. They have always been accustomed to fall back on the cheap grain from Honan and Manchuria. The supply from Honan has been cut short by the great calamity which occurred there, and matters are aggravated by the prohibition in Manchuria. In southern Sheng-ching the inhabitants come almost entirely from Chihli and Shantung, and rely on the assistance of labourers from those provinces to aid in tilling the soil. Much the same is the case in the west and beyond the frontier. The extent of fertile land is so vast in proportion to the population, that there are immense stores of grain. Even small farmers hold very large stocks. All export was forbidden in order to accumulate a supply in the country; but in view of the mutual interdependence existing between Sheng-ching and Chihli, it would be well to withdraw the order as far as the latter province is concerned. The memorialist has heard that distress only exists in the south of the province, and that there is a surplus in all the west as well as throughout Kirin. This is especially the case with the Chinchow district, which lies close upon the frontier and is the depot for the country outside. A similar prohibition was relaxed in 1875 in consequence of a representation then made; and now government steamers are allowed to transport corn to Shantung. It is hoped that the same favour may be accorded to the metropolitan province in order to preserve its people from a scarcity of food.

The Emperor's Rescript notes that there was an average harvest in Chihli last year while Sheng-ching suffered from a great calamity. He desires Li Hung-chang to communicate with the Sheng-ching Government, and find out whether his proposal can be carried into effect.

17th April.

TRIBUTE RICE FROM CHEKIANG.

The quantity of tribute rice to be forwarded this year to Peking from the province of Chekiang amounts to 520,300 piculs. Of this amount 268,800 piculs have already been collected at Shanghai, and despatched to Tientsin, 131,000 piculs were shipped by steamer, and 127,000 piculs entrusted to a fleet of forty junks, which set sail from Tsung-ming Island on the second of March last.

18th April.

PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AT YELLOW RIVER.

The Director-General Wu Ta-ch'eng reports that on account of the ice during the winter, it was necessary to strengthen the fascines in certain places, and in the most exposed spots to protect them further with timbers. Since then the ice has all melted with the spring weather, and no longer gives any cause for apprehension. The new embankment, extending as it does for five thousand feet, still requires a good deal to be done to it. The fabric is not solid and shows signs of sinking. It must be both backed and levelled up wherever there seems any necessity for doing so. It will also be advisable to add three lengths to the breakwater above the breach in order to protect the spot where the gap was formerly. Lastly, throughout the whole district river walls of brick must be constructed at points of special danger. The cost of these operations will be too large to be paid from ordinary allowances, and must be charged to the special fund.

19th April.

TRANQUILLISATION OF FORMOSA.

In a memorial asking rewards for certain officers, the Governor of Formosa and his colleagues announce the pacification of the savages throughout the whole of Formosa, and the punishment of certain important rebels. In a report published towards the end of last year an account was given of the reduction of a strongly fortified village called Liu-chia-wang near Pilam on the east coast. Afterwards, it appears, the second chief of this village was known to be meditating a fresh rebellion. But a demand for his surrender having been made, he was delivered over by his fellow townsmen, and put to death after trial. In the neighbouring village of Ta Chuang there still remained one Liu T'ien-wang, who with certain others had been the prime mover in the original outbreak. As
it was desired to bring these men to justice, the commander of the troops at Pilam marched with a strong force into the neighbourhood of Ta Chuang, and sent on two officials to the place itself with instructions to find some means of entrapping the criminals. The Commander afterwards moved on to Ta Chuang, where Liu T'ien-wang and his associates came out to meet him. They were followed, however, by a guard of two hundred men carrying concealed weapons. The Chinese Commander directed the followers to return to their homes, and arrested Liu T'ien-wang and three others. When examined, the prisoners acknowledged that a seller of gunpowder from Lu-chiapg near Chang-hua had proposed to them to rise against the Government. If they would begin at Pilam, so as to draw the government troops to the back of the island, Shih Chin-tuan would capture Chang-hua on the opposite coast and divide the spoil with them in equal shares. Accordingly, aided by the people of Li Chia-wang, they attacked Pilam and killed a Wei-yuan. After they had made this confession, they were put to death and their heads exposed. Since then perfect quiet has prevailed throughout the south of the island.

In the centre of Formosa trouble was principally caused by the aborigines known as the Bah Hwan and Bu Hwan near Pu-li-hsia T'ing. When they submitted to the Government the year before last, they were required to furnish a few men from each village to serve as soldiers, and it was hoped that by this means some hold would be kept upon the whole of the tribes. But one day these hostages became intoxicated, made a disturbance and ran away in fear of the consequences. After this the savages recommenced their head-hunting expeditions. Forts were therefore established at important points in the district, and manned by guards from the colonists in the villages. In the next ten months as many as a dozen raids were attempted by the savages, but in every case they were defeated and driven back. At last, steps were taken to prevent the importation of salt and gunpowder into the mountains. This reduced the savages to extremities. Their chiefs, attended by three hundred men and women, appeared of their own accord before the local mandarins, to whom they promised that they would again provide a number of men to serve as soldiers, and would send their children to school. Upon these terms their submission was accepted. In other parts of central Formosa there has been no disturbance of the peace.

In the north of the island, after the administrator had settled colonists in the waste lands at the foot of the mountains, friendly relations were maintained generally between the Chinese and the aborigines. But as some of the tribes continued their head-hunting expeditions, and others who had submitted relapsed into savagery, it became necessary in the spring to despatch a number of punitive expeditions. These met with complete success. Several villages tendered or resumed their allegiance and sent their children to be taught in school. When the summer came on and the unhealthy season commenced, the number of men lost by sickness compelled the troops to return to their quarters. In the late autumn operations were recommenced with great vigour, principally in the District of I-lan. Aided by the want of paths, the steepness of the mountains, and the depth of the ravines, the savages offered a bold resistance. But the troops pushed steadily on, occupying each village as they captured it. Here and there they unexpectedly seized dominating positions, from which they could see the movements of the enemy and attack them with advantage. Sometimes they advanced in mist or darkness amid the pouring rain and violent wind, guided by friendly aborigines, and helping each other up the steep hill-side, or climbing with the aid of the creeping vines. The successful attacks thus made on the villages, combined with the orders against unnecessary killing and burning, at once overawed the savages and induced them to surrender one after another. In one instance, however, a commander named Ch'en Lo, reported he had been roughly handled. He had attacked, as ordered, a cluster of villages in the Hsin-chu District. The savages fled at his approach, but he inflicted some loss on them. Afterwards, when he was returning he was suddenly assailed by several hundred men who were lying in ambush. An officer and thirteen soldiers were killed and a few guns and muskets were lost. Fortunately some troops outside came to his aid and rescued him from his dangerous position. Afterwards about a dozen wounded aborigines were brought into the camp of another commander. When questioned, they said they had been savagely attacked by a Chinese force and were hurt in escaping. Latter still, some chiefs belonging to friendly villages came in and asked for protection. They said that a bridge in their neighbourhood was carried away by the stream, but the Chinese Commander thought they had destroyed it, and therefore set upon
them and killed six of their men. This led to a conflict in which ten soldiers and twenty of their people were slain. They begged for pardon and delivered up the arms which had been lost. The chiefs were sent on to the Governor at the capital of the island, who finding on enquiry that their story was substantially correct, at once removed the officer named Chen Lo from his command. This was followed by the submission of the villages in the neighbourhood, and order was established throughout the north of the island. — Decree issued separately.

20th April.

RETIEMENT.

Ching Shan, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, is permitted to retire from the public service.

REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLACES ALLOTED AT THE CIVIL AND MILITARY EXAMINATIONS IN SZECHUAN ON ACCOUNT OF THE LARGE PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIONS RAISED BY THE PROVINCE.

In accordance with regulations recently framed by the Board of Revenue, provinces are entitled to an extra place in the civil and military examinations for every Tls. 300,000 which they raise for public purposes exclusive of their fixed assessment. The Viceroy of Szechuan now reports that during the years 1884 and 1885 the province collected in this way a sum of Tls. 3,035,314.1.2.1.4.4, all of which was raised in comparatively small amounts and gave the donors no claim to personal rewards. The total revenue of the province is in ordinary years barely sufficient to cover expenditure and for some time past additional calls have had to be met by such voluntary subscriptions. Ten being the number of places to which the above subscription gives a claim, it is asked that this addition should be made to the vacancies at the provincial examination next autumn. The balance of the money will be treated as a surplus and will not be carried over to form part of the amount for which a similar claim may hereafter be made.

RETIEMENT OF TAOTA.

The Viceroy of Szechuan reports that Li Ching-hsi, the Intendant of the Yung Ning Circuit, having received intelligence of the death of his mother at Ho-fei in Anhui, has retired into mourning, and has been succeeded by an expectant Taotai named Hsia-shih, at present in charge of the Central Likin Office.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RAISED IN SZECHUAN BY SALE OF OFFICIAL RANK.

The Viceroy of Szechuan forwards a statement of the proceeds realised by the sale of official rank the last month of the year during which the system was in force. In all 51 positions and buttons were disposed of, the receipts from which amounted to Tls. 3,775.8. The money, which was originally intended for the repair of the breach in the Yellow River, is now to remain in the provincial treasury pending receipt of instructions as to its disposal.

21st April.

APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL AT CH’AO-CHOU FU.

Téng An-pang, the Brigadier-General at Ch’ao-chou Fu, having lately been obliged to retire from the public service on grounds of ill-health, Wang Hsiang-chi, the General in command at Pakhoi, received instructions to assume charge of the vacant post. The district of which he has now been placed in command stretches for a considerable distance along the seaboard, and joins the provinces of Kiangsi and Fukien. The duties of the post are of a very onerous nature, and will, he fears, require more energy and ability than he possesses.

MURDER IN TURKESTAN.

Two Mohammedans, natives of Yarkand, agreed one day about a year ago to assume the role of Buddhist priests and start on a begging tour through the adjacent country. The result of the trip was that in little over a fortnight they found themselves in possession of ten dollars, a square of felt, three pairs of stockings, three sheep skins, and a motley collection of articles which they carried on horseback. At this stage they decided to part company, and a dispute occurred about the division of the spoil which resulted in a fatal affray, and the appropriation of the common property by the survivor. The crime having been unpremeditated, the murderer has been condemned to death after the usual period of imprisonment.

22nd April.

YEN CHING-MING RETURNS TO HIS HOME IN SHANSHI.

Yen Ching-ming, who was lately relieved of his duties as Grand Secretary and Director of the Board of Revenue, has been accorded permission to return to his home for the purpose of recruiting his health and has been provided with post horses and other means of conveyance at the public expense. The Emperor speaks in terms
of high praise of his faithful service to the State, and commands him to return to Peking for audience immediately he is restored to health.

**APPOINTMENTS.**

Ch'ang is appointed Vice-President of the Board of Revenue with control of the Coinage department; Wen Hsing is gazetted Senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies; and Pao Ch'ang receives the Junior Vice-Presidency of the same department.

**RIVER CONSERVANCY IN KIANGSU.**

The acting Governor of Kiangsu states that the waterways of the province, which used to be deepened and cleared out at periodical intervals, have been allowed to silt up in late years and are now in a general state of neglect. No better proof of the advantages of river conservancy could be found than what occurred last year in Kiangsu. During the drought which then prevailed a good harvest was reaped in all districts where irrigation was possible, while in parts which lay at a distance from water communication the crops were completely burnt up. The effects of a dry season, bad as they are, do much less injury than a wet one in a country like Kiangsu, where drainage is impossible. The district officers have under standing regulations paid considerable attention to the maintenance of the smaller waterways, but the want of funds has prevented any adequate measures being taken for the conservancy of the main streams. As soon as the necessity for famine relief disappears, the memorialist proposes to devote all the spare money he has in hand to the restoration of all the most important lines of water communication in the province, and he feels assured that he could do nothing more likely to conduce to the happiness and welfare of the people.

**RETURN TO DUTY OF A LITERARY CHANCELLOR.**

Jun Hsing-ch'ang, a Senior Wrangler and Reader of the Hanlin College, was appointed Literary Chancellor of Shantung some two years ago, and while engaged in that capacity was obliged to go into mourning on account of the death of his father. As, however, he had passed by adoption into another family, the period of his mourning lasted for only one year instead of 27 months. He stopped some time longer at his native place in the Yuan-ho district in Kiangsu, through the Governor of which province he now announces his intention of proceeding to Peking to resume his official duties. He is bringing with him his mother, who is now over 70 years of age, and has no other grown-up son to minister to her comfort.

**APPLICATION FOR POSTHUMOUS HONOURS ON BEHALF OF OFFICER WHO DIED IN BATTLE.**

The Governor of Kuangsi submits an application which has been addressed to him for the bestowal of posthumous honours upon an officer named T'ing-ch'ang, who fell fighting against rebels at Wu-chou Fu in 1870. The deceased entered the army as a volunteer in 1856, and served all through the Taiping rebellion, in which he gained high distinction. He eventually obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Governor, received the Bat'ura decoration, and an honorary title of the first class was conferred upon his ancestors for three generations. It is now asked that, as a further reward for having forfeited his life in the service of his country, he should be permitted to enjoy the posthumous honours accorded to officers falling on the field of battle.

**METROPOLITAN EXAMINATIONS.**

The number of successful candidates at the provincial examinations is limited by regulation, while the places assigned to the various provinces at the metropolitan or triennial examination held at Peking are determined by Imperial Decree, and depend to a certain extent upon the relative number of the candidates. The following is the distribution for the present year: Manchuria candidates, 8 places; Mongols, 3; Han-ch'uan, 6; Chihli, 23; Manchuria, 3; Shantung, 21; Shansi, 10; Honan, 17; Shensi, 14; Kansu, 9; Kiangsu, 25; Anhui, 17; K'ihli, 24; Kiangsi, 4; Hupeh, 14; Hunan, 14; Szechuan, 14; Fukien, 20; Taiwan, 2; Kuangtung, 16; Kiangsi, 13; Yunnan, 12; Kueichow, 11.

**YANG CH'ANG-CHUN ASSUMES OFFICE AS VICEROY OF SHENSI AND KANSU.**

Yang Ch'ang-ch'un reports that he left Foochow for his new post on the 9th December, and travelling partly by water and partly by land, he reached Lanchow Fu on the 14th March where on the following day he took over the seals and archives from the out-going Viceroy, T'an Chung-lin. He finds the country greatly improved since the rebellion, but still far from being restored to its former state of prosperity. The mixed population of Mohammedans and Chinese adds greatly to the difficulty of government, and the civil administration...
has not yet been fully established in some parts. Frontier defence, international questions, and other important concerns will all demand more attention than a man of memorialist's advanced age and enfeebled health can properly bestow upon them. All he can promise is that, jaded old horse that he is, he will work with his whole mind to requite in however infinitesimal a measure the Imperial bounty by securing peace and happiness to the people under his rule.

RETIREMENT OF T'AN CHUNG-LIN, VICEROY OF THE SHEN KAN PROVINCES.

T'an Chung-lin, who received last year permission to retire from the public service on account of defective vision, reports having handed over charge of his office to his successor, Yang Ch'ang-ch'un, and expresses his gratitude to the Throne for all the favours he has received during his official career especially since the accession of the present Emperor. At the beginning of the present reign he was appointed Governor of Shensi, in 1879 he was transferred to Chêkiang, and two years later he was promoted to be Viceroy of the Shen Kan provinces. During all these fifteen years he has done nothing to requite the Imperial kindness, and now when the Emperor is entering on the manifold duties of his high office amidst the unbounded joy of the whole nation, memorialist is compelled by failing sight to retire in the deepest grief and disappointment to his ancestral home in Hunan. Should his sight be restored in a year or two he will hasten to Peking to look again upon the countenance of his august sovereign.

PUNISHMENT OF OFFICIALS OF BOARD OF WORKS.

K'un-kang, the President of the Board of Works, submits a memorial in which he expresses on behalf of himself and his colleagues great regret for having failed to erect in proper time a yellow pavilion for the use of His Majesty on the occasion of a recent visit to the Empress Dowager, and suggests that the blunder should be brought to the notice of the Board.—Re­script already published.

25th April.

APPEAL CASE FROM CHIHII.

The settlement of the following case is reported by the Viceroy Li. T'ien Ming-ho, the appellant in the suit, is a native of the Ch'ü-yang district, and is a man whose antecedents have been of a very ambiguous character. Not far from his house was a shallow river, on one side of which was an embankment serving as a protection to the village. One very dry summer T'ien Lo-wu and a number of others joined together, erected a lock on the river, and dug a channel to divert the course of the water for irrigation purposes. The land occupied by this canal was rented at a fixed sum per mou from the owners, and the cultivators of the irrigated ground, which amounted to over 30 ch'ing of land, paid a pro rata assessment to cover the rent of the ground and the cost of digging the canal. The appellant's farm, lying at a considerable distance, received no benefit from the irrigation, and was not called upon to contribute. The old embankment having been carried away, it was found impossible to restore it on the old site and a new one was accordingly raised some distance to the east of it and paid for by public subscription. The site of the new embankment was partly a mud flat, and partly unre­claimed ground which was procured from a number of different owners, some of whom refused to take any payment. T'ien Ming-ho, seeing the fine crops which the irrigated land bore, and the profits gained by the owners of the barren land occupied by the embankment, became jealous and resolved to set up a spurious claim to the ownership of a portion of the latter ground, alleging at the same time that his own farm had been flooded by the excavation of the canal. He presented a complaint to this effect to the local Magistrate, who dismissed it with a reprimand. He then carried an appeal through the higher courts and failing to obtain any satisfaction, he proceeded to Peking, where he appeared as a sup­pliant before the Emperor. His case was remitted back to Chihli for investigation, and even though it should prove to be well-founded he was still to be punished for having obstructed the Imperial chair. The above represent the facts of the case as ascertained, after full enquiry and examination of all the parties concerned. He still, however, obstinately refuses to confess, and under the law applicable to such cases, it has been decided that he should be convicted on the unanimous testimony of witnesses, and receive the punishment which would have been accorded to the accused had his allegations been true. This punishment has, however, been merged into the graver one incurred by obstructing the Imperial cortège, for which he is to receive 100 blows and banishment to a near frontier. As he states that his father and mother are both over eighty years of age, and there is no grown-up son to look after them, it is suggested for the consideration
of the Throne that the penalty should be remitted.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

26th April.

DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AT NING-HSIA.

A Decree published in this issue of the Gazette eulogises in high terms the services extending over a quarter of a century of Ch‘ang-hsiang-a, Lieutenant-General at Ning-hsia, news of whose death recently reached Peking. The deceased is to receive the posthumous honours due to his rank: all the penalties incurred during his official career are remitted and an appropriation of Tls. 1,000 has been made from the Kansu treasury as a contribution towards defraying the expenses of the funeral arrangements.

REPORTED BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

On the 1st of April, the Taotai at Chefoo, Sheng Hsiian-huai telegraphed to the Taung-li Yamen that the northern bank of the Yellow River in the P‘u Chow department had given way, and that a breach had been measured 130 chang. A copy of this telegram having been submitted to the Throne, the Emperor expressed great surprise that such a catastrophe should have occurred at a season when the water was so low, and ordered the Governor of Shantung to furnish a full telegraphic report on the subject. The Governor telegraphed a reply denying the report, and he now submits a statement of the circumstances to which it seems to have owed its origin. The bed of the river in Shantung is, he remarks, very narrow, and the embankments are always exposed to much danger from the violence of the current, the direction of which is constantly changing owing to the silt deposits with which it is charged. On the 16th March last great danger was apprehended in two places in the Ch‘i-ho and Li-ch‘eng districts respectively, but the efforts of the river authority on the spot succeeded in securing the stability of the embankments. On the 20th March and subsequent days a spit appeared on the south side of the river in P‘u chow, which had the effect of deflecting the course of the current into a side channel. On the 26th and 27th it blew a strong gale from the south-west, and the fascines and part of the embankment were carried away, but by the combined efforts of the civil and military authorities, who worked night and day, an inner circle of embankment was constructed some six or seven inches higher than the water, and an overflow was prevented. This was carried for a distance of 610 chang and over 3,000 men were kept constantly employed in its construction. This is an accurate account of what occurred during the peach freshet season, and the memorialist considers that all danger has been averted for the present.

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE OF FUKIEN.

K‘wei-ch‘in, formerly Taotai at Amoy and now Judicial Commissioner of Fukien, having received permission to visit Peking for audience, his place has been temporarily taken by Lien-hsing, the Taotai of the Ting Chang Lung Circuit, who entered upon the duties of the acting post on the 14th of March. The Acting Chief Justice was formerly Secretary in the Board of Civil Office and has been Taotai at Chang Chow for the last eight years. His successor in the latter post is Hu Jih-ch‘i.

27th April.

REHEARING OF A MURDER CASE IN KIANGSI.

The Governor of Kiangsi reports the rehearing of a murder case in consequence of an appeal made to Peking. The affair itself took place as long ago as the autumn of the year 1882. In a country village in the District of I-ning Chou there lived two peasant farmers who were distant cousins. Their fields lay close together with a stream running alongside. In this stream each had placed a water-wheel, which turned a small mill for husking rice and crushing oil-seeds. The younger cousin, whose wheel was higher up stream, found that it worked badly because the water course had silted up. He therefore moved it to another place close by and dug a new channel, by which he diverted some of the water to serve it. This called forth angry protestations on the part of the elder cousin who considered that the division of the water was injurious to his wheel; but the younger would not yield, and they separated in bad temper with each other. A few days after this the younger cousin and three brothers were going to their fields to work, when they met the elder cousin with his three sons returning home. The latter recommenced the dispute. From words they came to blows. The younger cousin tried to assault the elder with a hoe. But the latter, who was armed with a sharp-pointed spud, got the better of the struggle and left his antagonist almost lifeless on the ground. Turning to flee, he was attacked by one of the other party. But one of his sons came to the rescue, and gradually the others joined in. A number of single combats took place, which ended in two of the younger cousin’s brothers being mortally wounded, and the third less severely. The
affair was witnessed by two bystanders, who tried in vain to stop the combatants, and one of whom afterwards went to carry the news to the mother of the dying men. These were the true facts of the case, and they were properly elicited at the trial which was held in due course. But in order to obtain more signal vengeance, the mother appealed to the higher courts and finally sent a son with a petition to Pekin. She pretended first that the case was one of deliberate murder, and not an unpremeditated brawl; and secondly she endeavoured to implicate some more members of the other family, who were in no way concerned in the affair. The case was remitted by the Board of Censors to the Governor of the province. As satisfactory evidence could not be extracted from the parties themselves, the Governor felt obliged to apply for an extension of time, in order that he might obtain the testimony of the two bystanders who witnessed the brawl. But as these men were away from home doing business in Hupeh, their presence could not be secured. They have now recently returned to Kiangsi, and by their evidence the truth of the story given above has been completely established. The prosecutrix herself, moreover, the mother of the men killed, has acknowledged the falseness of her former charges. Since then she has died of sickness in the house of detention. But it can hardly be supposed that her case could be further prolonged. The news to the mother of the dying men. The ailments thus engendered had brought him into a state of languor and anaemia, and if he could not take rest his mental capacity would be affected. The two months now being gone, Shao represents that he is not well yet and that it is needful for him to have better medical treatment than is possible in the island. He therefore begs for permission to resign his appointment and return to his home. The Governor will be very sorry to lose the services of his Treasurer, whose ability and attention to detail have been of great use in organising the newly established government. He knows that the Treasurer is really ill, and that good medical aid cannot be obtained locally. But he thinks that the malady will yield easily to proper treatment. He therefore proposes that the Treasurer, instead of retiring, should be given two more months’ leave of absence with permission to return to the mainland, after which it is probable that his health will be restored.—Approved.

28th April.

VARIOUS CHARITABLE GIFTS.

The greater part of this day’s Gazette consists of documents describing valuable gifts towards praiseworthy objects in different parts of the country. In each case the honour of a memorial arch is requested as a reward for the donor, or for the parent by whose command the donation was made. Thus, a gentleman and ex-official of Ch’ang-ch’ing Hsien in Shantung presents land and silver together to the value of Tls. 1,100 for the erection of a free school in that place. From Chi-hsia Hsien is announced the bestowal of a sum of Tls. 1,300 to form a fund for defraying the expenses of local scholars who go to the provincial capital to compete in the examinations. A third case in the same province is a contribution of Tls. 1,000 to the funds of the Board for the Relief of Distress. In two Memorials the Governor of Anhui announces the receipt of several donations for the benefit of sufferers from the Yellow River floods in the northern part of the province. There are two gifts of a thousand taels each, one of fifteen hundred articles of wadded clothing, one of one thousand, one of two thousand; and finally one of one thousand suits, coats and trousers together. According to custom each article is taken to be of the value of one tael.

SICK LEAVE GIVEN TO SHAO YU-LIEN.

A short time ago the Governor of Formosa granted two months’ leave of absence to his Provincial Treasurer, Shao Yu-ljen, who reported himself suffering from the effects of the hot and damp climate of the island. The ailments thus engendered had brought him into a state of languor and anaemia, and if he could not take rest his mental capacity would be affected. The two months now being gone, Shao represents that he is not well yet and that it is needful for him to have better medical treatment than is possible in the island. He therefore begs for permission to resign his appointment and return to his home. The Governor will be very sorry to lose the services of his Treasurer, whose ability and attention to detail have been of great use in organising the newly established government. He knows that the Treasurer is really ill, and that good medical aid cannot be obtained locally. But he thinks that the malady will yield easily to proper treatment. He therefore proposes that the Treasurer, instead of retiring, should be given two more months’ leave of absence with permission to return to the mainland, after which it is probable that his health will be restored.—Approved.

28th April.

SERIOUS BANKRUPTCY IN KIANGSI.

According to a memorial from the Governor of Kiangsi, not long ago two large pawnshops were opened in Nan-ch’ang Fu by a man named Ch’eng, who held the rank of Taotai. The capital was contributed from various sources, and Ch’eng and two brothers, also officials, had the control of the business. Last winter they
announced that they were compelled by their losses to close their doors. This caused great excitement, as they not only held the funds of several schools, refuges, and such institutions, but they had also been entrusted with the fortunes of a number of widows and orphans. The Government at once took possession of the pawnshops, as well as of certain clothes, stores and foreign goods' shops belonging to the same owners. It also attached their property at Huai-an, where they carried on the trade of widows and orphans. The Government entrusted with the fortunes of a number held the funds of several schools, refuges, and certain clothes, stores and foreign goods' shops belonging to the same owners. They themselves represent their debts which they cannot satisfy as amounting to Tls. 833,000. They are freely charged by many persons with having removed their money to a place of concealment in order to defraud their creditors; and the memorialist thinks that the accusation is not without grounds, as in the short time that they have been in business their outgoings could not well have been so large. He therefore begs that the three brothers may be deprived of their rank and handed over to the Prefect for examination. They will then be forced to disclose the amount of their property and compelled to produce it within a limited time. Their partners in the pawnshops will also be ascertained and required to make good their share of the deficit in proportion to the interest they held.—Approved.

SALE OF OFFICES IN KIANGSI.

During the thirteen months terminating with the end of last year Tls. 109,385 were paid to the Honan Yellow River Works Fund by persons in Kiangsi desirous of acquiring official titles or positions. In the first month of the present year Tls. 4,966 were contributed by fifteen individuals with the same object.

SUBSIDY FROM FUKIEN TO FORMOSA.

It appears that three years ago the Foochow High Authorities arranged with the Governor of Formosa that for the next five years they would furnish him an annual subvention of Tls. 240,000 from the Likin Revenue, and Tls. 200,000 from the Customs. The regularity with which the money has been paid has enabled the Governor to carry on his military operations without check. He therefore makes occasion to ask that the Fukien Grand Treasurer may be restored to the honours and titles of which he was deprived, though retained at his post, some time ago.

30th April.

TEMPLE FOR JEN LAM-SHENG.

Three hundred and fifty-one gentlemen of Feng-yang and the adjoining prefectures in Anhui have presented a petition to the Governor of the province, asking him to obtain permission for them to build a temple in honour of Jen Lan-sheng, who was formerly Taotai of that part of the country. According to their statement, Jen Lan-sheng was first employed as Military Secretary by the distinguished Governor Ying Han, and was afterwards appointed Taotai of the Circuit. In his earlier days he brought peace to the country by destroying a number of brigands and rebel bands. Afterwards, when tranquillity had been established, he assisted the people in many ways. Thus in the year 1877, he averted a famine by the vigorous steps he took to deal with a plague of locusts which threatened the land. Soon after came the great famine in Shansi and Honan, when he saved hundreds of thousand of lives by relieving the starving people who congregated in the country, or by finding funds to enable them to go elsewhere. When this had passed away he provided against future scarcity by storing grain and by clearing out the watercourses and reservoirs. These stores were soon called into requisition by a waterspout in Ying-shan, when all the corn in the place was washed away. In 1883, fourteen districts in the valley of the Huai were badly flooded. Again he preserved countless lives by raising large sums and distributing charity or instituting relief works. Nor was his power of organisation less markedly shown after the great rebellion, in spite of the difficulty of the circumstances. He rebuilt city walls, repaired roads and bridges, restored reservoirs and dams, constructed rest houses, and established lifeboats and free ferries. He raised funds for colleges, bought school books, endowed freesohe and examination rooms. Hegave his attention to soil cultivation, to vaccination, to dispensaries and burial societies, besides organising charities in winter. Unfortunately he retained by mistake a clerk in his service who had been ordered to be discharged, on which account he was dismissed by the government. But in affectionate remembrance of his goodness, a sum was raised by public subscription, and his official rank was acquired for him again. At the time of the great Yellow River floods he was sent back to Anhui.
to superintend the distribution of relief. Undeterred by the severity of the winter weather he personally visited the suffering districts. He distributed money, established relief works, taught the people to collect boats and build refuge-mounds, aiding them from public funds, and writing to Kiangsu for help from charitable societies. But his health gave way and he died of a sickness brought on by excessive work. Although the Emperor has shown him marked distinction, still the people, remembering his many kindnesses, wish to be allowed to show their gratitude by building temples to him in the cities which were the scene of his labours. The memorialist is able to assure His Majesty of the sincerity of the affection felt for the deceased officer. But remembering that it has been forbidden to make inappropriate applications for special temples, he ventures to suggest that the Emperor might be pleased to give the deceased Taotai a place in the temple dedicated to Ying Han, where sacrifice may be offered to him in spring and autumn by the local authorities.

—Sanctioned.

PREVENTION OF GINSENG GATHERING.

The Kirin authorities report that, in accordance with the regulations instituted in the year 1852, the ginseng-producing districts in the province have all been patrolled, and no illicit gathering of the plant has been discovered. The localities visited by the patrols are the Ying-o Hills near Kirin City, the Sui-fen River near Ninguta, near San-sing on the west bank of the Uauri, which, as the memorial notices, has not been ceded to Russia, and Lo-la-mi near Alchucu.

1st May.

DEATH OF TARTAR GENERAL, TUKAR.

An Imperial Decree notices the death of Tukar, Tartar General at Uliasutai. It states that the deceased General did good service in the suppression of the Taiping and Mohammedan rebellions, and desires that he shall be accorded the favours generally bestowed upon an officer of his rank.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

A memorial presented by the Governor of Anhui requests that he may be allowed to recommend for rewards certain officers concerned in the distribution of charity in that province. In the month of June the year before last the portion of the province which borders on the Yangtze was visited by an inundation which caused great distress and in many places washed away the embankments that protect the fields. The memorialist therefore obtained permission to raise contributions for the purpose of relieving the sufferers and repairing the broken banks. Soon afterwards came the still more terrible floods in the north of the province, due to the Yellow River's entering the valley of the Huai, in consequence of which, part of the money raised was diverted to that region. With this latter expenditure the memorialist is not now concerned; but he gives a detailed account of the funds disbursed in the valley of the Yangtze, where both the relief operations were concluded in the month of July last year, and the repairs to embankments in the month of December. The greatest number of sufferers was found in the district of Huai-ning (Gan-king), next in Tung-ch'eng, then in Tang-tu, Tai-hu, and Wu-hu, and then in Su-sung, and Wu-wei. The number of persons relieved, old and young together, was 164,435; and the total amount spent in charity was Tls. 40,761. Of this, Tls. 10,936 was distributed in cash; Tls. 23,824 was employed in the purchase of rice; Tls. 5,000 in buying ten thousand wadded coats; and Tls. 1,000 were handed to the Shanghai Committee which was working at Tang-tu, and found its funds insufficient. In the rebuilding of embankments there were expended Tls. 87,657. Of this, Tls. 44,004 were disbursed directly by the authorities; Tls. 21,385 were given as assistance to the people; and Tls. 22,267 were lent for six years to the people of Tang-tu, who were engaged in rebuilding the great public embankment there, and found themselves unable to raise a sufficient amount to complete the work. The total sum under both heads thus comes to more than one hundred and twenty-eight thousand taels. There were other moneys employed in embankments, of which no notice is taken here, namely in Tung-ch'eng, where the Magistrate borrowed money from the provincial treasury; and in Tung-ling, where the river wall was rebuilt by private subscriptions, of which, at the request of the principal contributor, no notice was taken by the authorities.—Approved.

2nd May.

TRIBUTE RICE SENT TO SHANTUNG.

An Imperial Decree notices the long prevalence of severe distress caused by natural calamities in Shantung. Last year the Governor obtained permission to retain in the province fifty thousand taels which ought to have been sent to Peking. This year, at his request, in addition to fifty thousand taels taken from the provincial exchequer, the Board of Revenue at Peking has provided a hundred thousand taels from other sources for the relief of
the suffering poor. But, besides this, the Emperor, deeply moved by the magnitude of the famine, orders Li Hung-chang to divert to Shantung a hundred thousand piculs of tribute rice. This appropriation will be taken from the portion of the tribute which is sent north by steamer, and there will be added to it a sum of money equivalent to the charges which would have been paid for conveying it from Tientsin to Tungchow, if it had been sent as usual to Peking. The Governor will attend to its conveyance to the famine districts, where he will see that it is fairly distributed by trustworthy officials, without any opportunity being given for speculation or fraud on the part of the government clerks and underlings.

May 3rd.

ARREARS DUE BY MAGISTRATES.

The Viceroy at Canton reports that the late acting Magistrate at Hsi-ning has failed to hand over a sum of Tls. 4,600, for which he is responsible. The Viceroy therefore proposes that the defaulting officer shall be deprived of his button and given four months in which to make good the money. If he fails to do so within the time, his property will be attached, and if it be not enough, his superiors will be called upon to make up the deficiency.—Approved.

The Governor of Shanai states that the former Magistrate of T'ien-chen Hsien, who vacated his post on account of mourning, was found to be indebted to the Government in the sum of Tls. 887. As frequent demands for the money only resulted in his producing Tls. 48, he was cashiered and arrested, and his property was ordered to be seized. He has since then made good the whole sum owed by him. As it appears that the money was originally expended by him in the public service and not wrongfully appropriated, and as the sum was less than five thousand taels, and was refunded within the year, it is requested, in accordance with the regulations in force, that he may be reinstated in his former rank.—Approved.

4th May.

COLLECTION OF DUTIES AT KALGAN.

The following figures are extracted from a report submitted to the Throne by the Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan. From 25th January to 14th June 1887—Tls. 17,551.2.3 were collected exclusive of over 1,000 tiao for miscellaneous duties; and from 16th June 1887 to 13th January 1888 the receipts amounted to Tls. 19,026.8.1.4.5, together with over 2,000 tiao from miscellaneous accounts; from 14th Jan. to 2nd June 1888 the amount realised was Tls. 17,549.8.1.3 and the miscellaneous receipts were over 1,000 tiao. The total receipts for 1887 were on the fixed assessment Tls. 20,004.7.8 while the supplementary was represented by Tls. 16,573.2.6.4.5. A long list of the disbursement follows including payments to the military authorities at Chahar, to the Chü-yung Customs Station and other places.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXPORT OF GRAIN FROM MANCHURIA.

Owing to the high price of grain in the lower province of Manchuria consequent upon the devastating floods of last year, the High Authorities in Moukden acting upon a precedent established in 1874 obtained the sanction of the Throne to the temporary prohibition of the export of grain. Early however in the present year the Governor of Shantung telegraphed to the Manchurian authorities that great distress prevailed in the province under his rule and that he proposed to follow the example of the Viceroy Li and ask that the restriction on the export of grain from Manchuria should be withdrawn at least so far as the western parts in the lower province were concerned. His request was favourably received by the Throne and he was directed to consult with the Manchurian authorities as to the proper way of putting his project into execution. The latter now state that although no floods occurred last year in Chin Chau and the western parts of the lower province generally, still the harvest was very poor and the stock of grain is inconsiderable. However they do not feel justified in entirely opposing the proposal made by the Governor of Shantung in view of the great distress prevailing in that province, and they have accordingly agreed that the export of rice should be allowed up to the limit of 60,000 piculs.

5th May.

MORTALITY AMONGST OFFICIALS IN YUNNAN.

The climate of the border country in Yunnan is so unhealthy that every two or three years the Throne is asked to confer posthumous honours on officers who have succumbed to its effects. A list is now furnished by the Viceroy of seventy-seven officials engaged in frontier defence work who during the last two years have either fallen in battle or died from malarial fever, and sanction is requested for the bestowal of the usual tokens of respect to their memory.
HOMICIDES IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

The following two cases of homicide are reported by the Governor of Chinese Turk­
estan. (1) Ha-yi and Ha-ssu-mo were two Mahometans living on friendly terms in the department of K’u-ch’è. One day about two years ago, Ha-ssu-mo went across to Ha-yi’s house after early breakfast to have a talk, when he proposed to the other to while away the time by gambling. The two men accordingly sat down together and played at dice until Ha-ssu-mo lost all the money he possessed. He then took off his clothing and pledged it to Ha-yi for four mace which he lost also, and afterwards demanded a loan of money to enable him to continue gambling. This having been refused, he lost his temper and began abusing his companion and in the scuffle which ensued Ha-yi was killed. In order to obliterate all traces of the crime, Ha-sau-mo put the corpse in a bag and concealed it until nightfall when he removed it secretly on horseback and threw it into a pond, covering it over with reeds. Here it was discovered by the brother of the deceased on whose report the murderer was arrested, convicted and condemned to strangulation after the usual period of incarceration.

(2) A Mahometan named Mai-mai-ti lived near Hami, and a neighbouring farmer had a servant known as the younger Chang. One day last year Chang was grinding corn at the mill with a horse and towards dusk the animal was let loose and wandered into a field belonging to Mai-niai-ti, where he destroyed some grain. Mai-mai-ti impounded the horse and when Chang went to demand its release a stormy interview occurred which ended in Chang’s receiving a fatal kick in the abdomen from the effects of which he died a few days later. Under the law relating to homicide, Mai-mai-ti has been sentenced to strangulation, and as Chang is dead no notice need be taken of his carelessness in allowing the animal to stray into his neighbour’s crops.

DEATH OF AN OFFICER ON THE BURMESE FRONTIER.

For some time past the Viceroy of Yün­nan has been engaged in bringing under administrative rule a large district known as the Lo-hei country in the south-western corner of Yünnan. One of the officers who took the most active part in reducing the country and bringing it under settled administration was a prefect named Wang Së-kao, who has recently succumbed to the deadly effects of the climate. In soliciting posthumous honours on his behalf, the Viceroy dwells on the worth of his services and the great courage which he showed in facing a deadly climate during his long career.

6th May.

LIST OF OFFICERS WHO ARE TO RECEIVE REWARDS FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIR OF THE BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER.

A Decree. We are in receipt of a series of memorials from Wu Ta-ch’êng, and Ni Wên-wei recommending a number of civil and military officers for various forms of promotion and reward in recognition of the services they rendered in connection with the closing of the breach in the Yellow River. These services which extended over a long period of time and were performed with the utmost cheerfulness and enthusiasm fully entitle those concerned to special consideration, and We order that lists containing the names of 652 civil and 120 military officials be handed to the Board for such observations as they may see fit to make. We also take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of the services rendered by the high executive authorities of other provinces whose prompt remittances of funds contributed very materially to the speedy completion of the work.

As regards Ch’en Pao-chên, a Judicial Commissioner who was previously removed from office, he was not only late in arriving at his post but asked leave shortly after he assumed it. We cannot therefore sanction the application for the restoration of his former honours.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RAISED BY SALE OF OFFICIAL RANK IN FUKIEN FOR REPAIR OF YELLOW RIVER.

As previous Gazettes have frequently mentioned, the sale of official rank was authorised for one year as a means of raising money for the repair of the breach in the Yellow River. The Viceroy at Foochow now reports that the amount realised from this source during the past year in Fukien is Tls. 18,463.7 which represents payments made by 65 persons who have purchased various degrees of official rank.

APPLICATION FOR RETENTION OF OFFICERS AT FOOCHOW.

The new Viceroy at Foochow applies for permission to retain the services of three officers of whom he has had previous experience.

Tai Ming-shan is a Hunan man who entered the army in 1857 and has since covered himself with glory in a hundred engagements. He was the first to storm
the ramparts at Nanking in 1864 for which he received substantive promotion. He served previously under the memorialist in Hunan and accompanied him thence to Foochow. Yang Ch'ün-lan, a native of Hunan, after a long and varied career in the army, accompanied Yang Ch'ang-chun to Turkestan in 1878 to assist him in re-organising the province after the war. He came with a relieving force to Foochow during the French troubles and has since had a very active career. The third, Chang Ting-t'ai is also a Hunan man who has risen by his own merit from a subordinate position in the army to the rank of Colonel, which he now holds. The services of all three are urgently required at Foochow and the Viceroy hopes that he will be allowed to continue to avail himself of them.

7th May.

APPROVAL OF PRINCE CH'UN'S SERVICES AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PEKING FOREIGN DRILLED TROOPS. DECREE BY H. M. THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

On the occasion of our visit to Wan Shou Shan, We witnessed a review of the military and naval contingents of the Peking Foreign drilled troops. The precision of their movements and the regularity of their volley firing reflect the greatest credit upon Prince Ch'un, whose careful instruction extending over so many years has produced such excellent results. We command the Imperial Clan Court to determine on a suitable reward as a recognition of the Prince's services.

REWARDS TO PRINCE CH'ING AND OTHER COMMANDERS OF THE PEKING FOREIGN DRILLED TROOPS.

In a second decree on the same subject the Empress again expresses her extreme satisfaction with the results of the review, and directs the Imperial Clan Court to decide upon a fitting reward for Prince Ch'ing, the second in command. The Board of Admiralty are also to confer rewards on Tse Fu, Cha-la-fang-a, Hsi Ching and other officers of the same force, while Her Majesty has allotted a sum of Tls. 5,000 to be distributed amongst the soldiers as a mark of her appreciation of their conduct and an encouragement to future exertions.

MOVEMENTS OF HIGH OFFICIALS IN SHANSI.

Kang-yi, the Governor of Shansi, was recently transferred to the Governorship of Kiangsu, the Governor of the latter province, Wei Yung-kuan, replacing him in Shansi. Kang-yi now proposes to come to Peking for audience, without awaiting the arrival of his successor who has obtained leave of absence, and asks permission to hand over charge to the Lieutenant-Governor Yü Shan.—Sanctioned by Rescript.

8th May.

DEATH OF THE DEPUTY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AT NING-HSIA.

The Tartar General at Ning-hsia reports the circumstances attending the death of his immediate subordinate Ch'ang-haing-a. The deceased, who was 57 years of age, lately applied for temporary leave of absence on grounds of ill health, and the memorialist on going to visit him found his personal appearance greatly changed. He suffered from great difficulty of breathing and was evidently fast approaching his end. The only member of his family living with him was a daughter and all the preparations connected with his obsequies were performed by strangers. The deceased was one of the most brilliant commanders in the Empire and had risen by sheer merit from the ranks. In him the memorialist has lost his right hand man and his country a soldier whose body covered with wounds received in many a battle field attested his daring prowess. His remains are to be escorted to his native place near the Amour and in a Decree already published, orders were given for the bestowal of appropriate honours to his memory.

9th May.

ROBBERY OF AN OFFICIAL SEAL.

During the absence of Prince Po who was attending upon the Emperor at Wan Shou Shan the seal of the Commandant of the Plain White Banner Corps was stolen on the night of the 22nd April last. According to the report furnished by the officer in whose custody it was at the time, a hole was made in the wall of the room and the box in which it was kept was forcibly opened by robbers who carried off the contents. Before the Prince returned, the Lieutenant-General of the Banner had already reported the circumstances to the Throne and orders had been issued to all the detective departments in Peking to take measures for the apprehension of the criminals. The Prince and all the higher officers of the force are to receive such penalties as the Board may decide upon and the seal of the Mongol Lieutenant of the Banner is to be employed in the transaction of business until a new one can be issued by the Board of Rites.

10th May.

YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports that the banks of the Yellow River in Shantung
stand in urgent need of repairs and asks that he may be supplied with funds to enable him to carry out the work. The present course of the Yellow River in Shantung was, he explains, in former days a great waterway for the carriage of salt and both of its banks are thickly dotted with towns and villages. On the southern side the embankment is some four or five li from the river and the intervening space is covered with villages which are frequently submerged by the water. The people are naturally reluctant to remove from the ground on which they have long settled, but nearly every year they have been dependent upon charity for subsistence, and it is evident that such a system cannot be indefinitely prolonged. After carefully considering the question with his executive council, he has determined upon the removal of the people from all the districts which are liable to flooding. This will involve the transfer to a more favourable locality of 30,000 families to each of which he proposes to give Tls. 10 by way of compensation, exclusive of a considerable number who have sufficient means to effect their own removal. Two years ago the Governor proposed that the work of restoring the embankments in Shantung which, it appears, are scarcely a third of the dimensions of those in Honan, should be spread over a number of years, and estimated the expenditure at Tls. 770,000. The Board to whose consideration the question was referred pleaded urgent want of funds, and as vast sums were being spent at the moment on the works going on at Cheng Chou the memorialist did not venture to trouble the Throne with a further appeal. Having regard however to the present state of the river in Shantung, he cannot admit that any further delay should be allowed, and as the Board of Revenue would not probably be in a position to meet such a large demand, he can only ask that the funds contributed by the various provinces for the repairs at Cheng Chou should be devoted for use in Shantung.

Mid-Doings of a Telegraph Clerk.
The Viceroy Li states that the extension of the telegraph system all over the Empire has necessitated the employment of a numerous staff of clerks whose merits and faults ought to be duly noticed in the interests of an important branch of the public service. At Chefoo there is a clerk named Chou Chuan-chen whose doings have brought the office into great disrepute and have become the common talk of the place. He has been denounced by the Director General of Telegraphs, the Tao-tai Sheng Hsai-hsu, and the Viceroy now asks that he should be stripped of his official position in order that he may be placed upon his trial and punished for his offences.

Customs Duties at Sha Hu K'ou.
The Superintendent of Customs at Sha Hu K'ou reports that the receipts of the office during the year of his incumbency amounted to Tls. 43,542.1.3 and that after paying all expenses, a balance of Tls. 15,675.2.7.7 was remitted to the Board of Revenue.

11th May.

Guard Boats on the West River of Canton.

Wu-chou Fu, says the Governor of Kuangtung, is the centre of an important system of rivers. Up stream there is communication with Nan-ning and Liu-chou Fu, in the opposite direction is the route to Canton, and at the side comes in the branch from Kuei-lin. These wide waters are thronged with trading vessels, and their vast extent affords concealment to lurking pirates. In addition therefore to the cruisers belonging to the Government, the merchants of Wu-chou were formerly in the habit of providing a fleet of ten guard-boats which they placed under the orders of the naval officer in command at the spot. This they did of their own free will in the interest of their trade, defraying the expenses by a rate on all goods brought to Wu-chou for sale. After a time the system was blighted by faults, which it would have been well to correct. But instead of this, the late Governor Li Ping-heng did away with the cruisers; and he spoke of the abolition of the rate as the removal of an extra charge levied by the Wu-chou Customs. He acted, however, somewhat over hastily, and did not take into consideration either the fact that the dues were contributed by the merchants for their own protection, or that the government forces at hand might not be sufficient for the complete protection of trade.

The present memorialist after his arrival in Kuangtung found that traders were suffering from a feeling of insecurity and that want of funds prevented him from increasing the imperial navy. He could therefore do no more than urge the officers to do their utmost in exercising surveillance over the river. Afterwards the naval commander at Wu-chou represented that complete protection of trade was beyond the powers of his flotilla, as so many of the boats were
engaged in guarding the various likin offices or in escorting treasure and government stores. In the performance of the latter duty they constantly had to make the voyage to Nan-ning, a distance, going and returning, of more than a thousand li. He therefore suggested that the merchants should be allowed to resume the system of providing a force of guard-boats for themselves. The memorialist took the precaution of finding out, through the Prefect at Wu-chou, what really was the popular wish. He was assured in reply that the merchants were most desirous of restoring the guard-boats, and they would be particularly pleased if a former Prefect at Wu-chou named Ho Yao-chang were entrusted with the collection of the dues as he was well-known to the merchants and like most of them was a Canton man. The memorialist has therefore re-instituted the old system, placing it under the charge of Ho Yao-chang. He has given orders that the strictest economy must be practised in the administration of the fund. If a surplus be collected in any unusually prosperous years, it must carefully be retained for use at future times when the receipts may be less.—Approved.

12th May.

EMPEROR PRAYS FOR RAIN.

The Emperor announces that on the 15th instant he will proceed to the Temple known as the Ta-kao T'ien and offer prayers for rain, which is now much needed in the country round Peking.

DEATH OF TUKAR, TARTAR GENERAL.

The military authorities at Uliasutai report the death of Tukar, Tartar General at that city, who expired on the 7th of last month. His last thoughts and words were entirely concerned with his official duties and the Emperor's goodness towards him, to the complete exclusion of his private affairs. On the following day hymns were chanted according to the Mongol custom by a number of Lama priests, and three days later his body was placed in a coffin by his friends. His last address to the Emperor was handed in a scaled cover to the Board of Civil Office.

The Governor of Anhui gives a description of the measures undertaken for the relief of the distress in the northern part of the province caused by the invasion of that region by the waters of the Yellow River. The Governor's report is in continuation of an earlier one in which he has already dealt with the proceedings adopted in the summer of last year. Though many districts, he says, were preserved from harm by their
newly constructed embankments, still after the autumn fresnets large tracts of country were inundated by the Huai, the Ssu and other rivers, whose waters spread far and wide across the level plains. The officers of the Relief Board visited the whole of the region between Tai-ho on the Honan frontier and Feng-yang near the Hung-tse Lake. Where the distress was most severe, they determined to distribute charity during the autumn and winter; where it was lighter, they arranged to institute relief works. When the waters were at their greatest height, after the descent of the fresnets, it was found necessary to build refuge mounds, and to construct rafts or boats to rescue the people who were in danger. As a pestilence raged among the refugees, temporary hospitals were devised, where the sick received medicines and nursing. The places in which pecuniary aid was given were nineteen townships in Fou-yang, fifty in Tai-ho, thirty-nine in Ying-shang, and fifty-one in Feng-tai. In these localities no summer or autumn harvest had been gathered, the people were starving and even those of a higher class were completely destitute. In all four hundred thousand and more persons were relieved, grown up people receiving 400 cash and children a smaller sum. Half of the money came from the ordinary revenue of the government and half from subsidiary funds. In the winter, as the price of corn had risen, it was thought better to buy grain of various kinds in other districts and distribute that instead of money. The number of recipients was some twenty thousand more than it had been in the autumn, as many wanderers heard of what was being done, and returned to their homes to receive a share. In compassion for poor scholars who might be ashamed to accept alms, special examinations were instituted, and support given to the competitors in the guise of prizes. In the districts where the calamity was less terrible, namely Shou Chou, Hui-yuan, Feng-yang, Ling-pi, and Wu ho, the people succeeded in getting through the autumn. But as they were in some straits in the winter, the memorialist invited the aid of the well-known philanthropist, Mr. Yen Tso-lin of Kiangsu. This gentleman, who was just returning from similar work in Honan, kindly undertook to superintend the relief operations in these districts, and brought with him large sums raised in Kiangsu and Chekiang. Under his supervision fifty-six thousand persons were cared for, without counting Hui-yuan, where some engineering works were carried out and money given away in special cases where it was most required. Besides the money and food above mentioned, twenty-seven thousand articles of wadded clothing were distributed; also a quantity of seed corn, in either the autumn or the spring, according to the nature of the local crops; and arrangements were made for the preservation of agricultural cattle. The memorialist next describes the principal public works undertaken during the winter under the management, for the most part, of General Shu Chao-ju. These works, which consisted either of deepening river beds or of building and repairing embankments, extended through a large number of districts and afforded a livelihood to thousands of people. The money expended in relief works and in direct charity amounted altogether to a very large sum. It was furnished primarily from the grain tribute retained in the province with his Majesty’s sanction, and from advances made by the provincial treasury. In addition a loan was received from the Shensi Government and contributions from officials and wealthy persons throughout the Empire, which coming in from time to time preserved the memorialist’s resources from exhaustion. The officials concerned in the work gave their most earnest efforts, and though the people have not recovered from their distress, still they were saved from starving and from being forced to leave their homes. As the River Huai became infested with pirates, a squadron of gun boats was moved up from the Yangtze, and with their aid the local forces were enabled to restore perfect safety. In the lowest districts where the water has lain longest on the land, no crops have been sown, and support will still be needed by the people. The Viceroy Tseng Kuo-chau has provided a large sum for distribution; and the memorialist will do his best to raise what further sums may be needed either for this purpose or for the clearing out of the bed of streams and irrigation channels, which have become choked by the silt of the Yellow River water.

There was some distress which required to be dealt with last year on account of drought in portions of Feng-yang Fu and Ying-chou Fu. But a report on this will be furnished in a separate Memorial.

14th May.

TRIBUTE RICE FROM SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports the departure of the boats carrying tribute rice from those portions of Shantung in which
the collection of the tax has not been temporarily remitted. The boats set sail on the 29th of March.

DEATH CAUSED BY ILLEGAL FLOGGING.

The Governor-General of Szechuan reports the trial of a magistrate who had been guilty of causing the death of a man by flogging him in an unlawful manner. The official in question, who was the magistrate of Chien Chou, was a Shantung man, Wang Hai-yung by name. He was a scholar and a graduate, and had received special promotion for the good services rendered by him three years ago in the construction of certain works to protect the country against the Yellow River. One day last year, a few months after he had been appointed to his post, a hired labourer went to the local market and bought two baskets of Indian corn. When going away he put a shirt and a purse on the top of the baskets. As he proceeded along a crowded thoroughfare some one stole these two articles without being perceived. As soon as he noticed the loss he reported it to the local constable and to a soldier named Liu Tsai-en, who acted as street policeman. The latter at once suspected that a certain young vagabond, who was constantly pilfering things, must know something about the theft. He therefore went to the magistrate's office and laid a complaint against the soldier. He said that he had been coming home to see his mother, when the soldier stopped him and took by force from him a shirt and a purse containing two thousand cash. The magistrate was much incensed by the story of the theft,‧and ordered to arrest forthwith the principal offenders. At the same time various penalties are inflicted on the local authorities, civil and military, one of the latter being cashiered.

An Imperial Decree briefly notices a serious affair at Feng-hsien Hsien near Shanghai. An officer and party of soldiers belonging to the salt administration service attempted feloniously to carry off by force a quantity of salt lying outside the house of a salt-maker. The inhabitants of the place rose upon them in a fury and burnt them to death, fourteen lives in all being lost. The Emperor has no pity for the dead, who brought their fate upon their own heads. Nevertheless, the lawless ferocity shown by the salt-makers must not be allowed to escape punishment. The authorities are therefore ordered to arrest forthwith the principal offenders. At the same time various penalties are inflicted on the local authorities, civil and military, one of the latter being cashiered.

15th May.

16th May.
16th May.

SHANTUNG FAMINE: GIFT BY EMPEROR.

Of late years, says the Emperor, public funds to a large amount have been frequently devoted to the relief of distress in Shan­tung. Quite recently a special appropriation was further made for the same pur­pose, on account of the exceptional severity of the famine now raging there. But Her Majesty the Empress Dowager, fearing that this may prove insufficient, now desires the Emperor to bestow from the privy purse a sum of one hundred thousand taels, which will be distributed through the agency of the Governor's staff.

SHANTUNG FAMINE: LOAN FROM KIANGSU.

The Governor at Soochow has received a telegram from Shêng Taotai at Chefoo, calling his attention to the terrible nature of the famine now prevailing in Ch'ing-chou Fu, Li-ching and other places in the same region. The Governor finds that he has in his treasury a sum of Tls. 30,000, which ought to be remitted to the Shensi and Kansu Government. With the consent of the Viceroy Tzêng he has arranged to postpone the payment to Shensi, and send the money immediately to Chefoo as a loan to the Shantung Government, who will repay it in four years.—Approved.

17th May.

HORSES FROM I LI FOR THE EMPEROR.

The Military Governor of Ili represents that he has received a communication from the officers in charge of the Imperial Stables at Peking, concerning the supply of horses from Ili for the personal use of the Emperor. The officers say that they receive eight horses yearly from the memorialist, but none now come from the Lieutenant Governor or the Generals, who are each of them bound to send a certain number annually. The Memorialist finds that this is perfectly correct; but his colleagues represent that, on account of the miserable state in which the neighbouring tribes are since the rebellion, it is very difficult to find suitable horses. It is there­fore requested that a year or two more may be allowed to elapse before they are required to send any.—Granted.

18th May.

FORGING OF AN OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

The soldiers who weigh out and receive the bullion in the Board of Revenue hold lucrative appointments, the nominations to which are made by the General commanding the Banner force in the capital. About two months ago a despatch was received at the Board of Revenue which purported to be written by a Prince who commands the Bordered Red Banner, and in which it was intimated that one of his soldiers was being sent to fill a vacancy as treasury keeper in the Board. The Board replied that they had made no application for the man's services, and on enquiry it was found that the communication bore the Prince's seal was a counterfeit document. Further investigation tended to show that several of the offi­cers of the Banner were implicated in the transaction and several of them have been handed over to the Board of Punishment for rigorous examination. The Prince himself, as well as his two immediate subordinates, are also held to be liable to penalties for not having taken due precautions beforehand to prevent such a glaring fraud.

19th May.

APPOINTMENT.

Shên Chin-liau, a Taotai in Shansi, is appointed Judicial Commissioner of Hunan in place of Hsiieh Fu-ch'êng, who goes as Chinese Minister to London.

PROPOSED REFORMS IN SALT ADMINISTRATION AT CH'SAO CHOU FU.

The salt administration at Ch'ao-chou Fu receives every year 206,000 salt warrants from the Board of Revenue, which, when placed on the market, bring in a revenue of Tls. 126,400. The department is ad­ministered by a branch office of the Salt Commissioner in Canton, and for the last seventy years there has always been great difficulty in disposing of the requisite amount of salt, and extensions of the limited time allowed for the purpose have frequently been obtained. This has been more especially the case since the Taiping Rebellion, and in recent years not more than 73 per cent. of the fixed amount has been consumed. The local Salt Com­missioner is required to advance the funds for the preparation and transport of the salt, and as he is generally a man without private means he has no resource but to draw upon Government funds for the purpose. The result is that he gets into hopeless arrears with the Government, and in two recent cases of the kind the Prefect of Ch'ao-chou Fu has been required to take over charge of the office and bring the finances into a state of order. At the same time the duties upon salt in Fukien have been reduced, and every effort has been made to improve the administration, but without bringing it up to its former state of efficiency. The Prefect has naturally his own territorial duties to per­form and it is not every person holding the
office who would also possess a knowledge of the salt department. To revert to the former state of things and appoint a local Salt Commissioner would only be to bring about a revival of the old abuses. In a circular issued to the provinces by the Board of Revenue regarding the economical use of present resources and the opening up of new sources of income, eulogistic reference was made to the salt administration of Ting Pao-chien in Szechuan, which was quoted as an example for imitation by the other provinces. Acting upon this suggestion and upon his own previous experience in developing the revenue of an office in the Shao-chung prefecture, the Viceroy proposes to depute an agent of his own to take charge of the salt department at Ch'ao-chou Fu. He will be under the control of the Salt Commissioner, and will receive Ts. 60,000 a year as capital for carrying on the undertaking. An expectant Magistrate named Chou Fu-ch'ang, who possesses the requisite qualifications and has had great experience of salt administration, has been selected for the post; and, if circumstances prove favourable, it is expected that he will be able greatly to augment the revenue, if not indeed to bring it up to the full amount of the annual assessment. In the latter case the annual increment would be no less than Ts. 34,000.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRON INDUSTRY IN THE TWO KUANG.

The Viceroy of Canton states that iron is the chief mineral production of the two provinces within his jurisdiction. And yet for many years past there has been an immense consumption of foreign iron all over the country. Under these circumstances he considers it absolutely necessary that the native iron industry should be further developed, and with this object in view he has already procured the abolition of inland duties on iron and the removal of the prohibition against its export. A commission which he appointed to investigate the whole subject in both provinces last year, reports that the great obstacle to the extensive production of native iron is the heavy duty levied upon furnaces. Of these there are three kinds: Government furnaces which pay each Ts. 53 a year to the Financial Commissioner; local furnaces, which pay an annual fee of Ts. 5 to the Salt Commissioner; and unlicensed furnaces, which pay nothing at all. It is now proposed that all distinctions should be abolished, and for the period of three years no tax should be levied upon furnaces of any kind. This will only involve a diminution in the revenue of something less than Ts. 2,000, but the gain to the iron producers will be much larger than is represented by the above sum, for the exemption of the furnaces from all Government taxation will necessarily imply the discontinuance of the illegal fees which have hitherto been exacted, and which have proved the real hindrance to the development of the trade. A scheme is under consideration for the establishment of a Joint Stock Company to work the foundries with foreign machinery, and great results are expected from the adoption of foreign methods of smelting, which are now receiving careful attention. If only the native industry can be stimulated and the consumption of the foreign article gradually checked, all classes of the community will benefit by the change, and no regret need be felt for the small sacrifice of revenue which it will for the present entail. The Viceroy's views on the subject have received the cordial approval of the Governor of Kuangsi, and the memorial is presented in their joint names.

20th May.

APPOINTMENT OF TAOTAI OF YUNG NING CIRCUIT IN SZECHUAN.

Li Ching-hsi, the Intendant of the Yung Ning Circuit and nephew of the Viceroy Li, having retired into mourning, the Viceroy of Szechuan reports that he has selected Huang Yün-ku, who is at present acting as Judicial Commissioner, to fill the vacant post. The new Taotai, who is a native of Hupeh and 63 years of age, obtained the metropolitan degree in 1854, served for some time in one of the Boards, and was appointed Prefect of Yu-chou in 1868, whence he was transferred two years later to the prefecture of Ch'ing-tu Fu. His next advancement was to the post of Taotai of the Chien Ch'ang Circuit, where he has shown administrative abilities which make him eminently fitted for conducting the multifarious duties of the post to which he has now been appointed.

SACRIFICIAL UTENSILS AT THE WESTERN TOMBS.

Chih-yüan, the officer in charge of the Western Mausolea, reports having made a minute inspection of all the gold and silver vessels used for sacrificial purposes, which he found to agree with the entries in the inventory left by his predecessor. A number of sheep and oxen are being fattened for offerings at the graves, and every attention is being bestowed upon them.

21st May.

PRAYERS FOR RAIN.

Some weeks ago the Emperor and several members of the Imperial family offered prayers for rain in certain temples in the
Imperial City, but as sufficient rain has not yet fallen and the land is in great need of refreshing showers the Emperor announces his intention of again proceeding on the 25th of May to the Ta Ku' Tien to renew his supplications, while the Princes Tsai Jung, and Ts'ai Shu and 1 Mo will repair on the same day to various other temples for the same purpose.

CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS IN PEKING.

The Censors, who act as inspecting officers of the two charitable institutions in Peking known as the P'u-chi T'ang and the Kung-te Lin, submit a report of the work that was done during the past winter. The revenue of these establishments is derived from various sources, two items are 800 piculs of rice from the Imperial granaries and Tls. 2,000 from the octroi duties at the Hia-ta Men. During the six months or so that they were open, the P'u-chi T'ang fed daily 129,039 destitute people, and the Kung-te Lin 103,634, each person receiving 7 ho of rice twice a day. All of these, with the exception of eighty-five special cases who remain in the former establishment, have been sent away and the soup kitchens have been closed for the summer, as the price of grain has now fallen and there is abundance of work for the poor people in the fields.

TOUR OF INSPECTION BY THE IMPERIAL AGENT AT HSI-NING.

Salinga, the Imperial Agent at Hsi-ning, reports a tour of inspection which he made along the borders of his jurisdiction, and a consultation which he had with the Viceroy at the capital of Kansu. The country in the neighbourhood of Hsin-hua in the jurisdiction of Hsi-ning is inhabited by mixed tribes of aborigines, and from its rugged and mountainous nature and its proximity to Ko-ko-nor it has long formed the hiding place of brigands, who take every opportunity of carrying off the flocks and herds of the Chinese population. The late Viceroy T'an Chung-lin stationed guards at all the more important points of the country, and since then a certain amount of respect for the laws has been shown by the aborigines, but their nature being restless and fitful it is important that the prestige of the Imperial authority should be maintained amongst them. On the 11th of April last the memorialist started on a tour of inspection of the garrison stations proceeding through Pa Yenjung, Hsin-hua and He-chou, and inculcated strongly on all the troops the importance of preserving order amongst the aboriginal population and preventing either brigandage or cattle depredations. On his return journey he visited the Viceroy at Lan-chou Fu. During his absence the current business of his office was transacted by Fang Ting-ming, the Taotai of Hsi-ning, but more important matters were referred to him at the various stages of his journey.

22nd May.

RISE IN CHEKIANG ORGANISED BY A BUDDHIST PRIEST.

The most disturbed portion of the province of Chekiang embraces some districts within the prefecture of Hangchow, which border upon Kiangsu and Anhui. The configuration of the country, which is intersected by streams and covered with dense jungle, affords a safe retreat for bands of robbers, whose doings have caused much trouble to the authorities. Some two months ago a number of depredators, headed by a strolling Buddhist priest, made their appearance in the Lin-an district, and having procured a supply of arms, engaged in preparations for an insurrectionary movement. The military authorities, having obtained secret information of their intentions, moved troops against them, and a battle ensued in which the priest at the head of his men, who were armed with foreign muskets, made an obstinate stand against the opposing force, but was obliged in the end to seek safety in flight. He and a number of his followers were subsequently captured and in their possession were found an oath of allegiance to the cause woven on a piece of red silk, false seals, and other formal emblems of authority. The priest's evidence, as given at his trial, was to the following effect. He was thirty-three years of age, a native of Anhui, and had neither father nor mother alive. Being without family incumbrances, he came to Chekiang as a pedlar in medicines, lost his capital, and took to a roving life. He and twelve other men whom he met in his travels formed themselves into a sworn brotherhood under the style of the "Loyal and Patriotic League," of which he was to form the Head. Each member was to invite his friends to join the cause, and an entrance fee of 81 was levied to provide for the working expenses. Their motto was: "Help the poor and despoil the rich, join heart and hand and play the part of valiant men." Being afraid of apprehension by the authorities, who were keeping a sharp look out for him, he abandoned the Society for a time, shaved his head, and became a priest. The abbot of the temple which he joined being ignorant
of his antecedents kept him for a few days, and then sent him on a begging mission to procure funds for the restoration of the temple. Before leaving, the abbot gave him $10 to cover his expenses on the way; but as soon as he got to the foot of the hill on which the temple was situated, he gave up all thoughts of returning and proceeded to join his former companions. Their number however, was too small to organise a successful rising, and to give the movement a more important character, he purchased for himself an embroidered theatrical costume, and procured false seals, banners, and other devices by which he worked upon the imaginations of the simple rustics. In the end he was captured after a severe struggle by the Imperial troops. He has been summarily decapitated under the regulations promulgated for the punishment of local brigands, and as a warning to others his head will be exposed in the district which was the scene of his offences. A number of his confederates have been similarly dealt with, and the officers who have effected their arrest have been recommended to the Throne for the bestowal of fitting rewards.

23rd May.
CASE OF ADULTERY AND MURDER IN TURKESTAN.

To judge from the reports published in the Gazette the Mohammedan population of Turkestan is the most criminal in the Empire. The following case which is a typical one, is reported by the Governor. Mai-mai-je-i-mu, a Mohammedan resident in Yarkand, was on very intimate terms with a co-religionist of the name of Mai-hei-ya-sui who was in the habit of coming to his house and frequently seeing on such occasions his wife, Su-t'ang-pi-pi. Coming one day as usual to the house and finding his friend absent, he sat down alone with the woman, chaffed her about her good looks, and ended by seducing her. Criminal intercourse took place subsequently as often as the pair could find their opportunity. The last time the offence was committed was about two years ago when he induced the woman to leave her home and spend the night with him in an out-house attached to her father's residence. The husband, missing his wife, went to the latter place to make enquiries, and seeing as he passed the door of the out-house unlocked, he gave it a push to effect an entrance. The woman, thinking that a robber was about, picked up a stick, and gave the man a blow on the head, but immediately desisted when she discovered that it was her husband. The latter attempted to arrest the paramour, and in the struggle which ensued was killed by a blow of a hatchet in the presence of his wife, who did nothing to assist him. It turned out that the woman's father and mother were totally ignorant of her presence, and after the event their behaviour was proper under the circumstances. The criminal is to be decapitated after the usual period of incarceration and the woman will be strangled after the Autumn Assizes. The weapon with which the murder was committed is to be destroyed, and orders have been given for the interment of the body.

RESULTS OF THE PALACE EXAMINATION.

Optimus.—Chiang Chien-hsin, a native of Kuangsi.

Secundus.—Li Sheng-to, a native of Kiangsi.

Tertius.—Liu Shih-an, a member of the Banner Colony at Canton.

Quartus.—Tu Pen-ch'ung, a native of Hunan.

24th May.
FUNDS RAISED IN TURKESTAN BY SALE OF OFFICIAL RANK FOR REPAIR OF YELLOW RIVER.

The Governor of Turkestan reports that during the last five months of the last Chinese year thirty-eight official titles and positions were sold in his province realising a sum of Tls. 8,969, which is being detained in the Treasury pending the receipt of the Board’s instructions as to its disposal. The return for the preceding seven months of the year has been already published.

May 25th.
TRIBUTE FROM KUNJUT.

The Governor of Chinese Turkestan reports that the Taotai at Kashgar has received one and a half ounces of gold dust, forming the annual tribute offered by the chief of the Mohammedan State of Kunjut, which is to the south of Sarikol. In return, the chief has been presented according to custom with two large rolls of satin. The gold dust will be forwarded to the Comptroller of the Imperial Household, who will deliver it to His Majesty.

LIU CHIN-T'ANG TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Liu Chin-t'ang, Governor of Chinese Turkestan, has obtained leave of absence in order that he may return home to visit his grandmother. On the 26th of March he gave over charge of his office to the Grand Treasurer of the Province, Wei Kuang-ta, who has been offered to
replace him while he is away. On the same day he commenced his journey.

**Export of Grain from Sheng-Ching.**

In consequence of the severe famine caused last year by floods in the south-east of the Province of Sheng-ching, the local government obtained the Emperor's permission to prevent the exportation of grain till next summer. Recently the Viceroy of Chihli Li Hung-chang represented to the Emperor that there was plenty of corn and no distress in Chin-chou Fu and other places in the West of Sheng-ching. He therefore prayed that the prohibition might be withdrawn so far as to allow grain from Chin-chou and its neighbourhood to be exported to Chihli, where there was much distress caused by the high price of food. His proposition was submitted to the Sheng-ching government, whose reply is published in the *Gazette.* It states that the suffering has been so severe in south-east Sheng-ching that the people have only been kept alive by the establishment of soup-kitchens and the distribution of relief. The harvest in the western districts of Chin-chou and Ch'ang-t'u was but a poor one, and the stocks there were not large. It was therefore necessary to retain the corn in the province, in order to prevent the hardships which would have resulted from a great rise in its price. Recently, however, the memorialists consented that the Shantung Government should purchase for relief purposes fifty or sixty thousand piculs of grain at Chin-chou. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang's proposal has now caused them to give fresh consideration to the subject. They find that in the districts outside the province but bordering on Chin-chou, the crops were somewhat better than elsewhere, and some of the grain from them has been accumulated in that place. As they are aware of the importance of attending to the wants of the metropolitan province, they propose to allow the export of grain from Chin-chou to Chihli under permits stamped by the Superintendents of Customs. The same will apply to trade with Shantung. There will be no alterations in the prohibition as regards Ch'ang-t'u, where the corn will be retained in order that there may be supplies at hand for the distribution of relief by the Government. By the end of the summer they hope that circumstances will permit trade to be carried on as usual.—**Approved.**

**Graduates Received by the Emperor.**

A Decree directs that on the four days from the 7th to the 10th of the next Chinese month, the recently elected Metropolitan Graduates, or Chin-shih, shall have the honour of being presented to His Majesty.

**Feeding the Poor at Tung-Chow.**

In consequence of representations made to him the Emperor directs that the soup-kitchens at Tung-chow shall be kept open for a longer period instead of being closed as is customary during the present month. In order that this may be done, he orders a thousand more piculs of rice to be delivered to the officers in charge of the kitchens.

**House-Breaking in Anhui.**

The Governor of Anhui reports the trial of three men who were concerned in a robbery in Ssu Chou the summer before last. Being in want they and six others agreed to attack the house of a widow lady living in the country close by and known to be a wealthy person. They met together one evening, some armed, some carrying torches, and some empty handed. Halfway one of the party was afraid to go on, and was therefore ordered to wait by the roadside till the rest returned. They reached the house soon after nightfall, and finding the door open, rushed in. The lady's son, who was sleeping on the threshing floor outside, came to the rescue, but was shot dead by one of the gang. Having plundered the premises, the robbers departed, carrying off a quantity of clothing and some cattle. They picked up the man by the roadside, and went together to a quiet place where the booty was given to the leader of the party in order that he might dispose of it and divide the proceeds among them. Three of the men were afterwards arrested, namely the person who fired the fatal shot, another robber, and the one who was left by the roadside. The two first are both condemned to be executed immediately and to have their heads exposed, as by a recent law all are held equally guilty, where any of the party carries a foreign firearm. The third man is only liable to a hundred blows for his share in the affair; but he is further wanted for another robbery case, in which it appears that he took an active part.—**Referred to the Board of Punishments.**

**Imperial Records Dusted and Aired.**

The President of the Grand Council presents a memorial stating that by standing instructions every alternate year the Annals and the Genealogical Records of the
Emperors should be brought out for the purpose of being dusted and aired, under the superintendence of two Manchu and two Chinese Officers of high rank. As the present year is one in which the duty should be performed, the memorialist has the honour to submit a list giving the names of the officers available, from whom His Majesty is requested to select the requisite number.

MARAUDING SOLDIERS BURNT TO DEATH.

Last month the Governor of Kiangsu was informed by the Magistrate of Fenghsien that a band of fourteen robbers had attempted to carry off by force a quantity of salt belonging to a manufacturer at a village called Hung-miao, and had been captured by the people of the place and burned to death. Shortly afterwards a military mandarin reported to him that an officer and a party of soldiers in the preventive service had been attacked while in the discharge of their duty by the people of Hung-miao, and the whole number of them killed. By the Governor’s orders an official investigation was at once held, and at the Hung-miao, and the whole number of them killed. By the Governor’s orders an official investigation was at once held, and at the same time secret enquiries were made through private agents, with the result that the story given by the Magistrate of Fenghsien was generally confirmed. A certain number of the Hung-miao villagers were brought to Soochow as prisoners or witnesses. One of the latter deposed that a number of men attempted during the night to rob the house of his nephew, and failing to effect an entrance proceeded to carry off a quantity of salt lying outside the door. The alarm was given, and gongs were beaten. The villagers rushed out from their houses and surrounded and seized by the infuriated people, who carried them undert heir boat to an empty piece of ground and burnt them and it altogether. The remains were afterwards thrown into the sea in order to hide all traces of what had occurred. It was further deposed that the marauders were not in uniform and were not known to be soldiers. Two men who were brought up as prisoners, acknowledged that they were present at the time, but they averred that they took no part in the affair and could not say how many did. The memorialist does not believe that the soldiers attacked a house as alleged; but there is overwhelming evidence to the effect that they were trying to carry off the salt outside; and as the locality was actually a place of salt manufacture, they could not have seized the stuff as smuggled. He therefore considers that they brought their fate upon themselves; but he thinks that an example should be made of the villagers who played a leading part in the tragedy, both because of their savage conduct and because they took the law into their own hands instead of sending their prisoners to the authorities. —(For Decree see Gazette of 15th May.)

FUNDS FOR MINING IN YUNNAN.

T’ang Chiüng acknowledges the receipt of Tael ten thousand from the government of Kiangsi. This sum forms the third instalment of the subsidy furnished by that province to provide capital for the copper mines in Yunnan.

CONDITION OF YELLOW RIVER IN HOKAN.

The Inspector General Wu Ta-ch’eng reports that the season of the spring freshets, between the 6th and the 26th April, has passed by without harm. This period, though a time of less danger than the summer and autumn freshets, is still always a cause of anxiety. In places it has been found necessary to renew or to add to the fascines on the river front; and in the new embankment at the great breach there were spots where the earth showed signs of sinking. These have been carefully attended to. Materials are now being got together so that they may be in readiness, when the summer floods come down.

COST OF REPAIRS AT BREACH IN YELLOW RIVER.

Wu Ta-ch’eng mentions that the funds appropriated for the repair of the Yellow River embankment at Cheng Chou amounted altogether to twelve million taels. The greater part of this money was provided and forwarded to Honan by the governments of other provinces under orders from Peking. The memorialist considers that the successful closing of the breach was in great measure due to the rapidity and regularity with which the funds were set apart and transmitted by the officers of the various provincial governments, and he therefore begs to be allowed to recommend these officers for rewards.

The memorialist also calls attention to the meritorious conduct of an officer named Huang Lü-chung. While the repair were going on, immense sums in cash were required for daily payments to labourers and others at the works. The private banks in the neighbourhood were unable to provide the necessary copper currency in exchange for the silver presented to them by the government. Indeed, if only as much as ten thousand taels were brought to be changed, the price of silver dropped greatly. It was therefore determined to institut
official exchange office, which would bring in supplies of copper from other parts of the Empire. As manager of the establishment it was necessary to find an officer who possessed unusual skill in accounts, combined with the most scrupulous probity. Huang Lii-chung, who was in retirement at the time on account of mourning, was known to possess the desired qualities, and was therefore selected and sent for. His management was most successful, and he may be considered to have saved for the government more than a hundred thousand taels.—Decrees issued previously.

29th May.

FORGING AN OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

A memorial from the Lieutenant-General of the Hau-ch'in Bordered Red Banner states that towards the end of last year a despatch was reported to have been received at his office from the Three Treasuries of the Board of Revenue, asking that a soldier might be selected from the Banner and sent to the Three Treasuries to do duty there. Accordingly, in the third month, a man was selected from the supernumeraries and unemployed members of the Banner, and was sent to the Treasuries with the proper credentials. But a few days afterwards the credentials were returned with a despatch saying that no requisition had been made for any soldier. The memorialist was much astonished at this, and at once instituted an enquiry. On examination, it was found that the seals on the two despatches from the Board of Revenue differed in size, colour and pattern, so that one of the two must be forged. The earlier despatch was therefore sent to the Three Treasuries for inspection and was returned with the answer that it was certainly not genuine. At the same time the clerk who had originally received the despatch, and the men, fifteen in number, from whom the selection of a soldier was made, were examined by a commission composed of the two Adjutant-General and the other Colonels of the Corps. The clerk deposed that he was on duty during part of the twelfth month, and one evening just at dusk a card from the Three Treasuries was brought in with an unsealed application for a soldier from the Banner. The clerk took the letter to the house of Adjutant-General Wan-kuei, who gave instructions about it and kept it in his house. The clerk never saw it again till the day on which a soldier was selected nearly three months afterwards. On that day the Adjutant-General handed it to him once more and made him erase some words in it. He then noticed that there was a seal on it; but he did not dare to make any remark either to the Adjutant-General or to any other of his superiors. Further, when the investigation began to be held, the Adjutant-General said that he would make any necessary arrangements and pay all expenses, if the matter should come into the hands of the Board of Punishments.

In addition to this, the memorialist finds that there were suspicious circumstances concerning the transmission to the Three Treasuries of the reply informing them of the nomination of a soldier. He therefore proposes that both the corporal who received the despatch for the Treasuries and the man nominated for the appointment should be sent to the Board of Punishments for examination. At the same time he will temporarily remove from their posts the superior officers implicated, and will instruct them to be in readiness to appear whenever called upon.—Decree issued previously.

30th May.

MURDER COMMITTED BY AN OFFICER.

The Governor of Hupeh reports the trial of an officer for murder. The prisoner had served in the army in Turkestan and had risen from the rank of sergeant. At the time when the unfortunate affair occurred he was living at home in Lo-tien Hsien waiting for an appointment. He happened to be the owner of a piece of land, which he let to a tenant for the purpose of cultivating it. Afterwards he sold the land to another man and gave him a receipt in full for the price; though, as the latter was short of funds, five thousand cash were allowed to stand over as a debt. The new purchaser continued to let the land to the same tenant. One day last year the officer chanced to meet the purchaser and asked him for the balance due, to which the purchaser replied that he had paid the money to the middle-man through whom the sale had been conducted. The officer made several attempts to find the middle-man, but did not succeed in doing so. Afterwards he was standing one morning on the threshing-floor outside his house, cutting bamboo slips with a sharp-pointed knife. While he was so doing he saw the tenant pass by on the way to the field. He thereupon threw down the knife, went up to him and told him not to plant any rice on the land. The tenant refused to obey, and the two began to quarrel. The tenant picked up the knife on the ground and made a thrust at the officer. The latter wrested the weapon from him, slipped past him, and wounded him in the leg from behind. The tenant turned, seized the officer by the hair,
and forced him down. The officer unable to escape, made a thrust upwards to frighten his antagonist, and chance to strike him in the lower part of the body. The wounded man fell, sorely hurt, and expired shortly afterwards. The officer ran away, but was arrested and put upon his trial. As the finding of the court seemed unduly favourable to the prisoner, it was ordered that the case should be reheard. By this means the truth of the story given above was fully established, and it was shown that the murder was really not premeditated. The prisoner has, therefore, been sentenced to strangulation after the usual period of confinement, such being the legal penalty for taking life in a brawl. He has put in a plea that he is the only son of aged parents. Into the truth of this statement enquiries will be made, when the time of the autumn assizes comes round. The five thousand cash due as part price of the prisoner's land will be recovered from the purchaser through the local court.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANCHURIAN FAMINE FUND.

The High Authorities of Sheng-ch'ing, or Feng-t'ien, represent that the Viceroy Li Hung-chang and his provincial staff have contributed a sum of Tls. 10,000 for the relief of distress in Manchuria. The Military Governor of Kirin and his staff have given Tls. 9,300, the Governor and other authorities of Shantung Tls. 5,000, and Sheng Taotai of Chefoo has separately presented five thousand articles of wadded clothing. In acknowledging the valuable help given by these contributions, the memorialists do not presume to make any request on behalf of the said Viceroy or Governor, but they beg that they may be allowed to recommend the other officers concerned for some marks of His Majesty's approbation.—Stricken out.

31st May,

[No documents of interest.]

1st June.

PRAYERS FOR RAIN.

In a Decree published to-day the Emperor laments the continued drought which prevails in the neighbourhood of Peking. Only slight showers were vouchsafed in response to the prayers recently offered and the parched fields still thirst for rain. The Emperor accordingly intimates his intention of repairing again on the 4th of June to the Ta Kao Tien to renew his supplications, while several Princes, and other members of the Imperial family are to take up their residence by turns at various other Temples and maintain an uninterrupted service of prayer and fasting. Prince Cheng goes on a mission for the same purpose to Hei Lung T'an.

OFFICIAL CHANGES IN SHANSI.

Kang Yi, the Governor of Shansi, who was recently transferred to Kiangsu, reports the arrangements he has made to enable him to start for Peking where he is to have audience before proceeding to his new post. On the 9th May he handed over the seals of office to Yu Shan, the new Financial Commissioner, who is to act for a time as Governor; Sung K'un, the Chief Justice of the province, will discharge the duties of Financial Commissioner and Shên Chin-hsia, the Intendant of the Chi Ning Circuit, will replace him in the former capacity. A successor to Shên Chin-hsia has been found in Wu Ch'i-fu, an expectant Taotai on the Shansi establishment. The Governor started for Peking on the 20th May.

GRAIN ISSUED TO THE SOLDIERS FROM THE LOCAL GRANARIES IN SHANSI DURING THE FAMINE. REPAYMENT REMITTED.

During the great famine which occurred in Shansi in 1878, the soldiers stationed in the various districts and departments in the provinces received on the recommendation of the Governor Tseng Kuo-chüan, a picul and a half of grain each from the local granaries on condition that the cost was afterwards to be deducted from their pay at the current price of grain at the time of repayment. Part of the amount has already been recovered, but the military authorities represent that there is great difficulty in securing repayment of the remainder for the following reasons. Most of the men have wives and families to support and their monthly income is barely sufficient to procure the necessaries of life. Owing to certain reforms and reductions which have been recently made in the Shan army, not more than 20 or 30 per cent. of the original recipients are now in the ranks, and it would entail great injustice on the present soldiers if they were held responsible for the arrears of their predecessors. The whole subject has been investigated by a commission, which recommended that the arrears amounting to 17,000 piculs of grain should be cancelled as an act of kindness towards the soldiers. The amount does not represent a hundredth part of the grain that was issued to the people under similar circumstances and as repayment has not been demanded from them, it is only
fair that the same treatment should be accorded to the soldiers.—Decree separately issued.

2nd June.

RETIREMENT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Hsiieh Fu-ch'en, Vice-Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture, and brother of the recently appointed Minister to London, has obtained leave to vacate his office of Senior Vice-President of the Censorate on the ground of continued ill-health.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RAISED BY SALE OF OFFICIAL HANK FOR REPAIR OF BREACH IN YELLOW RIVER.

The system of raising funds for the repair of the breach in the Yellow River by the sale of official titles was originally sanctioned for one year only, but its successful working has led the Government to extend its operation for another year. Monthly reports of all money realised in this way are forwarded from the provinces to the Central Government which issues to the subscribers the titles and decorations to which they are entitled. The Viceroy of Szechuan, whose province contributed largely during the past year to this fund, reports a considerable falling off in the receipts during the first month of the present year. Only some 17 minor ranks were disposed of and the proceeds amounted to less than Tls. 800. Kueichow, whose reports come in more tardily, disposed of over 40 subordinate titles during the sixth month in which the system was in force, but the amount realised reached little more than Tls. 500.

3rd June.

RETIREMENT OF TO LUAN-PU, LATE MANCHU LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AT FOOCHOW.

To Luan-pu, member of the banner colony at Hsi-an Fu was appointed Manchu Lieutenant-General at Foochow in 1879 and served there with great credit to himself and advantage to the public interests until last summer, when he caught a severe cold and was obliged to apply for a month's leave of absence to enable him to recover his health. In his previous career, when fighting against the Taiping rebels, he had received two severe wounds in his left leg which again became troublesome with his present illness. He eventually obtained leave to vacate his appointment at Foochow, and now he applies for permission to retire permanently from the public service and spend the remainder of his days at Hsi-an Fu. This he does the more readily as he is now nearly 70 years old and his constitution is so completely broken down that he has no hope of a speedy restoration to health.

TOUR OF INSPECTION BY WU TA-CH'ENG.

Wu Ta-ch'eng states that on his assumption of office as Director-General of the Yellow River, his time was at first wholly engaged in attending to the works at Chêng Chow and that after the closing of the breach there, remedial measures so fully occupied his attention that he has been unable to visit Chi-ning at an earlier date to inspect the four battalions of troops stationed there for River Conservancy purposes, and to examine the funds deposited in the Treasuries of the two Intendencies connected with the Grand Canal. Now that all the sections of the Yellow River have been put in a fairly good state of order, memorialist proposes to start on the first of the 4th moon from K'ai-feng Fu for Chi-ning from which place he will examine the works of repair being carried out on both banks of the Grand Canal and attend to his inspection duties by the way.

4th June.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AT WUHU.

The fixed assessment of the Custom House at Wuhu is Tls. 90,159.6 and there is a supplementary estimate of Tls. 17,000, making the total annual payment Tls. 107,159.6. Since the establishment of the foreign branch of the Customs Service at the port there has been a diminution in the receipts of the native department and for some years past the above figures have not been reached. During the past year the total revenue was Tls. 60,610.9.6.8.7 and the following explanation of the deficit is offered by the Taotai in charge of the administration. Grain has always formed the chief source of revenue, miscellaneous produce being the next largest item. After the rebellion vast tracts of country went out of cultivation, and although some reclamation has been going on in recent years, still the area under cultivation is much less than it once was. The outbreak of the Yellow River placed a large surface under water and the drought of last summer resulted in a very deficient harvest. In former times all the principal marts were much frequented by traders but now there are few merchants and little or no market for produce. Men of capital prefer to take their goods down the Yangtze by foreign steamer or apply for Transit Passes to enable them to escape the likin dues levied at the numerous barriers. Last winter enormous quantities of grain were transported free of all duty to the famine districts in Anhui, but during
the spring and autumn a good revenue was derived from the tax levied on cereals brought in by merchants who flocked thither from all parts on hearing of the high prices food had reached on account of the prevailing drought. The memorialist has been unremitting in his endeavours to bring the revenue up to its former standard and is glad to be able to report an improvement this year as compared with the preceding one. The receipts from salt junks and the impost on wood, which form a separate item of account, amounted during the year to Tls. 2,763.5.2.

CRUISE OF INSPECTION BY THE ADMIRAL AT AMOY.

Under old standing regulations the naval authorities along the sea-board are required to make a cruise through the waters of their jurisdiction once or twice a year and report the result to the Throne. In a report now received from P'eng Ch'u-han, the Admiral at Amoy, it is stated that the coast of Fukien is thickly studded with islands which form the resort of pirates and evil characters of every description, and render it necessary to maintain a constant surveillance. The Admiral started from Amoy in the Shen-ha^ig on the 14th of March last, and not only made a cruise of inspection through every part of his jurisdiction, but reviewed the naval stations everywhere en route. He noted carefully the state of the Coast Defences at all the more important points, and made it one of the objects of his visit to see that the Salvage Regulations were everywhere properly posted.

SUPPLY OF SALTPETRE FROM HONAN.

The Governor of Honan asks permission to defer sending till next year the supply of saltpetre due from his province for the present year. The fixed amount forwarded every year consists of two kinds, of which 400,000 and 280,000 catties are sent respectively, and as a similar postponement was granted last year it has also been accorded this year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM HONAN TOWARDS THE REPAIR OF THE BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER.

The Governor of Honan reports the amount of subscriptions raised in his province by the sale of official rank during the eleventh and twelfth months during which the system has been in operation. In the former month ten literary ranks were sold realising a sum of Tls.3,526.8 and in the latter twelve similar appointments were disposed of for a sum of Tls. 5,370.2. This amount will be held at the disposal of the Board of Revenue and in the meantime it is asked that diplomas should be issued to the subscribers.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ABORIGINES IN SZECHUAN—REWARDS TO OFFICERS CONCERNED.

The Tartar General at Ch'eng-tu and the Viceroy of Szechuan present a memorial recommending for various promotions and rewards a number of officers who distinguished themselves against the Lolo tribes in Ma-pien and Szechuan. These tribes occupied two hills known as the greater and smaller Liang, and had long been a terror to the peaceable Chinese in the neighbouring districts, on whom they made continued raids. After operations which had extended for more than a year, their subjugation has now been reported to be complete; nineteen branches of the main tribe of the aborigines have tendered their submission, and two others which had never before accepted the Imperial rule have now come in full force to sue for mercy. Appropriate favours have been conferred upon them and their chiefs have been placed in command at important strategical points in the newly opened country. The native watch towers and fortifications have been all razed to the ground and great praise is given to the officers and men who have penetrated this malarious region and contributed so materially to the speedy issue of such a successful campaign. A carefully revised list of the more deserving of these officers, coupled with a recommendation for distinctions is submitted for the approval of the Throne.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF OFFICERS PREVIOUSLY DEGRADED.

Amongst those who specially distinguished themselves in the above campaign was an officer named Wan Chun-hsuan who had been formerly degraded, while holding the post of General, but who had subsequently obtained employment under the Governor of Kuangsi, where he gained the victory of Kuan-Yin Ch'iao and was afterwards employed in Chekiang, his successes in which province gained him his restoration to office—Last year he was transferred to Szechuan at the instance of the Viceroy, and from his intimate knowledge of aboriginal questions and his military skill he was selected to command a column of the army operating against the Lolos. In a single engagement with his troops the aborigines
lost 180 of their men, and his services were so instrumental in procuring their final submission that it is suggested that he should be restored to his original rank as General. Another officer who played an important part in this campaign was Liu Yü-t'ien, who was formerly a General in Chêkiang and who had been degraded for beating to death a soldier under his command for becoming a member of a secret society. This officer enrolled a force of 100 braves at his own expense, procured guides to reconnoitre a savage country and lent an active co-operation to the Imperial troops throughout the whole campaign. His original dismissal was dismissal for ever from the public service and as this was considered too severe it is asked that at least part of the stigma should be removed from his name and that he should be eligible for re-employment.

6th June.

APPOINTMENT.

Yii Hêng is gazetted Intendant of the Yen P'ing Circuit in Shansi.

ILLNESS OF MILITARY GOVERNOR AT MOUKDEN.

Ch'ing Yu, the Governor of Sheng Ching having applied for permission to retire from the public service on the ground of continued ill health, he has been granted two months' leave of absence at the expiration of which it is hoped that he will be well enough to resume his duties.

DEFALCATIONS BY OFFICER CHARGED WITH CONVEYANCE OF COPPER FROM YUNNAN.

Hui Shan, a magistrate in Yunnan who was charged with the conveyance of a large consignment of copper to Peking, was recently degraded for having made a short delivery of 38,000 catties of the metal, and besides being deprived of his office, was granted a specified period within which to make good the deficit. Having failed to do so within the limit of time assigned to him, he has been handed over to the Board of Punishments where steps will be taken to make him recoup and prevent his indulging in such amusements for the future.

FUNDS FOR SOUP KITCHEN AT TUNGCHOW.

It seems that five soup kitchens are opened for the benefit of the destitute every winter at Tungchow and that they are entitled to an annual allowance of at least 800 piculs of rice. Last winter a special grant of an additional 1,600 piculs was made by the Emperor and under ordinary circumstances the establishments ought to have been closed before this. Owing however, to the drought which still prevails, Tungchow is, the Taotai represents, thronged with starving people, many of whom are too old and weak to start off to a distance in search of work. A further grant of 1,000 piculs of rice is therefore solicited to enable one of the establishments to continue administering relief until the rain arrives and work in the neighbourhood is more plentiful.

CHANGE OF TAOTAI IN CHIHILI.

Liu Shu-t'ang, the Taotai of the Ch'ing Ho in Chihli having received the appointment of Judicial Commissioner of Hunan, his place in the former province is to be temporarily filled by Chu Fu-jung who is represented by the Viceroy as an officer of great tact, ability and intelligence.

LATE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF KOBDO.

K'uei Fu, a native of Kirin, who retired into mourning recently when holding the post of Assistant Administrator of Kobdo, has returned to Peking and has been received in audience.

GOLD MINES AT MO HO IN HIELUNG CHIANG.

Some time ago the Viceroy Li reported that he had appointed a Taotai named Li Chin-yung to manage the gold mines at Mo Ho in Manchuria and he submitted for approval a number of regulations which had been drawn up for their working. Owing to the remote and wild position in which the mines are situated, their management presents great difficulties and demands the presence of a very competent staff of superintendents. For this purpose the Viceroy submits the names of three officers whose experience in similar work would render their services very valuable in Manchuria if they were transferred for employment under Li Chin-yung. —Granted by rescript.

7th June.

APPOINTMENTS.

Kao Wan-p'eng is gazetted Financial Commissioner of Hunan and his place as Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture is taken by Ch'en Yi, Governor of Anhui, who was lately transferred to Peking for duty.

PROGRESS OF THE NEPAULESE MISSION ON ITS HOMeward JOURNEY.

The Governor of Shensi reports that in obedience to the instructions which he received from the Mongolian Superintendency he had the Nepaulese Mission safely escorted through his province and warned all the local authorities beforehand to make preparations for supplying all its wants.
The Envoy and his party entered Shensi on the 2nd of January last, and after spending the New Year at the provincial capital, continued their journey and reached the borders of Szechuan on the 4th of April. Their progress was attended with no trouble and all their requirements were duly attended to.

REQUEST FOR MORE EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT OF CASES OF BRIGANDAGE.

As the law stands at present, the provincial authorities are vested with full powers to pass and carry into execution summary sentences in all cases of serious brigandage, but in certain instances where the offence is unpromeditated and not of an organised character, they are obliged to send periodical reports to Peking and await the decision of the Board of Punishments. This involves a delay varying from six to eighteen months and prevents punishment following the offence with sufficient swiftness to constitute a deterring influence. The Governor of Shensi now begs that instead of waiting for a stated period, he may be permitted to report such cases to Peking as they occur, in the hope that the Board will thus be able to deal with them much more quickly than is the practice at present. He would revert to the former custom as soon as brigandage, which unfortunately has shown signs of reviving, has been somewhat suppressed throughout his jurisdiction.

NEW PROVINCIAL JUDGE OF SHENSI.

T'ang Shu-nan, a native of Hunan, who was raised last year to the post of Chief Justice of Kansu, has recently been transferred to Shensi in a similar capacity and reports his assumption of office on the 11th of April. He had previously been to Peking for audience, and on his way back he travelled through Chihli, Shansi and part of Shensi, in all of which provinces he found the young crops doing remarkably well.

8th June.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEW GRADUATES.

An Imperial Decree confers appointments on the successful candidates at the recent Metropolitan examination. The three first on the list have already been provided for. A certain number of others are given places in the various public departments at the capital. The remainder have been made District Magistrates on the list for immediate employment; and the Board of Civil Office is instructed to determine by lot to which province each shall be sent.

9th June.

CONVEYANCE HOME OF DECEASED GENERAL.

The authorities temporarily administering the government at Ulaautai present an application on behalf of the son of the deceased Tartar General Tukar, late Military-Governor of the District. General Tukar expired in the beginning of last April, and, as the great heat of summer will soon be felt, it is necessary that his remains should be transported to his native place with as little delay as possible. He was a member of the Barga tribe of Mongols, and his home near Hirun Pir in the west of the Manchurian Province of Tai-tai-har, or Hei-lung Kiang. According to law the funeral cortège should follow the government post roads which lead to the frontier of China and then go north again to their destination. This however would occasion a very great détour, not only lengthening the route, but increasing the expenses to an extent which the family would be unable to support. It is therefore humbly requested that the remains may be transported via Sai-erh-wu-au to Urga, and thence across the Tsatsen Khanate by Sa-mu T'ai to Hirun Pir. The memorialists further mention that shortly before his death, the General petitioned for leave to retire from the public service on the ground of ill health; and in his application he stated his desire if permission were granted, to travel homewards by the Urga road.—Granted.

MAGISTRATE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONFUCIUS.

A regulation was passed some time ago by which the district of Ch'ü-fu must always have for its magistrate an officer who has entered the service by the regular channel, that is to say by obtaining a degree at the provincial or metropolitan examinations. The reason for making this rule was that in the district in question was situated the home of the ancient sage Confucius. A magistrate has now been appointed to Ch'ü-fu Hsien who does not fulfil this condition, as he has risen from a low position partly by purchase and partly by promotion, and has no literary degree except the nominal one of licentiate. Therefore, according to a provision in the regulation applying to such cases, some qualified officer should exchange post with him; and the Governor of the province has chosen for the purpose the present Magistrate of Hsin-ch'eng Hsien. This gentleman, who is in his fifty-sixth year, is a native of Pao-ting Fu in Chihli,
and obtained the Degree of Provincial Graduate in the year 1861. In 1880 he was nominated for a Magistracy by the Grand Committee of Selection. He was appointed by lot to Kuangsi, but on account of the great age of his parents he was permitted to change that province for one nearer to his home. He thus came to Shantung, where he has since been employed and enjoys an excellent reputation.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

June 10th.

EXTORTION BY OFFICIAL AT KALGAN.

An Imperial decree deals with an official secretary named Wen-yü, who has been convicted of extorting illegal fees from the herdsmen in the neighbourhood of Kalgan. After an enquiry conducted by the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, the said secretary was proved to have improperly received more than five hundred taels. After animadverting very severely on his conduct, the Emperor desires that he be dismissed from the public service without the possibility of re-employment. The Military Governor of the Chahao district is found not to have received any part of the extorted money; but as he failed to keep a proper check on the conduct of his subordinate, the Board is desired to determine what punishment should be inflicted on him.

RISING SUPPRESSED IN KUANGSI.

The Governor of Kiangsi states that according to its original assessment the Custom House at Kan-chow Fu is required to produce an annual sum of Tls. 46,000; and by an additional assessment it should also furnish a further amount of Tls. 38,000. But during the past year the actual receipts under various heads at Kan-chow itself amounted only to Tls. 20,085. To this there must be added Tls. 32,596 duty on silk collected for Kan-chow by the Shanghai Custom House, making a total of Tls. 52,681. Deducting again Tls. 6,103 for expenses, salaries and servants' pay, there remain only a few hundred taels beyond the sum required for the original assessment. The memorialist proceeds to explain that tea and silk were the principal commodities which used to pass through the Kan-chow Custom House and next to them foreign and Canton goods. But since the opening to foreign trade of the ports on the coast and the Yangtze, tea and silk are both taken to Shanghai, Hankow or Kiukiang for sale, instead of going via Kan-chow to distant Canton, and similarly foreign and Canton goods reach the valley of the Yangtze by steamer instead of going overland from Canton. Further, if foreign goods are taken into the interior from the Yangtze ports, they are generally covered by transit passes issued at the Foreign Custom houses, so that they are

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Hsien, in the vicinity of the Promontory, to provide a number of boats and take such other measures as might be advisable for rescuing those in danger. At the same time the Taotai at Chefoo appointed a Wei-yuan to aid the Magistrate in organising his plans. The memorialist now finds that by the efforts of these two officers, during the year ended last midsummer, assistance was afforded to one grain boat and seven trading junks. In four cases the vessels were lost by going ashore in fogs, and no notice need be taken of what was done. But each of the other four ships was driven on to the rocks in a gale, and the thirty-six persons saved from them were rescued from the most imminent peril with great risk to their preservers themselves. In addition ten dead bodies were recovered and property was salvaged to the value of more than ten thousand taels. Under these circumstances the memorialist, in conjunction with the Superintendent of Northern Trade, Li Hung-chang, requests that certain promotion may be accorded to the Magistrate and the Wei-yuan above mentioned.

DEFFICIENT RECEIPTS AT THE KAN-CHOW CUSTOMS.

The Governor of Kiangsi states that according to its original assessment the Custom House at Kan-chow Fu is required to produce an annual sum of Tls. 46,000; and by an additional assessment it should also furnish a further amount of Tls. 38,000. But during the past year the actual receipts under various heads at Kan-chow itself amounted only to Tls. 20,085. To this there must be added Tls. 32,596 duty on silk collected for Kan-chow by the Shanghai Custom House, making a total of Tls. 52,681. Deducting again Tls. 6,103 for expenses, salaries and servants' pay, there remain only a few hundred taels beyond the sum required for the original assessment. The memorialist proceeds to explain that tea and silk were the principal commodities which used to pass through the Kan-chow Custom House and next to them foreign and Canton goods. But since the opening to foreign trade of the ports on the coast and the Yangtze, tea and silk are both taken to Shanghai, Hankow or Kiukiang for sale, instead of going via Kan-chow to distant Canton, and similarly foreign and Canton goods reach the valley of the Yangtze by steamer instead of going overland from Canton. Further, if foreign goods are taken into the interior from the Yangtze ports, they are generally covered by transit passes issued at the Foreign Custom houses, so that they are
merely examined and are not liable to duty." The Kan-chow Custom House from this last cause alone loses several thousand taels a year. Its revenue now depends solely or articles of local produce, timber, sugar, and oil. But the trade in the two last articles has been greatly diminished by the foreign sugar and foreign oil which have recently come into common use. Many firms have closed their doors, and much of the land where the sugar cane was formerly cultivated, is sown with various kinds of grain instead. In addition the trade in timber is in an unprosperous state, the merchants being without capital and the demand for the article being dull. These, the memorialist states, are the true causes of the smallness of the customs receipts. The revenue officers have done their best both to encourage trade and to collect the duties. At Kan-chow itself they have succeeded in levying Tls. 1,600 more than they did last year; but this is counter-balanced by a diminution of Tls. 1,500 in receipts at Shanghai. Thus it comes that in Tls. 38,000, extra assessment, there is a deficiency of Tls. 37,897. This, as above explained, being entirely due to changed conditions, the memorialist prays that, as has before been done, nine-tenths of the deficiency may be pardoned, and the Superintendent only be held responsible for the remaining tenth, which he will make good by yearly instalments.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

11th June.

ILL HEALTH OF TS'EN YU-YING.

Ts'en Yu-ying reports that he has resumed his duties as Governor-General of Yunnan and Kueichow. Towards the end of last February he was compelled by weakness, which affected his whole body, to ask for two months' leave of absence from his post. The period of retirement having expired, he now resumes his office; though his health is still so impaired that it is only with great effort that he can do any work. Last autumn, after inspecting the army in western Yunnan, he obtained permission to postpone till this year the performance of the same duty in the eastern and southern portions of the province. The approach of the hot weather compels him once more to ask for permission to leave the inspection till his health is more restored—Granted.

MURDER OF A WOMAN AND HER CHILD.

The Governor of Ch'ekiang reports the sentence passed on a man found guilty of murdering a woman and her child. In the neighbourhood of Hu-chou there was a man who was employed as a commercial travel
moreover, he is discovered to be possessed of any property, one half of it must be given as compensation to the family of his victims. The tipao is sentenced to a flogging of eighty blows and dismissal from his office, because he did not report to the Magistrate the finding of the bodies. The Secretary is absolved from blame because he notified the authorities of what he was doing. The persons concerned in the purchase of the boat are all acquitted, but the value of the boat will be recovered for the benefit of the family of the deceased.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

12th June.

[No documents of interest.]

13th June.

EMPEROR PRAYS AGAIN FOR RAIN.

The Emperor announces his intention of praying again for rain on the 16th instant. For this purpose he will repair in person not only to the Ta-kao Tien, ordinarily visited on such occasions, but also to the temple known as the Hsüan-jen Miao. He will further be represented as usual by officers of rank at the other shrines where it is the custom to offer incense at such times.

TEMPLES IN FORMOSA FOR SHEN PAO-CHEN AND WU TSAN-CH'ENG.

In accordance with a petition presented by a number of gentry, the Governor of Formosa requests permission for the erection of temples in honour of the late Viceroy Shén Pao-chén, and Governor Wu Tsan-ch'êng, by whom the first steps were taken towards the subjugation of the aborigines in the island. Shén Pao-chén, when charged with the duty of the defence of the coast, twice visited Formosa, in 1874 and 1875. To him were due both the first opening of the mountain districts; and the formation of the three jurisdictions of Pilam T'êng, Heng-ch'un Hsien, and T'ai-peî Fu. In 1877 he was succeeded by Wu Tsan-ch'êng of the Foochow Arsenal, who in that and the following year led expeditions through a large part of the island and subdued the savages on the east coast. Unfortunately, during his journeys he contracted a malarial disease, to the effects of which he finally succumbed after his return on sick leave to his home in Kiangau. The memorialist is convinced that, had it not been for the early efforts of these two men, he would never have succeeded, as he has done, in completely effecting the pacification of the whole island in a few years. He therefore cordially supports the application which he has the honour to forward.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SHANSI.

Last year, at the time of the severe famine prevailing in parts of Kiangsu and Anhui on account of drought in some places and floods in others, on the application of the Viceroy Tsêng Kuo-ch'êan, the Imperial Government permitted the authorities of the neighbouring provinces to collect contributions on behalf of the sufferers, and promised that the donors should be rewarded with titles or decorations. Years before, at the time of the great famine in Shansi, Tsêng Kuo-ch'êan was Governor of the province, and in response to his application the people of Kiangau came forward with very large sums of money, by which many lives were saved. Minute of this, the people of Shansi were anxious last year to raise money for Anhui and Kiangsu. Subscription lists were opened by the high authorities and more than a hundred thousand taels were received. Besides what they collected from others the Governor himself contributed five thousand taels and the Acting Chief Justice three thousand. Though these officers have disclaimed all desire of reward, the Viceroy feels it his duty to mention to the Emperor what has happened, and to request a decoration for the Governor and a decoration and title of honour for the Chief Justice.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

REWARD FOR CAPTURING A REBEL.

Among those who escaped after the insurrection at Chang-hua in Formosa was a man who took a leading part in it named Wang Huan. Though a reward was offered for his person, all attempts to arrest him were fruitless. Last April, however, a gentleman of Kia-i discovered his whereabouts, and found means to allure him to a place in the district. Information was then given to the civil and military authorities, who promptly appeared on the spot and arrested him. The prisoner was examined by the Governor's orders and confessed to having been led away by Shih Chiu-tuan, the plotter of the rebellion. For the moment he has been relegated to prison in order that his evidence may be forthcoming when required. Most of the gentry in Formosa have shown themselves to be entirely in sympathy with the rebels, whom they have constantly aided and protected. The conduct of the gentleman who contrived the arrest is therefore considered particularly commendable. By the courage with which he has faced the unpopularity that he must incur he has done much to bring about a more wholesome state of public opinion. Moreover, he took part in the pacification
of the savages and in carrying out the assessment of the land. The Governor therefore recommends him for a button of the fifth class and a peacock-feather decoration.—Approved.

14th June.

REWARDS FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Viceroy Tseng Kuo-ch’ian has received for the Kiangsu and Anhui Famine Fund five gifts each of one thousand taels, or of clothing worth that amount. The donors are officials in different parts of the country, who declare themselves to be acting in accordance with the wishes of their parents, living or deceased. The Viceroy makes the customary request that the Emperor will allow monumental arches to be erected in honour of the parents by the members of their families.—Granted.

16th June.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Ch’i Shih-ch’ang, Senior President of the Censorate, has been granted four months’ leave of absence to enable him to visit his home and repair the family cemetery. His place is to be temporarily filled by Li Hung-tao.

APPOINTMENT.

Shou-ch’ang is gazetted Director of the Imperial Banqueting Court.

INSPECTION OF PICKED BANNER TROOPS AT CH’ENG-TU FU.

Some years ago, when Ch’ung-shih was Manchu General at Ch’eng-tu, he followed the precedent established by the Viceroy of Chihli and selected from the ten battalions of troops stationed in the provincial capital a thousand able-bodied soldiers to form a special corps. The Manchu garrison having increased greatly in number, and many of its members being out of employment, the original force was strengthened by the addition of 500 men picked from its ranks. Two officers were chosen to conduct the drill, and the organisation soon became so efficient as to make the force of real service in case of emergency. The present Tartar General reports very favourably of the performance and general discipline of the men, whom he has recently reviewed. At shield and target practice, as well as volley-firing, they showed a degree of proficiency which can only have been attained after much practice, and by way of showing his appreciation of their skill, the General distributed suitable rewards amongst the most deserving.

COLLECTION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES AT KALGAN.

The retiring Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan reports the amount of revenue collected during his year’s tenure of office. The total annual assessment of the establishment is Tls. 60,591, while the receipts during the past year amounted to only Tls. 39,012.5.9.3, leaving a deficit of Tls. 21,548.4.0.6, of which the following explanation is offered. The great staples of commerce which pass through Kalgan are tea from the south and wool and skins from Kiachta. Cattle, the trade in which is still in the hands of native merchants, contribute in a minor degree to swell the revenue. Since the establishment of commercial relations with Russia, the tea trade has almost entirely passed into the hands of Russian merchants, and is by treaty exempted from the payment of Customs duties. The present Superintendent determined on his assumption of office to make every effort in his power to restore the revenue to its former footing, but he is now obliged to admit that he has entirely failed in his object. Not only were the Russian merchants as numerous and their trade as large as before, but British merchants likewise appeared on the field and conveyed tea to Kiachta under the same conditions as the Russians. The result was that the trade remaining in native hands was of a very insignificant nature. Fortunately, there was a slight improvement in the cattle business as compared with the previous year, which to some extent balanced the less upon tea.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY TO THE GRAND COUNCIL.

The clerical work of the Council of State is performed by a staff of sixty Secretaries who generally obtain rapid advancement in the public service. One of them, Meng Chi-hsin, having been promoted to the post of Censor for the province of Shantung, Prince Li and his colleagues recommend that the vacancy should be filled by Hsü Shih-chia, a supernumerary clerk, who is an expectant Secretary in the Board of Civil Office.

16th June, 1889.

WORSHIP ON T’AI SHAN IN SHANTUNG.

Once every year on the 18th of the 4th moon worship is performed on Mount T’ai by either the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Judge of Shantung, the offerings made on the occasion being forwarded under Imperial instructions by a special messenger from Peking. The Governor reports that the ceremony for the present year will be performed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Wang Yu-tao, who will ascend the hill on the appointed day and reverently present the offerings as a token of the devout spirit
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The departure of the first fleet of grain boats from Shantung has already been reported by the Governor of the province, who now adds that the four remaining fleets carrying the grain from the prefectures of Chi-ning, Tung-ch'ang, and Tung-p'ing were tracked safely out of the jurisdiction of the department of Te Chou on the 11th May last, and proceeded thence on their journey northward.

APPOINTMENT OF PREFECT IN TURKESTAN.

The acting Governor of Turkestan recommends an officer for the appointment of Prefect at Ti-hua. This prefecture, which was until recently an independent department, adjoins Barkul on the east, Hi and Tarbagatai on the north-west, and is conterminous with Turfan and Karashar on the south. Its strategic position makes it the key of the west, and it is of great importance that it should be under firm control. Pan Hsiao-su, a Hunan man, aged 51, who is at present Senior Magistrate of Ho-tien, is the officer recommended for the post. Besides being a man of good natural endowments, he possesses the additional qualification of having had considerable experience of frontier questions during the many years he has served in Turkestan.

17th June, 1889.

ALTERATION IN THE MILITARY FORCES OF MANCHURIA.

When the late Grand Secretary, Wen Hsiang, completed in 1866 his operations against the mounted brigands of Feng-t'ien, he left a force of 1,600 men, drawn from Kirin and Hei Lung Chiang, under the command of the Military Governor of the lower province, to guard against future disturbances of the same kind. Of the Kirin troops only 163 now remain, while the Hei Lung Chiang force has been reduced to 82 men. For more than 20 years the force has been stationed in Feng-t'ien and during the whole time it has actively co-operated with the local troops in suppressing brigandage. The remnant of it that is now left is naturally anxious to return home, and Ting An, the High Military Commissioner of Manchuria, suggests that the men should each receive a month's pay, be provided with travelling expenses and be incorporated when they get back in the drilled troops of their respective provinces. He further recommends that a cavalry force of 250 men should be enrolled to supply their place in Feng-t'ien and placed under the command of General Tso-Pao-kuei. The new force will, it is computed, cost Tls. 100 a month more than the old one, and this additional expenditure he proposes to defray from the subsidy allotted from Imperial funds for the maintenance of drilled troops in Manchuria.—Approved by Rescript.

REMITTANCES TO PEKING FROM CANTON.

A Decree issued through the Grand Council at the instance of the Board of Revenue was transmitted towards the end of last year to all the provinces, announcing the respective contributions which they were expected to forward during the present year towards the Peking subsidy of Tls. 7,000,000. The Canton salt revenue was assessed at Tls. 200,000, which sum was, on account of the difficulty of sending silver from Canton, to be remitted in bills drawn upon firms of good standing. A remittance of Tls. 50,000 has already been sent, and the Viceroy now reports the transmission of a further instalment of Tls. 50,000, accompanied by Tls. 1,500 to cover loss by exchange, maintenance allowance
to the Board, and similar charges. Advantage has been taken of this opportunity to forward Tls. 10,000, being a contribution from the same source towards defraying the expenditure of the Imperial Household Department. Although the above sums have been remitted in bills, an officer has been specially deputed to proceed to Peking to make arrangements for the payment of the money.

19th June.

DEPARTURE OF HSIEH FU-CH'ENG.

Hsieh Fu-ch'eng, the newly appointed Minister to England, had audience of the Emperor yesterday, and after receiving instructions was granted two months’ leave of absence before proceeding to Europe.

TOUR OF MILITARY INSPECTION IN MANCHURIA.

The Governor of Kirin having been busily engaged during the early part of the year in instituting measures for the relief of the distress in his province, the duties of inspecting the garrisons within his jurisdiction devolved upon I-k-o-t*ang-a, then Lieutenant-General at Hun-ch'un. The latter now reports that he inspected and reviewed the troops at Hun-ch'un, Yen-chikang, Ninguta, San-hsing, and various other stations, and found them in every case to be excellently drilled and equipped. He also investigated the reclamation schemes and commercial questions which he was instructed to enquire into, and on these he proposes to furnish a separate report. During his absence he was transferred on promotion to the Military Governorship of Hei Lung Chiang, and as he is at present at Kirin and his successor at Hun Ch'un already on his way from Peking he proposes to proceed direct to his new post.

REMITTANCES FROM CANTON CUSTOMS DUTIES.

The Canton Customs duties were assessed by the Board of Revenue during the present year in the following sums as contributions towards various items of Imperial expenditure. For Peking subsidy, Tls. 100,000 from Foreign Customs and Tls. 60,000 from the recent supplementary assessment of same; for frontier defence expenditure on the north-east, Tls. 120,000 from the six-tenths of the Foreign Customs duties; for defence funds in general, Tls. 120,000 from the four-tenths of the Foreign Customs duties, and Tls. 200,000 from the six-tenths of same. The latter items were, however, to be retained in Canton as before for the payment of foreign loans. For increasing the salary of Peking officials, Tls. 6,000 were to be furnished every quarter from the four-tenths of the Foreign Customs revenue, in addition to an annual payment of Tls. 40,000 for the same object. The closing item of the list is an annual payment of Tls. 300,000 which is forwarded in quarterly instalments to the Treasury of the Imperial Household. The Viceroy and Hoppo now report the transmission by bills of a sum of Tls. 160,700 as a second instalment of the above assessment.

REMITTANCE FROM THE T'AI-P'ING CUSTOMS AT CANTON.

The T'ai-p'ing Customs Station was originally required by the Board of Revenue to contribute Tls. 150,000 during the present year to the Peking Subsidy, Tls. 100,000 of which was subsequently appropriated to the Imperial Household Department. Tls. 40,000 of the above amount have been already forwarded, and a further sum of Tls. 35,000 in bills drawn upon good Canton houses is now being forwarded to Peking by an official agent, who is to have them cashed and the proceeds delivered to the Department concerned. These payments have been advanced by the Provincial Treasury, to which they will be refunded as soon as the Customs Revenue is received from the Taotai in charge of the station.

20th June.

THE EMPEROR'S ENGAGEMENTS DURING A MORNING.

To-morrow morning at 2 o'clock the Emperor leaves the Palace by the Shun-ch'en and Shen-wu Gates, and proceeding through the Hou Men and the An-ting Men, visits the Temple of the Earth, where he will perform worship at 4 a.m. These ceremonies having been completed, His Majesty will return through the An-ting Gate and proceed to the Ifung-ho Kung, where he will change his dress and partake of early breakfast. Thence the Imperial procession will continue on its way to the Temple of the God of Fire, where His Majesty will burn incense, after which it will return through the Hou Men, and, traversing the Po-ch'ang street, will re-enter the Palace by the Hsi-yuan Gate. On his return the Emperor will give audience to his Ministers and proceed to the transaction of official business.

APPOINTMENTS.

Ch'en Chao- wen and T'an-chi are nominated principal and assistant Examiners respectively for the province of Kansu at the forthcoming triennial examinations. Similar posts in Hunan have been conferred upon Kao Keng-en and Ch'en-mien, a Senior Wrangler of some years standing; while for Szechuan the chief and
assistant Examiners are Hu P'iu-chih and Huang Ch'ü-yüan respectively.

REPAIR OF IMPERIAL TOMBS.

Ting-an, the Imperial Military Commissioner in Manchuria, who seems to combine with his other duties that of exercising supervision over the Tombs of the ancestors of the present ruling family, has suggested that a lucky day should be chosen for commencing the repairs of the Fu and Chao Mausolea, and the Imperial Board of Astrologers has received instructions to select a day suitable for the purpose during the sixth moon of the present year.

CREATION OF MILITARY AND CIVIL POSTS IN THE LO-HEI COUNTRY ON THE EXTREME FRONTIER OF YUNNAN.

In various memorials which have appeared in the Gazette during the past two years the Viceroy of Yunnan and Kueichow has reported the subjugation and incorporation into the empire of a large tract of savage-dom, known as the Lo Hei Shan, on the south-west corner of Yunnan bordering upon Burma. In two memorials he now submits the arrangements he has made for establishing permanent civil and military administration in the district. The post of native administrator is to be abolished, and the following civil appointments are to be substituted for it:—A first class Sub-prefect with an Archivist and two Deputy Magistrates. The district is full of malaria and extremely unhealthy, and as there are many administrative measures still to be taken for the settlement of the country, it is important that the person selected for the post of Sub-prefect should have a constitution capable of withstanding the climate and at the same time possess great experience of frontier matters. These requirements are found in Li Ying-t'ang, a native of Kiangsi, aged 54, who has served for many years in Yunnan and has gradually risen to the position of Senior Department Magistrate. He is now holding the acting post to which he is substantively promoted, and he has been warmly recommended by the Financial and Judicial Commissioners of the province as a man of abundant capacity and tried experience. The following military posts have been created in the same district:—one Lieutenant-Colonel, two Captains, two Lieutenants, six Sergeants, three second Sergeants, six Corporals, and seven Lance Corporals, all of whom are to be eligible for transfer after three years' service in the district. The officer selected for the post of Lieutenant-Colonel is Yü-ch'ih Tung-hsiao, a native of Yunnan, aged 44, who is at present acting in that capacity, and who distinguished himself greatly some years ago at Pu-pa in Annam. No nominations have so far been made to the other appointments, which will be filled up later on.

21st June.

MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE PACIFICATION OF THE LO-HEI COUNTRY.

Ts'en Yu-ying reports that on the death from malaria of Wêng Tê-kao, the Sub-prefect whom he had placed in charge of the new department of Chên-pien in the Lo-hei country, he appointed as his successor Li Ying-t'ang. On arriving at his post this officer accompanied the Acting Colonel Yü-ch'ih Tung-hsiao on a tour of inspection through the new country. They took a census of the population, urged the people to reclaim the waste land, and enquired into their condition and grievances. The headmen of lower Mêng-yün complained that the adjacent tribe of Nan-cha savages continually bore them a grudge because they had given in their allegiance to China, and in order to vent their spite, they leagued together with the wild Ch'ia-wa and made repeated raids upon Mêng-yün. These wild Ch'ia-wa were naturally a superstitious and stupid people, and at sowing time each year they carried off human victims, whose heads they offered as a sacrifice in the fields in aid of their prayers for an abundant harvest. They had now made Nan-cha their stronghold and showed greater ferocity even than before. Men acquainted with savage habits, who had been engaged by the Prefect and the Colonel to go and admonish them, had been barbarously put to death. The Mêng-yün headmen were unanimously of opinion that their own district could enjoy no peace until the Nan-cha savages were exterminated, and they each promised to supply a number of able-bodied men to co-operate in this task. The Prefect and his colleague, finding that matters had reached a stage when it was impossible to draw back, raised a force consisting of Imperial troops and native militia, and proceeded to occupy some strong posts in the Nan-cha country in the hope that this military demonstration would overawe the savages and effect a complete reformation in their habits. Unfortunately, however, the Nan-cha savages, relying on the support of the wild Ch'ia-wa, showed but scant respect for the Imperial troops, and the latter were too little removed above the condition of the brute creation to be able to understand their own interests. Accordingly, on the 6th March they sallied forth and attacked the Imperial
troops, but were completely defeated by them. The savage encampment in the Nan-chia country was demolished, and some scores of the most valiant of the natives were slain. The Ch'ia-wa who accompanied them fled to their fastnesses in the hills. The season for the spring ploughing being close at hand, the Chinese commanders did not feel justified in taking their troops to a distance in pursuit, but in the event of any further raids being made by the savages fresh operations will be commenced. Such was the report presented to the Viceroy, and in remarking on it he states that the Lo-hei and Ch'a-wa are two reckless tribes of savages on the extreme limits of the prefecture of Shun-ning which have been continually giving trouble since the reign of Chia Ch'ing. The Lo-hei who border upon the settled districts of Chinese territory were reduced to subjection the year before last, and being now gradually brought under the influence of Chinese civilisation will, it is hoped, remain permanently tranquil. The country of the wild Ch'a-wa is inaccessible, and the people being brave and ferocious there will be difficulty in immediately bringing them under control. It is possible, however, that the impression that has been made upon them by the present operations may have the effect of keeping them tolerably quiet for a time, and as soon as some progress has been made with the settlement of the Lo-hei country and other hill districts, measures will be gradually adopted for dealing with them also and ensuring permanent tranquillity among the tribes. — Imperial Rescript: Noted.

22nd June.

BADMANWRITING A BAR TO PROMOTION.

A Secretary of the Grand Secretariat, one Yii-lien, whose name stood first on the list for promotion, was recently selected to fill a vacancy among the secretaries at the office of the Grand Council, caused by one of their number having been appointed to a Taotaiship in Shansi. The Grand Secretariat has now written to the President of the Grand Council to say that Yii-lien is affected by a trembling of the hand which will prevent his writing with regularity and elegance. It is therefore proposed that his appointment be cancelled and the next officer on the list be given the post. — Approved.

UNWILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE PROMOTION.

The Secretaries of the Grand Secretariat are eligible for promotion to a position in the Grand Clan Court or a certain other State Department. But if they obtain this promotion they find any prospects of further rise almost hopeless. The consequence is that as soon as a vacancy in the Clan Court occurs, the Secretaries of the Grand Secretariat hurry to ask for leave of absence, so that they may escape being selected; and though there are more than thirty of them, there is not one willing to take the promotion. To remedy this state of things it is proposed to make the Secretaries of the Imperial Clan Court eligible for certain sub-prefectships, and so do away with the existing stagnation.

23rd June.

EMPEROR OFFERS THANKS FOR RAIN.

The Emperor announces his intention of proceeding on the 25th instant to the Ta-kao Tien to offer thanks for the rain which Heaven has sent in response to his prayers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE TAO-TAI OF KIUNGCHOW.

The Taotai at Kiungchow had recently occasion to visit Canton on public business. While on board the steamer he caught a chill, which brought on a sharp attack of fever and ague. He had previously suffered much from malarial complaints during the last two years at Kiung-chow; and in order that he may obtain medical aid he requests that he may be allowed to remain two months in Canton. The Viceroy reports that he has granted the required leave of absence, and speaks in high terms of commendation of the good work done by the Taotai in his insular jurisdiction.

A SUB-PREFECT CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION.

The Viceroy at Canton brings a number of serious charges against a Sub-Prefect named Chin Kuei-hsing, who was recently in charge of the important district of Chia-ying Chou. During his term of office the Sub-Prefect was found by the Viceroy to neglect all important matters of business, and in all his reports he shows that his only object was his own pecuniary gain. He received several severe admonitions but showed no signs of improvement in his conduct, and when he knew that he would soon leave his post he gave free license to his servants to plunder the people as they pleased. On the day of his departure he was pursued by the maledictions of the people of Chia-ying, who stopped his boat and pelted it with stones. Afterwards a formal charge was lodged against him by gentry of good position living in Chia-ying Chou. They asserted that the late Sub-Prefect had been in the habit of constantly fining people who
were involved in lawsuits in his Court, ordering them to pay money for the benefit of objects or institutions of public utility. But when he left his post all this money disappeared excepting a few hundred taels given by him to the public library and the city temple. The Taotai of the Circuit who was ordered to make enquiries, reported that not only had the Sub-Prefect been in the habit of inflicting arbitrary fines, but his servants had undoubtedly extorted money from the suitors under the guise of loans. The Sub-Prefect was therefore ordered to produce two of his men for examination. But instead of doing so he endeavoured to exculpate himself. He said that all fines inflicted by him were credited to the public accounts, and that as all the money received by his servants was either free gifts or loans, apparently they could not have been guilty of extortion. The Viceroy is very angry with the impudence and the lameness of these excuses. He begs that the Sub-Prefect may be cashiered and forced to produce his two servants, in order that a thorough investigation may be held.—

Approved.

SETTLERS NEAR SOOCHOW SENT HOME AGAIN.

Last autumn a small number of strangers settled in the district of Hsin-yang and began to till some of the waste lands there. They were natives of distant parts of China, who had left the places where they were settled on account of the failure of the harvest. As they were only a few score in number and they had already sown the land, the Magistrate of the district did not like to turn them out. Afterwards certain disreputable individuals, with an eye to the profits which they hoped to make, inaugurated a regular system of introducing immigrants; and the strangers whom they brought in spread not only through Hsin-yang, but also through the districts of T'ai-ts'ang, Chen-yang, Ch'ang-shu and Chao-wen, and two hundred and forty in T'ai-ts'ang and Chen-yang. Boats were hired and travelling expenses furnished for all of them; and, as they passed in detachments through Soochow, they were supplied with food. In conclusion the Governor requests that punishment may be inflicted on the individuals who for their private gain introduced the immigrants and gave them certificates to hold land.—

Approved.

GOVERNOR OF CHAHAR PUNISHED.

A Decree was published in the Gazette of the 10th June by which an official at Kalgan was cashiered for extortion, and orders were issued to the Board of War to determine what punishment should be inflicted on the official’s superior, the Governor of Chahar, for not keeping a proper check on his subordinate. The Board named as the penalty for the Governor, the loss of three steps of rank and removal to another post. This the Emperor now commutes to the loss of three steps without removal from present office.

PARDON OF A CONVICT IN RETURN FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

Ch'en Ching-yuan, a native of Hupeh and formerly an official, was convicted seven or eight years ago of cheating a distant cousin out of a considerable sum of money. The cousin, moreover, was so much overcome by grief at her loss that she took her own life. The offender was sentenced to receive a hundred blows and was banished...
to the town of T'ai-chow Fu in Chêkiang, where he lived under surveillance. Four years ago a number of members of the unlawful society, called the Ko-lao Hui, came to T'ai-chow and entered into a conspiracy with a robber band in the neighbouring town of Hsien-chii. The police were on the look out for their leaders, but could not ascertain their whereabouts. Ch'en Ching-yuan however discovered where they were concealed, and by the information which he gave to the Prefect they were arrested as they were arranging a rising. He afterwards joined the military police of the district, and by his skill as a spy or detective he at different times secured the arrest of a number of most important criminals, several others being killed in resisting capture. As he has rendered these valuable services and, moreover, he has conducted himself with perfect propriety during the time that he has been under surveillance, it is requested that the remainder of his sentence may be remitted and he may be allowed to return to his home. If he ever again be guilty of any crime, he will be liable to be punished with a greater degree of severity on account of his having committed a former offence. —Referred to the Board of Punishments.

June 25th.

SUSPECTED EMBEZZLEMENT OF STORES AT JEHO.

Some time ago, (vide Gazette of 30th March), a memorial was published with reference to the suspected embezzlement of a quantity of government rice at Jeho. Some repairs had been executed at the Imperial Palace in that city, and the officers who superintended them suggested that, as they alleged had been done on previous occasions, the cost should be paid by selling some of the dirty rice at the bottom of the government granary. Afterwards no such precedent as alleged was discoverable, and, the officers being suspected of peculation, an official enquiry was ordered to be held. The result of the investigation is now published at great length. It appears that there was no embezzlement; the grain sold was really waste rice; and the money received was applied in payment for the repairs. There was even a precedent for the course adopted; but as those concerned failed to find it and draw attention to it at the proper time, it is suggested that the Board should inflict some penalty upon them.—Approved.

26th June.

RESISTANCE TO CHANGE OF CURRENCY IN KIRIN.

A memorial from the high authorities of Kirin states that it has long been the practice in the provincial capital to make use of irredeemable bank notes instead of money. The custom having proved to be injurious to the government, the army and the people alike, the memorialists obtained permission from the Emperor to put a stop to it altogether. On the promulgation of a notice to this effect unbounded joy was manifested by the public. At the same time six months’ warning was given to those concerned, and arrangements were made for carrying out the change gradually. The utmost consideration was thus shown to the merchants, who, notwithstanding, in their greed and covetousness swore an oath not to obey. As a first step they bribed certain unworthy gentlemen, who drew up for them a general petition full of bad arguments and concealed threats; but the memorialists refused to be influenced by this. Finally one house, the Jui-shang Bank, has now suddenly closed its doors for no cause. Unavoidable bankruptcy they was a common enough occurrence and would call for no special remark. But in the present instance the pretended insolvents had only four days previously received twelve thousand taels on account of one government department and ten thousand taels on account of another. Their action can therefore only be regarded as a deliberate swindle conceived with the object of putting pressure on the authorities. The enormity of the offence is moreover aggravated by the fact that they have long been the busiest of traders and have made immense profits at the expense of other people. The memorialists have ordered the prefect to imprison both the proprietors of the bank and their assistants, and to take measures to recover the moneys owed by them. Even if they discharge all their liabilities in full, they must still be punished severely, in order that others may be warned by their example. It is further requested that one of the officers from whom they received the government money may also be made a defendant in the case; in order that it may be discovered by a rigorous investigation whether he acted in collusion with them or not.—Approved.

GUNBOATS FOR THE SUNGARI.

The River Sungari, says the Governor of Kirin, runs for a thousand li through the
provinces of Kirin and Hei-lung Chiang, having on its south the cities of Petuna, Altchuen and Sansing in the one territory, and on its north Hulan and Payen-susu in the other. Its banks are buried in dense willow beds, and its waters wind through numerous sand banks and islands likewise covered with trees and bushes. These thickets form the haunts of robber-bands, which prey upon the merchants who travel up and down the stream in summer; and for want of a force of boats the authorities are powerless to cope with the evil. The new Governor of Hei-lung Chiang intends to take steps as soon as possible for establishing a fleet. The memorialist for his part has obtained from the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, a copy of the regulations for the river gunboats in Chihli, and has altered them slightly so as to suit local conditions. He proposes to build and commission:

One large gunboat, armed with two guns, and carrying the commander of the flotilla.
Two medium-sized gunboats, each with two guns, commanded by lieutenants.
Nine small boats with one gun each, and a non-commissioned officer, three of them being attached to each of the larger ones.

For the crews of the flotilla there will further be twelve steerers, and twelve quartermasters, thirty gunners and one hundred and eight rowers. Also one paymaster, one secretary, two orderlies, all for the original coat and freight combined, accounts for the cost of the telegraph posts. The line runs through the province for a distance of 1,406 li, terminating at Hei-lung-chen Shan. 14,050 posts have been provided, including side posts, and one spare post for every li. The money spent, for original cost and freight combined, amounts to Tls. 34,073.

In a second paper the same memorialists report that the line runs also for 625 li through the province of Kirin, from Kirin city to the neighbourhood of Petuna. For this section the Kirin authorities provided the posts, which were 4,593 in number and cost Tls. 7,836; the Hei-lung Chiang Government repaid them the amount.

28th June.

EXTORTION BY OFFICIAL AT KALGAN.

An official secretary at Kalgan was recently denounced to the Throne for extorting illegal fees from the Mongols in charge of the government flocks and herds in the neighbourhood, and his superior the Governor of Chahar was accused at the same time of screening and protecting him. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang was therefore ordered by the Emperor to enquire into the case; and he now reports the result of his investigation.

As the Prefect of the neighbouring city of Hsüan-hua Fu was just going into Mongolia on government business, the Viceroy availed himself of that officer's services. The Prefect visited the country of the herdsmen incognito, and made secret enquiries through Mongol-speaking Chinese and Chinese-speaking Mongols. He found that in the autumn three years ago the Secretary in question went to inspect the government herds. From each chief herdsmen he demanded a fee of Tla. 12. If any demurred at paying, he ordered them to move their herds to a distant spot, build a cattle-yard there and dig a well. The herdsmen all begged for milder terms, and he at last consented to take Tls. 6.50 instead. There being two hundred and sixty herds, this produced a sum of Tla. 1,690. As soon as this was settled, the Secretary concluded his inspection, without ever looking at the cattle to see if they were in full numbers or in proper condition. There are four banks in Kalgan through which the government allowances are issued to the chief herdsmen. It was arranged that these banks should stop from the allowances the sums promised to the Secretary, and write off equivalent amounts from losses made by them to him previously. The Prefect obtained possession of the books of one bank, and found three
entitities which conclusively proved that
nearly six hundred taels had been received
through it from the herdsmen on account
of the Secretary. It was therefore not
thought necessary to examine the books of
the other banks. It further appeared that
charges were twice lodged against the
Secretary at the Governor’s Office, and on
the second occasion the payments through
the bank were mentioned as proof; but the
Governor could not be induced to give the
case a fair hearing.

The Viceroy represents that penal servit­
dude on the Amoor frontier would be the
proper punishment for the Secretary; but
if the Emperor should allow him the benefit
of the Act of Grace published two years ago,
he should still be cashiered without possi­
ibility of re-employment. The Governor,
says the Viceroy, is acquitted of having
acted corruptly. He has always enjoyed
a high reputation for honesty, and on this
occasion he was deluded by the cunning of
the Secretary. But for his failure to keep
control over his subordinate or to investi­
gate thoroughly the complaints made to
him, the Board concerned should be di­
rected to determine an adequate penalty.
(For Decrees vide Gazettes of June 10th
and June 24th).

29th June.

DEATH OF TS’EN YÜ-YING, VICEROY OF
YÜNNAN AND KUEICHOW.

A Decree.—Ts’en Yü-ying was a man
endowed with a loyal and patriotic nature,
combined with solid attainments and tried
experience. As a graduate, he volunteered
for service in the field, and during the
Mahometan rebellion in the reigns of Hsien
Fêng and T’ung Chih, he attracted the fa­
vourable notice of our august predecessors
by whom he was gradually raised to the
position of acting Treasurer of the province.
Subsequently, on his promotion to the
office of governor, at a time when the
Imperial troops were reduced in number
and suffering from a deficient commissariat,
the enthusiasm which he infused amongst
the soldiers and his extraordinary skill and
stratagem crowned the Imperial arms with
victory and resulted in the recapture of the
provincial capital, the restoration of order
in Ta-li Fu and other prefectural cities,
the total dispersion of the rebels and
the capture of their leaders and finally in
the pacification of the whole province.
For these splendid services he received
a hereditary title of nobility of the 6th
class. After we ourselves succeeded to the
Throne, we raised him to the position of
Viceroy of Yünnan and Kueichow and
during his tenure of this office he evinced
great capacity and energy in reforming the
civil administration and improving the dis­
cipline and training of the provincial army.
In 1884 he marched beyond the frontiers
at the head of an army and for his brilliant
exploits on this occasion we conferred
upon him a further title of nobility.
During his long residence on the ex­
treme frontier of the Empire the Viceroy
contracted malarial fever and last year
while on a tour of inspection of the
provincial forces he had a return of a
former illness, in consequence of which we
granted him leave of absence to enable him
to recruit his health. Only a month ago
he struggled against his illness so far as to
resume his official duties and we had
hoped that a course of medical treatment
would restore him to health and that
we should long enjoy the benefit of his
services. The sudden news of his death
has moved us to the most profound
sorrow, and we command that the
title of Grand Tutor be conferred upon him,
that his name be enrolled for worship in
the Hall of Distinguished Worthies, and
that a temple be erected to his memory in
the capital of Yünnan. His biography
containing an account of his administration
will be compiled by the State Historians,
and we allot Tls. 1,000, to be paid from
the Treasury of Yünnan, as a contribution
wards defraying his funeral expenses. All
the penalties incurred during his career are
hereby remitted and the Board concerned
will memorialise us respecting the bestowal
of posthumous honours on the deceased
Viceroy which shall be on a scale suited to
the deceased Viceroy en route will make due arrangements for
the conveyance of his remains to his native
place. His eldest son, Ts’en Ch’un-jung,
at present an expectant Tao-t’ai on the
Shansi establishment, will be raised to the
substantive post of Tao-t’ai as soon as a
vacancy occurs. His second son, Ts’en
Ch’un-hsiat, an expectant Sub-prefect, will
become an expectant Prefect: his third son,
Ts’en Ch’un-hsien, who was formerly a
Secretary in the Board of Works, will be
made an expectant Director of the 5th
class of a Metropolitan Court, his next son Ts’en
Ch’un-ming will be introduced at Court as
soon as the period of mourning for his
father shall have expired, while his youngest
son, Ts’en Ch’un-chun, and his grandson,
Ts’en Té-chun will be similarly introduced
as soon as they have obtained years of dis­
ccretion. These commands we issue in
token of our high regard and affectionate
reverence for a loyal and devoted
servant.
RECITAL OF THE SACRED EDICT IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui states that reading and explaining the Sacred Edict is one of the functions assigned to District Officers in the manual published for their guidance by Imperial Authority, the object being to enlighten the ignorant people and improve their morals. It was never intended that the ceremony should be performed in the perfunctory manner which is now so usual. The people of the North of Anhui are among the most turbulent in the Empire. Last year they were inundated by the waters of the Yellow River, but thanks to the Imperial goodness they were relieved in their distress, and now that the breach in the River has been closed they have been once more restored to their homes. The present therefore seems a favourable opportunity for inculcating on them moral truths. The Governor has accordingly invited two itinerant lecturers of great reputation for making impression upon their audiences to come to the province and explain to the people the maxims of the Sacred Edict. They have already traversed three of the largest prefectures and departments in the province and have everywhere met with willing listeners. This good work has been prosecuted at the Governor's own expense and as it would have been impossible to go over the whole region if the old custom of lecturing only on the 1st and 15th of the month had been observed no fixed days have been appointed for holding the reading.

MEDICINAL HERB FOR THE COURT.

The Governor of Anhui acknowledges the receipt about 18 months ago of a telegram from the Tsung-li Yamen in which he was instructed to procure and forward to Peking a supply of Yeh-chu, a wild herb growing in the hills of Shih Hsien, and used by the Court for medicinal purposes. He has already forwarded 40 ounces of it to the Imperial Househould, and he now sends a further quantity of 36 ounces all of which was procured by natives of the district employed to go into the hills and gather it.

MEMORIAL TEMPLE TO LIU CH'ANG-YU.

Shên Ping-ch'ing, the Governor of Kuangsi, reports that the construction of the memorial Temple to Liu Ch'ang-yu in the provincial capital, which was sanctioned some time ago on the application of the acting Governor, Li Ping-hang, has now been completed and that the tablet of the deceased Viceroy has been duly placed in the edifice. It is asked that it should be entered on the list of consecrated buildings at which worship is to be offered by the local authorities in the spring and autumn of each year.—Granted by Rescript.

30th June.

APPOINTMENTS.

Wang Wên-shao, a former member of the Tsung-li Yamen and at present Governor of Hunan, is appointed Viceroy of Yunnan and Kueichow. T'ân Chên-p'ei, the Governor of Yunnan, is to act as Viceroy until Wang Wên-shao arrives. Shao Yu-lien is gazetted Governor of Hunan and is to come to Peking for audience before proceeding to his new post. K'uai Tê-p'ao, the present Lieutenant Governor of Hupeh, is transferred in a similar capacity to Formosa as successor to Shao Yu-lien, and his place in Hupeh has been conferred upon T'âng Hua-hsi, the Judicial Commissioner of Yünnan. The latter's successor in Yünnan is Ts'ên Yü-p'ao who is apparently a brother of the late Viceroy, Ts'tên Yü-ying.

DEATH OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVELLING MISSION TO EUROPE.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS SOLICITED FOR HIM.

Liu Jui-fên, Chinese Minister to England and France, reports the death, under painful circumstances, of one of the members of the Travelling Mission to Europe, and requests that orders should be issued for the bestowal of posthumous honours to his memory. On the 15th of December last while staying at the Chinese Legation in Paris the Minister received letters from three members of the Chinese Travelling Mission in London stating that one of their colleagues, K'ung Chao-ch'îen, was suffering from mental derangement and had had no lucid intervals for several days past. His appearance having undergone a great change they had called in a foreign doctor and only then learned that he had swallowed a dose of opium. They concluded by stating that every effort was being made to preserve his life. The following day he received another letter from them in which they informed him that the patient after taking repeated doses of medicine prescribed by the foreign doctor had at length got rid of the opium at noon on the previous day, but that his mental condition had not improved and the loudest sound failed to attract his attention. The doctor said that his spinal column had been fractured for some days and gave no hope of his recovery. He lingered on till the 14th December when he passed quietly away at 10 a.m. The deceased had stated to his companions that he had a previous attack of the disease in 1886 from which he had recovered, but they had not ascertained any further particulars regarding it. The return of the illness was, they
stead and he is beset with countless ills.

His nieinr»ry is gone, his gait un-

brought on by the ardour with which he pursued his researches in Europe, and his anxiety to justify the confidence reposed in him by his country. They forwarded to the Minister two foreign medical certificates attesting the circumstances connected with his death. The Minister then wrote and gave directions for the conveyance of his remains to China by steamer, and asked that enquiries should be made as to where he had procured the opium. The reply which he received was to the effect that this opium was contained in a medicine chest brought by the deceased from China and that his remains had been sent home in the British steamer Ko-lun-ko-lai (sic) on the 8th of January last. On their arrival at Shanghai the Minister had directed the officers in charge of the department for the transmission of correspondence to take charge of the remains and hand them over to his relatives. The medical certificates and other documents connected with the event were forwarded to the Taungli Yamên. The Minister states that the deceased came to London in the early part of February 1888 and that from the frequent opportunities he had of seeing him, he had formed a high opinion of his intelligence, diligence and general aptitude for the work on which he was engaged. He had travelled through Scotland and Ireland, and it is submitted that his case is one for the bestowal of posthumous honours.

In a postscript, the Minister explains the delay which has occurred in presenting this memorial. He had asked the Taungli Yamên to make a representation to the Throne on the subject, but in a telegraphic reply they informed him that the statement should emanate from himself.—

APPLICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR OF KUEICHOW FOR PERMISSION TO RETIRE.

P'an Wei, the Governor of Kueichow, states that he has suffered severely from dysentery every summer since he went to the province. He has already received two periods of furlough and only recently returned to duty to superintend the arrangements connected with the opening of mines. The machinery from Europe made its journey up the rapids in safely and has all arrived at its destination. Furnaces have been set up and there is every prospect of procuring an abundant supply of iron. At the same time, the Governor's health has been gradually getting worse and is such as to cause him grave apprehension for the future. His memory is gone, his gait unsteady and he is beset with countless ills.

He would therefore ask permission to be allowed to seek rest and repose in retirement from public duties.—

RETENTION OF PREFECT TO SUPERINTEND MINING ARRANGEMENTS IN KUEICHOW.

The Governor of Chên-yüan in Kueichow having been ordered to Peking for audience, the Governor asks that he should be retained in the province for the present and addsuce the following reasons in support of his application. The district ruled by the Prefect closely adjoins Ch'ing-hsi where the iron mines are being opened. His long experience of the province makes the Prefect a very competent superintendent of the arrangements connected with the enterprise, which could not well be suddenly entrusted to another.—

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENSORATE.

Ch'i Shih-ch'ang, the President of the Censorate, states that his father, the late Grand Secretary, Ch'i Chün-tao, has been dead for over twenty years and that during all that time he has only been able to pay two visits to his grave, the last of which took place over ten years ago. His own eldest son is dead, and his only other son is too young to attend to family concerns. His other relatives in Shanai are all either too young or too stupid to be entrusted with the duty. He therefore applies for four months' leave of absence to enable him to repair the family cemetery.—

1st July.

APPOINTMENTS.

Hsi Chih-hsing is gazetted Senior Vice-President of the Censorate, and the appointment of Salt Intendant in Fukien has been conferred upon Lung Hsi-ch'ing.

July 2nd.

MILITARY REWARDS FOR THE CAPTURE OF BRIGANDS.

The Censor Liu En-p'u remarks that the capture of brigands forms one of the most important duties of the local authorities everywhere, and adds that where their numbers or power make their capture by the local authorities a matter of difficulty, the resources at the disposal of the latter ought to be supplemented by the military force. As, however, the military authorities are not likely to display any great alacrity in the matter unless they can count on rewards for their exertions, he suggests that in ten districts and departments enumerated by him in Honan, Shantung and Aului which have long been
celebrated as haunts of criminals of this class, the capture of notorious brigands should entitle the military authorities to rewards on the same scale as services in the field.—Decree separately issued.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

K'uei Ch'in, Chief Justice of Fukien, had audience yesterday and received instructions before returning to his post. Prince Ch'ing has been granted five days' leave of absence, and Lung Hsi-ch'ing returns thanks for his appointment as Salt Intendant of Fukien.

CAPTURE OF THE LEADER OF A SECRET SOCIETY IN FUKIEN.

The Governor-General at Foochow states that the prefecture of Hsing-huo has long been the seat of two Secret Societies known respectively as the Black and White Flags, for whose suppression Imperial instructions were formerly issued. The head of the latter of these societies was a notorious rebel of the Pu-t'ien district who, at the head of a large following had long escaped the meshes of the law.

So powerful was he that the people were afraid to inform against him and the troops had not the courage to attempt his arrest. Four years ago he proceeded to a neighbouring village and completely sacked and burnt the house of a man named Kuo, against whom he had a grudge, and ended by killing the man himself and carrying off his wife and children. Last year, he and another member of the Society kidnapped some women and girls, and his accomplice, having been arrested, he gathered together a number of men and effected his rescue, and being subsequently attacked by the military authorities he offered a stubborn resistance, killed one of the soldiers and made his escape. He then established another Society which he dedicated to the God of Thunder. Orders having been given for his arrest and rewards offered to the military authorities, he was by means of spies entrapped into an ambuscade and captured after a desperate fight in which he killed three of the soldiers. He himself was summarily decapitated and four of his confederates are to be separately dealt with, while a number of others who were forced to join his cause are to be discharged without punishment. The authorities concerned are recommended for various forms of reward for having freed the country from such a source of danger.

3rd July.

CASE OF RAPE AND MURDER OF THREE GIRLS IN KIANGSI.

The following case of the kidnapping and murder of three girls is reported by the Governor of Kiangsi. The offenders were three men named Li Yu-ching, Chung Yuan-ying and Chung Yuan-ho, residents in the district of Hsing-huo. The first was a roving soldier who had been dismissed from the army when serving in Fukien, the second kept a shop for the sale of incense and candles, and the third was a barber by trade. In the same neighbourhood there lived three girls who had been brought up in a family bearing the surname of Yeh with a view to becoming the future wives of the sons of their foster parents. The three men, meeting together one day, talked, as is the custom of all criminals in the Gazette, of their poor prospects in their respective callings, and agreed, at the suggestion of Li, who had experience of Fukien during his military career there, to start a scheme for kidnapping girls and taking them for sale to Ting Chou in that province. A few days after this compact had been entered into, Li Yu-ching happened to come across the three girls belonging to the Yeh household as they were engaged in gathering wild herbs, and entered into conversation with them, in the course of which he persuaded them to accompany him to Ting Chou, where they were to enter the house of a wealthy gentleman who would provide them with all they could desire in the way of food and clothing. He took the girls to the shop kept by his associate, Chung Yuan-ying, and it was decided that they should for the moment be placed in hiding in the upper storey of the building. Some difficulties having arisen with the owner of the premises, the girls were carried off to a mountain recess where they were ravished by the men in turn. In the meantime, the Yeh family were searching everywhere for the missing members of their household, and to escape discovery, the men thought it prudent to remove with their victims to a cave in the hills still further away from human habitation. To obviate the suspicion that would attach to them if they were met by anyone on their way there, the barber shaved the head of one of the girls who was dressed in a boy's costume. The Yeh family prosecuted their search with great vigour, stationed a guard on the high road to Ting Chou, and invoked the assistance of all the neighbouring villages to help them in scouring the hills. Seeing that their position was becoming desperate, the men determined to murder their victims and throw their bodies into a pond in order to create the impression that they had drowned themselves. Stopping the mouths of the girls with cotton wool, they took them one after
the other, pressed them to the ground with their knees and beat them with sticks on the abdomen till they were dead. After obliterating the blood stains on their persons, two of the men returned home, leaving the third to keep watch in the cave, and procured a supply of poles and ropes to enable them to remove the bodies. The wife of one of the murderers who was gathering firewood in the hills happened to pass the cave the following day at noon, looked in and saw the three corpses and returned in a state of great alarm to the village, but did not for the moment disclose what she had witnessed. That night by the light of the moon the three bodies were carried some distance and thrown into a pool of water. The men had scarcely separated before they were arrested and brought to trial. They have been all condemned to decapitation, with exposure of the head, under the law applicable to cases of rape and murder committed by a number of men together.

FAMINE RELIEF IN SHANTUNG.

The Viceroy at Nanking refers to a telegram which he received some time ago from the Taotai at Chefoo making an application for funds to aid in relieving the distress in Ch'ing Chou, Li-ching, and other districts. He immediately telegraphed to the Acting Governor of Kiangsu, and instructed him to forward a sum of Tls. 30,000 from the funds in the Treasury at Soochow, which had been contributed for relief purposes in Kiangsu by the provinces of Kansu and Shensi. Repayment was to be made by Shantung in yearly instalments spread over four years. This remittance, however, having proved insufficient to meet the emergency of the case, the Viceroy telegraphed to the Taotai at Shanghai, directing him to forward to Shantung a further sum of Tls. 20,000, which was the amount received in payment of an old debt by the Shanghai Customs from the China Merchants' Company. This sum, which was transmitted by steamer to Shantung, was to be considered as a free contribution from Kiangsu towards the relief of distress in the former province.

CHANGE OF TAOTAI AT CHINKIANG.

The Viceroy at Nanking reports that Huang Tsu-lo, who was appointed some months ago Taotai Chinkiang, has arrived in the province, and has received instructions to take up his new post.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS FAMINE RELIEF IN KIANGSU.

During the distress which prevailed last year in Kiangsu and Anhui, the Viceroy obtained a special edict from the Throne authorising him, by way of encouraging subscriptions towards famine relief, to offer titles of honour, decorations, and various other forms of reward, to donors of large amounts, and he issued, a circular in this sense to all the provinces. Wang Wen-tsai, a member of the Hanlin, who was formerly Literary Chancellor of Hupeh, subscribed a sum of Tls. 500, and though he does not wish his name to be mentioned as a subscriber, still the Viceroy cannot allow the act to pass unnoticed. The donor of a similar sum in Honan received 5th class rank, and it is suggested that the same honour should be conferred upon Wang Wen-tsai.—Approved.

6th July.

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FAMINE RELIEF IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung gives a long list of large sums of money received from various sources for the benefit of the starving people in the province under his administration. There were Tls. 20,000 which came from the Viceroy at Nanking. This money was forwarded by steamer to Chefoo and was handed to the Customs Taotai there, for distribution among the sufferers. Tls. 20,000 were sent by the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, and a similar sum by the Viceroy at Canton. The Governor of Formosa presented Tls. 3,000 from himself, and Tls. 4,000 from other persons. Lin Wei-yuan, a high official at Peking, contributed Tls. 3,000. Wu Ta-ch'eng and the Governor of Honan together furnished a sum of Tls. 50,000 from funds in their hands, which they gave for distribution to Yen Tso-lin of the Kiangsu charitable society. From the two Governors of Peking there arrived Tls. 10,000. Also the Taotai at Chefoo reported the receipt of contributions raised in Kiangsu to the amount of Tls. 80,000, which were placed in the hands of Yen Tso-lin and his friends for use in the East of Shantung. The same officer also received from Jen Hai-chen, Taotai in Kiangsu, Tls. 25,000 contributed by Chinese and foreign merchants. In addition to this, money was also brought into the province by Englishmen, which they administered themselves. The memorialist was informed by the Viceroy Li Hung-chang that Tls. 15,000 were raised by certain gentlemen of Tientsin, who undertook also to give it away. Lastly the officials in Peking of Shantung origin raised among themselves Tls. 17,000, which they remitted to Shantung. The memorialist recommends to the notice of His Majesty...
both the distinguished generosity of the donors of these large sums, and the arduous labours of those who undertook to superintend the giving of the relief. When he has been able to ascertain exactly the names of the contributors, he will petition the Emperor to bestow upon them some marks of his favour.

THE GREAT FIRE IN SZECHUAN.

The Viceroy Liu Ping-chang states that on the 12th of last April a great fire occurred at the town of Lu Chou in Szechuan. A high wind was blowing, and the flames spread to the buildings inside the walls. When next morning the conflagration was extinguished it was found that three thousand houses had been destroyed, and between ten and twenty thousand lives lost. A sum of Tls. 19,000 has been raised from public and private sources, and devoted to the support of the sufferers.

The Emperor's rescript desires the memorialist to take care that there are funds enough provided to relieve distress, and that the poor are not forced to leave their homes.

ORDERS EXECUTED BY NANKING SILK FACTORY.

The outgoing Superintendent of the Imperial Silk Factory at Nanking reports that at the time of the Emperor's Marriage he was desired by the Board of Works to provide 11,300 pieces of coloured silk. The Board of State Music on the same occasion indented upon him for materials to make 228 satin robes of various qualities and colours. The execution of these orders cost Tls. 47,495 and Tls. 8,445, respectively. The funds were provided, on his addressing the Viceroy, from the revenue of the Salt Commissioner at Hsii-an.

In a subsequent Memorial the same officer states that last March a further indent was made upon him by the Imperial Household for a quantity of silk and satins required by His Majesty for giving away as presents. The Memorialist was allowed a period of four months for the completion of the work. But having proceeded with all possible haste to buy the materials and then have them dyed and woven, he has been able already to finish all the articles of satin comprised in the indent. These were 200 small and 200 large pieces of 'eight-thread' satin, and 100 large and 400 small pieces of 'five-thread' satin. They have been securely packed and forwarded by sea to Peking.

PARRICIDE IN SHANTUNG.

At the end of last year a man living in the district of Jeh Hien in Shantung, hearing that his son wished to sell a piece of land and spend the money, rebuked him sternly and forbade the proceeding. The son answered his father back, upon which the latter went up to him and struck him. The son retaliated with a blow from a hoe, from the effects of which the father died about ten days afterwards. The affair had already been reported to the magistrate and when the death occurred, fresh information was brought to him and an inquest held. The son, however, had absconded immediately after the quarrel, and his place of concealment has not been discovered. The Magistrate left his post and went into mourning a few days after the death of the man. But in view of the heinuousness of the crime committed, the Governor thinks that the Magistrate should not be allowed to go unpunished for his carelessness in letting the criminal escape. It is therefore requested that the Board may determine a penalty to be inflicted upon him.—Approved.

TRIAL OF AN OFFICER IN HONAN.

The Governor of Honan reports the sentences passed by him upon an officer and his son who were convicted of having committed very serious crimes. The elder prisoner was a subaltern officer in the Imperial Guards, but had retired from active service on the ground of ill health, and was living in his native district in Honan. He had two sons, the younger prisoner and another man, both of whom were formerly military graduates, but had been dismissed on account of their overbearing conduct to their fellow villagers. In the adjoining district lived another man of the same surname as the officer and an intimate friend of his, but belonging to an entirely different family. This man, Wang Hu-pien by name, was a member of an unlawful society and was guilty of several acts of open violence and extortion, robbing his neighbours by force. Two of them laid charges against him at the Magistrate's office and a warrant was issued for his arrest. The pursuit becoming hot, he took refuge in the house of the officer, who as an old friend could not refuse to aid in concealing him. The authorities obtained intelligence of his place of concealment, and employed a native of the village to act as a spy. By this man's skill the fugitive was lured from his place of concealment and arrested during the absence of the officer and his sons. When
the two sons were returning home they
were met by the way by the present and
the former tipao of the village, who told
them what had happened. Enraged at
what the spy had done, they determined
immediately to give him a thrashing, and
induced the tipao to assist them. Going
to the house where the man was, they
dragged him into the street and reviled
him. He reviled them back, upon which
they beat him. The younger son and one
tipao struck him with cudgels, and their
companions finally stabbed him in the lower
part of the body, causing his death. His
mother complained to the Magistrate, who
arrested the officer, but the four men im-
imediately concerned escaped and hid them-
selves. Afterwards the younger son cause
of his own accord and delivered himself
up. Meanwhile the original prisoner, the
friend named Wang Hu-pien, had been
rescued by force on his way to prison
by an armed party of his secret asso-
ciates. The officer and his son having been
tried with due formality, the Governor
proceeds to pass sentence on them. He
finds that the offence of the officer is less
grave than that of harbouring robbers and
sharing their plunder; but it comes under
the head of knowingly concealing a crimi-
nal, for which he is liable to punishment
lighter by one degree than that to be in-
ficted on the man concealed. As that in
the present case is death, the officer is
sentenced to penal servitude on the Amoor
frontier. The son is guilty of conspiring
to assault and actually of committing an
assault. But he did not conspire to murder,
nor were the blows inflicted by him the cause
of the man's being killed. He therefore
escapes the death penalty, and is also
sentenced to penal servitude. But as the
evidence of the other offenders might pre-
sent the case in a different light, the two
prisoners will be retained in prison on the
spot for a certain time, in case any of the
others may be arrested.—Referred to the
Board of Punishments.

9th July.

CONVEYANCE OF TREASURE FROM PEKING TO
YELLOW RIVER.

The two Governors of Peking present a
memorial requesting that some reward may
be conferred on the officers who took charge
of the treasure sent from the Board of
Revenue to Honan for the repair of the
great breach in the embankment of the
Yellow River. The year before last there
were forwarded by the Board on separate
occasions two sums of Tls. 2,000,000, and
Tls. 729,000. Last year there were
sent Tls. 160,000, and Tls 120,000.
All this money was despatched from
Peking in carts furnished by the Magis-
trates of the two Peking Districts, and was
placed in charge of officers deputed for the
purpose by the memorialists themselves.
On its arrival at Pao-t'ing Fu it was taken
over by officers appointed by the provin-
cial government of Chihli. These latter escort-
ed it to its destination, where it arrived
speedily without mishap. It is therefore
requested that all the officers may receive
some reward.—Decree issued previously.

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DEVOTION OF A LADY TO HER HUSBAND AND HER MOTHER.

A Prefectural secretary in Honan was
married to a lady, the daughter of another
official. Twelve years ago when travelling
on duty he fell ill and died at an inn. His
widow, who at the time was staying with
her mother, was inconsolable at his loss
and determined to take her own life.
But her mother succeeded in dissuading
her, saying that she was the only sup-
port that remained to the old lady, as
of her two brothers one was dead and
the other was but a boy. For twelve
years therefore she remained with her
mother, attending on her and earning
money for her by needlework. At last
the old lady died, when the daughter im-
imediately began to refuse food, and then
procured poison with which she ended her
life. The Governor of the province requests
that the Emperor will order the erection of
a monument in memory of such marked
affection and filial piety.—Decree issued
previously.

July 10th.

No documents of interest.

July 11th.

ROBBERY OF A PAWNSHOP AT PEKING.

There has recently occurred at Peking a
serious case of burglary, which has caused
the Emperor to order that fresh arrange-
ments be made for the policing of the city.
An account of the robbery is given in a
memorial presented by Fu-k'un, Minister
Superintendent of the Metropolitan Gend-
armerie. One night a party of soldiers and
policemen patrolling the suburbs of the
city. When in the vicinity of the Chau-i
Men, or South East Gate, they discovered
that a burglary was being committed on the
premises of a pawnbroker. They attempt-
ed to seize the robbers, but the latter
offered a violent resistance, firing upon
them from the top of the house. At last
the besieged made a sortie and fled, dis-
charging their pistols in the face of the
soldiers and carrying off a portion of their
booty. A hot pursuit ensued, in which several of the soldiers received gunshot wounds. At last the robbers reached a thicket, where they were lost in the darkness, with the exception of one man who was captured, as well as a bag half full of jewellery, some ammunition and a rope ladder. A dead man was afterwards found at the pawnbroker's shop. It was discovered from the prisoner that this man had fallen from the wall and broken his leg. As he was unable to flee with the others, they had cut his throat to prevent him from being taken prisoner alive and forced to give information against them. Both of the officers in charge of the soldiers, and six of the men were wounded. The latter have received a gratuity from the memorialist, who requests the Emperor to sanction the bestowal of a reward on the officers.

12 July.

YUNNAN. VALUE OF MISSING COPPER MADE GOOD.

Some years ago an officer named Lin Hsi was placed in charge of a government copper office at Po-se in Kuangtung for the purpose of attending to the transmission of the article to Peking. When he relinquished his post it was found that there was a deficiency of 14,000 pounds in the copper which passed through his hands. At the same time the official manager of the Tung-ch'uan mines accused him of fraudulently selling a quantity of the metal. He requested leave to go to his home in Kuangtung in order to raise money so as to be able to make good the deficit to the government. Permission having been refused, he suddenly disappeared. The Governor at Canton was therefore ordered by the Emperor to arrest him and send him to Yunnan. He has now returned of his own accord and has paid over the full value of the fourteen thousand pounds missing. He has since been tried for embezzlement in the Court of the prefect of Yunnan Fu. It there appeared from his evidence, that while he was in charge of the office at Po-se, ill health prevented him from always looking after his work in person; and all the officers who drew copper from his stock for transmission to Peking were in the habit of taking a little more than the proper amount in order that they might not risk making short deliveries when they reached their destination. It thus came about that finally he was left with a large deficiency. When leave of absence was refused to him, he went away without it, only because he had no other possibility of raising funds to meet his liability. The story of his having sold copper appeared to have risen in this wise. A merchant of the same surname as himself was building a house in Po-se, and in levelling the ground for the foundations dug up a quantity of old copper, which he melted down and sold. It was bought by an agent of the Tung-ch'uan manager aforesaid, who was in the habit of thus procuring supplies for Peking when the out-put at the mines was short. Believing from the identity of the names that the merchant was a relation of the officer, and knowing of the deficiency in the copper at the transmission office, the manager came to the conclusion that the officer had been fraudulently selling the metal, and therefore reported him to the higher authorities. These facts having been established at the trial held in the Prefect's Court, and the officer having made good the value of the copper lost by him, the Yunnan Government requests that he may reinstated in his former rank of which he had been deprived.—Approved.

DEATH OF TS'EN YU-YING.

An Imperial Decree published in these columns has already noticed the death of the late Viceroy of Yunnan and Kuichiu. The memorial reporting his decease is now inserted in the Gazette. The late Viceroy, says the memorialist, was originally of a very strong constitution, but ever since his return from the Tongking campaign some years ago, he was subject to constantly recurring attacks of malarial fever. After the conclusion of the leave of absence granted to him last spring he continued to perform his official duties without sparing himself. Latterly he began to suffer from exhaustion coupled with a slight difficulty in walking. At last his mind became hazy; the medicine which he took was of no avail, and he died on the sixth of June. The sad occurrence was immediately telegraphed from the memorialist to the Tung-li Yamên for His Majesty's information. His deathbed address to the Emperor has been received from his family and forwarded by courier to Peking. He leaves five sons living, and seven grandsons.

13th July.

DISTRESS IN SHANTUNG—RELIEF MEASURES NO LONGER REQUIRED.

The Governor of Shantung presents a memorial, in which, in obedience to an Imperial Decree, he briefly describes the measures adopted since the date of his last memorial less than a couple of months ago. On the 15th of June he received an Imperial Decree transmitted through the Grand
Council in which the Emperor after referring to the grain and money contributions that had been forwarded for the relief of distress in Shantung, signified his desire to be informed from time to time as to the manner in which they had been distributed. His Majesty further commanded that the grain in all the district granaries should be ground and honestly distributed in all the regions suffering from distress. The Governor in reply states that in many places the gentry and officials have already finished the work of distribution and that in others the surplus funds are still being used to assist the very poor who are however not in absolute distress. Fortunately in over 60 departments and districts in the south-west of the province there has been an average good wheat harvest which has proved a great boon. In the north-east, however, in the neighbourhood of Hu-t'ing there has been a want of rain, and the harvest is poor. The local authorities have themselves in every instance carefully superintended the relief operations and it will be their duty to continue this supervision and see that the funds are not misapplied. The Governor regrets to say that the store of grain in the district granaries has not been fully replenished since the rebellion. Through the exertions of a late Governor 708,000 piculs of grain were collected for charitable purposes and placed in charge of the gentry in the various districts of the province. 152,000 piculs of this had, however, been used, and when the price of grain rose during the scarcity prevailing last spring, orders were issued to the district officers to employ the remainder of it in the relief of distress. In Ch’ang-ch’ing and 63 other districts and departments 357,800 piculs were thus distributed, leaving an available balance of about 198,000 piculs. The state of the province is as quiet and peaceful as usual and furnishes no reasons for anxiety on the part of the Emperor.—Rescript: Noted.

Funds for the Imperial Mausolea.

The officers in charge of the department invested with the control of the Imperial Mausolea asked that they should be empowered to call upon the Salt Office at Ch’ang-lu to make immediate repayment of outstanding arrears due to them. They explain that their revenue is derived from the rent of land and interest upon capital lent and that for many years past payments have not been made in full, or with regularity. Two years ago the Treasurer of Chilili was ordered to remit to them Tls. 5,000 but he only sent Tls. 2,892. Some extraordinary calls have recently been made upon the department. Last year the remains of Lady Ch’eng, the second consort of Tao Kuang, had to be removed to the Eastern Tombs, and this year much expense has been entailed by repairing the Mausoleum of another Imperial Consort, for all of which there are no available funds. Since 1873 the arrears due from the Ch’ang-lu Salt Department have accumulated to over Tls. 13,000 and it is asked that it should be required to forward at least four or five thousand taels of this amount at once.

Blunder in a Memorial.

Fang Ju-i, who was recently promoted to be Judicial Commissioner of Kiangsi, presented, on arriving at Peking for audience, a complimentary memorial to the Throne, the outer covers of which were found to have been previously used and to be inscribed with characters on the reverse side. For this extraordinary piece of blundering he was handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

Settlement of an Appeal Case in Honan.

Ch’eng Ch’ung-hsin, a native of the Chê-ch’uan department in Honan, bought ten years ago 23 piculs of sesamum from a neighbour named Sung Shih-jung, and having no ready money, asked his brother-in-law Hu Hêng-jung to become security for him for 277 tiao, the price of the article. Interest was to be paid at the rate of 36 per cent, and the whole debt was to be repaid in nine months. Ch’ên lost on the transaction and when the time for payment arrived, he was unable to meet his liabilities which now amounted to 317 tiao. He accordingly made over his farm of 7 mu to his creditor for 277 tiao, leaving a balance of 40 tiao still due. Ten tiao of this Sung remitted on the condition that the remainder should be paid in two months. Ch’ên did not inform his family of the sale of the land and when harvest time came round, his father proceeded to reap the crop. To this Sung naturally objected and a lawsuit ensued, the result of which was that 20 tiao of the debt was struck out and a decree issued for the discharge of the remaining ten tiao. The Ch’ên family refused to accept this arrangement and entered upon a fresh course of litigation. Hu Hêng-jung, who had gone to Shansi in the meantime, was wanted as a witness, and the policemen who were sent to search for him, suspected that he was still at home and entered the house in hopes of finding him. His mother, a frail and sickly old woman, was so startled by
appearance that she slipped and fell, sustaining injuries which resulted in her death a few days later. Nothing would persuade Hu Heng-jung that his mother had met her death by fair means, and he lodged a complaint containing a purely imaginative account of the incident in the local court and eventually carried an appeal to Peking whence his case was sent back to Honan for trial. The above facts, as elicited at the further examination, shew that his action was influenced by affection for his mother, and he has therefore only been sentenced to the slight punishment of 80 blows for bringing an unfounded action. Though the policemen are not responsible for the death of the woman yet as it was indirectly caused by their entrance into the house they are each to receive 80 blows and two months of the cangue.

14th July.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM SZECHUAN FOR REPAIR OF BREACH IN YELLOW RIVER.

The Viceroy of Szechuan reports that during the 14th month in which the system for the sale of official rank has been enforced, 20 titles and decorations were in all disposed of from which Tls. 1,196 was realised, exclusive of Tls. 17.94 representing maintenance allowance for the Board of Revenue.

REVIEW OF TROOPS IN CHENG-TU FU.

The Viceroy of Szechuan, the Tartar General at Cheng-tu Fu and the Commander-in-Chief of the Province present a joint memorial in which they report the result of a Review of the troops in the provincial capital. Ten battalions were marshalled in the Parade Ground and arranged into companies according to the old and new formation. They marched with the utmost precision and showed great skill in volley firing and in the use of the shield and spear. In archery, the average was over eighty per cent. and their performance with the rifle almost reached the same high standard. The most meritorious received rewards in presence of their comrades and a few who were somewhat rusty in their drill were given a certain time in which to make good their defects. The forces in the capital naturally form a model for imitation throughout the whole province, and it is essential that they should be maintained in a perfect state of organisation.

CHANGE OF CHIEF JUSTICE IN HUNAN.

Sun Yi-mou, the Financial Commissioner of Hunan, who was also acting as Chief Justice for the province died on the 19th of May last and his place in the latter office is being temporarily filled by Liu Shih-t’ien, the Grain Intendant, who has served in different capacities for over 20 years in the province.

15th July.

APPOINTMENT.

Wan P’ei-yin is gazetted Taotai of the Yung ting River in Chihli.

OFFICER RECOMMENDED FOR THE POST OF TAOTAI OF THE CH’ING HO.

Liu Shu-t’ang, the Intendant of the Ch’ing Ho having been promoted to be Chief Justice of Kiangsu, Li Hung-chang submits a Memorial regarding the appointment of his successor. The incumbent of the post lives in the provincial capital and rules over two prefectures and five independent departments with control over river administration. It is therefore necessary that the officer holding the post should possess not only administrative talent of a high order, but that he should also have experience of river works. The only officer of the necessary rank in the province who combines all these qualities is the expectant Taotai P’an Chün-tê, an Anhui man, who has done excellent service for the past ten years in the Arsenal at Tientsin and who has acquired an intimate knowledge of the machinery used in river works in Europe. During the present year he superintended the conveyance of the steam launches and railway carriages sent to Peking and he is now in charge of the Naval School recently established at the Lake near Wan Shou Shan. His previous services in instructing the Peking Field Force in the manufacture of gunpowder, in superintending the construction of the Mausoleum for the late Empress, and in many other fields of usefulness have been frequently acknowledged, and when Prince Ch’un made his tour of inspection to Tientsin, His Highness brought him to the special notice of the Throne for his efficient management of the Tientsin Arsenal.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

16th July.

No papers of interest.

17th July.

OFFICIAL CHANGES IN SHANSI.

Shen Chin-hsiang, Intendant of the Chi Ning Circuit in Shansi, having been promoted to be Judicial Commissioner of Hunan, the acting governor of the former province submits a recommendation respecting the appointment of his successor. The Intendancy includes four prefectures
and three independent departments, and the multifarious nature of the duties demands the presence of an officer of exceptional energy and ability. The officer selected for the post is the present Prefect of T'ai-yüan Fu, a Ch'okiang man who has served for nearly a quarter of century in Shansi, and combines with an intimate knowledge of the country administrative abilities of a very high order. Previous to his advancement, Shen Chinsiang was acting Judge of the province and his functions in that capacity are to be temporarily performed by an expectant Taotai, named Wu Ch'i-fu.

18th July.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Hai-chên, President of the Board of Civil office, having obtained a month's leave of absence on grounds of ill-health, his place is to be filled by Lin Shu.

DEATH OF PRINCE KUNG'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

A Decree in this issue of the Gazette deplores the death of Ching-shou, a Duke who was married to a daughter of Tao Kuang by the same mother as Prince Kung. Early in life his Imperial father-in-law made him an Assistant Chamberlain and the two succeeding Emperors honoured him with high office. During the present reign he was placed in charge of the Peking Field Force and was granted the privilege of going through the Forbidden City in a chair carried by four bearers. A sum of Tls. 2,000 is to be issued from the Privy Purse to defray the expenses of his funeral, all his official delinquencies are condoned, ten officers of the Guard are to offer oblations of wine before his coffin and his remains are to be wrapped in a shroud inscribed with the t'oo-jo ritual. His two eldest sons are to be presented at Court as soon as the period of mourning for his father is over, and the youngest, who is a mere boy, will be similarly honoured when he reaches years of discretion.

MODIFICATIONS IN THE ARMY OF TARBAGATAI.

The army of Tarbagatai, as recently re-organised, will consist of three battalions of Chinese infantry and four banners of Manchu troops, numbering a total force of 1,998 men, the yearly pay of whom is estimated at Tls. 118,318, exclusive of a further sum of Tls. 2,700 for allowances of various kinds. The officers number 35, but the General suggests that the number of lieutenants, sergeants and lower offices should be largely increased and the total raised to 67. —Referred to the Board of War.

19th July.

APPOINTMENTS.

Li Tuan-yü and Ch'êng-yin are appointed Chief and Assistant Examiners respectively for Kiang-nan, while similar appointments in Shensi are conferred upon Ts'ao Hung-yün and Liu Chi'uan-fu.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REWARDS OF OFFICERS WHO PROVIDED MATERIALS FOR REPAIR OF THE BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER.

In submitting a memorial enclosing a list of officers whom they recommend for various forms of reward for their exertions in procuring materials for the repair of the breach in the Yellow River, the Director-General of the river and the Governor of Honan remind the Emperor that the present breach was one of the most extensive known in history and that it occurred at a time when, owing to a deficient harvest, there was great difficulty in procuring a requisite supply of millet stalks. The officers who were instructed to discharge this duty worked with the utmost energy both night and day regardless of weather, and when the supply of horses and carts failed brought the material by water from distant places. Considerably over two thousand stacks were required, and the work was not delayed for a single day through lack of materials. The whole arrangements met with much adverse criticism from outsiders, some holding that it was being pressed on too eagerly, and others contending that it inflicted hardship upon the people, but Ni Wen-wei adhered to his plan to the end and now that it has proved successful he wishes that all those who shared his responsibility through this trying period should have their due reward. A list therefore, of the officers concerned is enclosed. In a second memorial, Wu Ta-ch'êng requests similar rewards for a number of officers who procured supplies of hemp straw, stones, bricks, piles and other articles for the stoppage of the breach. The quantity of hemp required was almost as great as that of millet stalks and a considerable amount of it had to be brought from Tientsin and other places. The soil in the neighbourhood of the river consisting of shifting sand the earth for the banks had to be brought from a distance of some li which necessitated the construction of a railway lighted by electricity. All the above appliances, as well as Portland cement, which had never before been used in river works had to be procured from Shanghai or Hong-kong, and entailed long and dangerous
journeys upon the officers commissioned to purchase them. The supply of copper cash in the province was also insufficient and large quantities had to be brought from Tientsin, Newchwang and other parts. One article of which a large supply was required, namely bamboo ropes, had not been used in the province for many years and officers had to be sent specially to Kiangnan to revive the manufacture and get specimens made according to pattern. A list of the officers for whom rewards are solicited in connection with the above undertakings forms an enclosure in the memorial. Amongst the officers who are specially recommended is an expectant Taotai named Ou-yang Lin who happened to be passing through the province on his way from Peking when the breach occurred, and was detained in Honan to aid in the work of procuring materials for its repair. He served without salary or other reward and the public spirit which animated him was displayed on his countenance. Ni Wen-wei had no previous acquaintance with him and can therefore speak impartially of the services he performed during a most critical emergency. The particular form of reward which these services should procure he leaves to the generosity of the Throne, but he hopes they will not pass unnoticed. Other officers who are recommended are the Brigadier General of Ta-ming and the Intendant of the Ta Shun Kuang Circuit, who though on the Chihli establishment co-operated heartily with the Honan authorities in the procuring and forwarding of materials.

July 20th.

MURDER AND ADULTERY.

A couple of years ago, a man living in Shan-si rented two rooms for himself and his family in a house owned and inhabited by a neighbour. One day, the winter before last, the lodger's wife went to borrow some flour from the landlord. The latter's mother, who lived with him, happened to be away at the moment, and taking advantage of their being alone he made love to the woman and seduced her. Some months afterwards he secretly made her a present of a peck of flour. His mother found this out and was afraid of his mother's rebukes, refused absolutely to listen to him. One evening a month afterwards, it happened that the man's mother and the woman's husband were both away from home. At midnight the man went to the room inhabited by his lodgers and looked in. The woman was sitting down, resting, while her four children were all asleep on the bed. He entered and made propositions to her, to which she refused to listen. His entreaties being of no avail, high words began to be uttered on both sides. The woman struck him with her fist, and he picked up a shovel with which he attempted to hit her. She evaded the blow, and it fell upon the youngest child, wounding him on the head. Furious with the woman, who would not be quiet, the man took the shovel handle and beat her all over till he broke it. The elder sons jumped down from the bed. One he knocked down, but the other two grappled with him, threatening to tell their father, who they said would kill him. This made him determine to take their lives. Seizing the blade of the shovel, he struck them on the head one after the other, till they were dead. A neighbour then coming in, he fled. There was a well near the village, into which the murderer threw himself, intending to commit suicide. But there being little water in it, he was found alive next morning and dragged out. In the meantime the youngest child died of the wound accidentally inflicted upon him.

The Governor of Shan-si, who reports the case, finds a difficulty in deciding what sentence should be passed on the offender. There is a penalty laid down (that of death by slow degrees) for the deliberate murder of three members of one household. But in this case two were killed intentionally and one accidentally, for which case the law apparently does not in any way provide.

The memorialist therefore proposes that the man should be punished under the law for deliberately murdering two members of one family, according to which he will be branded and decapitated without delay, and half his property given to the family of his victims. The offence of the woman is one which comes under the Act of Grace issued in the spring of the present year. She will therefore be released, and her husband can receive her back or disown her as he pleases.—Referred to the Board of Punishments for a report without delay.

THE DALAI LAMA PRAYS FOR THE EMPIRE.

The Imperial Resident in Tibet, Sheng-t'ai, reports that on the sixth day of the first month the Dalai Lama descended from
Mount Putala, and in the presence of the assembled priests and laymen offered prayers for the prosperity of the Empire. The services were performed with deep sincerity, and all recognised the virtues of His Majesty, to which they owed their peace and happiness. Afterwards, on the 26th of the month, the Dalai Lama returned to Mount Putala. As the memorialist was away on the frontier, the Grain Commissary took charge of the proceedings on his behalf. —Noted.

July 21st.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN KIRIN.

The high authorities of the Province of Kirin report that there is much distress prevalent at the present time among the people under their jurisdiction. The state of things has become so bad that the plundering of granaries by large mobs is now a common occurrence. The cause of this want the memorialists trace primarily to the improvidence of the people. There was only a short crop last year, generally speaking; but the people, instead of hoarding their supplies, ate them up or sold them to the neighbouring provinces of Hei-lung Chiang and Sheng-ching, the former of which had a worse harvest than Kirin, while the latter was the victim of terrible floods. Next, there are in Kirin always a number of hungry persons to be fed, wanderers who produce nothing for themselves; and their number is now immensely augmented by refugees from the neighbouring provinces, who come in crowds dragging their children and assisting their old people along. In the town of Kirin the number of very poor folk among the ten banners has been calculated, and it is found that there are 5,700 grown up persons and 1,400 children, who require five pecks and two and a half pecks each, respectively; while throughout the province generally each prefecture contains more than ten thousand very poor individuals, either residents or refugees, the region round Potuna being the most distressed of all.

The first measure proposed by the memorialists to cope with this misery, is to take the funds now employed in selling rice at cost price and distribute therewith the poor. There is already a great loss to the government on the present system, and the very poorest people are not profited by the offering of grain for sale, as they are too much impoverished to be able to purchase it. Secondly, the two divisions of the provincial army combined receive in monthly pay, officers and men together, as much as between sixty and seventy thousand taels. It is proposed to take one month's issue for the benefit of the poor, and for the next ten months to pay the troops at the expiry of every thirty-three days instead of at each month's end. By this means the money transferred to the poor will be covered, and the troops will feel the loss to themselves very slightly. Enquiries have been made among the officers and men throughout the army, and all declare that they joyfully consent to the arrangement. Thirdly, in the whole province there are more than two hundred distilleries, which consume grain in the manufacture of spirits. To close all these distilleries would be an interference with trade which the memorialists are unwilling to recommend. But they would propose to order those in the prefecture of Potuna, forty-two in number, to cease work till after next harvest, when they will be allowed to recommence. In the interim they will be excused payment of excise, and they will be required to sell their stocks of grain at the official price. As the first and third of their proposals will cause a loss to the exchequer, the memorialists dare not put them into force until they receive His Majesty's permission, which they hope will be granted in view of the great distress of the people. —Approved.

22nd July.

No documents of interest.

23rd July.

CHANGES IN Ili GOVERNMENT NEGATIVED.

The Tartar Commander-in-chief, Chiang-chun, at Ili, has recently proposed that he be entrusted with the entire civil and military administration of the two territories of Ili and Tarbagatay, instead of their remaining, as now, part of the province of Chinese Turkestan. The Commander-in-chief's memorial has been submitted to the authorities of the Turkestan province and their superior officer the Viceroy in Kansu. These officers now present their reply, adversely criticising the Commander-in-Chief's proposal. They urge that Ili and Tarbagatay have always been joined with Turkestan, and they can see no reason why a separation should now be made. They regard identity in the form of government in these adjoining regions as a necessary matter for the defence of the frontier. Now that Turkestan has been granted a civil administration, the two territories should be allowed the same advantage. The duties of the Ili Commander-in-Chief have quite recently been determined, and it does not seem...
The Grand Canal. The Bilted up, he gave orders to have it dredged to pass along it. At the end of the month Troops and see after the condition of the transaction of international business. Apart to the Lamas, and to the Mongols, Kirghia over the Bannermen, the Commander-in-Chief will be charged with matters relating there. Besides having entire command Tarbagatai, which the Commander-in-Chief desires to govern from Ili, is as far from Ili as Ili is from Urumtsi. If the distance is too great in the one case, why is it not in the other also? There is one portion, however, of the Commander-in-Chief's suggestions which the memorialists think might be adopted, namely his proposal that part of the Chinese troops in Ili should be attached to himself personally. The Ili force consists of four thousand men. It is recommended that one thousand of these beformed into a Commander-in-Chief's battalion, the rest remaining with the Chinese General. Similarly, of the two thousand men under a Chinese Colonel at Tarbagatai, five hundred should be attached to the Tartar Lieutenant-General there. Besides having entire command over the Bannermen, the Commander-in-Chief will be charged with matters relating to the Lamas, and to the Mongols, Kirghis and other native tribes, as well as the transaction of international business. Apart from these, it is hoped that the whole administration may be left in the hands of the provincial government.—Sanctioned.

**CANAL INSPECTION BY WU TA-CH'ENG.**

Wu Ta-ch'eng reports that at the beginning of May he left his post in Honan and went to Shantung to inspect the "River" Troops and see after the condition of the Grand Canal. The "cross" river being silted up, he gave orders to have it dredged as rapidly as possible, in order that the new cargo-boats from Hunan might be able to pass along it. At the end of the month he hurried back to Honan in order that he might be on the spot at that important period, and also might be able to attend to the various works remaining to be completed. About the same time the locks were opened and the water let into the Canal, which enabled the Hunan boats to prosecute their voyage in safety. **WU TA-CH'ENG TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

Wu Ta-ch'eng represents that when in Canton he contracted a climatic disease, which was aggravated by his severe labours and mental anxiety last autumn. At that period he should have obtained rest and medical treatment, but the pressing nature of his duties at the Yellow River gave him no leisure to do so. His sickness is now increased by the burning heat of the present season. He therefore begs that he may be allowed twenty days leave of absence in order to nurse himself a little. Should the summer freshets threaten danger anywhere, he will at once hurry back to his post.—Granted.

**VISITS TO PEKING OF MAHOMMEDAN PRINCES.**

Instruction were issued last year that the three Mahommedan Princes of Hami, Turfan and Ku-che must each present himself at Court in turn once every three years. As the Prince of Hami visited Peking two years before, it was desired that the Prince of Turfan should come that year, and the others follow in rotation. On account of the difficulty experienced by the Prince in finding funds for the journey, the Governor of Turkestan petitioned the Emperor to allow the visits to be made by each Prince once in every nine years instead of once in three. But in the last month of the year a despatch was received from the Colonial Office, saying that the request could not be granted. The Prince of Turfan is therefore proceeding at once to Peking; but, as his visit must of necessity be made during this year, it is humbly begged that the Prince of Ku-che may pay his visit next year, and so on in turn.—Referred to the Colonial Office.

24th July.

**FUNDS FOR THE ADMIRALTY NOT YET RECEIVED.**

Certain provinces and certain Custom-houses have been required to furnish an annual sum to the Board of Admiralty for its official expenditure. The Board now represents that several of these payments are in arrears for the past year, and in some cases for the two preceding years also. It refers to a regulation by which the Provincial Treasurers and Superintendents of Customs concerned should either receive some reward or be subject to a penalty, according as they have paid their subventions during the current year or not. It considers that no mention need be made...
of the sums received from the foreign customs four-tenths fund; but with this exception it furnishes lists shewing which subventions have been received in full within the proper limit, and which of them are still owing.

**DRILL AT THE PEKING NAVAL SCHOOL.**

The month before last there was a review of the members of the naval school established at the Kun-ming lake close by the Emperor's summer palace outside Peking. The movements and manoeuvres were well executed and called forth expressions of His Majesty's approval. The two superintendents in charge of the students were both officers who had been dismissed formerly from their positions in the public service. As the offences which they had committed were not of a grave or disgraceful character, the Board of Admiralty hopes that the Emperor may be pleased to reinstate them as a reward for their successful management of the Naval School.

**25th July.**

**RULES AS TO SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DISGRACED OFFICIALS.**

Some months ago two officials, a prefect and a magistrate, who had formerly been dismissed from the public service, subscribed, the one taels ten thousand, the other taels five thousand, to the Honan Charitable Relief Fund. The Governor therefore requested that the Emperor would allow them to be reinstated in their former positions. In reply he received a despatch from the Board of Civil Office saying that a new regulation had been framed for such cases. According to this rule disgraced officials who wished to recover their lost positions by pecuniary contributions, must make application in the first instance to the said Board, which would consider and decide whether their petition could be entertained. The provincial authorities must no longer receive their contributions and present requests on their behalf. In the two present cases, however, the Governor's application was made before the publication of the new rule, and still more so was the gift of the money. Funds moreover were much needed for charitable relief, and the subscriptions proved of the greatest use. Under these circumstances the Governor still hopes that his request on behalf of the donors may be granted.—*Referred to the Board.*

**26th July.**

No documents of interest.

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**27th July.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM XIANGSI FOR RIVER WORKS IN HONAN AND SHANTUNG.**

The Governor of Kiangsi quotes a despatch he received more than 18 months ago, in which he was informed by the Board of Revenue that a proposal made by the Censor Chou T'ien-lin to raise subscriptions for the repair of the Yellow River by the sale of official rank had received the Imperial approval and was to be carried into effect forthwith. The system was to be modelled upon that formerly pursued in the case of Coast Defence, and periodical lists of subscriptions were to be sent to Peking, the proceeds being retained in the Provincial Treasury pending the receipt of instructions from the Board of Revenue as to their ultimate disposal. The Governor now reports that the total amount realised from this source during the sixteen months in which the system has been in operation is Tls. 118,060.7, of which Tls. 90,620.2 have been appropriated by the Board's desire towards the expenditure connected with the excavation of the river in Shantung and the repair of the breach in Honan. In addition to this, Tls. 19,154.4 were collected in the following month from the sale of twenty-five titles and decorations, and as the arrangement is to be continued five months longer, further remittances will be reported from time to time as the money comes in.

**DEATH OF FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GRAIN TRANSPORT.**

Su Fung-men, who had held for some years the office of Director-General of the Grain Transport, retired into mourning in 1871 for the death of his mother and was since prevented by continued ill-health from seeking re-employment. The Governor of Kiangsi now reports his death on the 20th April last at his residence in the town of Kao-an.

**HONORARY PORTALS FOR GENEROSITY IN REPAIRING SCHOOLS.**

The authorities in Manchuria report that a public school in T'ieh Hsien, which had fallen into a state of sad disrepair, has been restored by the generosity of two retired officials who subscribed Tls. 1,000 each for the purpose. A portion of the money was put out at interest to provide the salaries of teachers and the working expenses of the establishment. Though the donors disclaimed all idea of receiving any recognition of their act, still at the request of the memorialists, the Emperor has been pleased to accord them permission to erect
and proceeded to combat the argument used.

To this the Superintendent objected, but the Board declined to authorise the reduction of 5 per cent. To this the Superintendent objected, and proceeded to combat the argument used.

Price of the materials furnished by the Imperial Factory at Nanking for the Emperor's marriage.

For some time past a dispute has been going on between the Board of Revenue of Peking and the Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Nanking as to the cost of certain materials which were supplied to Peking after the date of the Board's decision. Two years ago, the Governor of Shantung obtained sanction for executing some extensive repairs to the portion of the Yellow River which runs through his province, and for excavating the bed in the section lying below Yao-chia-k'ao. A large sum of money was allotted for the purpose and the work occupied considerably over a year in execution. In now reporting that all the breaches have been repaired and the banks firmly secured, he eulogises in high terms the officers to whose exertions the satisfactory state of things is due, and requests that fitting rewards should be conferred on the most deserving, a list of whom he encloses.

Recess. — Referred to the consideration of the Board.
as may be necessary to the people who have suffered by the calamity. We further command that the Taotai Li Hsi-chieh and Captain Huang Chiu-te who failed to avert the disaster be stripped of their rank and that Chang Yao who cannot be considered as entirely free from blame be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

SUPPRESSION OF LOCAL RISING IN YUNNAN.

The Acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kueichow reports the suppression of a rather serious rising at Meng-ti in the Ning-eh district of the former province and asks for the bestowal of a reward on the officers who succeeded in exterminating the rebels. The Acting Magistrate of the district, Wang Chih-p'u, took command of the force of trained troops and captured Lo Yao-ta and a number of other insurgent leaders, who were decapitated with laudable promptitude. Both he and a lieutenant, named Chao Peng-chang are to receive substantive promotion and measures are to be taken to induce the people who had left the district in consequence of the ravages committed by the rebels to return to their homes.

PROPOSED REVISION OF ENCYCLOPEDIA.

The Chancellor of the Hanlin submits a proposal which he received from one of the members of the College, respecting the necessity of re-editing the Encyclopaedia, known as the Ssi-lung-ch'ien-shu, which was composed in the reign of K'ien-lung and of which only four copies in manuscript are now supposed to exist. This work, the index to which alone consists of 14 large volumes, contains a complete compendium of the Classics, the history and the general literature of China for a period of over 3,000 years, and includes also a collection of everything either written or revised by the Emperors themselves or published under Imperial authority since the beginning of the Chow dynasty. It embraces all knowledge under heaven and reflects as in a mirror the past and present. Over a hundred years have been passed since it was compiled, and considering that the subsequent period has been one of great literary activity and that many books formerly lost to China have been brought back by trading vessels from beyond the seas, it is thought that the time has arrived for compiling a new edition of the work, now that the Emperor has ascended the Throne and is about to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious ancestors. The Hanlin College consists of over 200 picked scholars who enjoy comparaive leisure and should be prepared to undertake the work. During the last thirty years learning has been deviating into new and perilous paths and the earnest and single-minded devotion to study of former years is gradually being supplanted by modern learning and strange doctrines which are springing up on all sides. It is, therefore, all the more important that a work like this which embraces the knowledge of countless ages should be published in one whole so as to check the flood of pernicious literature that is spreading over the country and to preserve intact the principles enunciated by Confucius and Mencius.—Decree already published.

31st July.

THE LAND PROBLEM IN SHENSI.

About the year 1870, after the conclusion of the Mohammedan rebellion, 4,102 chi'ing of land in the province of Shensi, the property of rebels, was confiscated to the State. In 1865 an office was established for surveying the land and letting it out to tenants on the following terms. Superior ground was to pay a yearly rental of three piculs of grain, middle class land two piculs, while inferior soil was to be charged one picul 5 tou, and after a fixed number of payments the land was to become the property of the holders, who were to receive title deeds and be liable only for the land tax. The holdings were scattered through 25 districts and departments, and in one district there were some paddy fields which were included in the first class, while in the Tai district a certain amount of alluvial land was divided according to quality into three classes, which were to pay 6, 4 and 3 mace of silver per mou respectively. Between the years 1865 and 1880 no less than 3,400 chi'ing, or nearly 60,000 acres of land were let out in this way to cultivators, but the full payments entitling the holders to become proprietors were in the majority of cases not forthcoming. The late Governor of the province held an investigation into the matter, and finding that the most of the land which was not taken up was of a very poor description, reduced the rent upon it to two piculs for the best class of land, 1 picul 3 tou for second class, and 1 picul for the worst, and commuted the tax upon all the land occupied or unoccupied to 100 cash per tou for wheat and 150 cash per tou for rice. Some time later a further reduction of rent was made upon the unoccupied lots, which were offered to cultivators free for three years, after which they were to pay 1 picul 5 tou, 1 picul, and 7 tou 5 sheng for the three

THE LAND PROBLEM IN SHENSI.
classes respectively. At the end of last year, when the present Governor assumed office, there were still 530 ch'ing of the land unreclaimed, and very heavy arrears of rent upon the occupied portion. The tenants presented a petition in which they alleged that all the occupiers of good land, and tenants who had the means to do so, had paid their yearly instalments in full and had received their title deeds, and that those who were in arrears were wretchedly poor people who had been allotted bad and stony soil. On this they asked that all arrears should be cancelled and title deeds granted at the expiration of the period after which the land tax became chargeable. The Governor admitted that in the case of ground which had not been reclaimed the Government had no right whatever to levy a rent upon people who brought it under cultivation. The present case was, however, a different one, and the rent he considered rather in the light of a purchase price for the land. He considered, however, that the tenants deserved much sympathy, as the payment of rent and land tax combined was quite beyond their means, and by way of alleviating their position, he asked his executive to investigate the question and suggest some remedy for their grievances. The latter reported that the rent had been paid upon only 1,690 ch'ing of the occupied land, and that the total arrears amounted to 180,200 piculs of grain. The total receipts in the shape of rent had been 210,000 piculs which represented a commutation value of Tls. 170,000. They had great difficulty in recommending any measure of alleviation, for if the whole arrears were remitted the tenants who made punctual payment would feel aggrieved, while on the other hand, having regard to the crippled condition of the people, it would be hopeless to attempt to extract payment on the old scale. After a full consideration of all the circumstances, they finally recommended a remission of 30 per cent. on all lands which have been reclaimed, and for which title deeds have not been issued, and as regards the unoccupied land, of which only 350 ch'ing remain, they propose a still further reduction of rent as an inducement for farmers to undertake its reclamation. Under the new system it will be let out for 3 years free of rent, after which it will pay 1 picul, 6 ton 7 sheng, or 5 ton of grain per mou according to quality, to be commuted into cash payments on the scale formerly arranged. Neither of the previous two re-assessments had affected the alluvial ground in the Ta-li district, and it is proposed that the present reduction of 30 per cent. should be made applicable to it also, and that the rent of the unoccupied ground there, which now only amounts to 130 ch'ing should be reduced to 4 mace for the best quality, 3.2 mace for the second, and 2.4 mace for the worst kind. It is hoped that these proposals will afford a substantial measure of relief to the tenants, and the sanction of the Throne is solicited on their behalf.—Referred to the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

1st August.

INUNDATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF KUANGTUNG.

The Viceroy at Canton reports that serious inundations have taken place in the prefectures of Hui-chou and Ch'ao-chou, and in the department of Chia-ying, which have been attended with great destruction of life and property, especially in the latter place. According to reports which have been received from Hui-chou Fu, it appears that in the various districts in the prefecture heavy rain has fallen uninterruptedly from the beginning of summer, and that early in June several rivers overflowed their banks and laid Kuei-shan, Po-lo, and other places under water, causing great destruction of crops and property. The Prefect of Ch'ao-chou Fu telegraphed to the effect that about the same time the water rose to an unusual height and swept away in its violent career houses, trees, and everything that opposed its course. A number of dead bodies which were carried along by the current were recovered and buried. At Ta-sha there was great destruction of boats and salt, but the prefectural city itself had not suffered very severely. A telegram despatched from Chia-ying Chou on the 2nd of June reported the occurrence of severe floods with great loss of life and property. In one place over one thousand rooms were carried away by the deluge, and in the Hai-yang district two hundred coffins which had floated down with the current were recovered and buried. The Taotai has been authorised to borrow a sum of Tls. 5,000 from the local merchants to provide relief until assistance can arrive from Canton, from which place Tls. 10,000 have been already despatched to the scene of the disaster.

VISIT OF THE VICEROY OF CANTON TO CERTAIN DISTRICTS ON THE NORTH AND WEST RIVERS.

The Viceroy of Canton reports that last winter he issued instructions to the local...
authorities to have all the weak parts of the embankments of the North, East and West Rivers thoroughly repaired, and despatched officials to encourage the gentry and people to provide funds for the purpose, and co-operate in the work generally. The month of May was unusually rainy in Canton, and the Viceroy fearing that the new embankments might not be substantial enough to withstand the strain of the water, determined to visit the locality himself. Accordingly, on the 20th of May, he started from Canton in a steam launch, going first for some distance up the North River, then turning into the West River, and making his way back by the North River. During his tour, which lasted five days, he visited all the more important sections of the rivers which could be reached by a steam launch, in San-shui, Sau-hui, Kao-yao, Kao-ming, Nan-hai, and other districts, spending night and day in inspecting the embankments and seeing for himself the condition of the work. In parts where he could not land he satisfied himself from the deck of the launch that the work had been faithfully carried out. Since his return to Canton floods have occurred in some of the districts visited, but the embankments have in no case been seriously endangered, and if the present prospect of fairly good weather continues no great disaster is to be anticipated in the districts inspected by the Viceroy.

2nd August.
[No papers of interest.]

3rd August.

EXAMINATIONS IN FORMOSA.
The Governor of Formosa, who fills in addition the office of Literary Chancellor, reports that he has held the prefectural examinations in the two cities of Tai-nan and Tai-pei. He travelled to Tai-nan (Taiwan Fu) by steamer, taking the opportunity to visit the forts on the Pescadores by the way. Having concluded the examinations in the southern city, he came north again and conducted those in Tai-pei. Altogether there were more than four thousand literary candidates and six hundred military. There was one case discovered of fraudulent personation of a candidate. The man arrested was handed to the proctors, by whom he was condemned to be exposed in a cangue.

ARMSTRONG GUNS FOR FORMOSA AND THE PESCADORES.

Three years ago, says the Governor of Formosa, the Emperor sanctioned the construction of forts to be armed with heavy guns at Keelung, Tamsui, Takow and the Pescadores. In pursuance of this arrangement, the memorialist made an agreement with the British firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co. that they should supply thirty one steel breech-loading Armstrong guns of a new pattern. The price was fixed at Tls. 600,000, to be paid in three instalments, and included the cost of carriages, projectiles, packing cases and freight. A contract to the above effect was signed by both parties, the memorialist being represented by the Commissary of Ordnance and the Tamsui Magistrate. The agreement was reported to the Admiralty Board at Peking; and the Chinese Minister in London was requested, through the Tsungli Yamên, to have the guns inspected by one of his staff before their shipment. As it was difficult to construct a suitable landing stage at the Pescadores, a further agreement was made with the contractors that for an additional sum of Tls. 5,000 they should supply two lighters which could be used in disembarking the pieces. It has now been reported to the memorialist by the officers concerned at the different ports that between last summer and the present spring, the cannon have all been landed by the contractors, and have been inspected, found in good condition and taken over. Payment has also been made for them on the proper dates in accordance with the agreement.—Noted.

FORTRESS IN THE PESCADORES.

A memorial from the Governor of Formosa says that the Pescadore Islands are a point of the greatest importance with regard to the defence both of the Province of Fukien and the Island of Formosa. The memorialist visited the islands four years ago in company with the then Governor General at Foochow, on which occasion the latter officer conceived the idea of constructing a fortress there. This proposition was strongly supported by the gentry and common people of the islands. After a careful inspection, Ma-kung Harbour was selected as the site, and last autumn the General in command commenced the building of a fortress, which would connect together the various batteries. Plans of the works have already been sent to the Board of War.—Noted.

4th August.

GOVERNOR OF SHENG-CHING RETIRES.

Ch'ing-yü, Military Governor of the Manchurian Province of Shêng-ching, has received permission to vacate his post on the ground of continued ill-health.
TROOPS SENT TO URNA.

At the beginning of last winter the Comptroller-General at Urga reported that there was a good deal of highway robbery in the country round that city, and for the purpose of preserving order he requested that he might have the services of a detachment of cavalry from Hsiau-hua Fu near Kalgan. His application having been approved by the Emperor, a communication was sent to the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, in order that the proposal might be carried into effect. It was found impossible, however, to despatch the men at the moment. In the first place the detachment was not at its headquarters, but was away patrolling the country in the neighbourhood of Chung-p'eng to the north of Lama Miao, where it had been sent after its return from Urga three years ago. Secondly, during the winter months there would be great difficulty in providing transport cattle at the government post-stations, and the grass would be withered and the water frozen. Arrangements were therefore made for the men to depart during the present summer. The force consists of 250 troopers; but counting in officers, supernumeraries, and sutlers, the total mounts up to 356 persons. In order that the post stations might not be distressed by providing for too many men at once, it was settled that the whole body should be divided into ten parties of thirty-five, under the charge of an officer. Each party would require from the post-stations thirty-six riding and fifteen baggage camels, also a sufficient supply of tents and of argols for fuel. The soldiers will draw extra pay according to the scale allowed for distant service, namely, at the rate of one-fifth of a tael each per month. They will also all require sheepskin coats costing two and a half taels. In addition to these there are other charges, for forty supernumeraries, for purchasing and forwarding grain, and for supplying fuel. Finally, the Viceroy Li Hung-chang hopes that the arrangement may be only temporary, and that a regular force may be raised for service at Urga. The troops now sent are much wanted for their proper duty of preserving order in the vicinity of the metropolis.—Approved.

LOSS OF A GRAIN-JUNK.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang reports that a certain junk laden with about three thousand piculs of tribute rice set sail from Shanghai on the 14th of March last. On the 29th of the same month it arrived outside the Taku Bar, where it was wrecked in a gale. The crew were picked up out of the water, but the vessel sank with all the rice on board, as well as the two-tenths of extra cargo which the junk-owner was allowed by regulation to carry. The Viceroy is satisfied that the accident happened from causes beyond human control and was not due to careless navigation. He therefore prays that the amount of rice may be written off as lost, instead of any one being held responsible for it.—Granted.

5th August.

MURDER IN TURKESTAN.

The Acting Governor of Chinese Turkestan reports the sentence passed by him upon a man found guilty on a charge of murder. Four years ago a native of Hu-nan named Kuo Pao-t’ai was living in the district of Sun-lai, or Manas, where he made a livelihood by weaving mats. That winter he married a widow woman and took charge of her only son. The next spring he left home on business, and before his departure asked a friend to look after his family for him. Afterwards the friend likewise had occasion to go away from the place, and therefore gave them into the charge of another man, Chang Chen-piao. The woman was ill at the time, and shortly afterwards she died. The temporary guardian asked some friends to give him their assistance in burying her, which, after inspecting the body, they did. By and by a friend of the orphan boy’s father passed through the place, and prying the child’s forlorn condition took him away with the intention of bringing him up. In doing this he had the perfect consent of the guardian and other villagers. A distorted account of what had happened afterwards reached the husband in the place where he was. He was told that there were suspicious circumstances connected with his wife’s death, and that Chang Chen-piao had sold the child. He therefore hurried back in a state of great indignation; near home he met Chang Chen-piao and questioned him vehemently regarding the truth of the story. The latter denied it utterly and reproached him for making groundless accusations. A quarrel thus commenced. Chang Chen-piao threw a stone at the husband and struck him in the eye. The latter drew a knife and stabbed his assailant in the arm and the leg. The wounded man fell, and as he lay on the ground continued to utter abuse and curses, threatening to have his revenge as soon as his wounds were healed. The other still did not know whether the story was true concerning his wife and
A memorial presented by the Acting Provincial Treasurer to enquire about the arrangement made by which the officers of the disbanded Manchu troops were all granted troopers' pay and allowances. But the Governor of Kirin proposes the name of an officer to take charge of the new and important post of巡视盛京, which has been established in the place of the former and prefecture of the same name.

NEW GOVERNOR OF SHENG-CHING.

Chang Chi-tung is transferred to the important post of巡視盛京, and Li Han-chang is appointed in the place of the former appointee.

SEDITION IN KIANGSI.

According to a report presented by the Governor, there has been a great deal of treason and sedition in the province of Kiangsi. Last year, as has already been reported, a plot was formed with the object of seizing the prefectural city of Kiangsi. This plot was discovered and the ringleaders were arrested and brought to justice.

PENSIONS GRANTED TO RETIRING OFFICERS.

A memorial presented by the Acting Military Governor of Sheng-ching, Major Liu Chin-t'ang, for whom he is acting, to the Governor of Kirin, states that, according to law, officers of the disbanded Manchu troops are allowed permission to retire on the fiftieth year. These six gentlemen have, therefore, requested permission to retire on the fiftieth year. These six gentlemen have, therefore, requested permission to retire on the fiftieth year.
These men were all brought to the provincial capital for trial. It was further discovered through the agency of detectives that two important conspirators were concealed at Na-k'ou across the frontier, upon which the memorialist requested the Viceroy at Foochow to secure their arrest. Later again, the authorities of Chi-an Fu seized four men with an order-book and a number of badges. These men when examined deposed that their two leaders were hiding in Nan-an and Yuan-chou. Telegraphic orders having been sent to the authorities of those places, both these men and a third were arrested. On account of the distance from the capital orders were given to try them on the spot and report proceedings.

In addition to these active measures the memorialist has issued notifications permitting ignorant people who have accepted badges from the societies to surrender them to the authorities without fear of punishment. The country is now in a peaceful condition again.

SEASONABLE RAIN IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui reports that at about the end of May copious rains fell in both the north and the south of the province. There is no danger of want of water anywhere except in Hefei and Ch'U Chow. In these localities the rain and snow of last winter were sufficient for the wheat and barley harvest, which has now been gathered, so that the spring taxes can be collected by the authorities. But on account of the great drought which prevailed there last summer, an unusual supply of rain will be required to fill the ponds for watering the rice crops; and the memorialist does not predict what condition of things will prevail in the autumn.

9th August.

DEATH OF TARTAR GENERAL KUNG-TANG.

An Imperial Decree notices the recent death of Kung-t'ang, late Military Governor of the Province of Hei-lung Chiang. This officer had been transferred to the Generalship of the Tartar Garrison at Hangchow, but died while on the way to his new post. Great regret is expressed by the Emperor, who orders that the late General shall receive all the marks of favour usually accorded to an officer of his rank, and shall be forgiven any penalties which he may have incurred in the performance of his official duties. The corpse will be allowed to be brought into Peking for the celebration of the funeral obsequies there. Promotion is granted to the deceased's son, who is an official in the Board of Punishment.

FIRE AT CHOU-CHIA-K'OU.

The Governor of Honan reports the occurrence of a very serious fire at the populous and busy town of Chou-chia-k'ou. The affair took place in the middle of June. It originated through some carelessness in a general store. The flames quickly spread to the mat awnings and stalls in the immediate vicinity. These were lifted by the violent wind which was blowing at the time and scattered among the neighbouring streets, ten or eleven of which were thus involved in the conflagration. Fortunately all took place during the daytime so that the women and children were able to escape without difficulty. The local mandarin was occupied with his men in putting out the flames, when news was brought to him that his own official residence was burning. Hurrying back he was in time to save his seal of office, but all the buildings were destroyed, excepting one or two clerks' rooms and guest chambers. The Yellow River floods last year had a very serious effect on the prosperity of the town and this misfortune coming so soon afterwards will be the cause of great suffering. Orders have been given to ascertain exactly the extent of the calamity, and in the meantime the immediate wants of the population will be cared for.

10th August.

APPOINTMENTS.

Chi-ho, who has been in retirement for some years, resumes his old post of Tartar-General at Hangchow in succession to Kung-t'ang, whose death was recently reported.

Sung-ch'un, Lieut.-Governor of Chihli, has been appointed successor to Li Han-chang as Director-General of the Grain Transport service, Hsiu Wên-ta filling the office temporarily until he arrives.

Yü-ch'ang, who was formerly Taotai at Tientsin, has been appointed Financial Commissioner of Chihli. The appointment of Taotai at Kashgur, rendered vacant by the death of Yuan Yao-ling, has been conferred upon Jao Ying-ch'i, whose successor in the Lan-chou Intendancy is Eu-lin.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE IN FUKIEN.

The Governor-General at Foochow reports a serious riot which took place between opposing factions of the boating population on the River Chien in Fukien. It seems that a large number of boats owned by Kiangsi men ply on the section of the river between the town of Kuang-tê in
the prefecture of Shao-wu and the district city of Ch'ung-an in the Chien-ning prefecture. These boats are nearly all fully armed and they have gained a notorious reputation for murder, plunder and other crimes of the worst kind. There has always been the greatest rivalry between them and the local boats employed in the Hsia-fu, Hoing-hua and other sections of the river; and feuds in which many thousands of lives have been sacrificed have occurred with regular frequency during the past ten years. The naval force of the province available for service in the inland waters, formerly consisted of 98 armed vessels but owing to reductions and retrenchment the number is now only 30 old worn-out boats, with a complement of 6 sailors each, which, it is needless to say, are totally inadequate for patrolling over 1,000 li of water communication. This accounts for the fact that the reckless conduct which has gone on for years past received no attention from the authorities. Towards the end of last year the magistrate of the Shu-ch'ang district reported that a dispute about the carriage of some salt had occurred, at a place named Ta-kan, between the Kiangsi men and the boatmen at Hsia-fu, and that three of the latter having been killed, their companions rallied in a body and murdered thirteen of the Kiangsi people. Orders were issued for the arrest of the offenders and nothing more was heard of the affair until the 23rd of June last. On that day a further report from the magistrate announced that over 50 Kiangsi boats, carrying over 1,000 men, and flying banners and flags, had started from Shao-wu with the intention of having their revenge for the affair at Ta-kan. The memorialist telegraphed at once to the Intendant of the Yen Chien Shao Circuit, directing him to communicate with all the high military authorities within reach and request them to take measures for cutting off the rioters and slaughtering them without quarter. Subsequent reports announced that the Kiangsi boats had arrived within a distance of 10 li of Ta-kan, that the magistrate was parleying with the men, but that they refused to listen to official advice. The next news was that they had burnt down the Club House at Hsia-fu and were plundering, burning and murdering with undiscriminating fury. The magistrate returned to place the city in a state of defence and sent a request for large reinforcements. As the tea season in this district was just at its height and hundreds of thousands of strangers were moving about the country, the memorialist was afraid that the disturbance might assume a very serious aspect, and he therefore determined to despatch a strong force to quell it and put an end once for all to the feuds, which had gone on unchecked for a number of years. Three generals, each commanding a large force of troops, started for the scene of the disturbance on the 24th of June and ought to arrive there before the end of the month. On the 28th the Taotai telegraphed that the Kiangsi men had sacked 13 villages and that they had met the Imperial force in open battle on two occasions, on the first of which the Imperialists lost one man, while the second resulted in the capture of 20 of the rioters and the loss of two men on the part of the regular troops. The reinforcements which would arrive a day or two later would double the Viceroy considers, soon put an end to the movement. In the meantime he announces General Liu Tui-mien, Captain Cha Ch'ang-sheng, the Acting Magistrate of Shun-n'un, and several other officers for their remissness in not suppressing the rising at the outset.—Rescripts. We command that the officers denounced be handed over to the Board for the determination of a suitable punishment, and hereby require the Viceroy to see that the Military Authorities lose no time in suppressing the rising and preventing it from spreading further.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE ARMY IN HUNAN.

Three or four years ago when Nien Pao-ti was Governor of Hunan he proposed that as soon as a thousand vacancies had occurred in the list of the private soldiers in the provincial army, these vacancies should not be filled up but the saving effected by the reduction should be employed in maintaining a picket body of 500 troops, each of whom should draw double the pay of the soldiers they replaced. The matter having been considered by the Boards at Peking, the present Governor, Wang Wän-shuo, was asked for his opinion on the subject. He reports unfavourably on the proposal, and in doing so enters into an account of the present strength of the provincial forces and the duties which they are called upon to perform. Hunan, he explains, is conterminous with Yunnan and Kiangtung and contains a large population of aboriginal tribes. The command held by the Brigadier
Generals of Chên-kan and Sui-ching embrace the country inhabited by the Miao people, while more than half of the district under the Yung-chou command comprises the territory of the Yao tribes. There is very little cultivation in these parts and soldiering has become such a hereditary instinct with the natives that they regard it from boyhood as their sole aim and profession in life. In Chên-kan alone there are 4,000 soldiers, nearly half of the whole provincial force. The only result of any attempt at reduction would be to awaken a feeling of insecurity and leave a dangerous class of the community without any settled employment. No retrenchment is possible in the frontier part of the army, and the same holds good of the garrisons in the chief towns. The regular army, it must be admitted, is far inferior as a fighting machine to the irregular one, but the duties of the two are distinct. The former has its routine work to perform, while the part of the latter is to ward off foreign aggression. In Ch'ang-sha Fu the regular forces number 700, with 12 districts and departments under their protection. In Hông Chôw there is a body of 400 men to exercise supervision over 7 districts. In addition to ordinary garrison duty, they are continually engaged in other service such as the conveyance of treasure, escorting prisoners, acting as gaolers and guarding the Government granaries. The military condition of Hunan cannot by any forced comparison be considered the same as that of other provinces. For many years past it has been the recruiting ground of the Empire: the Hunan soldier leaves his plot of ground, leads a wandering life as a soldier all over the country, and when he returns to his home he is not disposed to drop his roving habits and settle down to a humdrum life on his ancestral acres. If congenial employment is not found for him, he will soon drift into bad company and become a member of illegal societies. In 1864 the Hunan army was reduced by nearly forty per cent. and its present complement is not more than sufficient. During his previous term of office as Governor of the province the memorialist organised in 1872 a special force of 500 men, with increased pay, which is still in a high state of efficiency.

11th August.

APPOINTMENT.

Hsing-shêng is gazetted Civil Governor of Pêng-t'ien.

BRIGANDAGE IN MANCHURIA.

The Governor of Hêi Lûng-chiang states that the districts of Hulan, Pa-yên-su-su and Pei-t'ûan-lîn-tzu, all of which have a background of mountain fastnesses, are naturally suited to form a resort for brigands from whose depredations the law-abiding portion of the population would suffer severely. Military operations have been frequently conducted against such lawless characters without effecting their complete extermination. Last year's harvest has been very poor in this district and the difficulty of obtaining a living augmented materially the strength of the brigands. The Deputy Lieutenant General of Hulan having applied for reinforcements, more than a thousand men were sent to his aid, and as it is important that such a large force should be under the command of a capable officer it is proposed that they should be placed in charge of Chi-fêh-hung-â, a degraded Lieutenant General who has seen much active service in the field, and possesses an intimate acquaintance with the districts in question.

12th August.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO THE EMPEROR'S TUTOR.

Wêng T'ung-ho, the Emperor's Tutor, has been granted two months' leave of absence to enable him to return to his home in Kiangsu and repair the family cemetery. The Emperor speaks highly of the profit he has derived from his Tutor's efforts to enlighten his ignorance, and as a special mark of favour, orders that Wêng T'ung-ho should travel at the public expense on his return journey to Peking.

APPOINTMENT.

Tsêng-liu is appointed Taotai at Moukden.

WOOD FROM KUEICHOW FOR THE REPAIR OF THE T'AI-HO GATE.

On noticing the account in the Gazette of the fire in the Palace which destroyed the T'ai-ho Gate, the Governor and high authorities of Kueichow asked permission to forward at their own expense a quantity of wood to assist in the repairs. They accordingly procured from the Tan-chiang district 54 immense logs, which are to be conveyed on rafts down the Hung River as far as the Tung T'ing Lake, whence they are to be towed by steam launches to the Yangtze and eventually taken to Hankow, the whole journey occupying from one to two months' time.

REWARDS TO SUBSCRIBERS TO FAMINE RELIEF IN ANHUI.

The Governor-General at Nanking and the Governor of Anhui submit a joint memorial in which they recommend to the Throne, for the bestowal of various forms...
of reward, a large number of officers on the Chihli establishment who subscribed to and otherwise assisted in the relief of the recent distress in the province of Anhui. The usual custom in such cases is for the Governor of the province from which the subscriptions are sent to send a list of the contributors to the Governor of the province for whose benefit they have been raised, and for the latter to memorialise the Throne on the subject. This course has already been followed in the case of the recent distress by the Governor of the lower province of Manchuria and the Governor of Shantung, the latter of whom incidentally mentioned that foreigners had administered relief in his province. In the present instance, the Governor-General and his colleague report that the contributions from Chihli amounted to Tls. 120,000, of which Tls. 40,000 were sent to the relief of the suffering in Ho-fei, Li Hung-chang’s native ce. The number of lives saved by this timely aid is estimated at considerably over 100,000, and great credit is given to Chihli, which is naturally a poor province, for coming to the rescue of Anhui at a time when Honan and Feng-tien were making large demands upon its charity. Three years ago the officials and gentry of Anhui who subscribed for the relief of Chihli received special marks of favour from the Throne at the instance of Li Hung-chang, and it is only fitting that now, when the case is reversed, a similar favour should be extended to Chihli. Here follows a list covering four pages of the Gazette of the names of subscribers who are recommended for promotion, titles, and other forms of reward.

13th August.

APPOINTMENT.

During the absence on leave of Weng T'ung-ho, Hsi-t'ung is to act as President of the Board of Revenue.

14th August.

CONDITION OF THE YELLOW RIVER.

Wu Ta-ch'eng forwards a report on the steps which he had taken to place the Yellow River in a proper state of repair for withstanding the freshets of the present year. On the 29th of June it was reported from Shaii Chan that the water had risen over 1ft. 5in. in the Wan-ching section, and from earlier reports it appeared that that the Ch’in Ho in the Wu-Chih had risen 1ft., while the Chou Rivers and all the other affluents of the Yellow River had risen to a great extent. The new embankment at Ch’eng Chou had slightly subsided in several places, but measures had been taken to raise and strengthen it and place it in a general state of security. All the important sections of the embankments both on the Northern and Southern sides have been secured by additions of stone and brickwork, and Portland cement has been used to give cohesion to the whole. Everything was in a perfect state of security on the 13th of July last, but as the long period of the summer freshets has still to be passed through, memorialist has directed his subordinates to continue the work of repair and supervision so as to guard against any unforeseen contingency.

PERQUISITES TO THE CLERKS IN THE BOARD OF REVENUE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISBURSEMENTS ON YELLOW RIVER REPAIRES.

Wu Ta-ch'eng takes credit to himself for having personally superintended all receipts and disbursements in connection with the breach in the Yellow River, and states that the perquisites for the Board of Revenue have, to avoid confusion, been kept in a separate account, totally distinct from the public one. The amount of the expenditure, however, is so large and those engaged upon the work find it such a good opportunity for making money that it is impossible to ascertain from outside sources the amount which reaches the pockets of the clerks in the Board. There is no large surplus in the public account, and although a secret remittance of, for instance, Tls. 100,000 for the use of the clerks of the Board would be considered by the officers engaged in the work as a customary proceeding justified by precedent, yet from memorialist’s standpoint it could only be regarded as a squandering of public money. Besides, such a large amount could not be remitted by bills to Peking without becoming generally known, and memorialist, who is scrupulous in all his dealings, is not prepared to take upon himself the responsibility for the faults of others, which, if challenged, he could not justify to the Emperor. After much reflection, therefore, he has decided to report the bare facts to the Throne and to suggest that, in accordance with the precedent established by Chang Chi-tung when Governor of Shansi, an allowance of Tls. 40 for every Tls. 10,000 spent on the work be given to the Clerks in the Board, and that the allotment of this sum should be undertaken by the Heads of the Department. The arrangement, however, should not be taken as a precedent in cases of ordinary disbursements elsewhere.
LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO WU TA-CH'ENG.

On the 20th of June last Wu Ta-ch’eng presented a Memorial to the Throne stating that he was suffering from liver complaint, and that his health generally was below par, and intimate his intention of taking twenty days’ leave of absence. He now reports that he returned to duty with improved health on the 9th of July and started from the provincial capital on the 17th of that month for a tour of inspection of both banks of the Yellow River.

FURTHER ON THE STATE OF THE YELLOW RIVER.

Wu Ta-ch’eng reports that just as he was despatching the previous memorial he received reports from the district officer of Shan Chou and the officer in charge of the Huang chiin station. The former stated that on the 12th July the River had suddenly risen 2ft. in the Wau-chin section, and the later reports a rise of 4ft. 2in. on the 7th July in the River Chin at Wu-chih. Similar reports of sudden risings of the water have been coming in great numbers from other stations, but fortunately, owing to the repairs which had been previously made, the embankment at Chêng Chou, as well as the works on both banks of the river, have stood firm; but now that the floods have appeared in full force a moment must not be lost in taking further precautions for their safety, and orders to the effect have been issued to all the important officials in order to make security doubly secure.

15th August.

SUPPRESSION OF DISTURBANCE AMONGST ABORIGINAL TRIBES ON THE EXTREME FRONTIER OF YUNNAN.

The Acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kueichou reports the suppression of a rising amongst the aboriginal tribes in the Mêng country on the southern frontier of Yunnan bordering on Burma, and solicits the bestowal of exceptional rewards on the officers engaged in the campaign. Last year San Meng Wu and other places situated in the Ning-érh district were infested by a number of brigands under the leadership of Lo Yao-ta and his son Lo Fu-shêng and two other men, who plundered, burnt and harried the country, committing excesses of the very worst description. The peaceable inhabitants were compelled by force to join the movement, which became so serious that a Taotai, a Brigadier-General, the Sub-prefect of Sû-mao, and the Magistrate of Ning-érh received instructions to proceed against the rebels with all the forces available at the time. The rebels having learned the measures that were being taken against them retired to Müng-wang, a wooded jungle so dense that the Imperial troops were unable to penetrate it. The Magistrate of Ning-érh Hsien was however, equal to the occasion, and hit upon a device which was completely successful. He surrounded the jungle with ambushes of the Imperial troops, and bribed some men in the confidence of the rebels to induce them to come out of their hiding-place. As soon as they reached the open country they were hemmed in on all sides and assailed by the Imperial troops. Lo Yao-ta, his son and two companions, were taken alive and executed on the spot, by the orders of the Taotai of the southern division of the province. The rest of the rebels broke up in utter confusion, and the aboriginal people resumed their occupations in peace and quiet. The acting Viceroy is very enthusiastic over the fact that a movement, which might have necessitated a formidable campaign and the expenditure of much blood and money, was suppressed without a single shot being fired solely through the stratagem and ingenuity of the magistrate. Both the magistrate and lieutenant who seconded his efforts have been recommended for substantive promotion in their respective services.

CONDITION OF THE YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

On the third July last the Governor of Shantung submitted a report on the general condition of the Yellow River, and he now forwards a further memorial on the same subject, in which he states that a great rise took place in the water after the 14th July, and during the remainder of the month. In Li-ch'êng, Chi-yang and other districts where the bed of the river is narrow, the rise was considerably over nine feet, while in the lower reaches, where the river is broader, it amounted to seven or eight feet, making the total rise of the water during the freshets seventeen or eighteen Chinese feet. Reports received from the river officers point to great danger in no less than twenty-seven places, some situated in Chi-yang, Chang-ch'iu, Chi-tung, and P'u-tai districts in the lower portion of the river, and the remainder in the Tung-o, Li-ch'êng and other districts in the upper reaches of the river. Requests for additional help either in the shape of men or materials have been received from stations extending over 1,000 li along the course of the river. At the
most dangerous points the water is little over a foot below the top of the banks, and such an immense volume of water has not before been in the river during the summer freshets. Great alarm is felt at every point for over 280 li on the southern side of the river, and a body of over 600 men has been sent to render assistance to officials in charge of the embankments.

FURTHER ON THE YELLOW RIVER.

Just as he was about to despatch the previous memorial Chang-yao states that he received a report from Captain Huang Chin-tê announcing that the dykes round Ta-chai, Chin-wang and two other villages in the Chang-ch’iu district had been completely washed away on the 22nd of July last, and that the waters had overflowed the main embankment of the river on the southern side, and swept it away for a distance of over 30 chang. The four villages in question were situated between the southern main embankment and the river, and were protected from the latter on the north, east, and west by circular embankments stretching over a distance of 10 li. The people had been repeatedly warned of the risk they were running, and had been advised to move outside of the main embankment, but they objected to be disturbed. The overflow of the water entered the little Ch’ing Ho, and has been carried eastwards to the sea. The Governor asks that Li Hai-chieh, a Taotai connected with the river works, should be stripped of his button, that Captain Huang Chin-tê should be degraded but left at his post, and that he himself should be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty for carelessness in not taking proper precautions to avert the calamity. Further reports stated that some embankments constructed by the people at Hsii-ch’ing-fang on the northern bank of the river in the Li-Cheng district have been swept away. The water is higher by three feet and the state of the current much worse generally than when the breach occurred at Chêng Chou three years ago, and should any further rise occur a great catastrophe is to be feared.

16th August.

TRIBUTE MISSION FROM TIBET.

Shêng T’ai, the Imperial Resident in Tibet, begs to report that the period having arrived for again forwarding the customary articles of tribute to Peking, a Khambu and a Nang-so have been despatched on a special mission from Anterior Tibet, travelling, as has been the previous custom, by way of Szechuan.

The Timu Hutuktu, who is comptroller of the Treasury in Tibet, has represented to the memorialist that a Khambu and Nang-so have been deputed to convey to Peking and reverentially present to the Emperor the customary articles of periodical tribute. The Hutuktu who conducted the last mission had suggested that the route by way of Hsii-nung should be substituted for that through Szechuan, but the proposal having been vetoed owing to the objections raised by the Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, the present mission will follow the example of its predecessors and travel through Szechuan. The articles of tribute had all been carefully prepared, together with a congratulatory letter to the Emperor. The Khambu, Kung-ch’io-ch’ai and the Nang-so, Lo-pu-tsang-ch’iu-chih-érh, accompanied by forty persons, lay and clerical, had been deputed to proceed to Peking with the above, and it was asked that the Throne should be duly apprised of the proposed mission. The Resident remarks that a Nang-so was always attached to these missions and granted permission to trade, in order to display the desire of the Imperial Court that an ample return should be made for what was received. The tribute offerings have been examined, weighed, and securely packed under the superintendence of a Commissary, acting in conjunction with the Kabsans or Councillors of State. The Mission is to be escorted as far as Szechuan by a body of ten soldiers under the command of a Lieutenant of the Ma-pien garrison who formerly served in Tibet, and its departure is fixed for the 24th of June. The Resident has issued a Pass which will secure it a supply of provisions and transport animals from the postal stations until it reaches China Proper, after which its maintenance, travelling expenses, and a supply of 160 mules will be furnished by the Chinese local authorities. The Resident submits a list of the articles of tribute, states that he has notified the authorities of the provinces through which the Mission is to pass of its departure, and adds that he has written officially on the subject to the Colonial Superintendency, Peking.

REVIEW OF TROOPS IN TIBET.

According to established custom the troops in Tibet ought to be reviewed every spring by the Imperial Resident in person, and Shêng T’ai explains that, being unable to perform the duty himself this year, owing to his absence on the frontier under Imperial instructions, he deputed a Major on the Tibetan establishment to undertake
the task on his behalf. The Major in question, Ch'en-k'un, in forwarding a muster roll of the troops reviewed, explains that the great bulk of the forces in Tibet had been called away for service on the frontier. The performance of those that remained was very creditable, proficiency in archery and target practice being attested by an average score of over 70 per cent. Remarkably, on the absence from the review of the Tibetan troops, the Resident states that although they have been recalled from service on the frontier, yet they have become so dispirited and enfeebled by the long stay there that they all found it necessary to avail themselves of leave of absence. As their condition was deserving of some sympathy they were exempted from undergoing the present review, but they will in accordance with previous customs be called out for the autumn manoeuvres.

17th August.

LITIGATION AMONG THE MONGOLS.

In continuation of previous memorials the Governor of Chahar reports that he has examined into certain charges brought against a superintendent of the Imperial flocks and herds in the country round about Kalgan. The superintendent was accused by six subordinate officers of having fraudulently altered the figures in his registers concerning the number of sheep supplied. The complainants were unable to substantiate their statements, but they still continued to assert their truth. The memorialist therefore obtained permission to remove them temporarily from their posts in order that a formal investigation might be held. But in the meantime they all quietly disappeared. Some of them were traced to the Yellow Temple at Peking, and one of them was even seen riding in the city; but when hailed, he galloped away at full speed. In consequence of their having absconded memorialist requests that they may be cashiered and severely dealt with.—Decree issued previously.

18th August.

FU-KIEN. SALE OF TITLES FOR YELLOW RIVER.

The Governor-General at Foochow reports the sum received in the province of Fu-Kien by the sale of official titles for the benefit of the fund for the repair of the breach of the Yellow River in Honan. The period covered by the report extends from the middle of the last month of last year to the end of the third month in the present one. Altogether twenty contributions have been made by applicants for various titles, from that of literary licentiate upwards. The sum received from them amounts to Tls. 5,656.8.

A RIVER OFFICER PUNISHED AND RE-EMPLOYED.

It appears from a memorial presented by the Governor of Shantung that the summer before last the Chu River overflowed and washed away its embankments. Consequently, at the memorialist's request, a certain Colonel Chen Jung-hui, who was in charge at the spot, was ordered to be cashiered, the force commanded by him was withdrawn, and he was commanded to refund the sum of Tls. 3,200, which had been paid to him for labour and materials. The River Works Committee now reports that the said Chen Jung-hui has repaid all the money required from him; and it requests that it may be allowed to make use of his services again, as he is an officer of great experience in river works. The Governor endorses the Committee's opinion as to the practical knowledge possessed by the officer, and thinks that it would be in the interests of the public service to allow him to be employed again on probation.—Sanctioned.

REPAIRS TO CITY WALLS IN TURKESTAN.

A memorial from the Acting Governor of Chinese Turkestan states that the city walls of the provincial capital have been completely rebuilt as well as those of Hami, Guchen, Turfan, and Manas, four towns situated on the North Road. But there remain two cities, one Kur-kara-usu, which is an important place because of the roads leading thence to Ili on the west and Tarbagatai on the north; the other Ch'ang-chi, which by its position is an outlying defence of Urumtsi, the capital of the province. The fortifications of these two towns have fallen into a sad condition since the war. The towers at the angles of the walls and over the gates, and the half-moons at the gateways are all gone; and the battlements have been destroyed by the weather. The local authorities, therefore, recently applied for permission to effect the necessary repairs in order to ensure the safety of the towns; and the memorialist's predecessor gave order that the troops should assist in the work, and that careful estimates should be framed of the cost of the same. A statement endorsed by the Provincial Treasurer has now been presented, from which it appears that the timber required must be brought from places in the midst of the mountains three or four hundred li away, so that the expense of carriage will be very great, and, on account of the decayed condition of the towns, the remaining materials, and the
frequently demanded it back again, but it and occupied it against his will. He means the younger cousin ousted him from them. He was formerly the tenant of an ch'un — something over two thousand taels. Approved.

...
spring of this year. The surviving cousin is sentenced to eighty blows and one month's cangue for wrongfully appropriating the land, which was the origin of all the trouble. But his offence is one which will come under the Act of Grace. The land will be restored to the murderer's eldest son.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

LOOCHOAN BOATS DRIVEN BY WEATHER TO FOOCHOW.

The Foochow authorities report the arrival of two junks from the Loochoo Islands, one with a crew of eight men and the other with nine. They belonged to the towns of Yun-wei Fu and Na-pa Fu respectively. They were driven out to sea by gales in April, and after a few days' tossing about made the coast of Fukien in safety. It has been arranged to furnish them daily with a pint of rice and six-tenths of a tael cent money according to precedent. They were allowed to cause trouble by extorting money. The Magistrate also misconducted himself by sending in an untrustworthy report, and asking that the soldiers might be allowed to kill the rioters if necessary. The memorialist therefore begs that the likin officer may be cashiered and the Magistrate reduced to a lower rank. He at the same time does not attempt to excuse the rioters who took the law into their own hands, and has given orders to discover the originators and actual participants in the disturbance, with a view to their severe punishment.—Approved.

20th August.

DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE OPIUM BARRIERS.

It appears that rules for the taxation of opium produced in Chêkiang were framed under instructions from the late Governor, and were duly reported by him to Peking for the approval of the Emperor. Among the localities in the province which manufacture opium is the district of Hsiang-shan near Ningpo. At the beginning of the present year the Magistrate of Hsiang-shan and the local Superintendent of likin applied for permission to establish three additional branch barriers in the district. The present Governor was very unwilling to consent to this, because he knew that the multiplication of barriers led to the increase of abuses in a much greater degree than it did to an augmentation of the revenue. He yielded, however, on account of the state of the public treasury, and the three new barriers came into existence at the beginning of the third month. At the end of the fifth month it was reported to him that no duty had hitherto been paid at any of the new barriers; but one of them had just been destroyed by a crowd of men headed by one K'ung Jen-hua, and the next day the same party had invaded the Magistrate's residence, pretending that they were looking for the likin Superintendent, and had smashed the furniture in the public rooms. A retired official named Wang Shih-hui was at the same time accused of having been the secret instigator of the riot. The Governor gave the orders necessary at the moment, and shortly afterwards he was told that K'ung Jen-hua had voluntarily surrendered to the Ningpo authorities. K'ung Jen-hua deposed that he had taken some opium out to sell, whereupon a likin runner had accused him of trying to smuggle and wanted to fine him. This led to a dispute and so to a riot; but he was not present and did not take any part in what was done by the mob. It was also reported that a number of gentlemen had come forward and certified that the retired official, Wang Shih-hui, had nothing to do with the matter.

The Governor is very angry with the authorities concerned. The Likin Office was only established provisionally; and, as it failed to collect anything, the circumstances should have been reported in order that either it might be removed or steps be taken to make it efficient. In addition to this, the runners were kept under no control and were allowed to cause trouble by extorting money. The Magistrate also misconducted himself by sending in an untrustworthy report, and asking that the soldiers might be allowed to kill the rioters if necessary. The memorialist therefore begs that the likin officer may be cashiered and the Magistrate reduced to a lower rank. He at the same time does not attempt to excuse the rioters who took the law into their own hands, and has given orders to discover the originators and actual participants in the disturbance, with a view to their severe punishment.—Approved.

AN OFFICIAL PUNISHED FOR HEARING A CASE.

A man from Shantung named Yang Tso-liang was living near Huai-jen Hsien in Manchuria, where he earned money by working for others. Two other Shantung men, whom he knew well, were also settled in the same place. One of them had a daughter, whom Yang Tso-liang proposed to marry, the other fellow-countryman acting as middle-man in the transactions. It was arranged that the suitor should make a present to the father of 440 strings of cash. He paid in a certain time 380 strings but could not manage the remainder. At last the father threatened that if the money were not forthcoming, he would break off the match immediately. Yang Tso-liang therefore went off to the town and lodged a complaint before a petty official called the Hsien-chien. The Hsien-chien ought to have referred the case to the Magistrate; but instead of doing so he heard it himself. The judgment he gave was to the effect that Yang Tso-liang should pay the balance and marry...
the girl. Meanwhile Yang Tso-liang had incurred a debt of 17 strings at the inn, for which the girl's father became security. They then went away together to the latter's house. Yang Tso-liang was unable to get employment, and was much distressed at the little prospect he had of earning the money. At last, giving way to melancholy, he swallowed some opium which had been left about the house. An enquiry was held concerning his death, when the hearing of the case by the Hsin-chien came to light. The latter pleaded that he was temporarily in charge of the Magistrate's office, the latter being absent from the town. It was decided by the memorialists that he had not given a corrupt decision; but nevertheless he had broken a distinct provision of the law by taking upon himself to exercise judicial functions. He had no power to try the case, and should have left it to be heard by the Magistrate on the latter's return. He has therefore been condemned to be cashiered, such being the penalty laid down for unlawfully sitting in judgment, when the proceedings result in any one's thereby losing his life.—Approved.

21st August.

DISTURBANCES BY KIANGSI MEN IN FUKIEN.

The high authorities of Fukien have already reported to the Emperor the serious disturbances created by Kiangsi boatmen in the interior of the province. They now describe the measures which have been successfully taken to restore order. After the events narrated in the previous memorial the insurgents continued to plunder and burn the surrounding villages, murdering the inhabitants and committing every sort of atrocity. On the 26th of the month their fleet anchored in the Fu-t'un river. In the dead of the night General Liu made an attack upon them, employing fire-balls to burn their boats. Only three soldiers lost their lives; but more than a hundred of the rebels were killed or drowned, and the remainder fled in all directions. In the pursuit that ensued seven men were captured, all of whom were found on examination to have been among the originators of the breach or to have taken a leading part in resisting the troops. Three days afterwards the troops again attacked the insurgents on a hill side where they had taken their stand. Between ten and twenty of them were shot, and the rest fled for their lives across the mountain top. Three more men were taken prisoners, of whom one was the principal leader of all the Kiangsi men, and the others were standard bearers and active participants in the outrages committed. At the same time the Shun-ch'ang Magistrate arrested a member of the Ko-lao society, who had joined the insurgents for purposes of plunder. These four men with the seven previously captured were all executed upon the spot. The remainder of the insurgents have escaped to Chin-lung Shan and its neighbourhood, where active search will be kept up till all the chief offenders are arrested. The people of Shun-ch'ang and its neighbourhood are all immigrants, principally from Ting-chou Fu and Hsing-hua Fu; and there has long been a serious feud between them and the Kiangsi men. It is proposed to compel both parties to surrender their arms, which can be effected by means of the strong body of troops who are now present, and whom it will not be advisable to withdraw immediately. The people in the towns near Shun-ch'ang, who were beginning to leave their homes, are now settling down again quietly.

22nd August.

BREACH IN NORTH BANK OF YELLOW RIVER.

An Imperial Decree notices a memorial from the Governor of Shantung reporting the breach in the north bank of the Yellow River. According to the Governor's report, on the 9th and 10th of August the river overflowed its banks at Chang Ta'un and other places in the district of Chi'ti-ho, about one-fifth of the water thus deserting its proper channel, and flowing along the course of the T'u-hai River to the sea. The officials responsible for the embankments at the spot are ordered to be punished in various ways. A certain brevet Colonel Chang Yang-hang is cashiered and condemned to serve on the post-roads in Mongolia, two more military and one civil officer are cashiered, while another colonel and the local Magistrate are nominally dismissed, but are retained at their posts. The Governor is ordered to relieve the distressed people and to close the breach as soon as possible.

COPPER FROM YUNNAN FOR PEKING.

T'ang ch'iin, superintendent of Mines in Yunnan, reports that he has despatched 500,000 catties of copper, forming the second instalment of the eighth lot for the use of the Government at Peking.

COPPER MINE AT WEI-NING IN KUEI-CHOU.

The same memorialist states that the Japanese mining expert employed has found a spot at Ta-lang shan, forty li from Wei-ning, where the indications of ore are very promising; and the public company has been ordered to get miners
and set to work at once. Though the works will be carried on with all speed, it will take a year and more before a profitable result is reached. It is therefore requested that no royalty may be exacted till the year after next.—Approved.

SLOW PRODUCTION AT MINES.

The same memorialist reports that hitherto the copper in Yunnan has been cast in irregular blocks, which gave facilities for stealing and peculation. He has therefore instructed the public company working the mines in future to make blocks of a certain form and stamped with the date, their weight, and the name of the mine. This will cause a month or two's delay. Moreover many of the workers are ill with fever, which prevents their working. Also, the ore at present reached is not rich, and the furnaces are not yet in perfect working order. It has taken two million pounds of ore to make a hundred thousand pounds of copper. Under these circumstances it will be only possible to get five hundred thousand pounds during the present year.

PRISONER RECAPTURED AT TIENSTIN.

According to a report of the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, eight years ago a man named Wan Yuan-ch'ing was arrested for robbing the house of an Englishman called Wells at Tientsin. Three other men were engaged in the affair; two of them were never caught, but one, the leader of the party, was put to death, having been discovered and convicted by means of evidence given by Wan Yuan-ch'ing. On this account, and because he had not been guilty of bloodshed, Wan Yuan-ch'ing's sentence of death was commuted to one of penal servitude. He was sent to Kao-lan Hsien in Kansu, where he was fettered with an iron bar and stone weight and delivered to a man to be taken charge of. The following year, being very miserable, he determined to make his escape. He broke the bar and chain, and with the help of a drug effaced the mark branded on his cheek. After this he started eastward, and at the end of three years wanderings arrived again in Tientsin, where he was before long recognised and arrested. A prisoner under commuted sentence of death who escapes from his place of confinement is liable to be put to death on recapture without reference to Peking. But as some such offenders have been allowed the benefit of the recent act of grace, the memorialist humbly reports the case for His Majesty's decision.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

23rd August.

REWARDS FOR RELIEVING DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

At the request of the Governor of Anhui the Emperor confers various honours on a long list of officials and gentlemen who have taken part in the relief of distress in the northern part of the province. Some of those rewarded collected contributions to large amounts; others took part in distributing money, built boats and rescued people, or gave away clothes and medicines. To their action in different ways the Emperor ascribes the preservation of a large number of lives.

24th August.

REPAIRS TO THE ARSENAL AT NANKING.

The Governor-General of the Two Kiang reports that during the twenty years that the Arsenal at Nanking has been in existence the walls, beams and supporting columns have been moved out of place by the continual working of the machinery, and that the pipes in connection with the boilers have worn thin and suffered damage in many places. A new workshop has been completed, and the entire staff of workmen having been transferred there, the business of the establishment is going on as usual. Unless the plant of the old building is immediately repaired, it will become quite unfit for use. The total cost of the necessary repairs, including a sum of T£. 2,000 for new furnaces, is estimated at T£. 8,000, and as such a large payment cannot be made out of the yearly allowance for the manufacture of ammunition it is proposed that it should be defrayed out of the two-tenths of the Shanghai foreign customs.

25th August.

DEATH OF KUNG-T'ANG, GOVERNOR OF HEI LUNG-CHIANG.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang submits a memorial respecting the death of Kung-t'ang which occurred at Tientsin on the 28th of July last. The deceased suffered severely from the hot weather on his journey from Hei Lung Chiang, and when he reached the Hun-t'ung River was laid prostrate with dysentery. As there were no doctors near he continued his journey to Newchwang before he had completely recovered. Here he obtained medical advice and was able to proceed to Tientsin where, in spite of a relapse, he determined to go on to Peking as soon as possible. He had scarcely started, however, before he was obliged to return and only reached Tientsin again in time to die.
The deceased who was a member of a distinguished family had held many frontier appointments and during his tenure of office in Hei Lung Chiang had done much towards strengthening the military position of the province and developing its mineral wealth. He had been quite recently transferred to the post of Tartar General at Hangchow, which appointment he was to take up after he had had audience of the Emperor. Memorialist asks that his remains may be allowed to enter Peking and that the posthumous honour due to his high rank may be paid to his memory.

YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

In continuation of his Report of the 26th of July last, the Governor of Shantung gives further details respecting the breach in the embankment of the Yellow River in Chang-ch'iu and the measures which have been taken for the relief of the distress caused by the floods. About one-fifth of the total volume of water that escaped was carried by the Little Ching River past Lè-an to the sea. A great many villages in Chang-ch'iu, Ts'au-p'ing, Hsin-ch'eng, Kao-yüan, Po-yeh and other districts on the banks of the above river suffered severely from the floods. In Chang-ch'iu and Ts'au-p'ing members of the Famine Relief Committee are at present busy distributing funds, while in Lè-an and other districts on the lower reaches of the river similar good work is being performed by the Taotai of Chefoo and several gentlemen connected with the Southern Committee. The Governor, accompanied by the Taotai, Li Hsi-chih, held an inspection of the breach at Ta-ch'ai and found that the banks in the vicinity were in such a dangerous condition that it would be necessary to wait until the autumn when the water is low before attempting to close it. If repaired now in one place, it would be almost certain to give way in another and more damage would be done than if it were left untouched. Of the overflow on the northern embankment at Hsi-chih-fang some thirty or forty per cent. of the volume of water has been conducted back to the main stream by opening dykes at Wu-t'ang mino, while the remainder has entered the T'u-hai River to the north of Chi-yang.

MORE ON THE YELLOW RIVER.

In a sub-memorial Chang Yao states that the upper portion of the Yellow River which flows through Chihli and Shantung had originally no regular channel. After the great breach at T'ung-wa-hsiang the waters spread in an easterly direction until they reached the Tung-o district, whence they were conducted to the sea by the Ta-ch'ing River. At first the course of the river was close to the Chin embankment, but subsequently it took a southerly direction which necessitated the construction of the Liu-huang line of embankment. For a number of years past the latter structure has shown great signs of danger, and since the third moon of the present year scarcely a day has passed without trouble occurring somewhere in P'u Chou and Fan Hsien. The memorialist visited the locality in person and saw for himself the great difficulty of providing against the danger, owing to the loose nature of the soil, which is merely shifting sand deposited by previous floods. On the 26th and 29th of July last the embankment at the village of Liu-liu in P'u Chou was swept away for a distance of over 50 chang by the rushing mass of water which the Ch'ing-shui River brought down from Chihli. The overflow joined the main stream again at Chang-ch'iu. Any attempt at closing the breach would at present only add to the mischief, but steps are being taken to have both the ends securely fastened, so as to prevent any further collapse. The responsible officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Chang Shih-chung, has been connected with the river for over 20 years and has worked day and night to avert any danger of the kind that has now happened. In consideration of his past services, it is asked that he may merely be stripped of his button and afforded an opportunity of retrieving his reputation. The water had fallen 7 feet during the ten days preceding the date of this memorial, but a telegram from Honan announced another rise of 1 foot 6 inches in the river there.

26th August.

APPOINTMENT.

Liu Oho-yün is gazetted Intendant of Ting Chang Lung Circuit in Fukien.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO WENG T'UNG-HO.

Wèng T'ung-ho, the President of the Board of Revenue, who is also the Emperor's Tutor, makes an application for two months' leave of absence to enable him to return to his home in Kiangsou and repair the family cemetery. It is more than ten years since he paid his last visit to his native place, and were it not that he has learned from his private letters that his ancestral burying ground, which lies close to a mountain ravine, is in danger of being swept away by flood, he would not venture to ask leave to quit his post at the present moment. He proposes, however, to go and
MONTHLY EXPENSES OF WAR VESSELS AT NANKING.

Some two or three years ago the Board of War recommended that the disbursements for wages and other expenses on board the Nan-shên and Nan-juí, two vessels of the Nanking fleet, should be reduced, on the ground that defensive measures on such a large scale were no longer necessary. The Viceroy having been called upon for a report on the subject states that in originally determining the amount of this outlay the horse-power of the various vessels was adopted as the basis of the calculation. In the case of the Ch'eng-ch'ing, for instance, a vessel of 150 horse-power, the monthly disbursement for salaries and wages amounts to Tls. 1,771.5, while on the two vessels above alluded to whose horse-power is 2,800, the expenses are only Tls. 3,425. Though the horse-power of these two vessels is greater than that of the Ch'eng-ch'ing, by 2,620, the difference in their working expenses is only a little over Tls. 1,650 per month. This scale of payment is already so economical that no further reduction can be made without impairing the efficiency of the service, and it would be a great pity for the sake of a small saving to dispense with the services of men who have had the advantage of many years' training.

27th August.

APPOINTMENT.

Chung-hung, a Secretary in one of the Boards, has been appointed Intendant of the Yen Yi Ts'ao Chi Circuit in Shantung.

DISTURBANCE IN ANHUI IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEVY OF THE LAND TAX.

The Governor of Anhui reports the circumstances connected with a disturbance in the Chien-tê district caused by enforcing payment of the land tax. The Magistrate had received instructions to make a survey of the region and report in what places an exemption from the tax ought to be granted, payment in other parts being enforced as usual. A number of tenants, holding farms which had not suffered from the drought, having delayed payment for over a year, the Magistrate visited the locality in person and summoned the tax collectors before him in the office of the Police Magistrate of the district, warning them that prompt payment would be demanded from the defaulting farmers. The latter, annoyed by the constant appeals made to them for payment, collected to the number of eighteen and proceeded in a body to the office of the Police Magistrate, where they wished to argue the question of their liability with the collectors. The Magistrates were both absent at the moment, and the men thinking that they were in hiding in the back portion of the premises, intruded into the inner precincts in search of them. The Police Magistrate's wife, alarmed by the noise of their approach and the uproar from the onlookers in the street, tried to make her escape, and in doing so, fell on her face and sustained serious injuries. Two of the rioters were subsequently arrested, and the remainder having made their escape to Kiangsi, an application for their rendition has been made to the Governor of that province. No special law can be found to cover the case, and the nearest analogous provision in the Statute Book is that relating to the punishment of vagabonds who take advantage of seasons of scarcity to commit plunder and create disturbance affecting the repute of the officials and the public peace. The crime in such instances constitutes a capital offence punishable by decapitation, but as there was no intention to plunder in the present case, the severity of the punishment has under the circumstances been reduced, and the men have been sentenced to 100 blows and banishment to a distance of 3,000 li. The amnesty granted last year on the occasion of the Emperor's accession is not to affect the sentence.

28th August.

EXAMINATION OF THE STUDENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AT CANTON.

The High Authorities at Canton report the result of a triennial examination of the students in the Government School at Canton. The first examination of the kind took place in November, 1867, and was conducted by the then Tartar-General and the Viceroy Jui-lin, who sent up to Peking the names of six candidates selected for the proficiency they had attained in their studies. A further examination of these candidates was held by the Tsung-li Yamên, and they were all raised to the position of Interpreters with the right of competing for a provincial degree, and granted appointments in the various Yamên in Canton. Examinations have since been held at intervals of three years, but the position of Interpreter in the Canton Yamên having become a purely nominal appointment, it was abolished on the recommendation of the late Tartar-General Ch'ang Shan, and any duties of
the kind were to be performed by the most advanced of the students, whose services were to be rewarded at the end of the year. On the present occasion the foreign teacher, Lei-ni, was asked to select 14 of the students who had shown special diligence during their term of study and send up their names as candidates for examination. The examination consisted of translations from Chinese into English and from English into Chinese. The Chinese renderings of eight of the candidates were fairly good, and the English, according to the report of the teacher, Lei-ni, contained no serious errors. Four of the candidates have been appointed Student Interpreters, and the other four have received minor degrees which will enable them to compete for the higher degree at the Provincial examination. The other students are either to be retained or not, according to the proficiency they display at a subsequent test examination.

REWARD TO AN OFFICER FOR PROMPT COLLECTION OF THE GRAIN TAX.

The Governor-General of Hu Kuang and the Governor of Hupeh submit an application of behalf of a Magistrate who made a prompt collection of the land-tax within his district. The officer in question, who was Acting Magistrate of Ma-ch'eng, collected and forwarded within the year over Tls. 30,000, the amount in which the district was assessed, and it is asked that one step of commutative rank should be conferred upon him.

AMNESTY ON THE OCCASION OF THE EMPEROR’S ACCESSION.

The President of the Board of War and his colleagues submit a list of 14 persons at present under sentence of transportation, who are entitled to receive either a general pardon or to have their term of service reduced on account of the amnesty proclaimed by the Emperor. This excludes several officers who are undergoing sentences of transportation on account of failure of duty in military operations, and leaves out of consideration 33 others who have made their escape from the post roads and have not been re-arrested.

OFFICER RETAINED IN HUPEH.

When an officer receives promotion in the civil service he is expected to proceed to Peking for audience, unless the Decree conferring his appointment specially exempts him from doing so. The Governor-General of Hu Kuang requests that his Lieutenant-Governor K'ai T'ai-piao, who was recently transferred to Formosa, may be allowed to remain at his present post until the arrangements connected with the Provincial examinations have been completed, after which he will give over charge at once to his successor, T'eng Hua-hai, and proceed northward.

29th August.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM CHUNGKING FOR RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

A sum of Tls. 80,000 was sent from Chungking during the past two years to relieve the distress which prevailed in the province of Anhui. Of this amount Tls. 27,400 were raised by small contributions for which no special reward could be claimed, but as charitable deeds, when performed by Chinese, are never left unnoticed by the Government, the Governor of Anhui and the Viceroy of Szechuan have hit upon the following for rewarding the philanthropy of the natives of Chungking. The Board of Rites some time ago procured authority for increasing the number of the places to be competed for at the Degree examinations in any district which had been conspicuous for its liberality in such a case, and the present memorialists, taking advantage of this precedent, ask that the natives of the Chungking prefecture should henceforth be allowed to compete for two more places at the civil and military examinations for the first degree. Both the Governor and the Viceroy at Nanking, who also adds his support to the request, express a hope that the application will be favourably entertained in order that a stimulus be given to well doing.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

The same Gazette contains two other memorials from the Governor of Anhui soliciting the bestowal of Imperial marks of favour upon various other Chinese subscribers to the relief of the recent distress in that province.

DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF KUANGSI.

An Imperial Decree notices the death of Kao Ch'ung-chi, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Canton, who had only recently been promoted to the Governorship of Kuangsi. The deceased rose from the post of District Magistrate through the successive ranks of the Civil Service until he attained the high position on which he had just entered when he was prematurely cut off. The Emperor deeply laments his death, and orders that all the honours due to his rank be accorded to the memory of the deceased.
30th August.

POISONING OF THREE MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY.

The following case is reported by the Viceroy at Tientsin as having occurred in the department of Yen-ch'ing. Liu-t'an and Chan-ling were two small farmers who had been neighbours in the district for many years without any ill-feeling. Early in the present year the latter asked the former for a loan of money, and on meeting with a refusal, abused him for his unkindness and ended by kicking and beating him. The matter was settled for the moment by the intervention of some friends, but Liu-t'an felt so keenly the insult that had been put upon him that, after brooding over it for some days, he determined to have the life of his assailant. Not long afterwards he happened to be one day at a fair, where he met a friend named Wang Kuo-pao, from whom he bought some arsenic with which he determined to effect his purpose. On his return home he took advantage of the absence of his wife to mix the arsenic with some buckwheat flour which he found in the house, and wrapping the whole up in a paper parcel he laid it at the door of Chan-ling's house. He then concealed himself in a place from which he could watch the result of his device. Chan-ling, who had been from home, very soon returned, and, falling into the trap, picked up the paper parcel and took it into the house. Next morning the flour was made into little rolls of which the whole family partook, and very soon they were all attacked with symptoms of poisoning. Lentil porridge was used as an antidote but without effect, for three of them died, one on the same day and two shortly afterwards. The poisoner, afraid of detection, attempted to hang himself in an unoccupied temple outside the village, but was cut down before life was extinct. He has since been sentenced to death by the ling-ch'eh process for the murder of three persons in one family, and his property has been confiscated for the benefit of the widow of his victim. His wife, though ignorant of her husband's guilt, ought according to law to be banished to a neighbouring district, but as her case comes under the category included in the amnesty proclaimed on the Emperor's accession, she is to receive a free pardon. His daughter, a child, has already been transferred to another family to be brought up as the wife of one of its members, and is therefore exempted from all connection with her father's guilt. Wang Kuo-pao, who sold the poison, did so under the belief that it was to be used for destroying vermin in the fields, but had it not been that he is also entitled to the benefit of the late amnesty, he would have been sentenced to receive eighty blows for selling poison without proper precautions.

August 31st.

PRINCE I VACATES HIS APPOINTMENTS.

Ts'ai-tun, Prince I, has reported that the leave of absence granted to him has expired, but he is still suffering from sickness. The Emperor therefore permits him to relinquish all his official duties. Whenever his health is restored, he will report himself again for service.

SERICULTURE INTRODUCED INTO KUANGSI.

The Governor of Kuangsi, Shen Ping-ch'ung, states that, on studying the condition of the province under his charge he came to the conclusion that its poverty and backward state were due partly to the natural listlessness of the people and partly to the want of encouragement from the officials; in which way it came to pass that every one considered the region to be unfitted for the cultivation of silk. Moreover, the memorialist found in the provincial archives a decree issued by His Majesty eight years ago in which the neglect of this profitable occupation was severely commented upon. Therefore, being a native of Chekiang and so personally acquainted with all the details of sericulture, he set to work to discover why the previous efforts had resulted in failure. He addressed a circular to the local magistrates, desiring each to report what land there was in his district fit for planting the mulberry, and whether there was any waste ground or not. He at the same time instructed them to inquire into the subject of growing the cotton plant, the tea shrub and all kinds of fruit trees. Next he caused various works on the production of silk to be printed and issued to the public: and he established at Kuei-lin Fu a Board of sericulture consisting of officials of high standing. Under the Board's instructions officers were sent to Chekiang and Kuangtung, where they purchased more than a hundred thousand mulberry shoots. These were planted last winter on about seventy thousand acres of land, and, the spring and summer rains having been seasonable, they now present a most flourishing aspect. The country people are filled with enthusiasm, having thus learnt the possibility of utilising their waste corners of ground without interfering with the regular crops. In consequence of this, large quantities were
bought of the implements required for rearing worms and making silk, and instructors were introduced from Ch’ingsiang and Canton to teach learners the various processes. Moreover by purchasing mulberry leaves and cocoons, the Board showed to the people the possibility of making a profit by the business, and further encouraged them by hiring artisans to reel the threads and weave silk goods. As applications came in from the local authorities in different parts of the province, they were furnished by the Board with the quantity of mulberry shoots required, and sets of implements were issued to them for patterns. As the production at present is but small the trade is freed from all likin charges and is merely subject to a grower’s tax at the place of production. In order to provide for the expenditure of the Board a sum of money has been placed at interest. The memorialist is of opinion that, if perseverance be shewn, the industry may become permanent and be of great advantage to the province which is now in the dangerous condition of depending for support on subsidies from other parts of the Empire. In quitting Kuangai for Anhui the memorialist leaves the matter in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, Ma P’ei-yao, an officer who is distinguished for his benevolence and who has had useful experience, having some time ago successfully introduced sericulture into the province of Shansi.—Noted.

PATROLLING OF COREAN FRONTIER.

The high authorities of Shengching report the patrolling of the Corean frontier last June. This work, which is performed every summer and autumn, is considered necessary because of the number of Chinese squatters settled on the frontier along the bank of the Yalu River, where they are under no regular jurisdiction. According to custom, a communication was sent to the King of Corea by the Board of Ceremonies at Moukden, and an officer appointed by the former met the representative of the Shengching Government at a spot near the frontier. When they had traversed the district together, the Corean delegate gave his Chinese colleague a document certifying that all was quiet, and thus the proceedings were concluded.

September 1st.

ARREARS OF MILITARY PAY CANCELLED.

From a memorial presented by the Governor of Kuangsi it appears that among the troops serving in that province is a Hunan contingent which has been stationed there for many years. The officer who was formerly in command of this force has represented that there are large arrears of pay owing to it. There was a considerable sum due to it from the Government as long ago as 1864, but this was written off by a special arrangement which will be described below. Since that date the force has taken part in more than two hundred combats large and small. By the time when the said officer retired from the command, arrears had again accumulated and had mounted up to a sum of Tls. 760,600. The commander had conferred with the officers and men of the force, and they had declared themselves perfectly willing that the sum should be cancelled as before. This had been represented once to the Government, but nothing had then been done, because the accounts were not yet passed by the Board in Peking. Now, however, they had been found to be in order, and therefore the commander begged to renew his application.

The memorialist referred this statement to the local Board for the Restoration of Order. The Board in reply announces that the averments of the commander are perfectly correct. There were certain war expenses incurred in the province between the summer of 1864 and the end of 1875, at which latter date the Board replaced the previously existing Military Supply Committee. In 1878 and 1880 the Board made out full accounts of these expenses, dividing them into three series according to the campaigns to which they related. The first included the suppression of the Taiping rebels under Sun Jen-kuang, and of certain banditti at T’ai-susu Chen; the second, the suppression of banditti round Ssu-en, Wu-chou, Liu-chou, and Ch’ing-yuan, an expedition against the rebels in the province of Kueichow and the protection of the navigable rivers; the third, operations against insurgents near Kuei-lin and other cities, two expeditions across the border into Tongking, and frontier defence on the Right and Left Branches of the West River. These accounts have now all been passed by the Board of Revenue. In each series there are sums for arrears of pay; and in the first one they amount to Tls. 864,300. It is now requested that the Tls. 760,600 due to the Hunan troops may be written off therefrom. It was formerly announced by the Board of Revenue that, for the sum of Tls. 300,000 subscribed by the people of any province for military expenses, the number of successful candidates at the provincial examinations, both civil and military,
should each be increased by one for ever afterwards, and, for Tls. 100,000, a similar favour should be accorded at the next examination, for one time only. In pursuance of this arrangement, the Kuangsi Government prays that, in return for the cancelling of the Tls. 760,000, two civil and two military graduates may be added for ever to the present number in the province of Hunan, and, for the balance, one of each at the coming examination only.—Referred to the Board concerned.

A SECRET SOCIETY IN KUANGSI.

Some time ago the authorities of Kuangsi heard of the existence of a secret society in Yung-ning Chou near Kuei-lin. The local magistrate was warned, and shortly afterwards he reported that he had arrested nine men at a place just on the border of his district. On examination, one of the prisoners, Tseng Fu-ti by name, confessed that he had been induced by a certain Hunan man to join a secret society called "The Flying Bear Union," the object of which was the organised commission of robberies. The Hunan man had given him a piece of linen with an inscription on it as proof of membership, and told him to enlist recruits. The novices were at first only invited to enter a "Parents' Union," the members of which were supposed to subscribe to the funeral expenses of each others' parents and help each other if oppressed. When after a time they became more intimate, they were told about the other society. None of the other prisoners, as both he and they declared, had gone beyond the first stage. In addition Tseng Fu-ti confessed that he had taken part in a robbery with violence three years ago, under the leadership of a man who had already been executed. The Governor of Kuangsi has ordered the immediate execution of Tseng Fu-ti. His eight companions will again be examined in order that it may be discovered how far they are really implicated. Ten other men have since been arrested as conspirators at a place under another jurisdiction, but situated close to the scene of Tseng Fu-ti's operations. They also will be tried and dealt with as soon as possible.

2nd September.

HEIR ADOPTED FOR A PRINCESS.

One of the Censors presents a Memorial on behalf of Chih-hsin, sub-director of one of the Courts at Peking and a mandarin of the fifth class. Chih-hsin's elder brother, Chih-tuan, is the husband of one of the Imperial Princesses of the first rank. Chih-tuan being without an heir, Chih-hsin is willing to allow his own son, Lin-kuang, to become the child of Chih-tuan by adoption. The Emperor is pleased to order that Lin-kuang be adopted as the heir of the Jungshou Imperial Princess, and be granted the rank and dignities ordinarily enjoyed by the husband of a Princess of the first rank.

3rd September.

THE GREAT FIRE IN SZECHUAN: FURTHER RELIEF.

In a previous Memorial the Governor-General of Szechuan reported the occurrence of a great fire at Lü Chou, by which three thousand families were burnt out of house and home; and he stated that a sum of Tls. 19,000 had been raised for the benefit of the sufferers. He was afterwards afraid that some of the unfortunate people might have escaped the notice of the officers distributing the charity, or that in some cases the sums which it was possible to give might not prove sufficient to relieve the needs of the recipients. He therefore desired the local authorities to make fresh enquiries on the spot, and instructed the Board of Transport to invite the salt merchants of the province to contribute funds. In due time the Sub-prefect of Lü Chou reported that three hundred and sixty-five families were found to have retired into the country, and there was no one else whatever who had escaped attention. Also, the Taotai of the Circuit stated that contributions to the amount of Tls. 10,400 had been made by the salt merchants, that the officials and merchants of Hsi-chou Fu had subscribed 2,700 strings of cash, and that a charitable society in Lü Chou had presented 2,000 strings; with which money grants had been made to the three hundred and sixty-five families who had not yet received anything, and additional sums had been given to those previously relieved. The Governor-General was still afraid that the money at the disposal of the Lü Chou authorities might not be sufficient. He therefore instructed the officers at headquarters to take five thousand taels from whatever funds might be lying unoccupied, and send them to Lü Chou for distribution in the same way as the sums already furnished.

4th September.

PROPOSED LOANS TO THE POOR.

Ch'en I, formerly Governor of Anhui, has proposed that the Government should institute a system of lending money to the poor free of interest. According to his
scheme, the whole business would be entrusted to private management; the borrowers would be required to find sureties among their neighbours; they would repay a certain portion of their debts every five days; and when they were clear, they might borrow again. The Emperor is far from pleased with the idea. The people, he thinks, would be sure to want to borrow and not be able to pay back again. Their sureties would be prosecuted, and, wherever there were unworthy officials and clerks, abuses and oppression would possibly arise.

In the time of the Sung Dynasty great harm was done by a system of lending money in the spring and receiving payment with interest after the harvest. The present scheme is much like the old one. No interest, indeed, is proposed to be charged; but the practice of collecting the money again every five days would inflict greater inconvenience on the people. His Majesty considers that the whole proposal is impossible and distinctly refuses to sanction it.

AN OFFICER CASHIERED FOR LEVYING DUES.

The Governor-General of Szechuan complains to the Emperor of the conduct of a certain major in the army, Tung Huichuan. This officer, who is now fifty-eight years of age, first served in a campaign in 1856 against some insurgents in Kuei-chow, for which he was rewarded by a button of the fifth rank and a feather decoration. In 1858 he obtained by purchase the grade of Captain. The same year he competed at the provincial examination and gained the rank of military graduate. Next year he went to Peking for the metropolitan examination, but only obtained a place in the third class. In 1860, when the T'ai-ping rebels commanded by Shih entered Szechuan, he took part in the relief of Fou Chou and Ch'ing-chiang and in the recapture of Ch'ang-ming. For this he was granted the brevet rank of Major. It is now found that he has been guilty of harassing his neighbours by setting up scales for weighing salt and levying fees thereon, under the fictitious pretence of collecting funds for a free school and providing incense and candles for a local temple. The memorialist has requested the Board of War to cashier the said officer in order that he may be placed on his trial. But the Board has replied that on account of the officer's rank, the memorialist must apply direct to the Throne. It is therefore humbly requested that his Majesty will be pleased to authorise the removal of the offender from the public service.—Granted.

ABSENTEE OFFICIALS CENSURED.

A Censor has reported that on the 10th of last month, when sacrifice was offered at the temple of Kuan Ti, there were but very few officers present for the purpose of watching the proceedings or taking part in them. The Emperor is much vexed by the absence of the officials who ought to have attended at the ceremony. He desires the proper authority to find out who they may be, with a view to their beings punished for their unseemly negligence. But the Censor who made the report, while finding fault with others has committed an error himself. In mentioning in his memorial the name of the high dignitary who conducted the ceremony, he spoke of him as 'Prince Cheng,' instead of giving him his proper title of 'Cheng, Prince of the First Order.' For this great irregularity the Emperor orders that the Censor's name be submitted to the Board of Civil Office, which will determine what notice shall be taken of his fault.

6th September.

FLOODS IN YUNNAN.

In K'un-yang Chou, not far from Yunnan Fu, tremendous rains fell on the 19th of June, continuing for three days and nights. On the 22nd and 23rd the water in the lake and in the mountain streams rose suddenly at the same time. The embankments were washed away in various places for several hundred yards. In Chin-nung Chou the river channel was blocked by sand and silt, which delayed the passage of the water and aggravated the effects of the flood higher up stream.

On the 18th of June a water-spout broke in the immediate neighbourhood of Tali Fu. The arable land near the lake was flooded, and was covered with quantities of stones and silt. Two stone bridges were washed away; but no lives were lost.

Orders have been issued for the distribution of relief where required, and for the repair of the broken embankments. As the harvest is comparatively late in Yunnan, it is hoped that by re-planting, the farmers will be able to secure an autumn crop. The memorialist therefore proposes to wait till the autumn and then decide whether it will be necessary to apply for any abatement or postponement in the collection of the land tax.

7th September.

APPOINTMENTS.

Kuang-ying is gazetted Hoppo at Canton and Hsiao-sseng is continued in office for
another year as Superintendent o£ the Han-sian Customs.

DEATH OF THE TAOTAI OF KASHGAR.

The Acting Governor of Turkestan reports the death some three months ago of Yuan Yen-ling, who had been Taotai at Kashgar for some years and was recently selected for the post of Acting Lieutenant Governor of the province. The deceased, who was 56 years of age, was a native of Anhui and had early in life volunteered for military service. The vacancy in Kashgar is one of great importance and it is asked that a competent officer should be selected to fill it.

Decree already published conferring the appointment upon Jao Ying-ch'i.

IMPROVEMENT IN SALT ADMINISTRATION IN YUNNAN.

The Governor of Yünnan states that during the ten years or more which have elapsed since the suppression of the Pan-chen rebellion the consumption of salt in the province has been greatly restricted, owing to the sparseness of the population. It is only within the past two or three years that the trade has shown signs of reviving, and thanks to the energy of T'ang P'in-chên, the Taotai in charge of the salt administration, the receipts from the tax on the article reached their previous level last year, while the figures for the current year show a surplus revenue of about $10,000. The Taotai has succeeded in suppressing the smuggling trade which until recently went on with Tongking and Burma and has placed the whole administration on a footing which affords a guarantee of its future success as a substantial source of revenue. As the Taotai is an officer of high standing in the service, the Governor leaves it to the Throne to decide what form of reward should be conferred upon him.

Referred to the consideration of the Board.

8th September.

GRAIN TRIBUTE IN SHANTUNG APPROPRIATED TO THE RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS BY THE YELLOW RIVER DISASTERS.

A Decree published to-day notices the widespread nature of the distress caused by the Yellow River disaster in Chang-ch'iu, Chi-ho and other districts, and authorises the Governor of Shantung to retain in the province for distribution among the sufferers 100,000 piculs of the tribute rice which was to have been forwarded to Peking during the present year. All the allowances and expenses connected with the conveyance of the grain are similarly to be appropriated for the benefit of the afflicted regions.

THE YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports that on the 7th of August last he received a communication from the Director General of the Yellow River, informing him that there had been a rise on the 1st August of five feet within a few hours in the waters of the river at Yen-chin-l'an in Shan Chou. Prompt instructions were issued to the river authorities to take precautionary measures of an effective kind. Between the 6th and 9th of August the Shantung portion of the river rose 2 feet 8 inches, and the volume of the water was greater and more violent than it had been for many years past. Breaches occurred in the Chin embankment all along its course through five departments, and symptoms of great danger were apparent in a number of places in the Ch'ang-ch'ine, Chi-ho, Li-ch'êng, Ping-yin and other districts. On the night of the 9th and on the morning of the 10th of August there was a perfect deluge of rain accompanied by a high wind which lashed the waters into a great fury. A company of 20 soldiers and an officer who were engaged in keeping the embankment from giving way at a village in the Ch'i-ho district were carried away and drowned in a rush of water which poured over the top of the embankment before they had time to make their escape. The Governor visited the spot in person and found that there was a breach of 45 feet in length, at the centre of which there was a depth of nine feet of water. Orders were given for its repair which, it was estimated, would cost over $40,000. Colonel Chang Yung-hung who, with a body of 500 men, has had 140 li of this portion of the river under his charge for the last seven years, is blamed for having failed to secure the ends of the embankments after the breach had occurred. When the Governor took him to task for his remissness, his only excuse was that there was no earth available for the purpose. It is recommended that he should be cashiered and sent into banishment. The Magistrate of Ch'i-ho and another officer are held to have been dilatory in their attempts to stem the current, and both are to be stripped of their office. The plea of want of materials the Governor considers to be quite untenable. Permission had been given to pull up and make use of the standing millet crops, and this presented no difficulty as the people in the vicinity of the river had fled and were at any rate to receive a
compensation. A number of other officials denounced by the Governor have lost their positions in the public service.

LARGE DONATIONS FOR RELIEF MEASURES IN SHANTUNG.

In a Sub-memorial the Governor of Shantung acknowledges the receipt of the following subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the Yellow River disaster:—

From the Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, Tls. 20,000; from the Governor-General at Nanking, Tls. 30,000; from Shêng-yü, a Libationer in the Imperial Academy Tls. 1,000; and Tls. 1,000 from the Prefect of Canton, all of which is being distributed by agents deputed by the Relief Committee and the Taotai at Chefoo.

9th September.

RETURN OF A LAMA MISSION FROM PEKING.

The Tartar-General at Chêng-tu and the Viceroy of Szechuan report the progress on its return journey through the province of a Lama Mission from Chamdo which had recently visited Peking. After remaining four days at the provincial Capital, the members of the Mission started for Ta Chien Lu, where they were detained for a long time owing to difficulties connected with the transport of their baggage. One of the abbots fell sick there, and was unable to continue his journey until last January. The movements of the mission were attended with no disturbance, and all their wants were duly attended to by the local authorities.

REWARDS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXERTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FAMINE RELIEF IN ANHUI.

The remainder of this day's Gazette is almost entirely occupied with memorials from the Viceroy at Nanking and the Governor of Anhui recommending for honours and various forms of reward persons who aided, either by subscriptions or distribution of relief, the sufferers from the distress which has prevailed during the past three years in Anhui. In 1887 Huaining and six other departments bordering on the Yangtze suffered severely from floods and not long afterwards eleven departments along the banks of the Sha and Hual rivers were completely inundated by the waters of the Yellow River. Last year Ho-fei and twelve other districts and departments were visited by a severe drought. These and other disasters caused wide-spread distress extending over three years and it is estimated that by the efforts of the gentry and the officials considerably over a million of lives were saved. The Governor of Anhui expresses the deep sense of his indebtedness to his colleagues, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Provincial Judge, who shared all his trials and difficulties during this prolonged crisis. A number of military and civil officers are also singled out for special mention and a list of all who subscribed to, and took part in distributing, the relief fund is submitted to the favourable consideration of the Throne.

10th September.

FLOODS AND STORMS IN SHENSI.

The Governor of Shensi forwards a summary of a number of reports which he has received from the district officers respecting great storms of thunder and rain which occurred in different parts of the province in the last few days of June. In the Ch'ang-an district six villages were inundated. In the department of Lu-chou there was a terrific storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by hailstones as big as walnuts, which covered the ground to a depth of five inches and completely destroyed the standing crops over an area of 120 ch'ing of land. Other districts suffered from the storms but in a less degree. Orders have been issued for an inspection of the affected regions and measures will be taken, according to the amount of damage sustained, for the remission of the land tax or a postponement of its collection. 'Seed corn is being issued to the peasantry to be sown as a late crop on the ground where the harvests have been destroyed.

11th September.

SHEN PING-CH'ENG, GOVERNOR OF KUANGSI, STARTS FOR HIS NEW POST IN ANHUI.

Shên Ping-ch'êng, who has been Governor of Kiangsi for the last two years and who was recently transferred to Anhui, reports that he handed over charge of the administration of the former province to his successor Kao Ch'êng-ch'êng on the 14th of July last. In accordance with the etiquette invariably observed on such occasions the seals, archives, and other appurtenances of the office were forwarded to the new Governor by the Prefect of the provincial capital and the outgoing governor's aide-de-camp. Before taking up his new post, Shên Ping-ch'êng is proceeding to Nanking to consult with the Viceroy on the administrative measures required in the government of Anhui.

LINEAL SUCCESSOR TO CHIANG YI-LI, FORMERLY GOVERNOR OF KUANGTUNG.

The Governor of Honan reports that Chiang Tê-ch'un, an officer holding by purchase the rank of Secretary in a Board,
has applied for permission to succeed to the hereditary titles formerly held by Chiang Yi-li, Governor at Canton. Chiang Yi-li died without male issue, and the applicant is a nephew who became his son by adoption. After his degradation from the post of Governor at Canton, Chiang Yi-li rendered valuable services in the field against the rebels, for which he received hereditary titles of the sixth and seventh orders, and eventually he so far regained the Imperial favour that in 1874 he was summoned to Peking for employment. He died a few months after his arrival, and after his death was reinstated in all the privileges due to his rank as Governor of Kuangtung. The adopted son who now succeeds to the titles of the deceased is 24 years of age and is to be introduced at Court preparatory to being confirmed in the succession.

12th September.

CASE OF MATRICIDE.

The following case is reported by the Governor of Kuangsi. On the death of a man named Chang in the Tung-hsiang district in Kiangsi, his wife after the usual period of mourning was betrothed to a neighbour called Chou, the father of her first husband negotiating the second marriage. Her second husband died without issue but left an adopted son named Chou Wen-ching, who continued to live in the house after the death of his father and was ordinarily a person of good behaviour. Last year, however, his mind became affected and he was subject to fits and mental delusion. As he had never proved very violent, his mother and some neighbours did not like to report the case to the authorities and have him placed in confinement. One day when returning from the market his mother found him in a field acting like a raving madman, and tried to bring him home with her. He knocked her down and strangled her before a farmer who was an adjacent field could come to her assistance. After his arrest he gave incoherent answers to all the questions that were put to him, and the vacant stare on his face, no less than the rapid beating of the pulse, furnished indications of the malady with which he was afflicted. He has been condemned to death by the slow and painful process for the murder of his adopted mother and the sentence will be carried into effect in the provincial capital less than a month after he had entered upon the duties of his office. Immediately on his arrival at Kuei-lin Fu he took over the seals of office from the outgoing Governor, Shen Ping-ch'eng, and although he had contracted fever on the long and trying journey from Canton, yet he devoted himself earnestly to the study of all the administrative questions which came before him. Want of rest and proper treatment told severely on his health, and during the night of the 7th August he suddenly became unconscious and remained in this state until his death, which followed three days later. The termination of his illness was so sudden and unexpected that he had no time either to apply for leave or indite a testamentary memorial. The Lieutenant-Governor locked up the seals, death warrants, and other badges of office in a strong room and will continue to conduct the administration of the province until a successor can be appointed. The deceased Governor had risen to be a magistrate all through the successive grades of the public service; and his death at such a distance from his native place in Chihli just as he had received the crowning mark of the Imperial favour is peculiarly sad and distressing. His eldest son, who is an expectant Secretary in one of the Boards, had gone home to attend the provincial examination, but has been telegraphed for. The only member of his family present at the time of his death was his second son, a lad of nine.

DEATH OF A TAOTAI IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports the death from paralysis on the 6th August last of the Intendant of the Yen Yi Ts'ao Chi Circuit in Shantung. The Intendancy embraces three Prefectures and one department, and being conterminous with Chihli, Chihli, and other provinces, is a post of great importance. The Taotai is also charged with the safe-keeping of the funds employed in connection with Yellow River expenses throughout his jurisdiction. A very competent officer named Liu Chieh-ching has been found to administer the
duties of the office, but it is asked that a substantive appointment should be made as soon as possible.

14th September.

FLOODS IN SZECHUAN.

The Emperor is moved to pity by the account which he has heard of the floods in the valleys of the Fou River and the Ya River in Szechuan. He orders a sum of fifty thousand taels to be taken from the provincial funds and distributed among the sufferers.

FLOODS IN MANY PARTS OF KUANGTUNG.

According to a memorial presented by the Viceroy at Canton, last May and June the mountain streams overflowed the country in the north-east of the province. In Chia-ying Chou and the adjacent district of Chen-p'ing the damage done was so great as to amount to a very serious calamity. The memorialist immediately ordered five thousand taels to be borrowed from the Ch'ao-chou Fu merchants, and he sent a further ten thousand taels from the provincial treasury. Before this money could be distributed, he received a telegram saying that parts of Ping-yuan Hsien in the same neighbourhood had been suddenly flooded, many persons being drowned, houses washed down and fields flooded, and that such a calamity had happened in parts of Chia-ying. He thereupon sent another two thousand taels and ordered enquiries to be made and relief to be given. According to the fuller reports which have since reached him, the district of Chen-p'ing was overwhelmed by a water spout in addition to the freshets coming down from the mountains of Fuken and Kiangai. A hundred thousand feet of embankments were broken down, some thousands of houses were washed away, and hundreds of lives were lost. Two hundred salt boats were sunk, and seven tenths of the cultivated land was inundated, crops to the estimated amount of 82,000 piculs thus being destroyed. The majority of the inhabitants had fled from their homes, and the collection of the taxes had become impossible. The authorities were doing their best to tranquillise the people; but it was necessary at once to restore the embankments, which would cost a very large sum. This could not be found by the people themselves as rich and poor were reduced to the same destitution. The memorialist learns that the embankments in Chen-p'ing are used to store up water for purposes of irrigation, and are different in character from the banks of the large rivers in other localities. When the flood came, everything was washed flat, and it will be necessary not only to reconstruct the embankments, but to remove the mud and sand which is scattered over the fields. He has taken from the treasury Ts. 10,000, and he proposes to execute the repairs as relief works. The strong will be expected at the same time to contribute their labour, and the wealthy to give pecuniary subscriptions. The old and weak, the women and children, will have relief distributed to them separately. The damage done in Chia-ying is much less than in Chen-p'ing; and in Ping-yuan, though the suffering is severe, still the houses destroyed are only counted by hundreds and the lives lost by tens.

In Hui-chou Fu, it appears that crops in Kuishan Hsien have suffered but little, though the city wall has fallen in places, and 12,000 feet of embankment have been washed away in Po-lo Hsien, where a fifth of the crops is damaged. In Kuang-chou Fu, there is mischief done in Tung-kuan Hsien, and in Ts'ung-hua Hsien; while parts of Hsi-nan have suffered from a whirlwind, many houses being blown down and eight lives lost. There have also been floods and embankments washed away in Kuang-ning Hsien, which belongs to Shao-ch'ing Fu, and in Lu-feng Hsien of Hui-chou Fu. In all these places the local authorities have been ordered to issue relief as required. A list is added of several other places in Hui-chou, Kuang-chou and Ch'ao-chou, where there have also been inundations; but, as the water passed quickly away, the harm has not been serious in any of them.

FLOOD IN NORTHERN KONAN.

The Ch'in River in Honan on the north side of the Yellow River is always a cause of anxiety. This year its banks held out well through the spring and summer freshets; but they gave way just at the end of July at a place where no repairs have been required for many years. The water has gone across country to the Tan River, and the land is flooded to a depth of three or four feet. The crops of course are drowned. Boats have been sent out to bring in the people; and prepared food and mats are being distributed to them. The local officials are deprived of their buttons as they are considered in some degree blameworthy for not preventing the breaking of the embankment.

15th September.

FLOODS IN NORTHERN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui states that he has already reported the occurrence of an inundation last June in the district of Su-sung, which lies just to the north of the
Yangtze and on the border of Hupeh. He now gives an account of some much more serious floods which devastated the valley of the Huai River in the latter part of June and the beginning of July.

The Huai shortly after its entry into Anhui is joined by the Sha and other rivers from Honan on the north, and by the river of Liu-an Chou on the south. Owing to the heavy rains all these streams were filled to the brim at the same time. The channel lower down was not large enough to carry off the water, and the natural result was a disastrous flood. The embankments were broken in many places and a large number of villages, as well as fields, were inundated. The state of affairs was most serious in Ho-ch'iu, Ying-shang, Shou Chou, Feng-t'ai, Huai-yuan, Feng-yang and Wu-ho, a line of districts extending all the way from the Honan frontier to the edge of the Hung-tse Lake. The inhabitants of the low-lying villages were driven from their homes and forced to seek refuge on patches of elevated ground, where they were in dire want of food. Officials were despatched in all directions with rolls of matting, money, corn and prepared eatables, by the distribution of which the refugees were temporarily provided with nourishment and shelter. In Shou Chou the flood rose higher than it had done last year. The city was invaded by the waters, and three of the gates could not be opened. But an embankment was hastily constructed with the aid of the troops and by its means the place was saved. Fortunately the waters, which originally had risen with marvellous rapidity, subsided also with great quickness. At the end of the first week in July they began to fall steadily, and no further alarm was felt. Still, coming after the flood of last year, the distress is more than local resources can cope with. The memorialist has therefore ordered the distribution of some money from the remains of last year's fund which are still in hand.

There has also been distress caused by inundations in the districts of Huai-ning, Ch'ien-shan and T'ai-hu which are situated near the Yangtze between Ganking and the district of Su-sung mentioned at the beginning of this memorial. In these localities embankments were broken and houses overwhelmed; and it was found necessary to bestow charity upon the poorer of the sufferers.

GUNBOAT CARRIED OFF BY SMUGGLERS.

The Governor at Soochow has reported to the Emperor that a gunboat belonging to the preventive service has been seized and carried away by salt smugglers. The Taotai, Ting Chao-chi, in whose charge the vessel was, concealed the loss instead of reporting it. Afterwards, when the story became known, he was ordered to arrest the guilty parties within a certain time, but he did not succeed in so doing. The Emperor considers the Taotai's conduct to be most reprehensible and orders him to be cashiered immediately. The Magistrate of Wu-chiang, where the affair occurred, is held to be blameworthy in some degree and is therefore removed from his post. His Majesty also approves of a suggestion made by the Governor to the effect that a single preventive force should be organised for service in Kiangsu and Chêkiang together. He desires the memorialist to consult the Governor of Chêkiang with reference to the appointment of a commander for the force.

16th September.

PEKING CUSTOMHOUSE RECEIPTS.

A report for the past year is presented by the Superintendents of the Peking Customhouse, the headquarters of which are situated at the Hata Mên Gate. The receipts for the twelve months amount only to Tls. 173,000, which is less than the fixed assessment by the sum of Tls. 141,000. This deficiency appears now-a-days to come about to the same amount every year, and it is ascribed by the memorialists to a variety of causes. The principal of these is the fluctuation in the exchange of copper and silver. Next come, the dearness of food and labour, which makes transport expensive, floods in the producing districts in the south, the increased use of foreign goods, and the badness of the roads during the heavy rains at the end of the summer just passed.

SILKS FOR THE PALACE FROM HONAN.

The Governor of Honan reports that an order for silks sent to him from the Imperial Household has been executed at the provincial capital, K'ai-feng Fu. The goods consist of three hundred pieces of Honan silk, and the same number of pieces of damask, crape and undyed pongee, also three thousand pieces of cotton material. They were all made to order on receipt of the demand from the Palace.

HEIR ADOPTED FOR AN IMPERIAL PRINCESS.

In the Gazette of the 2nd September appeared a Decree ordering that Lin-kuang be adopted as heir to the Jung-shou Imperial Princess. The memorial on which the Decree was founded is now published. It appears that Lin-kuang's uncle was married
to the Princess in 1866, and died without an heir in 1871. By a family arrangement, in which the Princess concurred, it was recently agreed that Lin-kuang should be adopted as son of his uncle. In reply a Decree was issued to the effect set forth above.

17th September.

REMITTANCES FROM CHEKIANG TO PEKING.

According to the arrangements made by the Board of Revenue for this year, the Chêkiang government was directed to furnish from its salt receipts Tls. 220,000 for the Metropolitan Government and Tls. 50,000 for the Imperial Household. An installment of Tls. 60,000 has now been sent from Hangchow. The silver will be shipped by steamer to Tientsin and forwarded thence by road to Peking.

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.

According to a memorial presented by the Military Governor of Jeho, last year an officer named Chang Taou-k'ai was appointed Magistrate of the District of Chien-ch'ung. This gentleman had risen slowly, partly by purchase and partly by promotion for good service, from the low grade of literary licentiate; and when he was nominated to his present post, the government determined that he should hold it one year on trial before his appointment was made permanent. The term of probation has now ended, and the capabilities of the officer have been satisfactorily demonstrated. It is therefore requested that he may be confirmed in his post.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

18th September.

A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION FOUNDED.

According to a memorial presented by the Governor of Shansi, a gentleman of Hsiang-shan in that province, named Ou Ju-chang, recently founded a charity for the benefit of the family to which he belonged. The endowment of the institution consisted of twelve hundred and twenty-seven acres of rice land and one and a half acres of other ground, worth altogether Tls. 34,144. The founder having died before he had time to complete his work, in obedience to his last wishes his son has erected buildings to the cost of Tls. 11,875. The total expenditure thus amounts to over Tls. 46,000. From the annual revenue of the property support will be afforded to all kinmen of the founder who may be reduced to want through being childless, orphans, or cripples; and help will be given, where required, towards the expenses of marriages, funerals, school teaching, and attending examinations. As a reward for this munificence and as an encouragement to others, the memorialist suggests that the Board of Civil Office should take into consideration the erection of a memorial to record the beneficence of the gentleman and his son who have founded the institution.—Referred to the Board.

19th September.

GRANTS TO CHARITIES AT PEKING.

The Emperor orders that two charitable institutions at Peking shall each receive an extra grant of five hundred piculs of small millet in addition to the three hundred piculs ordinarily bestowed upon them and that a third institution of the same character shall be given three hundred piculs. Four hundred piculs of millet are also allowed for the soup-kitchen at Lu-kou Ch'iao, and three hundred for "the warm refuge" of another society.

REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

The high authorities of Kiangsu report that, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, they have framed regulations for the prevention of abuses in connection with the public examinations held periodically at the provincial capital. Rules, they remark, have always existed; but the examiners have come to regard them as a mere formality, and the students to neglect them entirely. The result is that a very unseemly state of affairs exists; which is all the more discreditable, as the province enjoys a reputation for scholarship above any other part of the empire. Regulations have now been drawn up in detail by the Grand Treasurer, the general effect of which is given below for the Emperor's information. Of the different kinds of cheating at examinations, the most serious of all is the impersonation of candidates. To prevent this the officers of Instruction and their clerks must not fail to identify the competitors before they enter the hall; and fellow students will be allowed to denounce any one whom they detect committing this offence. There is danger in the crowding and disorder which occurs when the admission to the hall begins. On this account, there will be three principal gateways provided with barriers, and entrance will be allowed to the competitors in detachments not exceeding certain numbers. Means will be taken to prevent all introduction of books or of printed copies of old essays. No attendants will be allowed to pass the gates. If gentlemen from personal weakness cannot carry their own paraphernalia, their servants may only be these articles as far as the doorway,
where they can hand them to the soldiers, a number of whom will be told off for the purpose of receiving them. No one who enters will be allowed to go out again. Candidates must keep the cells allotted to them and not change about. The papers will be stamped, as is done in Peking; and if any are given up from the wrong cell, they will not be submitted to the inspection of the examiners. There is another kind of abuse which demands special attention. Essays are sometimes written by friends and then surreptitiously conveyed to the candidates in the hall through the agency of the officials present. Also, as a part of this fraud, communication is established with persons outside by means of letters, which are tied to stones and thrown over the walls. Acts such as these must be prevented by the constant watchfulness of the proctors and other officers present. Again, a stop must be put to the practice of giving fees to the clerks who make the copies of the essays for the perusal of the examiners. For it is found that these clerks make beautiful copies for those who pay them well, and hasty scrawls for those who do not. A check at the same time must be kept on the copyists, in order to ensure that they do their work correctly. This can be effected by comparing papers from time to time and inflicting sharp punishment for inaccuracies. Again the officers in the halls often make presents of food and such things to the sons of high officials who happen to be candidates, and who are necessarily well known to them. Though there may be no corruption connected with this, still the practice is improper and should be stopped. The rules, of which the above is a concise sketch, have already been printed and published in full; and it is hoped that if they are impartially enforced by all officers from the highest downwards, wealthy candidates will not be able to take advantage of their riches and poor scholars will not be subjected to temptation.—*Noted.*

20th September.

**BURNING OF THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.**

An Imperial Decree notices the burning of a part of the Temple of Heaven. On the 18th of September a thunderstorm occurred, in the course of which the Hall of Annual Prayer was struck by lightning and gradually burnt. The flames were extinguished by the efforts of the soldiers, and other persons. Two officers in charge, belonging to the Court of Sacrificial Worship, cannot escape the blame which falls upon them for their carelessness in not taking proper precautions. They and the Presidents of the Court are therefore delivered to the Board for the determination of a penalty. The attendants at the Temple will be rigorously examined by the Governor of Peking, in order to find out if there have been any improper practices or not. The city fire-brigades which rendered assistance are formally thanked for their services. The event is regarded by the Emperor as a solemn warning, and his mind is filled with awe. He calls upon his officers with earnestness and sincerity to aid him in the unceasing efforts which he will make, even more than before, to secure the good government of the country.

**CONDITION OF YELLOW RIVER IN HONAN.**

Wu Ta-ch'êng reports that he has succeeded in preserving the embankments at the recent great breach and at other dangerous points along the south side of the Yellow River in Honan. His memorial embraces the period from the 15th of July to the 7th of August. During this time the water rose as much as twenty-three-and-a-half feet, the cause being heavy local rains combined with the descent of freshets from the upper portion of the river. Special efforts were required at many points along the banks, the embankments being heightened or widened, or stones thrown to form breakwaters, as the circumstances at each spot demanded.

**DEATH OF HSÜEH FU-CH'EN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CENSORATE AND BROTHER OF THE MINISTER TO GREAT BRITAIN.**

The acting Governor of Kiangsu announces the death, on the 29th of July last, at his residence in the Wei-hsi district, of Hsüeh Fu-ch'ên, Vice-President of the Censorate, whose official advancement was due in a great measure to his skill as Court Physician. The deceased is the elder brother of Hsüeh Fu-ch'êng, the recently appointed Minister to Great Britain, who was also on a visit to his home at the time of the occurrence, previous to proceeding to his new post. He leaves four sons, two of whom have passed by adoption into other families. His illness, which is understood to have been paralysis, had become very serious before he quitted Peking, and terminated fatally within less than a month after his arrival at his native place.

**ACTING LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF KIANGSU.**

The Governor of Kiangsu reports that he has granted T'ien Kuo-ch'ên, who has recently been acting as Lieutenant-Governor
of the province, short leave of absence before proceeding to assume his new appointment as Chief Judge of Kueichow, and recommends as his successor in the former post Liu Shu-t'ang, the new Judicial Commissioner of Kiangsu, of whom he speaks in very favourable terms.

ORGANISED ATTACK UPON A LIKIN OFFICE.

The Governor of Anhui reports the circumstances connected with an organised attack made by a band of fourteen men upon the likin office at a place called Ting-fu, in the Chien-p'ung district of the province. The men were nearly all dis­banded soldiers from other provinces who met together at an opium divan kept by one of their number, and there made their plans for carrying out the robbery. They met with some resistance from the people in charge of the office, one or two of whom they wounded, but in the end they suc­ceeded in making away with $640 and a quantity of valuable clothing and other articles, a distribution of which was made amongst them in proportion to the share each had taken in the enterprise. The military authorities managed to capture two or three members of the confederate band, and through them discovered the names and hiding place of several of the remainder, including the ringleader, who afterwards died in prison. Four of them were summarily tried and decapitated, and the rest were condemned to various degrees of punishment according to the part they had taken in the transaction.

22nd September.

LIKIN ON PRODUCE AT NEWCHWANG.

Some years ago when Ch'ung-hou was Governor at Moukden a likin tax of .007 per tael was imposed upon native merchandise shipped on the return journey to the south by steamers, and foreign sailing ships were subjected to a similar levy of .004 per tael. The proceeds of the joint contribution were to be applied towards the maintenance of a drilled force of troops and an annual return of the amount collected is furnished to the Throne. The Taotai at Newchwang who superintends the collection reports that during the year ended the 3rd of June last a total sum of Tls. 114,842.1.2 was realised from this source. Ten per cent. of the above sum was absorbed by office expenses, and of the remainder Tls. 10,000 were used for defraying the cost of the torpedo service and Tls. 4,500 for the repair of the powder magazine. This left a net balance of Tls. 81,857.9, which was remitted in full to Moukden.

LIKIN ON PRODUCE AT HSING CHING.

Mountain produce at Hsing Ching is subjected to a likin tax, the collection of which is managed by the Intendant on the eastern frontier in the lower province of Manchuria. The proceeds of the tax are applied towards defraying the cost of the trained troops under control of the Military Commissioner for the three provinces of Manchuria. Exclusive of Tls. 10,000 which were appropriated for the use of the Lieutenant-General at Hsing Ching, and ten per cent. deducted for office expenses, the total collection under this head during the last financial year was Tls. 13,301.9.7.5.

PREVENTIVE SERVICE ON THE WEI-SHAN LAKE.

According to the Viceroy at Nanking the Wei-shan Lake has during recent years become the haunt of smugglers who carry on an illicit traffic in salt in the prefecture of Hsii-ch'ou and many other districts in the province of Kiangsu. The evil cannot be adequately coped with by the land forces of the province, and it is proposed to establish a preventive service composed of eight armed boats to guard certain important points on the lake bordering upon Shantung and Kiangsu. The working expenses of the flotilla are estimated at Tls. 400 a month, and the initial cost of the vessels need not be very large.

RECEIVING HULK FOR THE CHINA MERCHANTS' COMPANY AT SHANGHAI.

An old sailing vessel called the Ch'eng-ta belonging to the Shanghai Arsenal has long been lying in the river at Shanghai, and is no longer fit for service of any kind. The China Merchants' Company having proposed to take her over and convert her into a receiving hulk, the Viceroy at Nanking reports that he has acceded to the request, which will rid the Arsenal of a useless encumbrance and save the Company the trouble and expense of finding a vessel elsewhere for the purpose. Another boat named the H'ai-an was, he adds, made over to the same Company some time ago on precisely similar conditions.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF MONEY LENDING OFFICES IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui, who is apparently as impracticable as he is well-meaning, writes a long homily on the advantages which he anticipates from the establishment of offices under Government super­vision for lending money free of interest to the poor, and asks that the system, which has been inaugurated with success in his
jurisdiction, should be extended under Imperial instructions to the whole Empire. The chief duty of Government he considers to be the maintenance of the people, and the failure of the latter to gain a livelihood calls at once for the practical application of this doctrine. The exercise of charity on a large scale is, however, a difficult task, and efforts in that direction, instead of benefiting the people, have too often the effect of merely giving an incentive to indolence and vagabondage. The system of lending money without interest contains all the advantages and none of the disadvantages attending other charitable projects. Small country traders have generally a stock worth only a few tiao with which they contrive to pick up a living. If they happen, however, to be unable to raise the little capital required for their trade, they fall into the hands of the usurers who bleed them unmercifully. What with exorbitant rates of interest and limited accommodation, they find very soon that they have no choice but either to die of hunger or drift into the ranks of the criminal population. The principle of the money lending system is based upon the methods of the usurers, but it applies them to a very different purpose. The capital of one of the establishments referred to by the Governor is a few thousand tiao, which is lent out to poor people on their producing sureties from persons of respectability in the immediate neighbourhood. The loans are repaid in instalments once every five days at the rate of one per cent. per day of the amount borrowed and no interest whatever is exacted. People who have made punctual payment of their previous loans receive further accommodation on the same conditions, and are thus enabled to continue their trade unhampered by want of capital. The only difficulty lies in the working expenses of the establishment which are not like the capital, recouped by the system. Offices of this kind were originally established during Tso Tsung-t'ang's tenure of the Viceroyalty at Nanking, and are now in a flourishing state in twenty-seven districts and prefectures. The matter has never, however, been brought to the notice of the Throne, and at the risk of being regarded as a theorist in his views, the Governor submits this short sketch of the system as it exists in Anhui, in the hope that the Emperor may be pleased to give orders for its general adoption throughout the Empire.—For Decree disapproving of the proposal see Gazette of 4th September, 1889.

23rd September.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AT NEWCHWANG.

The Viceroy Li submits a return of the duties received by the Foreign Customs at Newchwang during the quarter ending 30th September, 1888. The accounts have been audited by the Commissioner of Customs and a Wei-yan acting under the direction of the Taotai at the port, and the total collection for the period in question is shown to be Tls. 110,155.2.9.9.4, of which a sum of Tls. 72,340.9.7.8.5 has been appropriated for the payment of troops and miscellaneous expenditure. The balance remaining over from the present and previous quarters is Tls. 74,511.7.6.9.3.6.

ACTING APPOINTMENT AS LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF CHIHILI.

Chou Fu, the Judicial Commissioner of Chihili, reports that in obedience to instructions from the Viceroy he took over acting charge on the 4th of September last of the Lieutenant-Governorship of the province, in succession to Sung-ch'un, who has been recently promoted to be Director-General of the Grain Transport. The memorialist expatiates in the stereotyped manner on his unfitness for the duties of the office, and his failure to requisite in the least degree the Imperial favours which have been bestowed upon him.

REMITTANCE TO PEKING FROM THE LAND-TAX RECEIPTS OF HONAN.

During the present year the Land Revenue of Honan was called upon to contribute Tls. 200,000 as its quota towards the Tls. 7,000,000 required for the Peking Subsidy. One half was to be forwarded during the first five months, and the remainder during the latter part of the year. Tls. 120,000 of the above amount were subsequently appropriated to defray military expenditure, and the Governor now reports the remittance to Peking of Tls. 40,000, being the first installment of the remainder.

ACTING GOVERNOR-GENERALSHIP OF YUNNAN AND KUEICHOW.

On the 6th of June last T'ien Chiin-p'ai, the Governor of Yunnan, telegraphed to the Tsung-li Yamen the death of Ts'en Yü-ying, and asked that the matter should be reported in a memorial to the Throne. Three days later he received a telegraphic reply from the Yamen forwarding a copy of an Imperial Decree, in which he was instructed to take over charge as Acting Governor-General pending arrangements respecting the appointment of a successor to the late Viceroy. In announcing his assumption of the appointment,
the Acting Viceroy dwells upon the very important duties devolving upon the Government of Yünnan at the present moment, while the frontier is still in an unsettled state, and trade relations with the neighbouring country are in process of being inaugurated. He reminds the Throne that, being a native of Kueichow, he ought not to be entrusted with the Government of that province, but having regard to the great importance of the administrative measures to be undertaken in Yünnan, he does not venture to insist on the strict application of this principle in the present instance.

**BALANCE IN THE PROVINCIAL TREASURIES OF HONAN.**

The Provincial Governments are required each year after the collection of the land tax to forward a balance-sheet to Peking giving an account of all the money in their possession. The Governor of Honan accordingly reports that the balance in the Treasury of the Financial Commissioner, after deducting all payments for military and other services, is Tls. 928,573.1.3.7, and that there is a similar balance of Tls. 3,867.5.5.5 in the office of the Judicial Commissioner, while the accounts of the Grain and Salt Intendant show a net surplus of Tls. 254,564.1. The Governor has personally inspected the Treasuries and found that they actually contained the above sums.

24th September.

**RETENTION OF A GENERAL AT TIEN TSIN.**

Li Hung-chang submits a request that General Huang Chin-chih, who at present holds a command at Tientsin but was recently transferred to a similar position at Ta-t'ung in Shansi, should be allowed to remain where he is until a suitable successor can be found to fill his place. General Huang is represented to be an officer who has considerable knowledge of the latest inventions in Western artillery, to which he adds some experience in river works and great tact in the discharge of the various duties assigned to him. His presence at Ta-t'ung is no longer so necessary as it was, a capable officer having been found to take charge of the post.—Sanctioned.

25th September.

**DISPUTE BETWEEN PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES AND BOARD OF PUNISHMENTS RESPECTING A LEGAL DECISION.**

A man named Shê Yün-shan kept a drapery establishment in the Kung-an district of the province of Hupeh, which was entered and plundered one night in May last by a party of men who wounded the proprietor and one of his assistants. Early on the following morning Shê Yün-shan started out in search of the robbers and the missing property, and found near the bank of a river three pieces of cloth which he at once identified as part of the stolen goods. A little further up stream a junk was lying laden with a cargo of firewood and with a crew of six men on board, who were arrested on suspicion of having been connected with the affair. Indeed, Shê Yün-shan went so far as to affirm that the articles which he recovered had been found on board their boat. The story of the crew, as given before the Magistrate who tried the case, was as follows: Two Changs, a father and son, who were engaged in the fuel trade, bought a number of trees from a man named Tuan, which they felled and converted into firewood. This they proposed to take away to some place where they would find a favourable market, and hired a boat belonging to a Chungking man named Hu for its conveyance. They had got so far on their journey when the robbery occurred. The Magistrate disbelieved their statement and proceeded to extort a confession by torture. Some of the crew finally admitted that they had been accessories to the crime but denied that they had taken any part in its commission. The two Changs firmly refused to admit their guilt, and were both tortured to death by the Magistrate. When the case came before the Superior Court for hearing, the finding of the Magistrate was reversed and his action considered so unsatisfactory that he was removed from office. After a prolonged investigation at Wu-ch'ang Fu, the boatmen were entirely acquitted of any part in the transaction. Shê Yün-shan was sentenced to strangulation for having by his malicious charges been the indirect cause of the death by torture of two innocent men, and the Magistrate was condemned to banishment to the post-roads for his careless conduct of the preliminary inquiry. A report of the case, with copies of the evidence, having been submitted to the Board of Punishments, that Court expressed great doubts as to the justice of the second judgment, and called for further information on a number of points before coming to a final conclusion. In the first place, the sentence passed upon Shê Yün-shan was altogether contrary to the spirit of the enactment on the subject of charges. The punishment of strangulation applied only to cases where deliberate malice was proved,
whereas in the present instance Shê Yün-shan, who had a grievance in the loss of his property, could not have been actuated by any motives of the kind in preferring a charge against men who were previously strangers to him. There were also certain suspicious circumstances connected with the movements of the crew of the boat which required explanation. Not only the owner but all his men were shown to have been ashore the whole of the night on which the robbery took place, and the confession of those who were examined before the Magistrate gave an identical account of the transaction. The proprietor of the trees purchased by the Changs had not been produced at the trial, and his evidence was of importance in determining the character of the boat. More than a year had elapsed since the occurrence, no other arrests had been made, and after a review of the whole circumstances, the Board were not prepared to say that the Changs were the innocent men. The Court at Wuchang had held them to be. As to the Magistrate, he certainly deserved his fate if he had inflicted illegal torture. But was it illegal? The Court was utterly inconsistent in its verdict on this point. It condemned the Magistrate for resorting to illegal methods of torture, while it held the conduct of his subordinates to be justifiable as the punishment had been administered in a legal way and on the parts of the body specified in the statute. Until these and other points were cleared up, the Board must withhold its approval of the verdict, and a fresh trial was ordered to be held at Wuchang. In reporting the result of this last investigation, the Viceroy and Governor return somewhat acrimonious replies to the Board's objections. The fact that the boat was engaged in a legitimate trade has now been fully established by the evidence of the owner and the person from whom the trees were bought. If the boatmen had, as the Board seems to imply, been actually guilty of the offence with which they were charged, is it conceivable that they would have remained in the neighbourhood till the next day to give the authorities a better opportunity of arresting them? This in itself ought to be accepted as a proof of their innocence. The owner of the boat had gone on the night in question to recover payment of a debt, and his crew were ashore visiting some relations and engaging trackers. It is still maintained that the confession of some members of the crew was obtained under severe torture administered by the Magistrate's orders, and had they been accessories to the crime, they would have made their escape when the alleged principals, the two Changs, were arrested, instead of which they visited them in prison. It is true to a certain extent that Shê Yün-shan had some reasonable grounds for suspicion, and that his conduct was not actuated by malice in the sense required by the law. Having regard to this and in deference to the views expressed by the Board, the memorialists propose that the sentence of strangulation passed upon Shê Yün-shan should be commuted to banishment to a distance of 3,000 li and 100 blows of the bamboo. Whether he should get the benefit of the amnesty proclaimed since the commission of the offence, is a question which is left to the consideration of the Board. The Viceroy and the Governor still hold that the Magistrate acted hastily and took a partial view of the matter, that he undoubtedly caused the death of the two men by torture, and that he deserved the sentence they passed upon him for his gross carelessness in dealing with the case. They are willing, however, to meet the Board's wishes so far as to substitute a nominal sentence of 100 blows for the banishment, which can be remitted under the recent Act of Grace. A similar punishment of 90 blows to be inflicted upon the lictors who carried out the Magistrate's orders.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider the foregoing and submit a memorial to Us on the subject. 26th September.

PUNISHMENT OF OFFICIALS FOR FIRE AT THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.

K'uei-jun, Jung-hui, Tsô Nien-ch'i'en, the latter a son of Tsô Tsung-t'ang, and a number of other officials who are blamed for not taking sufficient precautions to prevent the fire which occurred in the Temple of Heaven, are degraded two steps of commutative rank, while Liu Shih-yin, the head of the sacrificial department, is similarly degraded one step and fined a year's salary.

PUNISHMENT FOR ERROR IN INDITING A MEMORIAL.

A Lieutenant-General who addressed a complimentary memorial to the Throne, in which he neglected to elevate a character that ought to have been placed at the head of a column, has been handed over to the Board to be dealt with in such a manner as the nature of the offence requires.

DEATH OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE IMPERIAL FACTORY AT NANKING.

The Viceroy at Nanking reports the death on the 6th September of Sung-shan,
the Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Nanking, who had only entered upon the duties of his post a few months previously. The seals of the office have been locked up and the keeper of the treasury is to discharge the routine work of the department until a new Superintendent can be appointed.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS FOR A GENERAL.

An application from the Viceroy at Nanking solicits the bestowal of posthumous honours upon Tung Feng-kao, Brigadier-General of Hsu Chou, who had a brilliant record of military services extending over a quarter of a century. The deceased was one of Li Hung-chang’s most trusted lieutenants during the campaigns which the latter, when Governor of Kiangsu, conducted against the Taipings, and was also a comrade in arms of the Viceroy’s brother, Li Hu-chang. His exploits against the rebels, among other things the burning of the steam vessel Po-ch’i, and the capture alive of the soi-disant Prince Chiao, are detailed with great minuteness, and the slaughter which he effected during his lifetime is considered to furnish good grounds for honouring him after death. The Emperor accedes to the application, which is to be given effect to by the Board in the usual way.

27th September.

SUBSCRIPTION TO FAMINE RELIEF IN SHANTUNG.

Chang Yao, the Governor of Shantung, reports that Sun Yü-wên, President of the Board of Punishments and a Member of the Taung-li Yamén, who is a native of the province, forwarded a subscription of Tls. 1,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the recent floods. The question as to what recognition this generous act should receive is left to the decision of the Emperor, who signifies his tacit approval of the proceeding by appending to the memorial the words: — Known to Us.

SALT SMUGGLING IN KIANGSU AND CHEKIANG.

The only other document of any interest in this issue of the Gazette is a joint memorial by the Governors of Ch’kiang and Kiangsu enclosing a copy of a set of regulations which they have drawn up to establish a preventive service against salt smuggling. As may be remembered, an attack was made not long ago upon a salt manufactory by a party of officials and others, fourteen of whom were burnt to death by the people. The incident proved the necessity of reorganising the preventive service, and this is the object of the present regulations which are not, however, published.

28th September.

ALTERATIONS IN THE TROOPS IN SHENG-CHING.

The High Commissioner Ting-an reports that, in accordance with the sanction of the Emperor which had already been obtained, two bodies of cavalry, belonging to Kirit and Hei-lung chang, but recently serving in Sheng-ching, have been sent back to their respective provinces for employment there; also, a battalion of Mongol cavalry has been sent home for the purpose of being disbanded. The baggage waggons required for these movements have been supplied by the authorities of the districts through which the troops passed; and these officials will charge the expenses thus incurred in their regular accounts. Before the troops departed, they all received one month’s pay from the Sheng-ching treasury. As previously arranged, a battalion of cavalry has been raised locally in the place of those sent away. The men and horses have all been inspected and found to be healthy and strong.

SHEN-CHING. PROHIBITION OF GRAIN EXPORT REMOVED.

On account of the distress caused by the terrible floods which occurred last summer in the province of Sheng-ching, the export of certain kinds of grain was temporarily forbidden, it being stated at the time that the prohibition would be removed as soon as the authorities were certain that the next harvest would be plentiful. For a short time, indeed, during the spring, corn was allowed to be sent from the one port of Chin-chou Fu to Shantung and Chihli, but this permission was afterwards withdrawn again, till it could be seen what the crops might be like in autumn. The high authorities of the province now report that during the summer the weather has been most favourable. Enquiries have been made in the north, the east, and the south; and in every district there is the promise of a most bounteous harvest of all sorts of agricultural produce. The price of grain is fifty per cent. less than what it was last year; and this fall is a sure indication of coming plenty. In the interests therefore of the people, of commerce, and of public revenue, the memorialists recommend that the exportation of all grain be freely permitted once more. With regard to Chin-chou Fu, and the western portion of the province, the memorialists have still to make enquiries. As soon as they have done so they will present a report dealing with that district.

Rescript: Noted.
29th September.

YELLOW RIVER FUND IN SZECHUAN.

The Viceroy of Szechuan reports the amount of the contributions for the Yellow River Fund which he had received during two months last summer from persons desirous of acquiring titles or offices. These months are the sixteenth and seventeenth during which the sale of offices has been allowed. In the first of the two, receipts come to Tls. 1,208. Three contributors obtain a button of the lowest grade, six obtain literary licentiateships, two military licentiateships, one a titular clerkship of the lowest rank in the Han-lin Yuan, one a licentiateship with a button of a higher rank, one is made a real instead of an honorary official, and two, already official, are appointed to provinces. In the second month the contributions come to Tls. 770, the donors of the money being fifteen in number, and applying for licentiateships or buttons of lowest rank.

30th September.

REWARDS FOR DISTRIBUTING RELIEF IN KYANGSU.

At the time of the famine caused by drought last year in the Prefectures of Chinkiang and Ch'ang-chou Fu, the Governor of Kiangsu presented a memorial with reference to the distribution of relief to the sufferers. In that document, which was approved by the Emperor, he stated that he would wait till the famine was ended, and then submit to His Majesty for some form of reward the names of the officers and private gentlemen who had most distinguished themselves in superintending the bestowal of relief. Accordingly he now has the honour to present a short list of the names of those who exerted themselves the most in the performance of this meritorious work, excluding those whose services were of lesser value as well as all the local authorities, who could only be considered as performing part of their regular duty. The task of the distributors is thought by the Memorialist to have been an arduous one, as the returns from the various districts show the number of sufferers to have exceeded six hundred and thirty thousand; and they deserve credit for the strenuous efforts by which they secured that all the charity should reach those for whom it was destined, while they shrank from no hardships and paid their expenses from their own funds. Of those commended, the chief is an expectant Tao-tai named Chien Pao-fu, who organised the work at Tan-t'u (the head quarters district of Chinkiang), where the distress was more severe than in any other locality.

REWARDS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KIANGSU FAMINE FUND.

In a further memorial the same Governor deals with the question of rewarding those who contributed to the fund in aid of the sufferers from the famine above mentioned in Chinkiang and Ch'ang-chou Fu. Altogether a very large sum was devoted to the relief of these unfortunate people. From the provincial treasury were taken Tls. 198,014, of which part belonged to the subsidy due to Kansu; while the private donations of silver, dollars, cash, and corn, given in Kiangsu itself and other provinces, and including what was collected locally in the neighbourhood of the famine district, came to no less than Tls. 360,000. This common fund was administered by a Board at head quarters, instalments being issued as required, and every penny carefully accounted for. After the end of the work, there remained a balance of Tls. 128,512 and 552,414. All this money is stored in the provincial treasury, and, as has already been explained to the Empeor, it will not be touched for any purpose whatever except for executing river works of different kinds. The Viceroy at Nanking subscribed Tls. 1,400 to the fund, the late Governor and the present Governor of the province, each Tls. 2,000. The Governor of Yunnan collected Tls. 5,000. The Governor of Kueichow, the Superintendent of the Soochow Factory, the Grain Indendant, and the Magistrate of Ch'ang-chou (Soochow) each gave Tls. 1,000. The Prefect of Soochow and another official, each Tls. 500. For none of these gentlemen does the memorialist dare to ask any reward. But with regard to other subscribers, he sends a further list in continuation of the four that he has already presented, mentioning only those whose donations are sufficiently large to merit a reward; while he keeps a record of the smaller contributions, in order that the accounts may be properly balanced.

REMITTANCES FROM SOOCHOW TO PEKING.

The provincial government of Soochow has been required to furnish this year from the duties collected on tea, Tls. 50,000 for the Imperial Household, and Tls. 200,000 for the Board of Revenue and from the laikin on opium, Tls. 50,000 for the Board of Revenue Fund. In fulfilment of these instructions the Viceroy is now despatching a sum of Tls. 50,000. The money is temporarily advanced by local banks, who are remitting it to Peking by bills of exchange. There bills will be cashed, and the silver
paid over by a Foochow Wei-juan, who has been already sent to Peking. As soon as the advice that he has received the money reaches Foochow, the advances made by the banks will be repaid to them.

1st October.

MURDER OF A HUSBAND.

In the district of Fu-an in the province of Fukien lived a man named Lei Fa-lang. One day the January before last his wife was out on the hillside cutting grass for fuel. A younger cousin of her husband chanced to meet her, and then and there seduced her. The offence was repeated on several occasions afterwards, but the man made no presents to the woman. In the following December the husband happened to find the cousin in his house talking and laughing with his wife. His suspicions being aroused he made her confess the truth, after which he frequently used to beat her, besides forbidding her ever to speak to the cousin again. Infatuated by her unlawful passion and rendered desperate by her husband's treatment of her, she conceived the idea of taking her husband's life, and secretly made her lover promise to help if ever an opportunity offered. A month later she was again cutting grass, when the cousin came up and sat down to talk with her. Suddenly the husband appeared and began to abuse her violently. Looking round and finding that no one was in sight, she got up, glided behind her husband and grasped him round the waist. In his struggles to free himself he fell down, upon which she attacked him with her grass-cutter's knife. The cousin then took the knife from her and cut him on the head, inflicting only a slight wound. The woman, seeing that her lover's arm was nerveless, got back the weapon and cut her husband's throat with it, killing him on the spot. Just at the moment another man, a relative of the parties, came up, but he was too late to prevent the murder. The guilty couple then made off in different directions. They were afterwards arrested and convicted of the crime. The woman has been condemned to death by her husband's treatment of her, and secretly made her lover promise to help if ever an opportunity offered. A month later she was again cutting grass, when the cousin came up and sat down to talk with her. Suddenly the husband appeared and began to abuse her violently. Looking round and finding that no one was in sight, she got up, glided behind her husband and grasped him round the waist. In his struggles to free himself he fell down, upon which she attacked him with her grass-cutter's knife. The cousin then took the knife from her and cut him on the head, inflicting only a slight wound. The woman, seeing that her lover's arm was nerveless, got back the weapon and cut her husband's throat with it, killing him on the spot. Just at the moment another man, a relative of the parties, came up, but he was too late to prevent the murder. The guilty couple then made off in different directions. They were afterwards arrested and convicted of the crime. The man has been sentenced to be decapitated immediately, with the addition, on account of the victim's being an elder relation, that he be brained before death and his head exposed afterwards.—Referred to the Board of Punishments for a report without delay.

NEW GOVERNOR AT CANTON.

Yu Chih-k'ai is appointed acting Governor of Kuaugtung in the place of Chang Chih-tung, who has hitherto held this appointment, together with the Governor-Generalship.

2nd October.

GUNS AND RIFLES FOR THE NING-HSIA GARRISON.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Tartar Garrison at Ning-hsia in Kansu represented recently to the Emperor that no improved fire-arms had ever been issued to his troops, and further that there was no place within a reasonable distance where such things could be procured and no money in the garrison Treasury wherewith to purchase them. He therefore suggested that the Government of Shensi and Kansu should furnish him with some pieces of artillery and a thousand rifles with ammunition complete. The proposal was approved by the Emperor, and instructions to comply with it were transmitted through the Grand Council to the Governor-General concerned. The latter now reports to His Majesty that since the termination of the war, no guns or small arms of new pattern have been purchased for the Kansu army inside the great wall. Such as it has were taken from regiments disbanded at the peace, and these have been repaired and made to do duty as far as possible. When the present memorialist was appointed Governor-General last spring he took into consideration the question of purchasing some more; but on account of the scarcity of funds he had not come to any definite conclusion. He is now most desirous of aiding the Tartar General in the important matter of improving the Ning-hsia garrison for the sake of strengthening the defence of the frontier. He will therefore do the best he can, which is to send the General four brass muzzle-loading field pieces and five hundred rifles with a certain supply of ammunition for each kind of arm. —Approved.

3rd October.

BURNING OF TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.

The President of the Board of Sacrificial Worship and his colleagues present a memorial reporting the burning of the Temple of Heaven. On the 18th September, they were informed by the sacrificial officer that during a thunderstorm, at about 4 p.m. that day, the tablet over the Hall called the Chi-nien Tien was struck down by a flash of lightning, and immediately afterwards flames burst from the building. The memorialists immediately gave notice to the troops and fire brigades, and then hurried to the spot, where they took part in extinguishing the conflagration. They were
too late to save the burning structure, but they rescued eight thrones and a number of sacrificial instruments, and by their strenuous efforts they prevented the flames from spreading to an adjacent hall, where there was a number of sacred tablets. The attendants at the temple were afterwards vigorously questioned, and their statements were found to agree with the story which had already been given to the memorialists. These men have since been put under the charge of the Governor of the City, in order that such steps as are necessary may be taken with regard to them. It is also requested by both that the Board concerned may determine a penalty for the sacrificial officers on account of their failure to observe sufficient precautions, and that some notice may be taken of the shortcomings of the memorialists themselves. Lastly, attention is called to the good work done by the fire brigades. (For Decree see Gazette of 20th September.)

TEMPLE TO DECEASED SOLDIERS IN YUNNAN.

The Acting Governor-General of Yunnan presents a memorial on behalf of a certain General Hsia of the Szechuan army. This officer, who is a native of Yunnan, held the command of a body of troops there from the year 1857 onwards. He took part in the recapture of many towns, and three times he marched to the relief of the besieged capital. The officers and men who fell while serving under him have had their names inscribed among those in whose honour a temple was erected at Yunnan Fu. But in the year 1869 he was sent in command of a force from Fu-min Hsien to attack the rebels in the rear and cut off their retreat. After many days of continuous fighting his troops were encamped upon the Ch'i-p'an mountain. While they were there, eight commanders on the opposite side, who had been forced against their will to join the rebels, came voluntarily with their men and surrendered themselves. Being convinced of their sincerity General Hsia accepted their services; and the Governor-General, Liu Yen-chao, the Governor, Ta'en Yu-ying, and the Commander-in-Chief, Ma Ju-lung, allowed them to be enrolled among the Imperial troops. They were then placed as the advance guard of the army, and encamped on the border of the lake near the capital. Here they were attacked by the rebels, who knew of what they had done, and came against them in great force, a hundred thousand strong. They held out from before dawn till late in the afternoon. But they were not accustomed to fighting on the water, the reinforcement sent to them were too few, their powder was exhausted, and they were finally annihilated. Eighteen hundred men perished and their corpses were buried at the foot of a hill near the scene of the fight. Twenty years have elapsed, but the unfortunate band has not been forgotten by General Hsia. He was unable to include their names among those to whom a temple has already been erected, because their rolls were lost upon the field of battle. He now desires to purchase a piece of ground at the place where they fell, and build a separate temple in their honour, where the usual services may be performed.—Approved.

MURDER CASE. ORIGINAL FINDING REVERSED.

Some time ago the Magistrate of Ch'ang-shu Hsien in Kiangsu was denounced to the Emperor by a member of the Censorate. Among the various causes for which he was accused was the miscarriage of justice in a certain murder case which was tried before him. According to a memorial now presented by the Governor, there were formerly two cousins living in Ch'ang-shu, both of whom were workers in bamboo by trade. Six years ago one of the two cousins, who belonged to an elder generation, died of sickness, leaving a widow and children. As the sons were all young, the widow asked the surviving cousin to teach them his business. This led to frequent communication between the two, and not long afterwards he made love to her and succeeded in seducing her. This illicit intercourse was continued for some time, without being known to any one. The woman, who was in poor circumstances, frequently borrowed money from the man, her debt finally amounting to forty and more strings of cash; but on account of their intimacy he never asked for repayment. One of her relatives afterwards discovered the unlawful connection, and told other members of the family; but being afraid of the scandal they all held their peace about it. After two years had passed, the man, who was unmarried, wished the widow to become his wife, and gained her consent to the proposal. Bring afraid that the friends would object, he asked the tipao to act as intermediary. The latter did so, but found the family altogether opposed to the marriage. They even represented the matter so strongly to the widow that she recalled her promise. The cousin told the woman that as she had broken off the match, she must repay the money borrowed from him. A quarrel ensued, but the parties were separated. One day
soon afterwards the man, who had gone out on business, was returning home excited by some wine which he had been drinking. He saw the widow alone in a cotton field, and, putting down his basket, went up to her. He began by asking her to marry him and went on to threaten her with the unpaid debt. The woman lost her temper and tried to strike him, upon which he pushed her, and she fell down. She cursed him as she lay on the ground and said that she would have his life. Under the influence of momentary passion he took a knife from his basket and cut her throat before she could rise. He then threw away the knife and fled. An inquest on the body was held by the Magistrate. The expert in attendance examined the wound and reported that it was self-inflicted. The Magistrate therefore found a verdict of suicide; but the cousin was found guilty of having persecuted the deceased, and accordingly was sentenced to be beaten and put in the cangue. But a new trial having been ordered to be held, the facts above narrated were proved beyond any dispute. The murderer is condemned to be executed for making an inaccurate examination. A similar punishment is awarded to the tipao for acting as intermediary in an improper marriage. Both these latter can claim the benefit of the Act of Grace, and so escape actual chastisement; but they will be dismissed from their official posts. The Magistrate has already been cashiered and has since died. No notice therefore need be taken of his gross mis-management of the case.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

6th October.

DEATH OF HEN-CHEN.

Decree.—Hai-chên, the President of the Board of Civil Office, was a man of noble and upright character with extensive knowledge and learning, who rose from being a member of the Hanlin College through the successive grades of the public service until he became President of the Board of Punishments. Thence he was transferred in the same capacity to the Board of Civil Office, with which he combined for some years past the duties of member of the Tsung-li Yamen. He was until lately in the enjoyment of the full strength of manhood, and We had hoped to have the benefit of his services for many years to come. The tidings of his death have caused Us the profoundest sorrow, and as a mark of Our deep respect for the memory of a faithful servant, We command that a tolo pall be bestowed upon him, that oblations be performed daily before his remains by the Duke Ts'ai-tsé attended by ten officers of the Imperial body guard, that a sum of Tls. 500 be paid from the Privy Purse as a contribution towards defraying the expenses of his funeral, and that all the penalties which he incurred during his career be remitted. Let his son receive an appointment as Secretary of a Board.

SECRET SOCIETIES IN KIANGSI.

The province of Kiangsi has been in a disturbed state for several months past, owing to the doings of the Ko-luo society, several of whose members have, the Governor now reports, been arrested and summarily decapitated. The evidence of the condemned men, nearly all of whom were retired soldiers, shows that the movement is widespread and that the society is well organised. In the Nan-ch'ang district, for instance, one of the prisoners had enlisted more than fifty members, all of whom were duly initiated in the pass-words and signs used by the society men. Another had pursued a rebellious career from his boyhood, having started as a Taiping and ended as the chief pillar of the present movement in Kiangsi. So anxious was the Governor that their punishment should follow quickly on the arrest that he took the unusual step of sending telegraphic instructions for their summary execution. A number of the men pleaded that they had been forced to join the confederacy by one of the prisoners, who was drowned in a river while trying to make his escape, but it is thought that they may be taking advantage of his death to establish their own innocence. The Prefect of Nan-ch'ang, who tried all the culprits, is empowered to hold a further investigation into the circumstances under which the remaining prisoners joined the movement.

6th October.

DISTURBANCE ON THE FRONTIER OF YUNNAN.

The acting Governor-General of Yunnan and Kueichou reports the final suppression of a disturbance which has been going on for some time past on the portion of the Lin-an Prefecture which adjoins Tongking. The district in question, which extends over a large area, embraces Na-lou, Tsan-tien and several Mêngs which until recently were under the jurisdiction of native administrators. The last ruler of this class having died without issue, a bloody struggle for the succession took place among the members of the clan, which forced the Lu-
peral Government to interfere, and resulted in the abolition of the hereditary office.

One of the clansmen, Pu Ying-chang, who had made his escape from the district and subsequently returned to give renewed trouble, was caught last year by a stratagem planned by the Prefect of Lin-an, and suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Early in the present year one of his old confederates in crime, named Pai-t'ai, made his appearance in the locality and gathered a following of over 1,000 men with which he plundered and devastated the entire country in revenge for its having failed to come to the assistance of his comrade. The Imperial troops were sent to check his excesses and encountered a stubborn resistance. In a bloody combat, which lasted from noon till long after dusk, the Imperial troops suffered considerable loss in killed and wounded, but eventually succeeded in surrounding the rebel forces and capturing their leader, who was immediately executed. Owing to the darkness of the night the pursuit was discontinued, but next day the mountain valleys were scoured in every direction and the remnant of the rebel force completely routed. The acting Viceroy states that, of the many campaigns which have been waged against the Na-lou district, this is the first that has proved an undoubted success, and he considers the result very satisfactory in view of the fact that the country is conterminous with the dominions of a foreign state, and is from its inaccessible position the natural resort of brigandage.

**FLOODS IN SZECHUAN.**

The Viceroy of Szechuan forwards a number of reports received from district officers announcing serious floods over a large area of country, with considerable loss of cattle and property and great destruction of the standing crops. Tls. 30,000 have been already appropriated for the relief of the sufferers, and other funds are being raised on a scale commensurate with the widespread proportions of the calamity.

**DISTURBANCE IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE.**

On the 30th of September last, a man named Ch'ang-t'ai got into an altercation in Peking with a townsman named Pai and proceeded to the office of the Police magistrate for the western division of the city, where he gave himself out to be a Gioro and after behaving in a very unseemly and uproarious manner, forcibly ransacks the Magistrate's desk and smashed the windows of the building. The incident having been brought to the notice of the Throne in a memorial from the Censor for the district, the Emperor expressed great indignation at such outrageous conduct, and orders the soi-disant member of the Imperial family to be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be severely dealt with.

**MURDER OF FOUR PERSONS IN ONE FAMILY.**

The Governor of Ch'akiang forwards a long and uninteresting report of the murder of four persons in one household by a band of men who were surprised while committing a robbery. A member of the family who was aroused by the movements of the thieves succeeded in capturing one of their number, with the result that he was murdered by the others who came to their comrade's rescue. Finding that they had been identified, the robbers determined to make a clean sweep of the whole family. Only two have been arrested, one of whom suffered death by the slow and painful process, while the other, who had been an accomplice in the robbery but not a participator in the subsequent proceedings, escaped with a sentence of banishment to a distance of 4,000 li.

7th October.

**APPOINTMENTS.**

The following appointments are gazetted consequent upon the death of Hsi-ch'en. Lin-shu succeeds the deceased as President of the Board of Civil Office, which is the senior post in the Boards in Peking. Sung-shen, son of the late Chung-shih and nephew of Ch'ung-hou, becomes President of the Board of Punishments, and his place as Head of the Mongolian Superintendency is to be taken by Sung-san, who vacates the senior post in the Censorate, which falls to Hsi-ch'ing.

8th October.

**PUNISHMENT OF OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRE AT THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.**

Two days after the fire which occurred on the 18th of September last at the Temple of Heaven, the Emperor issued a Decree in which he commanded the Board of Civil Office to determine the penalties which should be imposed upon the officials whose carelessness had contributed to the catastrophe. The Decree stated that, according to the accounts which had been received from the Sacrificial Board and the Gendarmerie Office, the portion of the building known as the Hall of Prayers for a Prosperous Year had been struck by lightning and completely destroyed. Hsi-ch'en and his colleagues in the Board of Civil Office, after quoting the statutes applicable to neglect of proper precautions on the part of officials, state
that they have not been able to discover any clause of the law which precisely covers the present offence. The only case of an exactly similar nature was the destruction by lightning in July, 1883, of some store-rooms in the Temple of Agriculture, on account of which several officials were punished for not exercising due precaution beforehand. In the present instance the memorialists recommend that the officer in charge of the sacrificial rites, Liu Shih-yin, should be fined a year’s salary, lowered one step in rank and transferred to another post. The heads of the Sacrificial Board, one of whom is the son of Tso Tsung-t’ang, should, it is suggested, suffer similar deprivation of rank, but be allowed to remain at their posts.—Decree previously published.

SUPPLY OF HORSES FOR THE USE OF THE EMPEROR.

Sê-lêng-o, the Governor of Ili, states that Ili has always been considered the breeding ground for horses used by the Emperor, but regrets to add that the supply of suitable animals has fallen off greatly since the late military troubles in that region. After much search, he has only been able to find eight geldings to forward to Peking.

9th October.

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES IN TEA FACTORIES IN ANHUI.

Some one having brought to the notice of the Throne the numerous abuses connected with the employment of women and girls in tea factories all over the country, the Emperor issued on the 31st of August last a Decree ordering a strict investigation into the matter. The Governor of Anhui now submits, in obedience to these instructions, the result of the enquiries which he has caused to be instituted on the subject.

The two chief places of tea production in the province are T’un-hsi and Ma-fu, situated respectively in the Prefecture of Hui-ch’ou and the department of Liu-an. By a custom of long standing all the poor females of these districts resort to tea picking every year as a means of gaining a livelihood. The tea factories consist of an outer and an inner establishment, in the former of which the men attend to the firing of the article, while in the latter the women pick the leaves. Women who live in the vicinity return to their homes every night, those who come from a distance find a home with relatives, and such a thing as residence in inns or remaining shelterless all night is unknown. The presence, however, of such a miscellaneous crowd of people, with good and bad characters intermixed, makes it necessary for the local authorities to exercise careful supervision over these establishments every Spring, and so far the intercourse between the people and the tea merchants has produced no serious result. Exclusive of the above, there are no tea districts in the province of any importance to attract any large gathering of people, and the number of female tea-pickers is so small as to render it comparatively easy to check abuses. The Governor is of opinion that any general prohibition which would prevent women and girls from engaging in tea-picking would from the nature of the case be very hard to enforce, as it would deprive a poor class of people of their only means of livelihood. He acknowledges, however, the necessity of guarding against the abuses engendered by the low state of morality which prevails in this degenerate age, and he promises to do all he can in concert with the authorities of the tea establishments to inculcate a feeling of self-respect amongst the female inhabitants of the tea districts.

ASSAULT BY A MILITARY OFFICER.

The acting Governor-General of Yünnan and Kueichow asks permission to degrade a Captain in the army named Tai-Pi-hsien preparatory to placing him on his trial for a serious assault committed on a man against whom he bore a grudge. The implicated officer holds a second class title of honour, and performed good services during the Panthay rebellion, for which he was raised through the successive stages of promotion until he attained his present position.—Granted by Rescript.

10th October.

MUTINY IN A REGIMENT.

The Governor of Formosa reports that a corporal and some twenty soldiers broke into the office of the acting Major at Lu-chiang on the night of the 16th July last, and on pretence of asking for rations, carried off a quantity of clothing and the official seal of the department. The leader of the movement made his escape, but six of the soldiers were arrested and suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The investigation of the circumstances showed that the acting Major’s régime was unduly stern, and that the theft of the official seal was prompted by feelings of revenge on the part of his men. He is to be degraded, but left for the moment at his present post to co-operate in securing the apprehension of the criminals still at large.

MURDERS IN TURKESTAN.

The remainder of this day’s Gazette is occupied with reports of two murder cases.
in Chinese Turkestan, a region which seems to surpass most other parts of the Empire in its criminal statistics. In the first of the present cases a soldier had been living with a woman who transferred her affections to a wealthier paramour. The latter was a man of powerful physique and the soldier, being afraid to tackle him alone, induced a few comrades to assist him in committing the deed. The principal was beheaded and the accessories condemned to strangulation and minor degrees of punishment. The second is a case in which a Mohammedan murdered his wife and his mother-in-law. He had married a couple of years ago on the express understanding that he was to get to dowry with his wife, and that he was to support her mother. The mother and he could not agree, and one day after a family broil, both she and her daughter left him and went to live with a relative. Arming himself with a big stick he went one evening shortly afterwards to bring back his wife, and fancied that the sight of the stick would intimidate the women and enable him to effect his purpose without having recourse to force. In this, however, he soon found that he was mistaken. Both women offered a determined resistance, and after her mother was killed, the wife closed in upon her husband and maintained a life and death struggle, to which she succumbed in the end. The penalty for murdering a mother-in-law is decapitation, while for killing a wife strangulation is the punishment, and on the principle that the lesser crime is merged in the greater, the husband has been condemned to be beheaded.

11th October.

DEGRADATION OF THE GRAIN INTENDANT OF HUPEH.

The Governor of Hupeh presents a memorial in which he animadverts very severely upon the character and behaviour of Haia Taung-i, the new Grain Intendant of the province. On his arrival at the provincial capital on the 21st of July, he submitted to the Governor the usual statement of his antecedents, in which he described himself as having attained official rank on account of his father’s having sacrificed his life for his country, and when questioned as to the official position then conferred upon him, he admitted that it merely gave him the privilege of becoming a student in the Imperial Academy. A similar statement which he presented after taking charge of his post gave a different version of the matter and represented that the title conferred upon him for his father’s services carried with it the rank of Magistrate. After much prevarication it became evident that he did not attach due importance to the honour which he had received through the kindness of the Emperor. Other discrepancies were also detected in his report. He represented his mother to be eighty years of age, though in reality she is only sixty, his object then being to plead her age as an excuse for not going to a distant province; but on attaining his present rank, he represented that he had a younger brother in order that he might not be prevented from holding office by the necessity of attending upon his mother. He is a man of poor repute, with very ordinary abilities, and in no sense qualified to hold a responsible position. The Governor asks that he should be removed from his present post and given rank as sub-Prefect, so that he may have an opportunity of undergoing a complete reformation.—Granted by Descript.

12th October.

REPAIRS TO TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.

The President of the Court of Sacrificial Worship and his colleagues represent that they have inspected the burnt building at the Temple of Heaven and find that nothing remains but a great pile of ashes. The fire has even cracked the stones of which the terraces, steps, and flooring were composed. The memorialists suggest that the Board of Works should be directed to commence the restoration of the building as soon as possible. They foresee that this cannot be accomplished in the short space of time which will elapse before the Emperor visits the Temple for the performance of worship next spring. It will, therefore, be necessary to make special arrangements for that occasion. They have not dared to formulate any proposal with regard to these; but they suggest that the Board of Ceremonies should be instructed to join them in drawing up a scheme for his Majesty’s approval.—Decree already published.

KUEICHOW IRON WORKS. UNAVOIDABLE DELAYS.

It was discovered some time ago by the Governor of Kueichow that the district of Ch‘ing-ch‘i, near Ssu-chou Fu in Kueichow, was extremely rich in iron. He therefore submitted a report to the Emperor on the subject, and obtained the services of an officer named P‘an Lu, belonging to the Nanking Arsenal, to undertake the erection and management of some iron works in the said locality. As was further reported to the Throne, an officer was sent abroad to purchase such
A FAMILY, TRANSFERRED FROM YUNNAN TO HUNAN.

Two brothers, both officers in the Civil Service, request that their names may be placed on the registers of Shan-hua Hsien in Hunan. As appears from their statement, their grandfather, Liu K'un, was a native of Ching-tung in Yunnan. Having won a position in the Hanlin Yuan, he was appointed to various high posts of a literary character; and finally, in the year 1867, he was made Governor of Hunan. In 1870 he was recalled to Peking to wait for another appointment. But, as he was suffering from age and infirmity, he received permission to remain in retirement till his health was recovered. His native home having been destroyed by the rebels, he lived on in Hunan; and he remained there till his death, which only occurred two years ago. As he was buried in Shan-hua Hsien, and the grandsons have no home in Yunnan to which they can return, they desire to be formally inscribed as inhabitants of the above mentioned district. The Governor of Hunan considers their request to be perfectly in order; but as they are the descendants of a deceased statesman, he feels it his duty to report the case to the Emperor.—Approved.

14th October.

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT YELLOW RIVER IN HONAN.

The Director-General of the Yellow River, Wu Ta-ch'ing, continues his series of reports concerning the state of the Yellow River in the Province of Honan. The period embraced in his present statement extends from the 20th of August to the 7th of September. There was no great rise in the important tributary called the Ch'in River; because the breach which, as previously reported, had occurred in its banks allowed the water to spread over the country, instead of remaining in its proper channel. With the Yellow River itself the case was different. As steady rain continued to fall all over the surrounding country, from every quarter the numerous affluents poured in their contents to swell the torrent, and the water mounted higher day by day almost without intermission. At one spot, in the district of Jung-tsê, the embankments subsided as fast as they were repaired. Fortunately, however, there were plentiful supplies at hand of all kinds of materials, and after a time the danger was successfully overcome. But there was even more imminent peril in the neighbourhood of Chung-mou, a district a little further east. After a rapid rise on the 31st of August and the 1st of September, a large sandbank, which formed the foreshore at a certain place, was suddenly carried away by the water; and the whole strength of the stream drove against the foundations of the embankment. A strip of the latter, twelve hundred feet long by twenty or thirty wide, dropped down and disappeared.
A large number of workmen were hastily summoned and employed in widening the endangered wall. Their labours were continued by day and night; and no expense of any kind was spared. At length all appearance of danger passed away completely.

—Noted.

15th October.

LOAN FROM ANHUI TO SHANTUNG FOR RELIEF PURPOSES.

The Governor of Anhui recently received letters from Sun Yu-wen, President of the Board of Punishments, and Yu Po-ch'uan, Superintendent of the Peking Granaries, asking him to lend some money from his provincial treasury to the government of Shantung, as funds are urgently needed in that province for the relief of the severe distress existing there. The Governor, who was very anxious to accede to the request, instructed the officers of his financial department to see what it might be possible to do. They have now reported to him that there is still unexpended in his treasury a portion of a loan of Tls. 150,000 made to him by the Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, at the time of the famine in Anhui last year. From this store he has taken a sum of Tls. 80,000, and has sent it by steamer to the Taotai at Chefoo, as a convenient place from which to reach the suffering districts. It is understood that the money now advanced will be repaid by the government of Shantung to that of Kansu. —Approved.

REFUGE FOR THE DESTITUTE IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui refers to the Emperor's Act of Grace issued in the spring of the present year, in which the local authorities throughout the empire were commanded to pay special regard to the needs of the orphans, the poor, and the cripples, who have no one to take care of them, and to provide refuges for the reception of those whom they have no homes wherein to live. The memorialist is unable to say whether there were any such abodes for the homeless in the days before the Taiping rebellion. Two years ago, however, a certain Captain Ma Yun-lung collected subscriptions, with which he built a refuge consisting of thirty rooms, outside one of the gates of Ganking; but the money raised was not sufficient to maintain the establishment for any length of time. The memorialist finds that at the time of the famine last year the Governor-General of Szechuan sent him contributions to the amount of Tls. 20,000, to be divided among the distressed districts. Portions were sent to Lu-chou Fu and Feng-yang Fu, where they were expended and accounted for by the local authorities; but there were Tls. 4,000 reserved for Ganking and its neighbourhood, which were never employed, because of the early cessation of the distress in that region. It is now proposed to deliver this money to the Prefect and Magistrate of the city, who will put it out at interest in order that an annual sum may be furnished for the support of the refuge. —Approved.

16th October.

CAMELS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT ULIASUTAI.

The officer administering the government at Uliasutai states that, when there are not sufficient camels in the official stables, it is the authorised custom to draw a certain number from the breeding yards belonging to the government. In this way seven hundred camel geldings were taken into use two years ago. There are always at least a thousand beasts required for the conveyance of provisions to be consumed by the troops and convicts and for other work of the same character. But at the present moment, exclusive of those annually allowed for service at the post-stations and for replacing losses, there are only eight hundred camels in the stables, and some of these are old, injured, or suffering from scab. The memorialist therefore requests permission to draft two hundred full grown geldings from the breeding yards.—Approved.

HOMICIDE BY A CONVICT IN TURKESTAN.

The Governor of Turkestan reports the trial of a convict for killing another person in a brawl. The prisoner, who was a native of Kansu, had previously been condemned to strangulation for causing the death of a man in a fight; but the death penalty was remitted, and he was sent to join a military colony in the neighbourhood of the capital of Turkestan. There he lived in the same house with another convict, Li Fu-pao, who had also been sent to Turkestan under somewhat similar circumstances. The plots of ground allotted to the two prisoners lay close together, with a piece of waste land in the middle. This piece was broken up and brought into cultivation by the prisoner. One day last spring he went out to plough his field. Just as he happened to be scraping his plough handle with a knife Li Fu-pao came up, and, claiming the ownership of the waste ground, forbade the prisoner to touch it. The latter expostulated, upon which the other man lost his temper and attacked him, seizing
by the pigtail and trying to throw him down. The prisoner, who still had the knife in his hand, pricked his assailant in the leg, hoping thus to make him let go. It however only had the effect of making him hold on tighter, and the two fell together to the ground. In the excitement of the moment, the prisoner made a couple of thrusts with the knife to frighten away his assailant and happened to strike him in the flanks. Another person came up at the moment and separated them; but Li Fu-pao, who was sorely wounded, expired a little while afterwards. The memorialist finds that strangulation after the assizes is the legal penalty for killing any one in a brawl, and that no difference is made by the fact that the prisoner was under sentence of penal servitude. The crime was committed ten days before the issue of the recent Act of Grace, but the memorialist leaves it to the Board of Punishments to decide whether the prisoner should have the benefit of the Act or not.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

17th October.

OFFICERS ON PROBATION SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY.

It appears to be the rule that when Senior Licentiates (Pa-kung) are nominated to the appointment of District Magistrate, they must remain on probation for two years, at the expiry of which an examination will be held into their capabilities and conduct. An officer in Fengt'ien has just been subjected to a scrutiny under the above conditions. He is found to be steady, intelligent, young, and strong; and he is therefore considered worthy to be retained in the province and given a substantive post.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT SHAN-HAI KUAN.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang presents a return for the year ended last November, showing the duties collected by the Shan-hai Kuan Custom-houses during that period, and the manner in which the money was expended. Both the territorial and the maritime custom-houses are included in the statement. The sum which they are required to produce under the original and the additional assessment together is Tls. 111,129. The memorialist is able to report that the full amount has been collected; but the actual money taken is shown to have been much less. Southern junks bringing Government rice to Tientsin are allowed to carry free of all duty any merchandise they please to the extent of one-fifth of their cargo. The duties remitted on these goods and on the junks' return cargoes of beans and bean-cake amount to Tls. 42,000, which sum is credited to the Custom-house, as if it had actually been received. The whole revenue, and something more, has been paid away for various official purposes, the principal of these being the pay of the troops in Manchuria.

18th October.

MEMORIAL ARCH TO A DEVOTED WIFE AND MOTHER.

Two District Magistrates, natives of Szechuan but belonging to the government staff in Chihli, have made a representation to the Viceroy Li Hung-chang. There is at the present moment serving in Chihli a fellow provincial of the Magistrates, an officer of the ninth grade, named Huang Chen. The parents of Huang Chen were one Huang T'ien-shou, and a lady whose maiden name was Hsü. The father, Huang T'ien-shou, was formerly living at Hanch'ung Fu in Shensi, where he was employed as a secretary. Having no children by his original wife, Mrs. Wang, he married Mrs. Hsü in addition. In 1857 he fell sick and died. As Mrs. Wang had long been in ill-health, and there were young children in the family, Mrs. Hsü undertook the task of bringing them up. In the autumn of 1863 Hanch'ung fell into the hands of the Taiping rebels. Mrs. Hsü sent away her son, the Huang Chen above mentioned, under the charge of an old servant. After this she herself, with Mrs. Wang and the other female members of the family, committed suicide by throwing themselves into a well, while the rest of their male relatives were put to death by the rebels for refusing to submit to them. The two Magistrates, who vouch for the truth of the story, think that the virtue and heroism exhibited by Mrs. Hsü should not remain unrecorded. The Viceroy therefore humbly addresses His Majesty and begs that memorial arches may be erected in honour of Mrs. Wang and the other ladies.—Approved.

19th October.

RETURN OF THE EMPEROR’S TUTOR.

Weng T'ung-ho, the Emperor’s tutor and President of the Board of Revenue, has returned to Peking and been received in audience.

APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL OF KAO-CHOU.

Chêng Shao-chung has been appointed Brigadier-General of Kao-chou in succession to Huang T'ing-piao, who has been superseded and is to await further employment.
DISTURBANCE IN A PUBLIC OFFICE IN PEKING.

On the 30th of September last a man named Ch'ang-t'ai, who gave himself out to be a Giuro, or collateral relative of the Imperial family, made his appearance in the office of the Police Magistrate for the West division of the City and brought a charge of assault against the keeper of a tea-house. The Magistrate referred him to the Superintending Censor of the district, but being reminded by the complainant that his office had no raison d'être unless it assumed jurisdiction in such matters, he consented to hear the case. The plaintiff relying upon his birthright as a Giuro, obstinately refused to kneel, and became so abusive in his language that the Magistrate had to produce the tablet bearing the Imperial instructions under which he had authority to act. This did not, however, produce the desired effect, and the plaintiff's behaviour became so outrageous that he actually smashed the Imperial tablet and upset the Magisterial bench. The matter having been reported to the Censors' Office, the latter sent a subordinate to verify the circumstances, which were found to correspond with the Magistrate's statement. Ch'ang-t'ai wore neither a red girdle nor any of the other badges appertaining to his Imperial lineage, but as the Censor considers it inexpedient that he should, himself, assume jurisdiction, he asks that the plaintiff should be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with in a manner that almost fulfilled the Imperial wish that not a soul should be left destitute. The Imperial Commissioner, Ting-an, and the Civil Governor, Yü-ch'ang, headed the subscription list with Tls. 500 each, Sung-ch'ing, the Commander-in-Chief of Szechuan, contributed Tls. 600, the Taotai at Moukden Tls. 400, and other subscriptions ranging from Tls. 100 to Tls. 300 poured in from every district officer in the province. The total sum thus subscribed amounted to Tls. 149,200 a large part of which was spent in the maintenance of soup kitchens which were kept open up to the 11th of August last. It is hard to say whether the officers who were exposed to all sorts of risks in saving people from a watery grave, or those supervising the soup kitchens where sickness and misery stared one in the face, performed the nobler service for humanity, and it is asked that all those who subscribed towards the relief of the distress may receive rewards on the same scale as was accorded to the contributors towards the repair of the breach in the Yellow River at Ch'eng-chou.—Reprint: Referred to the consideration of the Board.

FURTHER REWARDS FOR EXERTIONS IN RELIEVING DISTRESS IN FENG-T'UEN.

The same authorities select from among all those who worked in the field of famine relief, General Tso Pao-kuei as the person who deserves special mention for the energy and self-sacrifice with which he administered assistance to the starving people. His efforts are considered all the more praiseworthy as the task was not one which fell strictly within his province as a military officer. Feeling themselves unable single-handed to cope with the crisis, the civil authorities called upon him for assistance and met with a ready response. He not only directed night and day the steps that were taken for saving life at the beginning of the calamity, but he afterwards went in person to every village and hamlet to administer relief to the wretched survivors. He raised over 120,000 strings of cash by public subscription, opened some scores of soup kitchens, and was, it is calculated, instrumental in saving altogether some hundreds of thousands of lives. As he is an officer of high rank, the memorialists do not venture to suggest what form of reward he should receive, but leave the point for the gracious decision of the Emperor.

Two other officials who made themselves conspicuous by their zeal on this occasion, are Ch'ungs-hsün, the Taotai at Newchwang, and Pi-liang, an expectant Taotai. The
former, it is suggested, should receive such reward as the Board may consider suitable, and the latter is recommended for a button of the second grade as a stimulus to efforts of the kind.—Decree previously published.

20th October.

MODE OF SETTLING A CASE WHERE THE ACCUSED REFUSES TO CONFESS HIS GUILT.

There is no more common fallacy than to suppose that Chinese law invariably requires a confession of guilt on the part of a prisoner as an indispensable condition of his punishment. Cases are frequently reported in the Gazette of obstinate refusal to make a confession and of the application of a clause of the law under which convictions are obtained by the unanimous testimony of witnesses. The following is an example of the procedure in question:—

In the year 1860 a man living in the T'ung-ch'eng district of Anhui was killed by the Taiings, and his body was in the confusion of the time buried without a coffin on the slope of a hill which formed the cemetery of another family bearing the surname of Yao. In 1872, when the country had again become quiet, the Yao family asked the son of the deceased, Wang Huai-pao, to have the body removed, and on meeting with a refusal, instituted proceedings against him in the local court. The history of the actions and cross-actions which ensued during the following seventeen years between the two parties occupies a narrative covering many pages of the Gazette, and if correctly reported, furnishes a remarkable instance of the tenacity with which Chinese suitors prosecute false charges. Wang Huai-pao's refusal was at first based upon the reluctance he felt to remove the uncoffined bones of his father, but he subsequently denied the right of the Yao family to interfere in the matter, and did not hesitate to impute dishonest motives to the officials who tried the case. The suit was carried from court to court, the site of the grave was inspected and a plan prepared which showed beyond a doubt that it belonged to the Yao family, but Wang Huai-pao still persisted in his refusal to remove his father's corpse, and as a last resource the assistance of the members of his family clan was invoked. They admitted the facts as proved by the evidence, and accused the Yao family to take pity on Wang Huai-pao's poverty and supply him with means to enable him to remove the body. This, however, had no effect with Wang, who suffered for his obstinacy by spending his time in gaol, and eventually some friends and members of the family determined to end the matter by moving the remains themselves. The bones of the dead man were accordingly exhumed, wrapped up in straw and deposited in another grave provided for their reception. This step altered somewhat the nature of the proceedings, and from having been defendant Wang became plaintiff in the case, which he prosecuted with more energy than ever. A new complication was introduced by the death of his mother under circumstances which he turned to advantage. The old woman went one day in the course of the year 1878 to the house of a man named Chu, who lived quite near to the spot to which her husband's remains had been removed. Her object was to persuade Chu to testify in favour of her son and against the persons who were responsible for the removal. Chu declined, and Madam Chu asked the old lady to stay over night. She did so, and by way of revenge for her host's refusal to support her son, hanged herself in his house. Her son, Wang Huai-pao, worked up a plausible story about his mother's death being caused by the treatment of his father's remains, and failing to obtain a hearing in the provincial courts, started for Peking, where he presented his plaint to the Censorate. That body sent him back in the usual way to Anhui, where a fresh trial, just now concluded, has been going on for some years past. Every effort has been made to extort an admission of the facts from Wang Huai-pao, but his obstinacy has remained unconquered. His punishment for proceeding to Peking and instituting false charges implicating about a score of people is banishment to a distant frontier, and he has been sentenced accordingly under the law which provides that the unanimous testimony of witnesses may be accepted in lieu of a confession of guilt in cases where the punishment is not less than that of banishment of the first degree. The people who removed the body were actuated merely with a desire to put an end to the protracted proceedings, and as the removal was carried out with due care, they are to receive the benefit of the recent amnesty and to be exempted from any punishment they might otherwise have merited.

21st October.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IN IIL

The Governor of Ili reports that an earthquake severer than any that has been experienced for the last one hundred years occurred in Ili at four o'clock in the morning of the 12th of July last. The
sound came from the north-west and there were three distinct shocks lasting for about a quarter of an hour and so violent that it was almost impossible to keep standing with the swaying motion. Having regard to the duration of the shocks and the damage done before his eyes in his own office and the surrounding buildings, Sê-lêng-o was apprehensive that tidings of a great calamity would soon be received from other parts of his jurisdiction. The reports which have now been received from the various civil and military authorities reveal the very serious nature of the catastrophe, though fortunately no loss of life seems to have been sustained. The walls of the towns of Sui-ting, Ta-érh-ch’i, Kuang-jen, Chau-tê, and Kung-chên have been largely demolished and a great number of temples and public buildings have suffered severely. None of the nine cities of Ili escaped without injury, but Chau-tê and Kung-chên, which are situated in the North-west corner of the valley, sustained the greatest damage. The cost of making such temporary repairs as are absolutely necessary is estimated at Tls. 23,000 and the Governor asks for authority to appropriate this sum for the purpose from the funds reserved for carrying on the work of reorganisation consequent upon the rebellion.

REPAIR OF A PASS IN ILL.

The Governor of Ili states that there is an important Pass known as Kuo-tzu-kou which runs westward for a distance of sixty li from Ching-ho and Ta-ho-chao and forms not only the Government post road but the main thoroughfare for traffic of all kinds. It is shut in on both sides by high and precipitous hills and a stream formed by the melting snow runs down the ravine and irrigates the country in the neighbourhood of Kuang-jen and Sui-ting. After the recovery of Ili, this stream was bridged in twenty-six different places and other works were undertaken from time to time to prevent its overflowing and damaging the Pass. Last year there was a very heavy fall of snow in Ili which lay in the pass to an average depth of over 10 Chinese feet, and completely obstructed all traffic. Efforts were made to effect a clearance, but the hard work of several days was entirely neutralised by the snow which drifted down in masses from the high cliffs that towered up on either side. In some places the snow reached a depth of over 100 feet and in its course down the mountain side carried with it trees of great age and size. The Government road still remained visible winding its way like a thread through the general mass of debris and would probably have remained fit for use had it not been for the heavy rains of the present summer which, added to the volume of water caused by the melting snow, so swelled the mountain torrent that on the 4th of June last it burst loose and swept away bridges, government road and everything else that opposed its course. Such a deluge was unknown in all the past history of the country. The Pass was rendered impracticable for even travellers on foot and steps had to be taken at once to restore communication with the district previously reached by the Pass. It was found that there was another Pass known as Pi-li-ch’in which formed a nearer route to Ching-ho and only occupied three or four stages. This road has been repaired and made temporarily available for the conveyance of the mails and Government supplies, but though it is shorter, it has other drawbacks and it is not proposed to use it as a permanent substitute for the Kuo-tzu-kou Pass. Arrangements will be made for the repair of the latter as soon as the waters have sufficiently subsided, and to obviate the recurrence of any such inconvenience in future, it has been decided to appropriate an annual sum of Tls. 800 for maintaining it in proper order.

22nd October.

ACTING APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF KUANGSI.

Ma Po-i-yao, who has since been appointed Governor of Kuangsi, acknowledges the receipt of telegrams from the Tsung-li Yamen and the Viceroy at Canton instructing him to take provisional charge of the Government of the province. The new Governor is a native of Honan who took the metropolitan degree over a quarter of a century ago and has risen to his present position through the successive grades of the civil service.

LI HAN-CHANG STARTS FOR CANTON.

Li Han-chang reports having handed over charge on the 11th September last to Hsiü-ta, the Taotai of Huai Yang, who is to act as Director General of the Grain Transport until the arrival of Sung-ch’un. As soon as he has cleared off the outstanding work, he purposes starting for Canton, travelling overland by way of Kiangsi.

23rd October.

No papers of interest.
24th October.

SHEN PING-CH'ENG ASSUMES OFFICE AS GOVERNOR OF ANHUI.

Shên Ping-ch'êng, who was transferred nearly a year ago from Kuangsi to Anhui, reports having taken over charge as Governor of the latter province on the 30th of September. Ch'êng Yi, the late Governor, has received leave to pass a short time at his home in Yangchow before coming to Peking to take up his post of Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture.

CLOSURE OF A BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER EMBANKMENTS IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports the closure of the breach in the embankment of the Yellow River at Chang-tsun in the Ch'i-ho district of the province. The opening measured from 600 to 700 Chinese feet and its repair entailed an expenditure of Tls. 30,000. Work is progressing at the other two breaches at Ta-chai and Hoi-chih-fang both of which, it is anticipated, will be closed at an early date. Much of the flooded country is dry again and will be in a suitable condition for the reception of a crop when the time for sowing arrives.

25th October.

No papers of importance.

26th October.

BURGLARY AND MURDER BY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

Last autumn a burglary was committed in the house of a gentleman living at Li-shui Hsien south of Nanking. The robbers, who were six in number, effected an entrance into the buildings in the early part of the night by breaking down the back door. They shot the elder brother of the proprietor who was calling out for help; and having ransacked the premises they carried their booty to a quiet place where they divided it in equal shares. Medical aid was furnished to the gentleman who had been shot, but he died from the effects of his wound. Afterwards three of the robbers were arrested. They were all Honan men, who had served as soldiers and had been dismissed from the service for unsatisfactory conduct. The punishment for burglary is decapitation; and where firearms are carried by any of a party, the whole number are liable to be executed immediately and to be branded. Sentence is therefore passed upon the prisoners in accordance with the provisions of these laws.

27th October.

GUNBOAT CARRIED OFF BY SMUGGLERS.

Last month, at the request of the Governor of Kiangsu, a decree was issued cashiering a certain Ta-tai who had allowed a gunboat under his charge to be carried off by salt smugglers, and had failed either to recover the boat or to arrest the robbers. The Governor now reports that the officers and men of the preventive service have captured four smugglers, of whom one is a man that took a leading part in the robbery of the gunboat, and two others are noted offenders, for whose arrest rewards had been offered. The prisoners will be subjected to a rigorous examination, and strenuous efforts made to discover the other principal offenders. It is also stated to the Emperor that the cashiered Ta-tai has given valuable assistance in the making of these captures, thus showing his contri­bution for his previous negligence.—Noted.

27th October.

MISTAKE IN A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

According to a memorial presented by the Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, that officer was present at the literary examinations held this autumn in the provincial capital of Kansu. When the candidates had handed in their third and last set of papers, he quitted the examination hall, leaving the proctors and other officers to maintain order and watch the proceedings. Ten days afterwards he returned upon the scene in order to take part in issuing the list of successful names. According to the practice at Chinese examinations, the examiners are never permitted to see the original papers of the candidates, but copies are made for them in red ink by a staff of clerks. The two sets of papers are marked with corresponding numbers, and the candidates' names are preserved in sealed covers with the original documents. On the present occasion the sixth place on the roll was awarded to the author of the papers marked number fifty-eight of the Tien series. But by accident the cover numbered "Tien fifty" was opened instead, and the name of the candidate found inside, Mr. Chung Sheng, was entered upon the list of those selected. The mistake was afterwards discovered by the examiner, who informed the Governor-General of what had occurred. The last mentioned officer finds that in the Peking Examinations of 1768, and again in Kansu in 1846, errors of a similar character occurred, and were brought to light after the publication of the list. On each occasion the mistake was reported to the supreme government, by whose orders it
was rectified. In accordance with the precedents then established, the memorialist has erased the name which was wrongly inserted, and he is sending to Peking the unopened cover containing the name and the papers of the person unknown, who, as number fifty-eight of the Tien series, was designated for the sixth place on the list. At the same time for purposes of verification he forwards the other papers, originals and copies, of the two candidates. He hopes that, after they have duly been inspected by the Board, His Majesty will allow the rightful person to receive a degree. He mentions that the Chief Examiner conducted the proceedings without the aid of the Assistant Examiner, the latter officer having gone into mourning while on the road to Kansu. But he is none the less bound to request that he himself, the Examiner, and the other officers engaged in the proceedings for their failure to exercise proper carefulness in so important a matter as the public examinations.

The Emperor's decree in reply orders the Board of Ceremonies to examine the papers forwarded to Peking, and set right the mistake which has been made. Punishment will be awarded to all the officers engaged in the proceedings for their failure to exercise proper carefulness in so important a matter as the public examinations.

DAMAGE TO CROPS IN KANSU.

Governor-General Yang reports that in the province of Kansu, generally speaking, the weather was favourable throughout the summer. The rainfall was sufficient without being excessive, and the country has been blessed with a bounteous harvest. Still a certain number of localities, namely Kao-lan, Lung-hai, An-ting, T'ung-wei, Ta-t'ung and Su Chou, have suffered from floods or hail-storms to an extent which renders necessary the distribution of relief and perhaps the postponement or remission of taxation. But far greater damage was done in Chieh Chou, where tremendous rains fell from the 14th to the 19th of July. Both the North and the South Rivers burst their banks and inundated the country. The city walls were washed away together with the residences of the civil and military authorities, and five hundred private houses. Two lives were lost by drowning. Charity was immediately distributed to the most needy of the sufferers; and orders were given to ascertain exactly what houses had been destroyed in order that their owners might be assisted in rebuilding them. Estimates were also made with a view to the immediate repairing of the public buildings and walls which had been washed down. Another calamity occurred in Ch'ing-shui Hsien, where a landslip took place on the side of a steep hill and killed twenty men who were reaping below. In this case the authorities were ordered to provide coffins for the dead bodies and deliver them to their relatives for burial.

28th October.

FAILURE OF CANDIDATES AT PALACE EXAMINATION.

After the metropolitan examination for the highest military degree the successful candidates are required to undergo a fresh trial within the precincts of the Palace. An Imperial Decree states that His Majesty, having recently held this re-examination, finds six candidates who have not been able to sustain their reputation in wielding the sword, and one who has failed similarly with the stone. In consequence of this, their degrees are suspended until the next Palace Examinations, when they will be allowed to make a fresh essay. The Board concerned is directed to determine a penalty for the Examiners who selected these graduates.

CAPTURE OF A NOTED ROBBER IN MANCHURIA.

The Governor of Sheng-ching states that no part of his province is so liable to be disturbed by banditti as the tract of country round Ch'ang-t'u, which adjoins Mongolia on the north and Kirin on the east. In an Imperial Rescript issued last year a noted robber, called Chang Hai-ling, was specially mentioned by name, and stringent instructions were issued that his capture must be effectuated without fail. In the summer of the present year the Magistrate of Feng-hua learned that this man was living in disguise at a place in that district. Attended by an assistant and a party of policemen, he went quietly to the spot and found the man of whom he was in search, dressed like a peasant with a hoe in his hand. The robber refused to be arrested, and whirling the hoe round his head resisted the police. Then drawing a pistol from his belt he fired and wounded one of them. Upon this the police were ordered to fire also. The robber was struck in the hip, after which he submitted without giving further trouble. He was brought to the provincial capital for trial, where he was found guilty of having committed more than twenty crimes, including cases of murder, arson, abduction, robbery with violence, and resistance to the imperial troops. In punishment for these offences, which amounted almost to rebellion, he was
executed without delay. The memorialist considers the punishment of this offender a matter of great congratulation. Though many robbers have been arrested of late, still they have generally been unimportant followers; and it is only by the destruction of the leaders that brigandage can be put down and the country tranquillised. The Magistrate moreover deserves commendation for the seizure of so notorious a criminal within half-a-year of his arrival at his post. He is therefore recommended by the memorialist for the receipt of a decoration. And the assistant who attended him is proposed for promotion.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

29th October.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS.

The Provincial Treasurer of Yün-nan, Tseng Chi-feng, is given permission to retire from the public service in order that he may attend upon his aged parents. Shih Nien-tau is transferred to Yün-nan in place of Tseng Chi-feng, and Wang Te-pang is appointed Treasurer of Kuei-chow in place of Shi Nien-tau.

AN OFFICER SENT TO LEARN JUDICIAL WORK.

An expectant officer in Peking, Ko Ping-i by name, was recently selected by the central government for the Magistracy of Ch‘i Hsien, belonging to Wei-hui Fu in northern Honan. The newly appointed officer has just arrived at the capital of the province and has presented his credentials. The Governor represents that Ch‘i Hsien is a populous and busy place with fierce and intractable inhabitants; while the new Magistrate having but newly arrived in the province cannot be acquainted with the local ways and manners. It is therefore proposed to attach Ko Ping-i temporarily to the local court of justice in K‘ai-feng Fu, in order that he may gain experience in judicial work before he is sent to his post. —Approved.

30th October.

EXCUPLATION OF GRAND SECRETARY CHANG CHIH-WAN.

An officer named Ch‘ung-wen recently presented a memorial accusing the Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan of maintaining improper intimacy with provincial officials. The Emperor therefore directed Fu-k‘un and Pan Tau-yin to investigate the truth of the charge. They have now made their report, which is entirely in favour of Chang Chih-wan. If he received visits from provincial officials it was merely because he wished to ask them about matters of public business, or because they were old acquaintances. No unfavourable conclusions should be drawn from the fact that many of them took apartments in a temple close to his house, as that place has long been used as a lodging by such visitors. His house moreover is a very modest residence, and no guest room has been built on to it for holding secret conversations. Fault was found with him for being intimate with the priest Ching Chow. But the man when questioned declared that he and the Grand Secretary were merely acquaintances owing to their belonging to the same part of the country. The Imperial Decree which publishes the above remarks goes on to say that His Majesty recognises the high principles of the statesmen who surround him, and that he has long well known the honesty and stability of Chang Chih-wan; but he ordered the inquiry to be held, as he considered it due to that office to have an opportunity of fully disproving the charges brought against him. Chan Chih-wan must not allow himself to be deterred by calumny from the careful performance of his duty, but must continue to exert his utmost energies on behalf of the State in order to repay the confidence placed in him. His Majesty has again publicly cautioned his servants against the evil practice of lodging accusations to serve their own private ends. The assailant of Chan Chih-wan must have known of this; and yet he has dared to slander that distinguished officer with baseless calumnies. Moreover he aggravated his misconduct by introducing into his memorials language about calamities and prosperity and the state of public affairs at the present time. As a warning to others it is necessary that he be punished. The Board concerned will propose for him some fitting penalty.

PERMISSION TO RIDE IN FORBIDDEN CITY.

Three Ministers, K‘uei-jun, Hsi Yung-i, and Ch‘ing-an are graciously permitted to ride on horse-back within the precincts of the Forbidden City.

31st October.

HONOURS TO A DECEASED GENERAL.

In a supplementary memorial the Viceroy Tseng Kuo-ch‘iian describes the career of a late General, Chu P‘in-lung. The deceased was a native of Hunan, and in the year 1852 volunteered for military service in that province. Four years later, on the formation of a regular Hunan army, he was transferred to the main body by the Viceroy Tseng Kuo-fan. He thus took part
in the capture of Hsiao-ch'ih post station and the attack on Kiukiang. In 1857 he was at the capture of Ma-ch'eng and Huang-an in Hupeh. In 1868 he was again in Kiangsi, when the towns of Ching-tê and Fu-liang were taken. In 1860 he helped to reduce T'ai-ch'ou Fu and Su-sung near the capital of Anhui, being always in the forefront of danger and taking part in every combat. He was afterwards sent to occupy Ch'i-men in the extreme south of the province, where he made reconnaissances against Hui-chou and Ching-tê, and seized all the important passes, again distinguishing himself and exposing himself to danger as he led on his men. Later, having captured Ch'ing-yang to the west of the province, he was beleaguered there for forty days, without food and without any one to come to his rescue. Animated by him, his men held out against the enemy and against starvation till at length relief was brought. At this time the great rebel chief, Ku Lung-hsien, was occupying the country round Tai-p'ing Fu. But his followers were dispersed by General Chu P'in-lung, who received the submission of more than a hundred thousand men, and restored tranquillity to the country round Shih-t'ai, Ching-tê, T'ai-p'ing, and Kuang-tê. His success also prevented the Chekiang and Kiangsi rebels from joining their forces and marching to the relief of Nanking, which was therefore brought into great straits. His exploits thus were such as to merit no ordinary praise. In 1861 he was appointed General at Chii-chou Fu in Chekiang. In 1865 he returned to his native place, where he died in 1879. As he was so distinguished a lieutenant of the illustrious Tseng Kuo-fan, certain officers have petitioned that his name may be associated with that of his leader in the temples dedicated to the latter, and that libations may similarly be offered to him by the local authorities in spring and autumn. This request is endorsed by the memorialist, who states that it is quite in accordance with precedent. - Approved.

1st November.

DEBT OWED BY A MAGISTRATE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

A certain official now deceased, Chang Wen-tsaö by name, was many years ago promoted for good conduct to an expectant Magistratesship in Chekiang. Before a post was found for him, he was, in 1868, again given nominal advancement, namely to the rank of expectant subprefect. In 1877 he had still apparently received no substantive promotion; for in that year he was sent to act as Magistrate at P'iu-chiang Hsien. In the autumn of the following year he was recalled to the provincial capital. On his handing over his accounts to his successor there was wanting a sum of Tls. 9,541, which he had collected in the ordinary way as land tax. It appeared that he had spent this money in repairing his official residence and other public works of immediate importance, in surveying land, in distributing relief, and in supporting a body of troops, rendered necessary by the proximity of the turbulent prefecture of T'ai-chou. Being unable either to make good the money, or to obtain the sanction of the higher authorities for the expenditure, he was declared a defaulter and arrested. The property in his lodging was attached, but it was found merely to consist of a few old trunks of clothes and torn books, which were positively not worth valuing. In prison he became seriously ill, and was let out on bail upon the petition of a brother official. But the change was of no avail, and he shortly afterwards succumbed to his malady. Orders were then given to seize his property in his native home in Kiangsu. The officers took possession of his house, a building of four rooms in bad repair, with a little broken furniture. These were valued altogether at Tls. 42, but no purchaser could be found for them at the moment. The neighbours and the relatives of the deceased gave their bond that there was no other property belonging to him. Search was also made for the clerk who had been in charge of his treasury at Piu-chiang and for his personal servant. The former, however, was proved to be dead, and the latter had disappeared from view. The Governor of Chêkiang is convinced that the missing money was merely appropriated without sanction for public objects, and that there was no embezzlement of official funds. Still where such misappropriation exceeds the sum of Tls. 5,000, the law lays down that the offender must be banished three thousand li, and receive a flogging of one hundred blows. He therefore sentences the deceased to these penalties, which, as he remarks, cannot be carried out. Moreover, as the deceased has left nothing of value, his debt to the government will be forgiven. - Referred to the Board.

DUTIES NOT COLLECTED IN KUANGSI.

As the Province of Kuangsi has not yet recovered from the Taiping rebellion, the Custom houses of Wu-chou Fu and Hsin-chou Fu are in a very unprosperous condition. Several officers have not been able
to collect the full amount due according to their assessments, and have been ordered by the Board of Revenue to make good a certain portion of their deficits. Thus three Prefects, or acting Prefects of Wu-chou, owe Tls. 15,429, Tls. 4,083 and Tls. 13,000 respectively, and a Prefect of Hsin-chou owes Tls. 5,575. As none of them show any signs of producing the money, the Governor requests that they may be given a limit of one year, and be severely punished if their accounts are not cleared off within that time.—Approved.

2nd November.

REPAIRS TO A TOWN IN ILI.

The Central Government in Peking, like many other Governments, lays it down as a fixed rule that no expenditure shall be incurred on public works in the provinces which shall not previously have received the sanction of the Board of Works. The city of Kung-ch'ên, otherwise known as Hua-érh-kuo-su, occupies a position of great strategic importance on the extreme west in Ili, and is only separated by a river from Russian territory. Some years ago, when Chin-shun was Governor of Ili, he included the restoration of the town among the works of re-organisation which he proposed to carry out, but he was obliged to leave the task unfinished owing to want of funds. The late Governor, Hsi-lun, continued the work begun by his predecessor, but set about it in such an irregular way that the Board declined to sanction the expenditure, and called for an explanation from Sâ-lêng-o, the present Governor. The latter, while admitting that his predecessor was at fault in not furnishing the Board with an estimate of the cost before he started operations, vouches for the fact that considerable repairs were executed. The total expenditure was, he understands, originally estimated at Tls. 55,683.5.9, of which Tls. 13,000 were spent in useful work by Hsi-lun. A great deal still remains to be done, and as Hsi-lun's expenditure cannot be refunded new that he is dead, the Governor proposes that he himself should be allowed a further sum of Tls. 33,390 to enable him to complete the work and prevent a waste of the money already spent. Unless something is done at once, all the materials now stacked will soon deteriorate through exposure to the weather.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

SACRIFICES TO THE LAKE GOD OF KOKONOR.

The Imperial Resident at Hsi-ning, who exercises control over five tribes of Mongols, is required to repair once every autumn to Kokonor, where he performs certain rites in honour of the Spirit of the Lake, and holds a durbar of the Mongol princes and chieftains. Sa-ling-o, the present Resident, reports that he started on the usual tour on the 1st of October last, and going by the Tan-ka-érh pass, reached his destination four days later. Here he was met by the Mongol princes and nobles, who were seated in order of rank and entertained at a banquet, in the course of which he distributed amongst them presents of silk, penknives, tea, and other suitable articles. The guests were all enthusiastic in their protestations of loyalty, and promised to guarantee the preservation of good order in their respective districts. The sacrificial ceremonies were performed by the Prefect of Hsi-ning, who accompanied the memorialist.

3rd November.

SOUP KITCHENS AND REFUGES FOR THE POOR OF PEKING.

The Censor for the central division of the city makes an application for the usual winter allotment of grain for a number of charitable institutions within his jurisdiction. Four of these establishments, one of which is for the special benefit of distressed Mahommedans, receive each 300 piculs of unhusked rice from the Government, which is largely supplemented by subscriptions from the officials and gentry of the city. Four or five other similar institutions have during the past few years received grants of 150 piculs of grain each year, and all these allowances are to be continued during the present winter. The soup kitchens in the Chinese city are the recipients of much more liberal grants which date back to the year 1867, and amount, in the case of eight of them, to 270 piculs a month. The distribution of the relief is controlled by the Censor of the district, assisted by a committee of gentry and notables.

MOVEMENTS OF LATE SECRETARY OF LEGATION IN LONDON.

Mo Shêng-sun, who served for three years in London as Secretary of Legation to Liu Jui-fân, recently returned to Kiang-nan as expectant Taotai on promotion from his previous position of Prefect. On leaving London he received from the Minister a favourable notice for the diligence and zeal which he displayed in the discharge of his diplomatic duties, and at his own request he is now proceeding to Peking with a letter of introduction to the Board of Civil Office from the Viceroy Tsêng Kuo-ch'ian.
RESUMPTION OF HIS DUTY BY THE ADMIRAL OF THE YANGTZE.

Li Ch'eng-mou, the Admiral of the Yangtze, who has been on sick leave for some months past, reports that he has so far recovered his health as to be able to resume the duties of his office. He has undertaken a cruise of inspection of the fleet on the Upper and Lower Yangtze, and reviewed the gunboats at Woosung. In all matters connected with the improvement of the navy he has had the advantage of the advice of P'eng Yü-lin, as also of the Viceroy and Governors of the provinces concerned.

4th November, 1889.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

A Secretaryship in the Grand Council is now one of the best openings for official advancement amongst the lower ranks of the Civil Service. Altogether there are sixty Secretaries, most of whom do duty likewise in the Boards. One of them, Chu Wei-ch'êng, has just been appointed Prefect at Canton, and the vacancy thus created has, on the recommendation of Prince Li and his colleagues, been bestowed upon Sun Ch'io-hua, one of the Supernumerary Clerks, who is also Secretary in the Board of Civil Office.

OFFICERS DETACHED FOR SERVICE IN TIBET.

Some time ago Shêng-t'ai, the Assistant Resident in Tibet, asked that Lin Han-wên, Magistrate of the Ta-t'ieno district in Szechuan, and Wang Yen-lin, a Prefect on probation in the same province, should be transferred to Tibet and their services placed at his disposal. The first mentioned officer has since died, and the Resident now suggests that Shih Kung-hsi, formerly acting Sub-Prefect of Ta-chien-lu, should be sent to Tibet in his stead. He also applies for the services of Hsü Chin-pien, an officer on the Szechuan establishment who is a reliable man and has special knowledge of Tibetan questions.—Granted by Rescript.

DISASTROUS STORMS IN SHENSI.

The Governor of Shensi reports that during the sixth and seventh months of the present year his province was visited by disastrous floods of hail and rain which caused great havoc and distress in fifteen districts and departments. The loss of life was small in proportion to the damage done to the crops, though forty-nine people were drowned in the Han-yin district, forty in An-k'iang, and small numbers perished in various other places. A list is furnished of the quantity of ground under water in each district, the total aggregate representing several thousands of acres. The people, who are hard pressed for food, are being relieved in large numbers by the Government.

5th November.

HEAVY FLOODS IN CHEKIANG.

Notice is taken in an Imperial Decree issued to-day of the heavy floods which have been reported to have occurred in the Prefectures of Hangchow, Chia-hsing, Hu-chow, and other places in the province of Chêkiang. The Governor, Sung-chên, has opened the public granaries for the relief of the distress, and has made arrangements for importing grain which is to be sold at low rates, and the Emperor authorises him to charge to the Government all payments made on behalf of the sufferers, and see that the people get the full benefit of the Imperial kindness. The broken dykes and embankments are to be immediately repaired, so that the cultivable land may be saved from further inundations.

ACCOUNTS AND EXPENDITURE OF IMPERIAL FACTORY AT HANGCHOW.

Ying-jui, the outgoing Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Hangchow, submits a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the establishment for the year ending in September, 1889. With the exception of an item of Tls. 3,477.3.3 for stuff used as presents to the Mongol Chiefs in the region of Kokonor, the whole outlay, representing an expenditure of Tls. 161,399.49.93, was for materials supplied to the Imperial Household. This expenditure was covered by the following receipts: Tls. 91,161.6 7.1 from the land revenue of Chekiang, Tls. 57,345.1.9 from the proceeds of the likin tax in the province, together with 20,000 strings of cash from the same source, which exchanged for Tls. 12,921.6 4. Including a small balance which he received from his predecessor, the new Superintendent started with a credit balance of Tls. 1,155.2.5. By a fixed rule of the department nine fen per tael of the materials is allowed for their conveyance to Peking.

REMITTANCES FROM FOOCHOW TO PEKING.

The following are the contributions which the provinces of Fukien and Chêkiang were required to make under directions of the Board for various purposes during the present year—Tls. 140,000 for frontier defence, Tls. 80,000 for defensive preparations on the north-east, and Tls. 100,000 from the Customs and likin receipts for the Peking subsidy. Of the latter assessment
Tls. 20,000 have already been forwarded, and the Viceroy now reports the transmission of further instalments as follows: Tls. 20,000 for general frontier defence, Tls. 10,000 for the same purpose on the Manchurian border, and Tls. 20,000 for the Peking subsidy, which amounts have all been shipped to Peking in charge of officers specially deputed for the purpose.

6th November.

DEGRADATION OF CH'UNG-WEN.

A Decree in this day's Gazette orders the degradation of Ch'ung-wen, the Supervisor of Instruction, who recently denounced the Grand Secretary, Chang Chih-wan.

7th November.

FLOODS IN CHEKIANG.

A Decree—During the Autumn of the present year very heavy and continuous rain fell for several weeks in Chêkiang, causing great inundations and distress in the Prefectures of Hangchow, Chia-hsing, Hu-chou, Ningpo, Shao-hsing, T'ai-chou, Chiu-huai, Yen-chou, Wenchow and other districts. On hearing of the occurrence through the Governor, We issued instructions for the adoption of suitable measures of relief, and on subsequently ascertaining that the distress was worst in the three Prefectures of Hangchow, Chia-hsing, and Hu-chou, We issued a second Decree in which Sung-ch'in was authorised to charge to the public account expenditure incurred in administering relief. Having regard, however, to the extent of the calamity, which affects ten prefectures and departments, We order that a sum of Tls. 50,000 be appropriated from the chest of the province for the alleviation of the misery of the people, and We have been honoured with the receipt of a Decree from the Empress Dowager in which Her Majesty shows her deep anxiety for the people of Chêkiang in this unusual crisis by contributing for their benefit a sum of Tls. 50,000 out of her own private savings. Let the Governor respond to the earnest desire of the Court and take every precaution for ensuring that the bounty shall reach the people through the agency of honesty distributors. The district officers are to submit reports upon the nature of the distress in their respective jurisdictions, which shall form the basis for deciding upon remissions or abatements of the land-tax. A Censor has represented to Us that large supplies of grain are stored up in the Prefectures of Ningpo and Shao-hsing, and We hereby authorise Sung-ch'in to draw upon the public granaries for relief purposes, both in these districts and in any others where grain is found to be stored in sufficient quantity.

FLOODS IN KIANGSU.

A second Decree in the same Gazette alludes to the disastrous floods which have occurred in Soochow, Sungkiang, Ch'ing Chou, Chinkiang, T'ai-tsang and other prefectures and departments in the province of Kiangsu. The waters poured down from the western portion of Chêkiang and the South of Anhui, the lakes and rivers overflowed and laid a vast extent of country under water, destroying the crops and causing a sudden rise in the price of food which has resulted in widespread distress. To meet the emergency Tls. 50,000 have been allotted from the Treasury of the province, and as in the case of Chêkiang, the Empress has contributed Tls. 50,000 out of her own purse, the distribution of which is to be entrusted to agents selected by the Governor.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF TARBAGATAI.

The Lieutenant-General of IIi submits an estimate of the expenditure required for building the town of Tarbagatai, the construction of which was sanctioned by an Edict issued towards the end of last year. The new town is to be nearly two miles in circumference, surrounded by a wall 22 Chinese feet high and 32 feet broad at the base. The cost is calculated to amount to Tls. 180,000. One thousand "com­ pounds," consisting of three chins and coating each Tls. 106, are to be constructed as quarters for the Manchu garrison. This will entail an expenditure of Tls. 106,000, and there will be a further outlay of Tls. 94,000 on public offices, temples, and granaries, making an aggregate of about Tls. 380,000. In explanation of these figures, which he fears may be regarded as excessive, the General states that all the workmen and materials have to be brought from a great distance and that arrangements have to be made at great expense to burn the bricks and procure the stones in the neighbourhood. Work was begun early in the present year, and an outlay of Tls. 130,000 has already been incurred. He asks for a refund of this amount and requests to be supplied with a further sum of Tls. 250,000 to enable him to complete the undertaking before the beginning of winter.—Referred to the consideration of the Board.

SUPPLY OF HORSES FROM II FOR THE USE OF THE EMPEROR.

By an old established custom the Military Governor of IIi, the Assistant Governor, and the Commandant of the Forces are all
required to send a certain number of horses yearly to Peking to be trained and broken in by the Imperial Princes for the use of the Emperor. Se-leng-o, the Governor, recently sent eight animals, and the Imperial Stud Department wrote to the other two officials asking to be informed why they and their predecessors had discontinued the custom. The reply which is now published assigns as a reason for the interruption of the practice the disturbed state of the country during the Mohammedan rebellion and the consequent difficulty which has since been experienced in procuring suitable animals. It is asked that the practice should not be revived for another two years.

8th November, 1889.

RETIREE OF THE GOVERNOR OF SHANSI.

Wei Jung-kuang, who was recently transferred from Chekiang to the Governorship of Shansi, has been permitted to retire from the public service on ground of ill-health.

THAM-WAY LINE RECENTLY USED AT YELLOW RIVER WORKS IN HONAN REMOVED TO SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Honan reports that, in accordance with a telegraphic application which he received from the Governor of Shantung, he has taken steps for sending to the latter province the tramway line which was recently used with such signal success for conveying the earth and materials required for the repair of the breach at Ch'eng Chou. The iron rails, waggons and other appliances have all been packed in cases and started by boat on the 25th September, under charge of Li Ch'ing-jung, the former acting Taotai of the K'ai Kuei Circuit.

ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE TO THE TROOPS AT PEKING.

All the soldiers of the eight banners and of the ordinary army in the capital are to receive one-half month's additional pay to get through the winter: and other members of the Imperial lineage receive a similar donation of a month's pay, while widows and orphans belonging to the latter class are to draw a month and a half's extra rations to enable them to tide over the cold weather.

FLOODS IN HONAN.

Towards the end of July last some dykes erected by the people in the Ch'ang-yüan district of Chihli as a protection against the Yellow River were swept away by the continuous rains, and the water from the River overflowed the adjacent parts of Honan, more especially the country in the neighbourhood of Lao-an, twenty-six villages, which were inundated to a depth of three or four feet. Fortunately, no lives were lost, as the people found refuge on the tops of the houses, but the destruction of the crops caused great destitution, which the resources at the disposal of the local Magistrate were inadequate to meet. The Governor caused a thousand taels to be sent from the provincial treasury for the relief of the distress. As the country is still under water, there is no prospect of being able to restore the embankments in time to allow of next year's crops being sown.

9th November.

REGULATIONS FOR DETECTIVE POLICE.

An Imperial Decree dwells upon a representation which has been made to the Emperor to the effect that the police frequently accept bribes from robbers instead of arresting them, and the local authorities avoid holding enquiries into cases of stealing which are reported to them, or else report robberies with violence as being merely ordinary thefts. To put an end to this discreditable state of affairs, His Majesty desires the high provincial authorities to draw up regulations for the guidance of the local officials in such matters.

APPOINTMENT.

Yii-shan is appointed Governor of Shansi, and is succeeded as Grand Treasurer in that province by K'uei-shun.

ABBREVIATIONS FORBIDDEN IN MEMORIALS.

The Emperor refers to a Decree issued two years ago, whereby officers drawing up memorials to the Throne were forbidden to abbreviate names of places by writing only a portion of compound words, as Tung for Kuangtung and Ning for Chiangning. In spite of his orders the habit has been re-commenced. He therefore desires that it may be permanently discontinued.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG BLAMED FOR NOT CONSULTING ADMIRALITY.

Orders were issued some time ago to the effect that any provincial government contemplating the construction of new forts or the purchase of guns, must consult the Board of Admiralty and obtain the consent of that body before taking definite action. While calling attention to this regulation, an Imperial Decree notices that Chang Chih-tung has just reported the building and arming of some forts at Kiungchow and Pakhoi. It is true that he touched lightly on the matter in a memorial presented long ago concerning his tour of inspection on the coast. But he has since
carried out his scheme at a great cost, without informing the Admiralty Board of the number of forts and guns, and without the permission of the Emperor being obtained. The Grand Council is therefore instructed to inform Chang Chih-tung that he is reprimanded, and the Board of Admiralty is desired to report upon his memorial.

**FLOODS IN HUPEH.**

An Imperial Decree notices a memorial from Yü-lu reporting severe floods in Hupeh. After the ordinary summer and autumn freshets, continuous rains in the months of September and October caused the water to rise steadily. Most of the low-lying lands were flooded throughout Wuch'ang, Hanyang, Huangchow, An-lu, T'e-an, and Chingchow, while the remoter prefectures of Hsiangyang, Yunnang, Ichang, and Shihnan also suffered considerably. To alleviate the distress caused by the inundations the Governor-General is authorised to expend Tls. 100,000 from the provincial treasury, and to report again if further funds are found to be necessary.

**HEIGHT OF WATER IN HUNG-TSE LAKE.**

The heavy rains which have fallen this autumn in the neighbourhood of the Yang-tze do not appear to have reached to the valley of the Hual River just to the north of it. According to the report of the Director-General of the Grand Canal, before September the height of the water diminished a little in the Hung-tse Lake, the Canal, and the adjacent rivers, and during the course of that month, it fell from three to ten feet in different localities.

10th November.

**MARKET AND WEATHER REPORTS TO THE EMPEROR.**

An Imperial Decree mentions the fact that every Governor-General or Governor is required to send to the Emperor a monthly report concerning the state of the weather and the prices of grain in the province under his jurisdiction. His Majesty always studies these returns most carefully on account of the light which they throw upon the financial condition of the country. Sometimes, however, they are not despatched so soon as they ought to be. Thus the report from Chihli for June only arrived in October, at the same time as that from distant Turkestan; and the one for July has only just been received. Again, last year the Governor-General of Chili furnished one report for June and July together, despatching it in the month of November. In future each high officer must be careful to make out a return for every month separately, and despatch it in the early part of the month following.

**ROBBERY ON BOARD A BOAT.**

In the middle of the winter before last a boat owner at Shan Chou in Shensi contracted to convey a cargo of tobacco from the neighbourhood of that town to Lao-ho-k'ou in Hupeh. As he found himself detained by important business, he engaged three men to take his boat and go instead. Just before they started, there arrived at the place a Captain Kuo Yung-ho, who was going home from Kansu to Hunan on sick leave. This gentlemen took a passage in the boat for himself and his baggage. The latter contained, besides his own property, some clothing, money, and opium which he had been asked to carry with him for some friends. The boat started on its voyage, and one evening soon afterwards anchored at nightfall in a certain place. Captain Kuo Yung-ho who was ill, was lying down in the mid-ship cabin, while the three boatmen were sitting together talking in the forward one. After talking of their poverty, one of them proposed that they should rob the passenger, whose luggage, to judge by its weight, ought to be valuable. All having agreed, they crept into the compartment at midnight, two carrying cords and the third a bag. By threatening him with death they terrified their victim into silence, bound him and heaped tobacco chests on him to keep him from moving. The robbers burst open his boxes and took out a quantity of silver, opium, and valuable clothing, all which they placed in the bag. They then left the boat and on arriving at a quiet place divided the booty. The silver and opium each amounted to about three hundred taels. Next morning the passenger managed to free himself by biting the cords which bound him, and going on shore he hired some men to take the boat back to the place from whence it had started. He immediately made a reclamation against the boat owner, who went off with the police hoping to find the men in their homes, two of which were in Honan and one in Hupeh. This attempt failed, but by their efforts one of the robbers was afterwards discovered and arrested. Sixty taels of silver and two fur robes were found in his possession and were handed back by the authorities to Captain Kuo Yung-ho. The latter soon afterwards died of disease in his lodgings at Shan Chou. The prisoner has been sentenced by the Governor to immediate decapitation. The owner of
the boat was proved to have been in no way implicated in the robbery, but still he was blame-worthy, because he had caused its commission to be possible by employing the men to work his boat. It is proposed, however, to pardon him on account of the activity he displayed in searching after the men and their plunder.—Referred to the Board of Punishments for a report without delay.

11th November.

PECULIATION IN MANCHURIA.

There being cause for dissatisfaction with regard to the military settlements and Customs stations in Kirin, the Emperor ordered Ch'ang-shun to hold an enquiry concerning the alleged wrong-doings. In consequence of the report since made by that officer, His Majesty orders a Lieutenant-Colonel to be degraded two steps and certain other officials to be cashiered entirely.

T'UNG-CHOW SOUP KITCHENS.

His Majesty grants eight hundred piculs of small millet to the soup kitchens at T'ung-chow, for the sustenance of the local poor and the persons who flock there from other places during the winter.

SILKS FOR EMPEROR'S WEDDING.

The Superintendent of the Imperial Factory at Soochow sends in a statement of the cost incurred in executing an order for the marriage of the Emperor. Hangings and ornaments for the state chair of the Empress and those of two attendant ladies of the fourth rank came to Tls. 3,289; 11,300 pieces of flowered silk, Tls. 47,495; 1,393 pieces of satin and other kinds of silk materials, Tls. 22,955. Court uniforms for officials and performers belonging to the Board of Music, Tls. 7,317. The above sums include labour and materials together, and with a small additional expenditure for labour, come to Tls. 80,472 which is Tls. 442 below the original estimate.

12th November.

MEMORIALS FROM PROVINCIAL TREASURERS AND CHIEF JUSTICES.

The Emperor calls attention to certain Decrees issued during the last century at various periods in the reign of the Emperor Chien Lung, enforcing upon the Provincial Treasurers and Chief Justices the necessity of presenting memorials under particular circumstances. Those officers were described as the coadjutors of the Governor-Generals and Governors, and if any matter of administration appeared to them unsatisfactory, it was their duty in the first instance to bring it to the notice of the latter. In the case of serious misconduct on the part of their chiefs, they were bound to make a direct representation to the Throne. Nevertheless, says His Majesty, for many years past the Treasurers and Justices have quite given up the practice of sending in memorials. With the exception of their formal reports returning thanks for appointments or announcing their taking over or giving up charge, they never address the Throne at all. His Majesty, however, looks to them for intelligence to aid him in the multitudinous duties of ruling the empire. They must not fail to give him information by means of private memorials, if they see their chiefs displaying faults of character or temper to the detriment of the good government of the country, or again if they find them either refusing to carry out necessary measures, or insisting against remonstrance in doing what is inexpedient. But at the same time they are warned against making these instructions an excuse for harassing their superiors by vexatious accusations from underhand motives.

REPAIRS TO MANCHURIAN TOMBS.

A report is sent in to the Emperor giving an account of the expenditure of Tls. 8,900 for certain repairs at the Imperial Tombs in Manchuria, which are known by the name of the Yung Ling.

FAILURE TO REPORT RETURN TO PEKING.

The officer who has recently performed the duties of Grand Examiner in Shantung is declared by an Imperial Decree to have come back to Peking later than he should have done after the conclusion of his task, and to have committed a further offence by not presenting himself at the palace on the day of his arrival to report his return. The Board concerned is instructed to determine what is the proper penalty to be inflicted upon him.

13th November.

ADDITION TO FOOCHOW EXAMINATION HALL.

The Governor-General at Foochow reports that the Examination Hall in that city contained formerly nine thousand nine hundred and twenty-one cells, of which about four hundred were required for the use of the soldiers and official attendants. Of late years literature has flourished, and the number of candidates has increased. At last year's examination, indeed, it was found necessary to make temporary wooden structures to the extent of over a thousand cells. When the special examination was announced for this year with an extra number of degrees to be granted,
the memorialist foresaw that the candidates would be more numerous than ever. While the matter was under his consideration, a representation was addressed to him by several gentlemen living in the city. A consultation took place, and in pursuance of the arrangements then made, some adjoining ground was purchased and added to the existing enclosure. This allowed eleven hundred more cells to be built. The work was completed before the month of August, the total expenditure, the cost of the ground included, amounting to Tls. 30,800. This sum has been temporarily advanced from certain charitable funds and the capital of the literary college. But the gentry will be urged to raise the money by subscriptions, so that the amount borrowed may be replaced without any call being made on the public treasury.

14th November.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN CHEKIANG.

An Imperial Decree was published last week concerning the distress caused by floods in Chêkiang. In this day's Gazette there is a further Decree on the same subject, issued in reply to a memorial from the Governor. That officer mentions the distress existing among the people of Hang-chow, Chia - hsing, and Hu-chow, who are in actual want of food because their crops have been drowned by the inundations. He asks that he may be allowed to take Tls. 120,000 from the General Treasury and Tls. 30,000 from the salt excise, all which he will expend in charity during the winter and spring. The Emperor grants his request and gives instructions as to the way in which the work must be carried out. Care must be taken to find out those who are really destitute, relief works must be inaugurated, and there must be no waste or squandering.

DETAILS OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE WANTED FROM CANTON.

The Governor-General Chang Chih-tung at Canton has presented a memorial with reference to the sums expended by him for military purposes, during and since the war, from the year 1883 onwards. He begs that he may be allowed to present merely a general abstract of this expenditure instead of giving complete details. The Emperor, in a long decree, says that he has referred the memorial to the Board of Revenue, and the Board represents that unless the items be furnished to it, it cannot possibly audit the accounts properly. The Board some time ago addressed the Emperor on this very point, and every other province concerned has sent in complete accounts of its recent war expenditure. Apart from the fact that the point has already been determined and every other province has complied with the instructions, the Emperor does not see what difficulty can exist with regard to making out the accounts for a single province for such a small number of years. The national expenditure is a matter of the utmost importance, and His Majesty is astonished that the Governor-General wishes to deal with it in such a rough and ready manner and with such disregard for established rule. But it is even worse when that officer says that there are such mountains of papers and vouchers that the Presidents and Secretaries of the Board cannot examine them themselves, but must leave them to the clerks, who will make them means for committing extortion. If anything of the kind really occurs, Chang Chih-tung should point the man out for punishment, and it is very wrong of him to make the quantity of the papers an excuse for not presenting accounts. He will lose no time in furnishing the Board with clear and detailed statements of all the above-mentioned expenditure.

PRISONERS EXECUTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE.

The Governor-General Li Hung-chang states that there were nine men guilty of committing robbery with violence recently confined in the provincial gaol at Paoting Fu. On the first of last month they agreed to attempt to escape that night; but were overheard by three other prisoners, who gave private information to the warders. The latter reported the intelligence to the authorities, a detachment of troops were brought up to keep guard, and a party of police entered the prison. There they found the nine men, their fetters broken off and the wooden bars of their cells cut through. When brought before the court and interrogated, they acknowledged that it was their intention to kill the warders and make their escape, and that they had only been prevented by their scheme being discovered. In the case of prisoners guilty of a crime punishable by decapitation, it is the law that if they break out of prison they shall be beheaded immediately. These men, though they had not left the prison, had gone so far as to break off their fetters and cut through the bars of their cells, and moreover, as they freely acknowledged, had formed the intention of killing their warders. The Viceroy has therefore put the law in force and has caused them all to be promptly beheaded. The service
rendered by the three other prisoners who gave the information will be taken into consideration with a view to reducing the sentences passed upon them.—Approved.

15th November.

TRAMWAY FOR THE YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

A report was recently published from the Governor of Honan stating that he was sending to Shantung the tramway which had been used last year in connection with the repairs of the Yellow River embankment at Cheng-Chou. The Governor of Shantung now explains that he wanted the railway for rebuilding the embankment at Chang-ch’iu, where there was great difficulty in procuring earth because the ground all round was covered with water. The railway has arrived and the line has been laid. The Governor expresses himself as much pleased with it, and considers it to be twenty times as useful as ordinary wheelbarrows.

16th November.

RECLAMATION OF ALLUVIAL LAND IN THE PROVINCE OF KUANGTUNG.

One of the great administrative problems to which Chang Chih-tung has devoted his attention during his term of office at Canton has been the registration and assessment for purposes of revenue of foreshore land in the province of Kuangtung. This land was formerly divided into two classes, reclaimed and unreclaimed, the former of which paid taxes in rice and money on the same scale as superior land in the P’an-yü district, while the latter being poor soil impregnated with a deposit of salt was subject to only a payment of our cash or so per mou. Both kinds of ground were held under documents issued as proof of ownership either by the Financial Commissioner of the province or the magistrate of the district. Two or three years ago the Viceroy proposed that these instruments should all be recalled, that the unreclaimed land should be measured and assessed according to quality, and that titles of ownership should be issued by the Board of Revenue to replace the old documents. For purposes of assessment the land was to be divided into three classes—superior, medium, and inferior soil. The Board acceded to the proposal and forwarded 10,000 title deeds to Canton to facilitate its being carried into effect. On their arrival, however, it was found that they had been made out only for the two first kinds of soil and were not applicable to the case of inferior ground. This the Viceroy con-

siders to have been a grave mistake, as it is with regard to the ownership of the poorer class of beach land that disputes are most likely to arise. Besides, great pains have been taken to ascertain the measurement and the names of the holders of this class of property, all of which will be so much labour wasted if it is not now placed under a secure form of tenure. To remedy the mistake the Viceroy has taken the responsibility of altering a portion of the documents in such a way as to make them applicable to the lower class of soil which, if it has been reclaimed, is to be made liable to the payment of land tax after a limit of five years. The alluvial flats in the Hsin-an district are soaked with brackish water and are very inferior in quality to the corresponding class of soil in Hsiang-shan, Tung-wan and other districts. That, however, no exception may be made, they will be included in the present scheme for the issue of Government title-deeds but under more liberal terms than have been granted elsewhere.

17th November.

GRAIN RIOTS IN FUKIEN.

According to the Viceroy at Foochow, the Prefecture of Chien-ning in the province of Fukien enjoys an unenviable notoriety for the turbulent and unruly character of its inhabitants. Anything is sufficient excuse for a popular outbreak, and when a rise takes place in the price of grain, either from lack of rain or other causes, the worst classes in the community organise riots, plunder the wealthier households and extend their depredations even to the Government offices. In June last there was a long spell of dry weather throughout the prefecture, which raised the price of grain from two to three taels per picul. The authorities were taking steps for facilitating the introduction of grain from other parts when suddenly a disturbance occurred on the 3rd of July. A crowd of ruffians assembled to the beating of gongs and drums, compelled the shops to close, and then made their way into the Prefect’s office where they behaved in a most outrageous manner. The Prefect suspended a tablet containing a proclamation announcing a reduction in the price of grain, but the tablet was smashed to pieces by the mob, and the crowd then went to the Prefect’s residence and burnt him. The Prefect himself who went out to reason with them was very roughly handled, receiving amongst other injuries a blow from a stone on the eyelid from which blood flowed copiously. The riot was finally quelled by calling out all the available troops. A somewhat similar disturbance
FLOODS IN CHEKIANG.

The heavy rains which inundated towards the end of August a portion of the province of Chekiang formed the subject of a recent report from the Governor, who now announces that the deluge continued almost without interruption through the month of September and even far into October. Sometimes it was a mere drizzle, sometimes a regular downpour, but for more than a month there was not a dry day. The three Prefectures of Hangchou, Chiahsing and Hu-chou have suffered most severely. The cotton and other crops are all under water and completely spoiled, while the dykes and embankments have been swept away by the floods. The people, deprived of all prospect of a harvest, are reduced to a perfectly helpless condition. They have come in hundreds and thousands to the provincial capital to implore assistance and have been advised to return quietly to their homes and there await the adoption of measures for their relief. As the chief production of the afflicted districts is rice, there is very little prospect of being able to forward the grain tribute in full this year and it is still impossible to say what proportion of it is likely to be collected. All agree in saying that no such calamity has befallen the province during the last thirty years. For several years past the crops have been of barely an average quality, and although the silk production was good this year, still the people are not in a position to face the entire loss of the autumn harvest. The Governor considers his inability to provide for the revenues of the State on the one hand and consult the well-being of the people on the other, to be evidence of inefficient administration the thought of which causes him the deepest anxiety. Adequate measures are being taken for affording relief to the sufferers and it is asked that sanction may be given for charging the expenditure incurred to the public account.

19th November.

REPAIR OF THE BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER AT CHANG CH'IU.

The Emperor acknowledges the receipt of a memorial from the Governor of Shantung announcing the closure on the 8th November of the breach which occurred in the bank of the Yellow River at Changch'iu in July of this year, and confesses, or promises to confer, rewards upon a number of officers who rendered effective services on the occasion. Li Shih-chieh is re-institut in his former rank as Taotai, and is to receive back the four steps of commutative rank of which he was deprived. Ching Yao suggested that Li Ch'eng-jung, a nephew of the Viceroy Li Hung-ch'ang, should also be restored to his former position of Taotai, but the Emperor, having regard to the grave delinquency of which Li was guilty in connection with the breach at Ch'eng Chou, refuses to entertain the application until the breach at Hsi Chih-fang shall have been closed, when it will be taken into consideration along with that of several other officers who have been striving to redeem their past reputation.

APPOINTMENT.

Ching Shan, who recently retired from the public service, has re-entered it as Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.
PUNISHMENT OF CH'UNG-WEN, THE SUPERVISOR OF INSTRUCTION, WHO RECENTLY DENOUNCED THE GRAND SECRETARY, CHANG CHIH-WAN.

The Grand Secretary, Chang Chih-wan, was recently made the subject of a violent attack by his fellow provincial, Ch'ung-wen, the Supervisor of Instruction, whose memorial elicited an Imperial Decree strongly upholding the integrity and conduct of the Grand Secretary. The Assistant Grand Secretary, Fu-k'un, and P'an Tzu-yin, the President of the Board of Works, held an enquiry into the charges brought forward by Ch'ung-wen and found them to be wholly without foundation. Chang Chih-wan did not seek to defend his private ends by maintaining close intimacy with, and showing undue attention to, provincial officers visiting the metropolis. True, a good number of the latter found quarters in a temple adjacent to the Grand Secretary's residence, but this scarcely furnished sufficient grounds for charges of intimacy and intrigue. The Grand Secretary lives in a very humble abode, and had no secret guest chamber in his house. Any acquaintance he had with the priest Ching Chou was due to the fact that they both came from the same part of the country. The Court exercised the utmost impartiality in the selection and treatment of its agents, and had long had evidence of the Grand Secretary's honest and steady conduct in the discharge of his public duties. The Board was therefore directed to consider what penalty should be imposed upon Ch'ung-wen for what was considered an outrageous attack upon an official of such high standing. The President, Lin-shu, and his colleagues, have now decided upon a form of punishment which seems to be out of all proportion to the offence committed. One statute prescribes that Censors and others who prefer charges, which investigation proves to be entirely without foundation, shall be punished by removal to another post and deprivation of one step of rank, while there is another provision of the law which allows of the dismissal of officers who have become lost to all sense of duty. It is under the latter statute that Ch'ung-wen has been cashiered in accordance with the suggestion of the Board.

20th November.

APPOINTMENT.

Ting Ti-ch'ang, son of the late Viceroy Ting Pao-chên, is gazetted Intendant of the Kung Ch'in Chieh Circuit in Kansu.

THE EMPEROR ON THE CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

A Decree.—Ever since the Empire was reduced to a state of tranquillity, there has been an immense expenditure incurred yearly in establishing armies for defensive purposes in the various provinces; and to create a feeling of proper spirit and enthusiasm in the army, it is essential that every detail connected with the pay and numbers of the troops should be carefully checked. Of late, however, it has come to our knowledge that abuses are of frequent occurrence, that false returns are made of the number and payment of the soldiers, that the Generals in command lead a life of dignified ease and comfort, that reviews are held very irregularly, and that, in fact, the whole military organisation has fallen into a state of disorder and effeminacy. Very little of what formerly prevailed in the Army of the Green Standard. Being deeply pained by this state of things, We hereby command the Manchu Generals-in-chief, the Viceroy's, and Governors in the several provinces to exercise a constant and strict surveillance over the troops in their respective jurisdictions, and to denounce in the strongest terms any abuses that they may discover. The Board of War has with Our authority time after time called for returns of the various military stations, of the names and ranks of the commanders and of the number of the troops, regular and irregular, but these orders have hitherto been entirely disregarded by the authorities to whom they were addressed and not a report of the kind has been received. We command that within two months from the date of the receipt of this Decree, full lists of the above particulars be forwarded to Us, and We further order that all changes—in the personnel of the commanding officers, or in the places at which the troops are stationed,—be reported from time to time for the information of the Throne. Let this Decree be widely promulgated.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AT CHAO-CH'ING IN SHANTUNG.

Until about three years ago the Customs duties collected at the Huang-chiang station in the prefecture of Chao-ch'ing amounted to an annual sum of Tls. 59,130. The Viceroy conceived the idea of re-constituting the office on a new system and raising a largely increased revenue, a portion of which was to be specially applied towards the purchase of foreign armaments. During the first year in which the new rules were in force, the receipts rose to Tls. 110,324,
leaving a margin of over Tls. 60,000 for the object which the Viceroy had in view. This result was not, however, considered completely satisfactory, and lest the officer in charge should slacken in his efforts he was reminded that a better account was expected in the following year. The Viceroy now reports that his anticipations of the revenue which the station was capable of yielding have been fully realised by last year's returns, which leave him a surplus of over Tls. 62,000, and he suggests that the expectant Taotai in charge of the office should be given brevet rank of the second grade as a reward for his past activity and as a stimulus to future exertion.

21st November.

OPERATIONS AGAINST BANDITS IN HEI-LUNG-CHANG.

The Military Governor of Hei-lung-chiang reports that during the last three years no less than three hundred and fifty bandits were captured and beheaded in the neighbourhood of Hulan. Five hundred and forty banners, guns, and other articles, and 120 horses and mules, all the property of the robbers, fell during the same period into the hands of the Imperial troops. The casualties among the latter numbered fourteen, including two or three officers of distinction.

PACIFICATION OF HAINAN.

In continuation of former reports the Viceroy at Canton gives an account of the progress which has been made within the last three years in effecting the subjugation of the Li tribes in Hainan and the measures he has taken to develop the resources of the island. The Lis, he represents, have at last been reduced to a state of quiet, and to ensure their remaining under proper control, eight stations have been established in different parts of their country, with garrisons of a score to a hundred soldiers each. At various points on the borderland between the Chinese and savage territory market places have been opened and a gradually increasing exchange of commodities is taking place. Considerable advance has been made in tree felling, mining enterprise, and land reclamation. In Long-shui, Wan Chou, and Ai Chou over 100,000 trees have already been felled, and merchants with capital are taking up the business with great activity. The amount of land reclaimed in the Ch'ang-hu, Lin Kao and other districts represents several thousands of mow, while the rich copper mines of Ta-Yen Shan have been opened at great expense by a merchant named Chang T'ing-ch'un. Just as this pioneer was on the point of reaping the reward of his labours and within sight of a rich vein of mineral, the sides of the mine caved in and entirely closed up the opening. Nothing daunted by his failure, Chang is meditating the sinking of new shafts elsewhere. Prospecting has disclosed the presence of lead in great abundance at a place called Shuang-t'an on the confines of the Lé-bui and Hui-t'ung districts, and mining operations have been started there.

23rd and 24th November.

PROPOSED TERMINATION OF A CASE WHICH HAS LASTED TWENTY YEARS.

A memorial from the Governor of Shensi deals with a curious criminal case which has engaged the attention of the officials in that province for a very great number of years.

According to a memorandum by the local Chief Justice, which is embodied in the Governor's memorial, in the spring of 1877 the Chief of Police at Peking forwarded to the then Governor of Shensi a copy of a petition which had been addressed to the Emperor. As is the custom in such cases, the Governor and Chief Justice were directed by His Majesty to give their personal attention to the matter and report for his approval the decision at which they arrived. The petitioner was a native of Han-yin, forty-two years of age. He was already in confinement in Shensi, and therefore had sent a relative to carry his appeal for him to the metropolis.

The appellant stated in his petition that a certain uncle of his had formerly a daughter of marriageable age, but not betrothed to any one. His uncle's brother-in-law, one Liu, often proposed to marry the girl to a man named Feng, son to the owner of the farm held by Liu; but the girl's father refused his consent. In the summer of 1861, the girl went to stay in Liu's house to help in doing some fine needle work; and, while she was there, Liu took her and married her to the young man by force. The appellant's uncle, who was angry at this, went to the houses of Feng and Liu to remonstrate. After a time, as he did not come back, one of his sons went to look for him. The people in each house told the enquirer that his father was at the other one. Time went on, search was made everywhere, but the missing man was never seen again. A complaint was lodged with the Magistrate, but he dismissed it and beat the unfortunate son who brought it. Next spring, a number of workmen employed by Feng
were cutting brushwood on a hill near his house, when one of them came upon a skeleton and some clothes in a hole under a rock. The appellant went with others to look at them, and immediately recognised the dress of the missing man. Taking with him the workman who had found them, he went immediately to the Magistrate. That officer's legal clerk was a relative of Liu, and in consequence of the bribes which passed, the subsequent proceedings were not properly conducted. The inquest was put off till a dark, drizzling day. The Magistrate stayed in a shed and let the clerk manage everything. The wounds on the skull were not seen or not reported. Finally the blood test, namely, whether a drop of blood from the missing man's grandson would soak into the bones, was successfully tried and completely ignored. As the relatives would not receive the remains, the Magistrate carried them to the town and threw them away. The workman was cast into prison and cruelly tortured till he falsely declared that he had been paid by the appellant to put the bones where they were found; and as soon as he made this statement he was given money to take himself off. The appellant and various members of the family carried the case into all the higher courts of the province; but each complainant in turn was sent back to the local Magistrate, who was ordered to re-investigate their charges. In his hands they suffered the most cruel treatment. They were never examined without the use of torture, and all sorts of illegal punishments were inflicted upon them. The appellant's father died of his sufferings, two others were half crippled for life, and the appellant himself had his bones dislocated. Confessions were extracted from them to the effect that the missing man had gone away, or again that he had died at home and been buried; and the declarations which they were required to make were given to them ready drawn up so that they might learn them by heart. Weeping they yielded, as they felt that such was their only chance of obtaining a hearing elsewhere. Two members of the family were despatched to Peking with petitions, but one was never heard of again, and the other died on the road. In conclusion, the appellant asked, was it likely that a number of educated men, the members of a good old family, would for a fraudulent purpose pass off a pile of old bones as the remains of an aged and revered relative, or would they have hidden such a man away, so as to cause many of them to lose their lives and the family property to be eaten up in law expenses? And the lost man himself, well-to-do, and surrounded by sons and grandsons, would he, at his great age, have been willing to abscond and hide himself a thousand li away?

On receipt of the Emperor's instructions, the then Chief Justice immediately gave his attention to the case. All the documents were laid before him; and the persons concerned were assembled together, except two who had already died. It appeared from the report of the Magistrate of Han-yin that complaints were made to him much as stated in the petition of appeal. The first plaint as to the disappearance of the missing man was dismissed because of the entire absence of proof against any one. In the second case, when the finding of the skeleton was reported, an inquest was held in due course. The day was clear, and all formalities were properly observed. The rock at whose foot the bones lay was two li distant from Feng's house and one li from Liu's, and with no dwellings near. The bones, seventy-five in number, were too much decayed for any one to tell to what parts they belonged. All the flesh and hair had disappeared, which, as they were lying in a cool, shady place, would have been impossible, if they had belonged to a man who had been missing so short a time. Moreover, as a public road ran close by, a decaying body could hardly have failed to be discovered by its odour. Again, the bones were lying on fallen leaves which had not yet rotted, and the clothes with them were not mouldy or discoloured. The blood test was tried for an hour and failed utterly. Altogether it was unquestionable that a fraud had been committed. The Magistrate therefore ordered the workman and the appellant to be taken into the town; but the latter stopped by the way for a natural purpose and so slipped off. The appellant, who commenced proceedings in a higher court, was afterwards sent to the Magistrate. When examined he confessed that he had induced the workman to place the bones where they were found, and the missing man had really gone off, at the instigation of another relative, to the ancient home of the family in Hunan. As the Magistrate could not find this relative, nor could he discover the missing man, for whom he had sent a messenger to Hunan, he proposed to close the case by sentencing the appellant to transportation for bringing a false charge, and to punish the workman more lightly as an accessory. But as further appeared from the records, the higher authorities considered that there could be no satisfactory termination till the
missing man was found. They therefore remitted the case to the Magistrate again, and wrote to the Hunan Government to make enquiries there.

The Chief Justice then proceeded to examine the witnesses. The missing man's brother-in-law, Liu, deposed that the girl was betrothed to Feng's son as long ago as 1848. After her mother, deponent's sister, died, her father wished to break off the match because the young man was poor and unstable, but deponent and a brother of the father considered that such an act was unbecoming to a family of scholars and gentlemen, and therefore refused to consent to it. At length, in 1868, when the girl was thirty-six years old, the marriage took place without any pressure on deponent's part. The girl's father had not come next day to his house; and, finally, deponent was not related, as alleged, to the Magistrate's clerk. The Chief Justice thereupon questioned the daughter herself, her husband, and the latter's father, all of whom corroborated these statements. The legal clerk, who had also acted as expert at the inquest, was examined as to what took place there. His account of the proceedings completely tallied with the Magistrate's report given above. He denied also that illegal punishments had been used. This seemed to be correct: for all the persons alleged to have been killed or crippled were either proved to have died at home of disease or were subjected to personal inspection and showed no marks of any such treatment. The next witness questioned was the workman. He acknowledged that one day when ploughing the ground he turned up a number of old bones; and the appellant persuaded him to put them where they were afterwards found. He carried them there the same night, and the clothes were brought and placed with them by the appellant. For his services he was promised twelve strings of cash and a sack of rice, but he never was paid. He denied that he was unlawfully punished or that his confession had been prompted by the Magistrate. The appellant was confronted with this witness, and boldly denied the truth of the man's deposition. He acknowledged to having made some false statements, but persisted that the missing man had been put to death as alleged.

After this the woman, her husband, and the legal clerk were released and allowed to return home. In 1878, Feng and Liu, the two men originally accused, both died of disease in the lodgings where they were living on bail. The case still continued to occupy the attention of the successive Chief Justices of the province. On three separate occasions the appellant stated that the missing man had died at home, and had been buried by the appellant and a certain other relative. Every time, however, he described the grave as being in a different spot. Once it was in a grave behind his house, once in the house itself, once in a place five li away. After each statement a search was made in the spot indicated, but it always failed to discover anything. Moreover the said relative was produced, and being interrogated denied all knowledge of anything of the kind.

In 1886 the workman died, and an inquest was held on him. Soon after this a new Chief Justice was appointed. This officer was determined to find out what had become of the missing man, as therein lay the key to the whole difficulty. He could not understand that a man in a good position should disappear without any of his neighbours or of his numerous relatives knowing something of the matter. By his orders the present Magistrate went to the place secretly, in plain clothes, and made private enquiries. But even this measure failed to discover any clue. The relatives pleaded that they had not kept up a very close intimacy with the missing man's immediate family; and the people of the place declared that after so many years they really could not say whether the man was alive or dead.

Thus, nothing had been cleared up when the present Chief Justice succeeded to the post. He too endeavoured to unravel the mystery. An officer whom he sent several times to make enquiries locally, came back finally satisfied that the missing man had not been killed under the circumstances alleged; still, however, there was no explanation of his disappearance. The appellant was again examined and cross-examined; but he shifted his statements continually. He was asked why he had once acknowledged having made a false charge and then retracted his statement. To this question he would give no answer. He shut his eyes and closed his mouth, and the threat of punishment could extract nothing.

In conclusion, the Chief Justice sums up to the effect that though the missing man cannot be found, still the appellant may be convicted of having laid a false accusation. As the Chief Justice shows at some length, many of the appellant's statements are disproved by other evidence, and there are many patent discrepancies in them as well. Besides, it is not reasonable to suppose that the missing man would have been allowed
by his family to go out alone for such a purpose as was allowed, even if he had himself wished to do so. The most probable conclusion is that he either died at home, or else he went to some other place where he has passed away of old age. Every year makes the production of evidence more difficult, and if it be necessary to wait for proof of the fate of the missing man, there is no hope that the case can ever be closed. Even if the man were proved to be murdered, the persons accused are already dead and cannot be punished. If the appellant be found guilty of false accusation, his offence is one that comes under the recent act of grace, and he can have the benefit of it and be discharged. If, on the other hand, the case be not closed, he will get no advantage from His Majesty's gracious act. It is therefore humbly recommended that the case be terminated and the appellant pardoned and discharged.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

26th November.

FLOODS AND POTATO DISEASE IN SHENSI.

A memorial from Shensi states that damage was caused by heavy storms last July and August in the Prefectures and Sub-prefectures of Hsian, Tenghsiang, Hanchung, Haingan, Shangchou, Pinchou, and Fuchou. After this rain fell continuously in the month of September, and the fields of corn were flooded in a number of places. In the hilly districts of the Nanshan, or Southern Range, the farmers depend chiefly on their crops of maize and foreign potatoes for subsistence. Owing to the continued wet the potatoes have rotted in the ground, and the quantity harvested is very small. The people consequently are reduced to great want. Remission of taxation will be necessary to some extent, and in a smaller degree the distribution of relief.

OPERATIONS AGAINST THE YAO ABORIGINES.

The Viceroy at Canton reports that he is moving troops to the country of the Yao aborigines on the borders of Kwangtung, Kuangsi, and Hunan, where there has been a good deal of trouble of late. These aborigines, says the memorialist, were reduced to order in the year 1832; but during the last twenty years or so the more unruly among them have frequently broken out, fighting with each other or with the Chinese, and plundering their inoffensive neighbours in the surrounding country. The authorities of the adjacent districts have been afraid, and have failed to exercise any authority over them. The provincial government has not been informed of what was going on and so has been unable to take the necessary measures for restoring order. Last spring the Lienschou authorities applied to the Viceroy for the aid of a military force. There had been a quarrel between certain of the Yao tribes and the Chinese in a frontier village. The said tribes had consequently begun to commit excesses in the surrounding country, and the authorities were unable to restrain them. The Viceroy, therefore, directed the Shao Chou Taotai to proceed to Lienschou with three hundred soldiers and settle all the outstanding disputes between the Yaos and the Chinese. The Taotai was further ordered to protect the innocent and punish the law-breakers of either party. Later the Taotai reported that in the records for the past fifteen years he found sixty-seven suits between the Yaos and the Chinese. In all but two of these the latter were the complainants. The aborigines, when offended, were in the habit of taking the law into their own hands and revenging themselves by indiscriminate violence. The Taotai had now summoned the worst of the Tao tribes to deliver up their principal offenders. In consequence of their refusal to do so, one or two of their villages had been burnt and a few criminals killed. But the most notorious law-breakers had escaped, and the most important tribes were holding out against the government. The Viceroy saw the necessity of putting an end to these feuds between the Chinese and the aborigines, which if unchecked might be spread, and cause very serious trouble in the future. It would not do merely to punish the Chinese and let the others escape because of their inaccessibility; for the former would not submit tamely to such unequal treatment. It would therefore be necessary to reach the aborigines by the employment of an adequate military force. He therefore directed the Sub-prefect at Lienshan T'ing to raise a force of five hundred men locally, and to save time he telegraphed these instructions to Yingtê, the place on the line nearest to the Lienschou country. At the same time, as the Shao Chou Taotai had been compelled to go into mourning, he sent for an officer who had dealt very successfully with the aborigines in Kuangsi, and told him to bring a body of a hundred soldiers with him. He further desired the nearest military officer in Kuangsi to take up a position of observation upon the Yao frontier on that side. The troops will occupy certain strong points in the midst of the contumacious villages, and will put a stop to the barter which they carry on in salt, cloth, and timber. The Yaos will thus in a short
time be reduced to submission and compelled to surrender their criminals to justice.—Noted.

26th November.

REWARDS FOR SERVICE AGAINST PIRATES AT CANTON.

The Viceroy at Canton requests that a rule may be established permitting exceptional, and not merely ordinary rewards, to be conferred on officers who distinguish themselves by capturing or killing robbers and pirates in the Canton province. It is claimed by the Board of War that this favour ought only to be granted for services rendered in military campaigns; but any such limitation, so far as the Canton province is concerned, is considered by the Viceroy exceedingly detrimental to the public interest. The memorialist asserts that his great difficulty in dealing with pirates arises from their establishing themselves in Hongkong and Macao, where they are formed into associations under regular chiefs. They collect blackmail in all unprotected places along the coast, and at times carry off wealthy persons, from whom they extract immense sums as ransoms. Thus they have funds, with which they bribe the police, provide themselves with arms, and even pay compensation to the families of such of their crews as are killed. They are able to maintain a permanent organisation, and they cannot be prevented from obtaining arms, vessels, and supplies. The numerous creeks and indentations of the coast are the constant scene of their daring exploits. In addition to these well-armed junks, and themselves carrying repeating rifles they are not afraid to engage in action with the Imperial forces. Even when the latter are victorious, many officers and men are sure to be killed or wounded. By constant employment of the troops and the unsparing use of rewards the memorialist has put down brigandage and robbery in inland districts to such a degree that only two or three cases are heard of now, where a hundred would be formerly. But round Canton and on the coast the old insecurity still prevails. The province had always an unfortunate reputation with regard to piracy. Some seventy years ago sixteen hundred robbers or pirates were put to death in twelve months by the then Governor-General. The regulations then in force, or more. Then indeed they did unite in sworn bands, but now almost all the pirates in Hongkong and Macao are members of the Triad Society, and are formed into companies, the names of several of which, together with their leaders, are here mentioned by the memorialist. Twenty-five years ago the Canton Government obtained the Emperor's sanction for exceptional measures; but the state of things is very much more serious now, on account of the impunity which criminals secure at Hongkong and Macao by bribing the police and by obtaining the services of lawyers, to whom they pay heavy fees. Returning to the subject of the officers employed against these pirates, the memorialist asserts that, as every one in the world knows, the fights which take place are nothing less than regular battles. Unless they be out-numbered, the pirates fight with desperate courage, and there is a storm of bullets and cannon balls flying about. On this account and for various other reasons which he details at length, the Viceroy hopes that the Emperor will grant his request.—Referred to the Board.

27th November.

OFFICERS CONNIVING AT DIGGING FOR GOLD.

The General at Szeching in Kirin has reported to the provincial government that a man was recently arrested for unlawfully digging for gold. On examination he stated that in the summer of last year he and four others went to work at the gold diggings in the Eastern Hills. While they were there a patrol came to the place, and the officer in command of it promised not to interfere with the miners if they would pay him eight ounces of gold dust. This amount they duly handed to one of the soldiers. The officer, his lieutenant, and the men implicated strenuously deny this statement; but the memorialists, who appear to believe in the truth of it, request that they may be regularly placed on their trial.

28th November.

BODY GUARD OF YUNNAN VICEROY SENT BACK TO HUNAN.

The new Viceroy proceeding to Yunnan reports that he is taking with him a body-guard of two hundred men. As the
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As a first instalment 20,000 pieces of it now are demanded. The indent is ordered to be completed this year. None of these cottons, says the memorialist, can be procured anywhere one likes at any given moment. Each must be ordered in the district where it is made, and the workmen be got together to make it. To produce such a large quantity in so short a time will not only be difficult but will cause much additional expense. The memorialist therefore begs leave to send half the amount of each kind this year, and the remaining half next year.—Approved.

APPEAL TO PEKING BY AN ESCAPED PRISONER.

An appeal case of a somewhat unusual character is recorded in this day's Gazette. The appellant was a native of a district near T'sichoufu in Chekiang. He had laid a complaint against a clerk in the local Magistrate's land office for unlawfully imprisoning and beating himself and other members of his family. The alleged reason for this ill-treatment was that he had declined to pay certain illegal fees for the transfer of some land. Being dissatisfied with the decisions of the provincial courts, he either went, or sent a representative to Peking and presented a petition to the supreme government. His petition, was as usual, remitted to the government of the province from whence he came. The case was re-heard by the Governor, and the appellant was convicted of bringing a false charge. For this offence he was provisionally sentenced to penal servitude.

A report on the case was sent to Peking for the Emperor's approval; and in the meantime, till His Majesty's pleasure could be made known, the prisoner was sent back to his own district. He was carried thither in a wooden cage; but one night, when the tired guards were all asleep, he broke out of it and escaped. Eluding pursuit, he made his way once more to Peking and was arrested there for attempting to present a petition to the Emperor in person. He was of course at once sent back to Chêkiang. The Governor, in reporting on the case, quotes a law to the effect that, when an appeal to Peking has once been investigated, if a second appeal be presented, the contents of which are practically the same as those of the first, it shall be summarily dismissed without any further hearing. It remains therefore merely to deal with the further offence committed by the prisoner in escaping. For this, his original place of penal servitude is change to Turkestan, where he will be put to hard labour, and for the first two years he will be chained.

COTTON CLOTH FROM KIANGSU FOR PEKING.

The Governor of Kiangsu has been directed by the Board of Revenue at Peking to furnish it with a large supply of cotton cloth. The indent consists, firstly, of 80,000 pieces of what is called "three thread" cloth and 30,000 pieces of "yu-tu" cloth. Secondly, every year the Kiangsu Government is required to supply 5,000 pieces of "sen-so" (three shuttle) cloth. None of this has been sent for twelve years, so that 80,000 pieces are due.

province is tranquil and the army at its full strength, the Emperor cannot see any need for this additional force. Indeed the Yunnan authorities have just obtained permission to reduce the strength of the army there by weeding out the less efficient men. Any accession to its numbers is therefore particularly unseasonable just now. The Viceroy is desired to send back the said body-guard to Hunan without loss of time.

29th November.

THE EXCESSIVE RAINS IN KIANGSU.

The Governor of Kiangsu remarks that the lowness of the land in Kiangsu renders it very liable to injury from an excessive rainfall. Things were already looking serious at the end of last summer, on account of the amount of water coming down from Chêkiang, where violent rain storms had occurred. The creeks had not been cleared out of late years and could not carry their contents to the sea with sufficient rapidity. From the middle of September onwards heavy rain fell almost without ceasing day and night for a whole month. The creeks, the rivers, the lakes were filled to overflowing with the local water, and the streams still kept pouring into them from the up-country districts.

First the lower land was completely drowned, and then the higher ground was covered with water, just as the early rice was being cut and the later was turning yellow. The corn grew mouldy and sprouted; the cotton bolls rotted and fell off. From seven districts reports have been received all much to the same effect as what has been stated above. The memorialist and his staff have humbly offered prayers for fine weather, and he has directed the people everywhere to pay attention to their ditches and embankments. But the water still comes faster than it can be carried off. If the wet weather continues, the danger will be greater than human efforts can cope with. As the memorialist writes there are signs of the rain's clearing away; but the outlook is still uncertain.—Decree issued separately.

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30th November.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN HIGH CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

In a Decree published to-day the Emperor dwells at some length upon the importance of intercourse between high civil and military officers being conducted on a basis of proper ceremony and mutual respect. During the period of civil war which formerly prevailed, many common soldiers received high brevet rank for services in the field, but as they still remained in the rank and file of the army they were generally regarded as underlings by the civil authorities. Now that the Empire has been reduced to a state of tranquillity, the Sovereign considers it a fitting opportunity for introducing proper discipline into the army, and removing the practices of paying court to superiors which still exist. In 1726 a Decree was issued by which arrogance or obsequiousness in the intercourse between civil and military officers was made a punishable offence, and in 1794 Kien Lung published a general order by which Viceroy's and Governors were required to treat Generals with scrupulous respect, and Generals in their intercourse with civil officials of their own standing were to consider what was due to their position and avoid all appearance of a grovelling attitude. These instructions are still to form a model for the observance of both parties. All intercourse and official communications between military officers holding substantive appointments and high civil functionaries are to conform strictly to the rules prescribed in the Imperial Institutes, and not the slightest insolence on the one side or obsequiousness on the other should ever be permitted. In the case of officers holding high brevet rank but only minor appointments, the grade of the rank should be considered in acting upon these orders.

SOUP KITCHENS AT TUNGCHOW.

The Prefect of Tungchow having reported to his superiors that there is likely to be the usual amount of distress in the town this winter, the latter ask that 800 piculs of rice should, as in former years, be allotted to the Prefect for distribution amongst the various soup kitchens in the neighbourhood. The fuel, wages and general working expenses of these establishments are defrayed by a Committee of gentlemen who are charged with their superintendence.

ILLNESS OF A MONGOLIAN PRINCE.

The Governor of Uliassutai and the Warden of the Marches state that they have received a report from Prince T'su-kus-wa-ch'i-érh, Captain General of the Sain-noin tribe of Mongolians, to the effect that Prince Ch'a-lin-to-érh-ch'i', who has been recently raised to the rank of a Ho-pei Prince, is too ill to undertake the duties of his new post. They suggest that the Prince should be granted two months' leave of absence to enable him to recruit his health and that arrangements should be made for the temporary performance of the duties of his office.

1st December.

FLOODS AND STORMS IN SHANSI.

The Governor of Shansi reports that the province has during the present summer been visited with disastrous storms of hail and rain which have caused widespread damage and distress in twenty-one districts and departments. There has been little loss of life, but the autumn crops have been so completely spoiled in most parts as to preclude all hope of a harvest. Grain is being distributed to the sufferers from the local granaries, and other measures have been taken of an alleviating nature.

FLOODS IN CHEKIANG.

In continuation of former reports on the heavy floods in Chekiang, the Governor states that petitions for relief are pouring in from all the districts in the three Prefectures of Hangchow, Chihsing and Huchow. The wording of these documents and the number of people who make personal application for assistance show the intense degree of suffering that prevails, and the memorialist himself has been deeply affected by what has come under his own eyes. Seven years ago, when a somewhat similar calamity befell the province, the then Governor, Liu Ping-chang, distributed forty-seven thousand piculs of government rice amongst the sufferers and obtained permission to spend Tls. 100,000 in replacing it in the public granaries. Only a portion of this sum was actually employed in the purchase of rice, and it is now requested that the balance should be spent in procuring food stuffs from the adjoining provinces. This will be barely sufficient to tide over the crisis for the moment, and there remains the long period of distress which will intervene before next year's harvest. A strong committee composed of gentry and prominent officials has been formed to consider the best way of affording assistance, whether by distribution
of money or by relief works, and to deal with the whole question in a suitable and exhaustive manner. A grant of Tls. 120,000 from the miscellaneous receipts of the provincial treasury and a further sum of Tls. 30,000 from the Salt Commissioner’s Office have been made to certain charitable institutions in Hangchow to be applied to relief purposes next Spring, and should the above prove insufficient, supplementary allowances will be made.

2nd December.

TONNAGE DUES ON NATIVE BOATS AT WUCH'ANG FU.

The Customs station at Wuch'ang for the levy of tonnage dues on junks was originally assessed to yield an annual revenue of Tls. 33,000, to which was subsequently added a supplementary estimate of Tls. 12,000, making a total of Tls. 45,000. The station was closed during the rebellion, and on its being re-opened in 1883, permission was granted to the authorities to disregard the old assessment and simply make a return of whatever duties they received. As recently as 1884 the annual revenue amounted to only Tls. 18,000. In 1886 the Board made inquiries respecting the want of elasticity in the receipts, and a new Prefect named Li Yu-fén was installed at Wuch'ang, who has succeeded in raising a much larger revenue than any of his predecessors, as will be seen from the following figures. In 1885 the receipts amounted to Tls. 30,298, in 1886 they rose to Tls. 40,909, in 1887 they were Tls. 41,490 and last year they again rose to Tls. 46,728, which shows a considerable margin over and above the original assessment. The Prefect is considered to be deserving of great praise for his success in resuscitating the revenue, especially when it is remembered that steamers and Ningpo torches are daily monopolising a greater share of the traffic on the Yangtze. Whether, having regard to this fact, it will be possible to maintain the present high standard, it is impossible to forecast, but it is asked that the Prefect’s services so far as should be recognised by the bestowal of some fitting reward.—Granted and referred to the Board.

HONOUR TO THE CHINESE CONSUL-GENERAL AT SINGAPORE FOR DONATION TOWARDS RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN HONAN.

In a postscript memorial the Viceroy Li Hung-chang states that Ch'ên Chin-chung, an expectant Taotai and a native of the Hai-ch'êng district in Fukien, who is at present Consul-General for China in Singapore and Siam, forwarded him some time ago a subscription of Tls. 1,000 for the relief of the distress caused by the breach in the Yellow River at Chângchou. The Viceroy handed over the money to Ho Wei-k'êi, an expectant Taotai charged with the transmission of funds to Honan, who forwarded it to its destination. That Ch'ên Chin-chung, though living abroad, should still show his affection for his native land by making such a liberal donation is, the Viceroy considers, proof of loyalty and generosity which deserves suitable recognition. He therefore requests that the Emperor may be pleased by Imperial Decree to grant the donor permission to build himself an honorary portal bearing the inscription, "He delighted in charity and loved to do good."—Rescript: Let it be as requested. Board of Ceremonies will take note.

RECOMMENDATION FOR POST OF TAOTAI.

Enliang, the Intendant of the Yen Chien Shao Circuit in Fukien, having died at Foochow last summer, the Viceroy recommends that the appointment should be conferred upon Hsi Chên-yo, a Prefect now serving in Fukien. This officer who is a native of Peking and the son of a former Governor of Chekiang, has had an official career of over a quarter of a century in Fukien, where he has served as Prefect since the year 1864.

3rd December.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT MEMORIAL TEMPLES TO FU-HSING, FORMERLY TARTAR GENERAL AT SUIYUAN.

Fu-hsing, Tartar General at Suivuan, died at his residence in Peking some two years ago, and his death elicited an Imperial Decree in which his military services were favourably reviewed and posthumous honours accorded to his memory. The deceased had served with great distinction throughout the early period of the Taiping rebellion, and his old companion in arms, Fêng Tâî-ts'êi, now forwards through the Viceroy at Canton an application for permission to erect memorial temples to him in the cities of Kaochou and Loting, which were the scenes of his most glorious exploits. Fêng Tâî-ts'êi, who has himself now attained the rank of Commander-in-chief, recalls with great enthusiasm the coolness and bravery of his old chief, with whom he fought in a hundred battles. Starting his career in 1836, the deceased served for several years in Chihli under the then Viceroy, Na-Êrh, and was promoted to the post of Brigadier General at Kaochou in 1851. He was holding this office when the first symptoms of the Taiping rebellion began to make themselves felt under the influence of
of Hung Hsiu-ch'ien and Sing Shih-pa, who two years before had entered into a sworn league at Chintien in Kiangsi. The rebels had taken up a strong position at Luchingshu in the Losing department, from which the Viceroy, Hsu Kuang-p'u, had utterly failed to dislodge them. Fuhsing was sent to try his fortune against them, and on his arrival immediately set about making his plans for effecting his purpose. After destroying a dozen or more of the enemy's forts, he made a desperate charge at the head of his men, and though struck senseless to the ground by a stone, remounted his horse and completely routed the rebel forces. For this exploit he received the Baturu distinction, and very shortly afterwards he was raised to the post of Commander-in-Chief in Kiangsi. He subsequently took part with Tseng Kuo-fan in the campaign in Kiangsi, raised the siege of Chinkiang in 1866, and after being severely wounded, was summoned for duty to Peking where in 1862 he was placed in command of the Peking Field Force, then just organised. Some years later he and the Grand Secretary, Wenhsiang, took two thousand picked men of this force to Manchuria and conducted a series of completely successful operations against the mounted brigands. Fuhsing was left some time longer at Moukden as Tartar General to complete the repression of brigandage. The last few years of his life were spent in bad health at Peking, where he died a comparatively poor man. The people of Kiangtung have been long anxious to record their gratitude for his services during the rebellion in some enduring form, and the most fitting way of giving effect to their wishes is to allow them to erect memorial temples in the cities which were saved by his efforts from the fury of the rebels.—Granted by Rescript.

4th and 5th December.

No papers of interest.

6th December.

RECRUITING TROOPS FOR GARRISON DUTY IN TIBET.

The troops doing garrison duty at the various stations in Tibet, the Resident Sheng-t'ai states, were in former times recruited for the most part in the country itself. In 1875, however, the then Assistant Resident Hsi-k'ai reported that the number of troops recently enlisted was far too large and received permission to discontinue recruiting in Tibet and to draw his supply of men exclusively from China, in order to put a stop to the practice of disclosing official secrets to which the native troops were addicted. Interpreters and translators were the only class that was to continue to be procured in Tibet. The resident finds that the troops drafted in recent years from China for service in Tibet, although containing a certain proportion of strong and serviceable men, have not unfrequently been largely composed of soldiers who have either committed some offence or have earned the contempt of their commanding officers by their reckless disregard of regimental duty. Frequently they spend months and even years on the journey, and when they do arrive, they often turn out to be men who have returned under assumed names after having been previously sent back to China. As a rule, they are a depraved, enfeebled and unscrupulous body of soldiers, with but a very small admixture of honest or reliable men amongst them. On his arrival last year in Tibet the memorialist noticed that in Tibet itself as well as at the various stations en route from Szechuan there was a population of sturdy and intelligent Chinese who were versed in the language, and who, having been born in the country, were well qualified to stand the trials and privations of a military career. It occurred to him that if proper use could be made of these men, they would be far more serviceable than the soldiers introduced from China. Owing to the very pressing requirements in connection with frontier questions during last autumn and the present spring, which rendered it imperative that the full complement of soldiers should be enlisted, the memorialist decided to engage the services of several tens of these men, all of whom showed great courage and energy in the discharge of their duties. This step involved a slight departure from the established practice, but having regard to the present necessity for men consequent upon frontier matters, it is necessary to adopt some modification of the existing system, and it is therefore proposed that in future the Commissaries at the various stations should be empowered to select reliable and steady men from the Chinese population in their respective districts whose names should be forwarded to the military authorities, to form a supernumerary force from which vacancies in the garrisons in Tibet should be filled up from time to time to the extent of 30 per cent. of the total strength of the army in the country. As regards the remaining 70 per cent. they will be drawn, as hitherto, from the regiments in China, whose commanders will
be held responsible for sending well-conducted and able-bodied men fit for inspection and review, instead of the disabled stop-gaps hitherto received. This scheme, while placing a restriction upon the employment of Chinese in Tibet and maintaining the balance of Chinese influence in the country, will prevent the army from falling below the fixed numerical standard and obviate any miscarriage of frontier questions. The views which the memorialist now reverently submits to the Imperial glance are based upon what he considers after an investigation of the circumstances to be required by the exigencies of the case. Rescript—Let the Board of War take note.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN FAVOUR OF A NUMBER OF OFFICERS BY WANG WEN-SHAO, GOVERNOR OF HUNAN.

In a manifesto recently issued by the Emperor, authority was given to Viceroy and Governors to submit recommendations for the re-employment of officers whom they consider to have been unfairly degraded, those who had been removed from the service for incompetency or malversation alone excepted. Taking advantage of this permission, Wang Wen-shao, before starting for his new post as Viceroy in Yunnan, forwards a strong recommendation in favour of four officers who served under him in Hunan. The first, Yau Chin-yüan, was formerly Lieutenant Governor at Canton, where he was degraded in 1883 at the instance of Yen Ching-ming for some offence which he was supposed to have committed years before when a Secretary in the Board of Revenue. Speaking from his own experience as a secretary in the same Board where he served with Yao Chin-yüan, the memorialist does not hesitate to assert that the faults alleged against the latter arose from mere jealousy on the part of his colleagues, and that even Yen Ching-ming himself, if he were questioned on the subject, could give no sufficient reason for his action. The second officer to whose services and character the governor bears favourable testimony is Ch’ên Pao-chên, formerly Chief Justice of Chêkiang, who was degraded for his conduct of a case which occurred when he was Intendant of the Hopei Circuit in Hopei. Since then he has been employed on special duty by a number of Viceroyalties all of whom have testified to his merits, and two years ago he was appointed Director of the Yellow River works at Ch’angchou.

Another officer whose case deserves reconsideration is Ch’ên-shih, formerly Chief Justice of Shansi. He was degraded for some offence in connection with coast defence in Kiangnan, and the memorialist does not venture to assert that he suffered any wrong. His general character and his services throughout the Taiping rebellion are, however, ample proof of his courage and capacity, in which respect he has few equals.

Hsü-kan, the last officer mentioned in the Governor’s memorial, has had an extended career in Hunan, where he was formerly an expectant Prefect. During the Governor’s previous tenure of office in the province he had occasion to avail himself of Hsü-kan’s services on several important missions and always found him possessed of greater tact and ability than most officers of his standing in the service.

Rescript.—Let the four officers mentioned be presented at Court by the Board of Civil Office.

7th December.

ABOLITION OF UNNECESSARY BOARDS.

A Decree of the Emperor desires the abolition of as many as possible of the Official Boards which exist under the provincial governments throughout the Empire. At the time when a state of war prevailed in the country a number of Boards or offices were formed, some for supplying funds, others for purchasing munitions, others for transport purposes and so on. They were only instituted as a temporary measure and were not intended to be permanent. When peace was restored, re-organisation afforded an excuse for many more such establishments. There were salt offices opened of various kinds, and like offices without limit. Their principal object seemed to be the furnishing of posts for a vast crowd of expectant taotai and other officials; while the Provincial Treasurers and salt commissioners whose natural duty it was to look after such affairs came to have little to do except sign their names as a matter of routine. Similarly, another set of Boards under the charge of deputies took in hand matters of law and police, which were the proper business of the chief justices. The result of these practices was an excessive waste of money combined with a frequent avoidance of responsibility. Again, the establishment of naval and military factories was a measure which the circumstances of the times rendered indispensable. But the immense expenditure which they have entailed has been accompanied by constant peculation and waste. Unless a proper control of it be established, the drain upon the treasury cannot be checked. Just four years ago Her Majesty
the Empress issued a stringent decree dealing with the above-mentioned faults of administration; but little was really done in consequence by the provincial authorities, and extravagance has again gone on increasing. The provincial governments are now ordered to do all in their power in the way of abolishing offices or combining them together, and in the case of those which must be retained, to fix a sum for their monthly expenditure, which sum shall not be increased without special sanction. Further, within three months from the date of their receipt of this decree, they must report to the Throne what boards they consider should be retained, and must send to the Board of Revenue a statement of the monthly expenditure of each. On their part the Revenue officials in auditing the yearly accounts of each province, will see that the sums given in the statements are in no way whatever exceeded.

INSPECTION OF HUNTING GROUND.

The Lieutenant General at Jeho reports that the proper official has inspected the Wei-chang or Imperial Hunting Park near that city, and has found that no encroachments have been made upon its land.

8th December.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

According to an Imperial Decree, deficient harvests caused by floods are reported as having occurred through a very large portion of the Province of Anhui. On the banks of the Yangtze, An-ch'ing, T'ai-p'ing and Ch'i-chow have suffered. In the valley of the Huai, San Chow, Fung-yang and Ying-chow, and in the extreme south Ning-kuo and Kuang-tu. The Emperor has already desired the Governor to ascertain in what districts taxation must be postponed or remitted, and he now further authorises that officer to spend a sum of Tls. 30,000 for purposes of relief.

FLOODS IN HUNAN.

Hunan must now be added to the list of provinces in which damage by floods has been reported this year. The two districts which are mentioned as having suffered are Wu-lung and Lung-yang, both in the Prefecture of Ch'ang-tu. In the first named district thirty persons are reported to have been drowned, and in the other many lives were lost. The Governor has appropriated for relief purposes 26,000 strings of cash from the receipts of the Ch'ang-tu Likin Office.

PRISON-BREAKING IN YUNNAN.

The gaol at Chienshiuhsien in southern Yunnan has been broken into during the night by a gang of armed men, who killed one warder, wounded another, and carried off with them two of the prisoners confined there. The attacking party climbed over the wall on a dark and stormy night, when the officials were all asleep. The steps usual in such cases have been taken by the authorities, but there is as yet no trace of the escaped prisoners or of the persons who came to their assistance.

9th December.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN CHEKIANG.

The Emperor publishes a further Decree with reference to the distress caused in Chekiang by floods extending through nearly the whole province. The Emperor had already devoted a large sum of money to relief purposes there, when the Governor asked for permission to take Tls. 150,000 from the Provincial Treasury and apply them to the same object. His Majesty granted the request, and at the same time desired the Memorialist to report with all possible speed what were the exact steps which he intended to take. Up to the present however no such report has been received. His Majesty, who cannot forget his anxiety for the unfortunate sufferers, desires that he may be immediately informed what is being done to alleviate the prevailing distress.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN KIANGSU.

The Emperor also issues a Decree with regard to the relief of distress in Kiangsu. His Majesty some time since ordered the appropriation of a large sum of money for this purpose; and he was afterwards informed that the circumstances of each district were being investigated locally with the view either to issue rice from the public granaries or to distribute sums of money as might seem best in the particular case. His Majesty feels profound grief at the sufferings which the poor must experience now that winter has commenced. As the Governor-General, Tseng Kuo-ch'i, greatly distinguished himself by the way in which he dealt with the Shansi famine in by-gone years, it is ordered that he shall associate himself with the Governor in inaugurating and superintending the measures of relief which may be considered necessary in the present instance. His Majesty further desires to be informed at once of what is being done.

HEIGHT OF WATER IN HUNSTE LAKE AND GRAND CANAL.

The Director-General of the Grain Transport presents his report on the state of the Grand Canal and adjacent waters. The paper is of interest as showing that the
heavy rains, from which the country round Shanghai suffered so severely, have not seriously affected the region immediately to the north, on the other side of the Yangtze. The report for the preceding month testified that the waters were then falling. During the period now dealt with, namely from the 25th of September to the 23rd of October, the Hung-tse Lake decreased one inch, the portion of the Grand Canal near the Yangtze four inches, and the section of it to the north of the old bed of the Yellow River from one to two feet and more in different parts. Only in the neighbourhood of Ch*eng-chiang-pu was there any rise, and that but for a few inches. That the water has not run off to a greater extent is attributed to the heavy rain-fall which has occurred.

**REWARDS TO MASTERS AT CANTON FOREIGN SCHOOL.**

The Canton authorities represent that the scholars of the Canton foreign school have been examined at the end of their three years' term and have been found to have made satisfactory progress; it is therefore requested that according to precedent rewards may be bestowed upon the instructors and the officials in charge of the discipline of the school.—Granted.

**PROMOTION FOR SCHOLARS FROM CANTON FOREIGN SCHOOL.**

Certain scholars, who passed satisfactorily out of the Canton foreign school three years ago, have since then been employed by the authorities as oral interpreters or as translators of written documents, whenever opportunities have arisen for utilising their services in these respects. On such occasions they have perfectly demonstrated their capabilities, and moreover their conduct and demeanour have been satisfactory. It is therefore requested by the Government at Canton that these gentlemen may receive certain promotion to which they are entitled by the regulations in force.—Approved.

**10th December.**

**TEMPLE TO OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS IN HAINAN.**

For more than thirty years, says the Governor General Chang Chih-tung, the island of Hainan suffered grievously at the hands of the Hakka and native banditti, who sallying forth from their fastnesses plundered the country far and wide. In the autumn of 1886 the memorialist obtained His Majesty's permission to undertake the necessary measures for the thorough restoration of order. Since then, the task entrusted to him has been completely accomplished, and the Chinese and the aborigines are living in peace and happiness in their homes. But the officers, both civil and military, employed in the work, have endured every kind of suffering. The deaths among them, as already reported to the throne, amount to three hundred and sixty-two; and between one and two thousand soldiers have lost their lives at the same time. There was not only the danger of actual fighting in the recesses of the mountains, but the malaria claimed its victims, not only from those taking part in the campaigns, but also from those engaged in opening up the country, in making roads, laying telegraph lines, and superintending the construction of schools or the working of mines. So deadly was the pestilence that of ten attacked nine would die; in the morning a man would be seized, by night he would be a corpse. Still there was no faltering or shrinking; when those in front died, others would push on to take their places. The memorialist is now informed that the people of the island wish to show their gratitude by erecting a temple to the memory of the officers, civil and military, and of the soldiers, regulars and irregulars, who perished under the above mentioned circumstances. Land will be bought, and the building will be set up in the capital of the island, Kiungchow fu. It is humbly requested that this temple may be recognised by the Imperial Government, and the local authorities be ordered to offer libations there year by year in spring and autumn.—Granted.

**11th December.**

**LITIGATION AMONGST THE CHAHAR HERDS-MEN. OFFICIALS PUNISHED.**

The Gazettes of this year have already mentioned certain legal proceedings taken against local officials by the Chahar herdsmen, who live in the part of Mongolia immediately adjacent to Kalgan. It appears from a Decree in this day's Gazette that, in consequence of a representation made by a Censor, the Viceroy Li Hung-chang was ordered again to hold an inquiry into the conduct of the Chahar military governor, in whose court the said proceedings were taken. The Viceroy acquits the Governor of the serious charges brought against him. But in the Emperor's opinion the facts elicited show that he favoured and screened certain subordinates, and that through his want of thorough acquaintance with the written Manchu, Mongol and Chinese languages, he allowed himself to be fooled by those
under his orders. As he has thus proved himself not up to the duties of his post, he is recalled to Peking for service there. Certain of the officers of his staff are ordered to be cashiered or punished in various ways. There were fifty-six persons, officials and others, declared by the Governor to have been guilty of bringing false charges. But, as the Emperor considers that their conduct was excusable under the circumstances which occurred, no proceedings will be taken against them.

12th December.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

Cheng Shao-chung is appointed Commander-in-chief for the Province of Hunan in place of Feng Nan-pin, who is transferred to the same post in Chekiang.

13th December.

PRESIDENTS OF BOARDS MUST ATTEND TO THEIR DUTIES.

The Emperor has heard that, while many of the Presidents and the Vice-President of the Government Departments at Peking are most diligent and conscientious in the performance of their duties, others of them are so negligent as only to appear at their offices once in several months. His Majesty desires that in future they will attend regularly, so as to supervise the conduct of business by the heads of the sub-departments.

PARRICIDE IN MANCHURIA.

A prisoner from Ichou was recently brought before the provincial authorities at Moukden. He had already been tried by the local magistrate, and had been found guilty of killing his father, wife, and child while under the influence of a fit of madness. But when the customary re-examination took place at Moukden, the case was found to bear a very different aspect. It appears that in 1877 the prisoner, who was then fifteen years of age, was married to a girl named Wang. One day next year, when the prisoner was away at work, his wife was caught by some men committing adultery with a neighbour in his garden. They seized the couple and threatened to deliver them up to the authorities for punishment. A peacemaker, however, came forward, by whose offices the affair was hushed up, the prisoner's father giving the accusers two hundred and fifty strings of cash. This money he obtained from the peacemaker, to whom he mortgaged half an acre of ground. He further made the woman's father give a written undertaking that if anything of the sort should happen again, the woman might be beaten to death and no complaint should be made. As the prisoner's mother was dead, and there was no other woman in the house, he was afraid that his wife might again misconduct herself, and he therefore kept a close watch upon her. One night two years afterwards, coming home late, he surprised his father creeping away without any clothes on. Angry as he was, he did not dare to say anything. He afterwards discovered that the intercourse was going on constantly. On one occasion he put horse's food into his father's plate at table, to show that he considered his father a brute. This act, together with remarks which he made, led to constant wrangling between them. The father told their relations that the prisoner had gone mad, and time after time tied him up and beat him till he begged for mercy. Indeed, both father and wife looked upon him as in their way, and in consequence insisted upon quarrelling with him. One night last summer, coming home in the dark he found his father creeping away in the same state as on the first occasion. He pretended not to see anything; but still he was afraid that, knowing they were detected, they might do him mischief in the night. He therefore went to lie down in the courtyard, fastening the door outside with a stone to protect himself from attack. There he made up his mind to kill his wife and run away. He felt that he was under no moral obligation to remain at home in order to support such a father, and he thought that, if he were taken, his life would not be forfeited under the circumstances. Next morning he stabbed his wife with a spear as she was running away from him, and with the same thrust accidentally killed a child which she was carrying in her arms. His father, hearing the woman cry, also picked up a spear, ran out, and attacked him. The son tried to defend himself; but he was pressed so hard that he was forced to use his weapon, and in the excitement of the moment first wounded his father and then killed him. The murderer tried to escape but was shortly afterwards arrested. The case was reported by one of his uncles, who for shame's sake endeavoured to conceal the disgraceful origin of the affair, and declared that the prisoner had acted under the impulse of a fit of madness. This story was supported by a neighbour and the tipao, and the local magistrate consequently believed it. Upon re-examination, however, the real truth was elicited. In accordance with the law, the prisoner was condemned to be cut to pieces in punishment for the crime of parricide.
DEATH OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF CHIHIL.

In a Decree issued to-day the Emperor passes a high eulogium upon Li Ch'ang-lo, Commander-in-chief of Chihili, whose death has just been reported by the Viceroy Li. The deceased officer, who fought with great success throughout the Taiping rebellion in nearly all the central provinces, was promoted for his distinguished services to the post of Commander-in-chief, in which capacity he served successively in Hupeh, Hunan and Chihili. In the attention which he paid to coast defence preparations, to the drilling of his troops, and to the general improvement of the army, he showed himself to be fully qualified for his high position, and the news of his death has caused much sorrow at Court. The Emperor orders that all the honours due to a Commander-in-chief who dies in the service of his country should be accorded to his memory, that he should receive an honorific appellation and have his biography written by the Court Historian, and that temples should be erected to him at his native place and in all the provinces in which he served. His grandson is to be introduced at Court as soon as he comes of age.

APPL.-15.

15th December.

A WARNING TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES AT PEKING.

A Decree. The original object of the establishment of a police force in the capital was to keep a watch over, and effect the arrest of bad characters, and if the Gendarmerie Office had properly performed its duties, all trace of crime would long ago have disappeared. Recently, however, cases of robbery have occurred with increasing frequency and the cause is to be attributed to the
inefficiency of the police surveillance. The gambling and opium dens of the metropolis form the chief resort of this class of scoundrels, who are largely recruited from tramps coming from a distance. They are generally in league with the police and soldiers, whose support renders them perfectly reckless in their disregard of the law. When a case is reported, the authorities consider that they have done enough if they make a few perfunctory inquiries, and it is very rare that either the criminals or the plunders are discovered. It may well be asked what duties the Gendarmerie Office considers itself charged with when police measures have fallen into such a state of utter neglect under the very shadow of the Court itself! Some time ago we issued instructions under which the whole system was to be re-organised on a basis of rewards and penalties, but the rules which were then drawn up, though very explicit and designed to be perfectly satisfactory, require to be faithfully executed. We therefore command the Commissioner of the metropolitan police to strictly enjoin upon his officers and men the necessity of keeping the closest watch upon gambling establishments and opium dens with a view to the repression of crime. Let him take action with the Governor of the metropolis and the Censors of the five divisions of the city for the careful enforcement of the tithing system, and not merely consider the distribution and affixing of tithing tickets as all that he is expected to perform in this respect. Should there be any recurrence, after this warning, of the lax habits of duty and connivance with crime hitherto practised by the police, we shall certainly punish without mercy both the commanding officers and their subordinates. They will not be able to say that they were not duly warned in time. (Note. The opium divans and gambling shops in Peking were all closed the day after this Decree appeared).

REJECTION OF PROPOSAL MADE BY CHANG CHIH-TUNG FOR ADDING TO THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AT CH'AOCHOU FU.

A Decree. We referred to the consideration of the Board a memorial which we received some time ago from Chang Chih-tung advocating the enlistment of three battalions of troops for service under the Prefect of Ch'aochou fu, and we are now in receipt of the Board's reply, from which it appears that the troops under the General at Ch'aochou, together with those doing garrison duty in the town, number 1,900 regulars and 1,500 braves—a force which is by no means inconsiderable, and should, if properly trained, be sufficient for the duties it is required to perform. Instructions have frequently been issued for making reductions and economies in the provincial armies, and Chang Chih-tung's thoughtless proposal for raising additional troops at Ch'aochou is quite untenable and we decline to sanction it. His statement, however, regarding the inveterate abuses that prevail among the regular and irregular troops deserves attention, and we command Li Hung-chang to investigate the matter and use every effort to purify the army and render it an efficient instrument for the repression of disturbance.

CRIME AND BRIGANDAGE IN THE PROVINCES.

In a third Decree issued to-day the Emperor notices the frequency with which robberies and crimes of violence are reported from the provinces, and finds an explanation of this in the fact that the criminal ranks are largely recruited from discharged soldiers who are generally in league with yamén runners and other official underlings. The local authorities nearly always represent cases of brigandage as mere larcenies and not infrequently punish the person who has been plundered, for reporting the outrage. The Viceroy's and Governors of the various provinces are warned that they are expected to denounce all district officers who show any laxity of duty in the detection of crime, and they are required to take drastic measures for the eradication of an evil which, if allowed to go unchecked, cannot fail to entail disastrous consequences. Military commanders are to see that the soldiers whom they discharge are sent safely back to their homes and not allowed to drift into the ranks of the criminal classes.

16th December.

GOVERNOR OF HUNAN ASKS PERMISSION TO TAKE A PORTION OF HIS BODY-GUARD WITH HIM TO YUNNAN.

Wang Wên-shao, the new Viceroy of Yünnan and Kueichow, applies for permission to take with him to Yünnan a body of 200 soldiers which formed a portion of his bodyguard as Governor of Hunan. He quotes as a precedent in support of his request the case of Pien Pao-ti, who took a hundred soldiers from Hunan to Foochow. Yünnan has only recently been reduced to a state of tranquillity; the journey there is long and difficult and the Viceroy thinks that the presence of his troops will materially strengthen his position. The cost of their maintenance en route is to be a charge upon the Hunan exchequer.
DISTRESS CAUSED BY FLOODS IN KIANGSU.

The Viceroy of Nanking and the Governor of Kiangsu forward a report upon the disastrous floods which have recently occurred in the province and request permission to send agents to purchase grain in other provinces and import it into Kiangsu free of all duty and likin en route. The heavy rains which fell incessantly for over forty days converted the Prefectures of Soochow and Sungchiang into one large lake of water and have utterly ruined the autumn crops. No such calamity has visited the province since the year 1849, when a somewhat similar disaster occurred. In that year, however, the excessive rainfall took place before the crops were ripe, and a spell of good weather followed which enabled a late crop to be planted. This year, on the other hand, the harvest was destroyed just as it was ready to be reaped, and the continuous rains which have since fallen preclude all possibility of replacing it by a later crop. The people who are still suffering from the havoc wrought by the rebellion either gaze upon their fields with their eyes full of tears or make their plans for removing elsewhere. Arrangements have been made for distributing grain by way of relief and selling it at a low price in the hope of mitigating the severity of the crisis, but unfortunately there is only a very limited supply of grain to be had. Urhai, which is the chief depot in the province, has already parted with the bulk of its stock to Ch'king and Hupeh. The result is that grain has risen in price to considerably over 4,000 cash a picul, and is scarcely procurable at all. The weaving industry is no longer known in the province, and the people have accumulated no reserves to enable them to tide over the crisis. The memorialists propose to make use of a surplus remaining over from the famine relief fund of last year and send agents to Anhui, Hunan and the districts north of the Yangtze to procure supplies of grain which they are to be allowed to convey to Kiangsu free of all duty.

17th December, 1889.

APPOINTMENTS.

Yeh Chih-ch'ao is gazetted Commander-in-Chief of Chihli, and K'uei-pin, the Governor of Hupeh, is appointed Lieutenant General at Ch'ahar in the place of T'o-lun-pu, who was recently recalled to Peking.

POSTAL REFORMS IN FORMOSA.

In a postscript to a memorial the Governor of Formosa adverts briefly to certain postal reforms which he has introduced in the Island. The old postal stations, about fifty in number, had fallen into such a state of utter disorganisation that there was frequent delay or miscarriage in the transmission of official communications. The whole system has been abolished and a new one instituted under which a redistribution of stations has been made and the soldiers have been called upon to act as couriers and granted special allowances for doing the work. The stations have been placed in charge of qualified postal clerks and in accordance with the plan adopted in foreign postal systems the control of the whole service has been vested in an officer holding the rank of Taotai. The new arrangement has now been in force for a year and has worked without the slightest hitch. Its annual cost is only about Tls. 10,000, which shows a saving of nearly Tls. 6,000 upon the expenditure entailed by the former system.

18th December, 1889.

APPOINTMENT.

Haii Pang-tao is gazetted Brigadier-General of Yung-ting in Chihli as successor to Yeh Chih-ch'ao, who has been promoted to be Commander-in-Chief of the province.

REMITTANCE FROM CANTON.

The annual subsidy furnished to Peking by the provinces is Tls. 7,000,000, of which the salt revenue of Kuangtung was this year required to contribute Tls. 200,000. The Viceroy now reports the transmission of Tls. 50,000, being the fourth and final instalment of this amount, together with Tls. 10,000 being a portion of an annual remittance of Tls. 60,000 which the salt department at Canton is obliged to forward to the Imperial Household.

19th December, 1889.

DENUNCIATION BY CHANG CHIH-TUNG OF A NUMBER OF CANTON GENTRY FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC LAND.

The appropriation of the foreshore land along the coast of Kuangtung has, the Viceroy says, always been a fruitful source of profit to the dishonest gentry of the province, and his own tenure of office has been a prolonged struggle against the continuance of the practice. The great bulk of the alluvial land of this kind is situated in the three districts of Hsiangshan, Tung-kuan and Shun-té. Shortly after he entered
upon the duties of his office, he had to deal with a notorious case of land-grabbing in the Shun-tê district, and he was pleased to learn that his action on that occasion received the approval of the Throne. Another instance of the kind has recently occurred in the Tungkuan district, where there has long been a determined resistance to the payment of rent. There is a tract of country measuring about 5,000 English acres, which a society of gentry appropriated many years ago, and continue to hold under the designation of a corporation. Part of this land is ground reclaimed by the government and leased to the gentry in question, some of it was purchased by them either from the government or private owners, while the remainder belongs to people who allowed it to be registered in the name of the corporation so as to be able to bring greater pressure to bear upon their tenants in the event of their resisting the payment of rent. Two or three of the very worst specimens of the gentry are always elected to manage the property and under the pretence of holding it for the benefit of the educational establishments in the district, they act with absolute disregard of the local authorities and with no end in view but the maintenance of their own private interests. This state of things is perfectly well-known to people at Canton and indeed came to the knowledge of the Viceroy very shortly after he arrived in the province, but as no specific complaint was brought before him, he did not consider it expedient to resort to extreme measures at once. Last summer, however, his intervention was demanded by the Board charged with the supervision of beach lands, which brought to his knowledge the fact that over 2,000 of the 5,000 acres held by the gentry in Tungkuan consisted of ground which they had originally acquired from the Government and the price of which had never been paid. The price of the land and its usufruct during the thirty years they had held it was estimated at Tls. 200,000 of which only Tls. 30,000 had been received. In addition to this, there were large arrears due upon the portion of their estate which they had rented from the Government. There was likewise a sum of Tls. 80,000 which had been lent to them by a College and an item of Tls. 19,000 representing arrears of rent owing to the Grain Intendant's department. Altogether their indebtedness amounted to about Tls. 260,000, and as repayment seemed impossible, the Viceroy, rather than re-enter upon possession of the land under circumstances which would have made it difficult to re-let it, hit upon the following plan for settling the question. A College recently established by public subscription under the Viceroy's patronage had a surplus fund of Tls. 100,000 and this sum the Viceroy proposed should be paid to the credit of the government and constitute repayment on behalf of the gentry of the purchase price of the 2,000 acres, which should henceforth become the property of the college. Having regard to the fact that the land was originally public property, that the present holders had enjoyed the use of it for more than thirty years and had never even paid the purchase price, the Viceroy considered the above offer an extremely reasonable one. Even had it been a mercantile transaction in land between private individuals, the owner of the property would have had the right of re-entry in case of failure to pay the price on the part of the purchaser. The gentry, however, were not at first disposed to accept the Viceroy's views of the case and showed disregard for his authority until they began to realise that he was determined to carry his point. Then they entered into negotiations with one of his agents and offered to pay a sum of Tls. 40,000 on condition that their receipts were to be dated back some years. Not a word was said about the balance of the purchase money or the arrears of rent. The next step taken by the Viceroy was to appoint a commission composed of a number of officials and the magistrature of the district to reason with the gentry. The latter, however, treated the official deputation with contempt and even refused to meet them. The leases held by the cultivators of the land were then called in but the occupants, intimidated by the gentry, all ran away or remained in hiding. Placards were posted all over the country stating that the land was held for the benefit of the charitable institutions in the district, and that the question was one in which the officials could not be permitted to interfere. The Viceroy retorted by instructing the magistrate to report the gentry by name to him that he might denounce them to the Throne. This had the effect of making them come in person to Canton where negotiations were re-opened, but Nam-hoi and Tungkuan magistrates acting as the Viceroy's representatives on this occasion. Again they refused to come into direct relations with the officials and when ordered to make over the 2,000 acres of land to the Government, they preferred a claim for dyking expenses amounting to several
tens of thousands of taels. Under the standing regulations affecting beach land in the province, the occupier is allowed the use of the ground free of rent for a period of from five to ten years, and any very large outlay incurred in dyking it is subsequently deducted from the annual rent paid by the tenant. The owner is not liable for expenditure of this kind. In the present instance the gentry had been in possession of the land for over thirty years and it was the merest pretext to allege that they had been put to expense in making dykes or that the "barren period" had not yet expired.

The Viceroy, wishing to deal liberally with them, offered to accept the Tls. 40,000 they had previously promised, grant them a compassionate allowance of Tls. 40,000 for labour expended, and only require the restitution of about 1,200 acres of the land. No change of tenancy was to take place in the remainder and the gentry as direct holders could make whatever profit they wished by sub-letting it. This offer they at first declined, but later on they signified that they were prepared to accept it if the sum granted for expenditure on improvements was increased and if their arrears of rent were wiped out. These conditions the Viceroy considered so utterly preposterous that he refused to continue further negotiations and withdrew his agents from the discussion. One novel incident in the proceedings requires to be mentioned. In selecting the Namhoi magistrate as his agent in the matter, the Viceroy was influenced by the consideration that being the head of the office charged with the care of beach land and at the same time the Director of the College which was to advance the funds, he was peculiarly fitted for conducting the negotiations. The question in fact fell strictly within his province and he dealt with it in a fair and equitable spirit. The gentry, however, raises a stormy opposition and had even the hardihood to announce in the most public manner that if they were denounced by the Viceroy they would, as soon as he was transferred to Hankow, proceed to Peking and have their revenge upon the magistrate by getting him denounced and degraded. They also found means of conveying an intimation to the same effect to the Chief Justice, and showed plainly enough that they meant to make use of the Censors to enable them to exercise an arbitrary control of questions of local administration and set at nought the laws of the country. The Viceroy has accordingly called for a list of their names and titles which he submits, with the request that they may be degraded and never again be permitted to enter the ranks of the civil service. The Tungkuan magistrate has been ordered to confiscate and consign to the Kuang-ya College 1,200 acres of the ground. A gentleman who was formerly Secretary in a Board in Peking having come forward and intimated his readiness to lease it at a yearly rental of half a Tael per mou, he has been accepted as a tenant and will pay rent direct to the magistrate for transmission to the College authorities who will be made responsible for the payment of the purchase price. Steps will be taken to recover from the gentry the Tls. 19,000 due on account of rent. The Viceroy is conscious of having been extremely lenient in his treatment of the case and although his term of office at Canton is fast drawing to its close, nothing will deter him from carrying out to the last what he conceives to be the duty imposed upon him by the State.

Rescript approving of the Viceroy's action in the matter previously published.

20th December.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG PROPOSES TO TAKE 200 DRILLED TROOPS FROM CANTON TO WUCH'ANG.

The Viceroy at Canton states that he has a body of 200 troops specially drilled in the use of foreign field guns which he proposes to take with him to his new post to form the nucleus of a force designed to improve the military condition of the two Hu provinces. He is taking at the same time a thousand guns and a million of bullets for distribution amongst the soldiers in Hupeh.

Decree disapproving of this proposal already published.

21st December.

MILITARY FUNDS FOR KANSU.

During the year 1888 various provinces were required to furnish the Governor-General in Kansu with subsidies amounting altogether to Tls. 4,800,000, in order to support the army maintained in Kansu and Turkestan for the defence of the north-western frontier. The Governor-General has since reported that the whole of this money has reached him in good time; and he has therefore requested that the provincial treasurers or other heads of revenue departments concerned should receive some reward for the diligence which they have shown in raising and forwarding their quotas of the subvention. In a memorial now published the Board of Revenue...
endorses the Governor-General's application, which it declares to be in accordance with precedent.—Decree already published.

22nd December.

NEW GOVERNOR FOR HUPEH.

T'ian Chi-hsün (formerly Grand Treasurer of Kansu) is appointed Governor of the Province of Hupeh.

REMISSION OF TAXATION IN CHEKIANG.

On account of the destruction of the harvest by excessive floods in many parts of Chekiang, the Governor of the province was instructed by the Emperor to furnish a report with regard to the remission of taxation which might be necessary. The Governor's memorial on the subject having reached the Throne, the Emperor publishes a decree announcing the measure of relief which he is pleased to grant. In the three prefectures of Hangchow, Chiahsing, and Huchow, where the damage done is greater than elsewhere, the grain tribute for the present season is altogether remitted. In eastern Chekiang, where the distress is lighter, the Governor will ascertain which localities have been able to reap their harvest, and will collect the land tax in these, while he will not levy in other places. In the parts of Hangchow, Chiahsing, and Huchow which have suffered most severely no land-tax will be collected; but in the other parts of these three prefectures it will be charged or remitted according as to whether the crops have been gathered or not.

23rd December.

ABOLITION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS AMONG CANTON OFFICIALS.

The Governor-General at Canton, Chang Chih-tung, reports that he has taken measures to abolish for the future throughout the Canton province all the irregular payments which district magistrates are compelled to make to their superior officers. He holds it as an axiom that good government consists in treating the people with consideration, and that the local authorities cannot possibly do, unless they be themselves treated similarly by their superiors. In 1807 the magistrates of districts in the Canton province were deprived of emoluments arising from surplus taxation to the amount of three hundred thousand taels a year. None the less, however, were they subject to the same expenses as before. These consisted chiefly of pecuniary offerings to the Taotais and Prefects who were their immediate superiors, and gifts to the higher authorities of contributions of money for official purposes according to a regular assessment, and of the performance of various services on behalf of the government. The result was that, generally speaking, the magistrates, according to their individual characters, either took to extorting money from the people, or they expended the funds of the State and fell hopelessly into the debt of the government. When the memorialist was formerly Governor of Shansi he put an end to all irregular payments in that province; and on his arrival at Canton five years ago he immediately made a beginning in the same direction; though on account of the magnitude of the task all he could do at the moment was to stop all presents in the two offices directly under his charge. His example was followed by the high officials in the provincial capital and a purer air began to prevail generally throughout the province. In 1887 he was able to abolish official presents in the island of Hainan; and last year, when he was again holding the post of Governor as well as that of Governor-General, an exhaustive inquiry was made by the Grand Treasurer concerning all the sources of income and causes of expenditure of the various local authorities. The memorialist was then able to deal with the subject as a whole. He found that at the same time as the obnoxious payments were done away with, it would be necessary to reduce as far as possible the number of extraordinary services to be performed by the authorities, and in some cases to provide for the cost of those which must be retained. It must not be supposed that the Taotais and Prefects were desirous to receive irregular presents from their subordinates, but merely that they accepted the system as being in force and as the only way in which they received the funds necessary for their use. Not only would the magistrates be liberated from the need of making these payments, but they would no longer be required to pay their apportioned assessments for official objects to the Grand Treasurer and Chief Justice, which vary from Tls. 2,000 to Tls. 200, according as their posts are rich or poor. As regards compensation to the Taotais and Prefects, the memorialist finds that in some cases they have funds already set apart for the performance of public duties, and in others the surplus funds from local custom houses will suffice for their wants, but for the rest allowances must be made to them from a new source. Altogether it will be necessary to provide annually as much as Tls. 97,000 to supply the place of funds now withdrawn. This amount of money can be appropriated from annual contributions made by certain mercantile firms, and so will cause no extra
charge on the regular provincial revenue. This system having been put in force, the higher authorities will be required to see that the old abuses are no longer allowed to exist among their subordinates.—Noted.

24th December.

THE EMPEROR VISITS HIS MOTHER.

To-morrow in the afternoon the Emperor will proceed to the residence of the Empress Dowager at the Nan-hai, in order to pay his respects to Her Majesty. He will afterwards return direct to the palace.

CHIN RIVER BREACH CLOSED.

The affluent of the Yellow River in northern Honan known by the name of the Ch' in River is a frequent cause of serious inundations. Last summer it burst its banks and flooded a large tract. It is now reported that the breach was closed at the end of November. The Emperor therefore issues a decree to the effect that a few of the officers concerned in the work may be recommended for the receipt of rewards.

TRIBUTE RICE RETAINED IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung has requested to be allowed to retain and distribute as charity forty thousand piculs of tribute rice, which should according to law be sent to Peking for the use of the Imperial Government. As the Board of Revenue reports with reference to this application that there is a sufficient stock of grain in the metropolitan granaries, His Majesty desires the Governor to keep the said rice in Shantung and issue it to those in the distressed districts who are in want of relief.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN KIANGSU.

The Viceroy at Nanking proposes to invite charitable contributions for the relief of the exceedingly great distress prevailing in Kiangsu and Chekiang. Though a period of fine weather has now succeeded to the terrible rains of the autumn, still the waters do not retire; and the poor people have not only lost their autumn harvest but also cannot sow one for the coming spring. There is general alarm and even danger of trouble throughout the districts which have been most severely visited. A great deal of money has been privately collected, and the Provincial Government has appropriated Tls. 30,000 for relief purposes. But the memorialist does not know how far this will enable the people to tide over the winter and continue to subsist till next year's harvest; especially as there are many other parts of Kiangsu and Anhui which, though less distressed, will still be wanting some measure of relief. So many appeals have of late years been made to the charitable that the memorialist thinks it will be necessary to stimulate them by the offer of some reward from His Majesty. He therefore proposes that the scale on which honours are given should be reduced by one-half for a term of six months, and that officers of the third grade and upwards should be granted a peacock's feather decoration for a subscription of Tls. 2,000, while the same favour is accorded to those of lower rank who subscribe Tls. 1,000, and a plain feather to donors of Tls. 500. He thinks that this measure would prove very beneficial, and proposes to request the Governors of the neighbouring provinces that they should invite contributions on those terms.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

25th December.

ABDUCTION IN TURKESTAN.

The Governor of Chinese Turkestan reports the trial of a man for forcing his way into a house and carrying off a girl with the intention of marrying her. The prisoner, a native of Sheumi, was formerly employed as an assistant in a coal depot at Tihua, kept by one Ch'en Wang-fa, but was dismissed on account of the violence of his temper. The proprietor had an adopted daughter fourteen years old; and the prisoner, partly out of revenge and partly because he had taken a fancy to the girl, determined to carry her off by force and marry her. As he could not accomplish his plan without assistance, he induced a number of men to join him by telling them false stories. In the first place he pretended to arrange a marriage between the girl and the son of an acquaintance, and when the time for the fictitious wedding came, he told the young man's friends that the girl's father wished them to carry her off as her mother insisted on marrying her to a relation of her own. They were at first afraid to have anything to do with such a proceeding; but finally, as he volunteered to take all the responsibility upon himself, they aided him in effecting an entrance into the house. The girl was brought out, gagged, and tied on to a horse behind her abductor. The party set off together, but by the way the prisoner contrived to give his companions the slip. He then turned his horse's head towards the house of a friend where he intended to pass the night and consummate the marriage. However, he lost his way and was obliged to ask for a lodging.
at the house of another man. When untied from the horse the girl, who was half frozen, fell senseless to the ground. The prisoner told his host that he had bought her, that this was the wedding day, and that on the morrow he intended to continue his journey to Guchen. But his unwilling companion contrived to let the mistress of the house know the truth. The householder thereupon took charge of her and refused to allow the prisoner to have anything more to do with her. The prisoner was soon afterwards arrested, and at his trial the above facts were proved. It is laid down in the law that when a man forces his way into the house of one who is no relation to him and carries off a female member of the family, and the abduction is actually accomplished, the offender shall be punished by immediate decapitation. In the present instance the abduction was really effected, though by a happy chance the girl was preserved from actual harm. The prisoner has therefore been sentenced to death in accordance with the above provisions. Those who aided and abetted him were shown to have done so under a misapprehension, being deceived by the falsehoods which he told them. Their sentence therefore is comparatively light, and, unlike his, it may be remitted by immediate decapitation. The man who saved the girl has been given a pecuniary reward by the local authority. — Referred to the Board for a report without delay.

26th December.

RAIN AND FLOODS IN SHENSI.

The Governor of Shensi furnishes a detailed account of the damage done by hail, rain, and floods in certain districts of that province this year. In Suitechou a hail storm occurred on the 13th September, by which the crops were ruined over an area of more than 170,000 mow. All kinds of grain were utterly destroyed, except the kao-tiang and millet, of which from one-fifth to one-twentieth escaped in some places. In another locality in the same district so great damage was done to 328,000 mow that no harvest could be gathered at all. In Kaolinghsien 610 mow were swamped by the bursting of the river banks. In Haisening 257 mow, and in Huhsien 1,600 mow met with a similar fate. In the Haigang and Hanchung Prefectures, as has already been recorded, the people are suffering greatly from the failure of their potato and maize crops caused by the long continued wet. It will be necessary to forego the collection of land tax throughout the distressed localities, and in addition to administer relief to the poorer of the farmers.

27th December.

RETURNS REQUIRED OF MILITARY FORCES.

According to an old rule still in force, every provincial government is required to send to the Emperor once a year a return showing the number of soldiers and the number of horses employed for military purposes in the province. Eight years ago there was a special decree issued desiring that the rule be strictly obeyed. Still the returns have been received regularly from only four provinces. The others have all been irregular in various degrees, the worst being Chihli, whence no report has come since 1856. The Emperor expresses his strong disapproval of this laxity, and orders that every province shall obey in future without exception.

PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER OF AN UNCLE.

The Governor of Kiangu reports that a man has been found guilty of murdering his uncle. The murderer, who was an orphan and lived with his uncle and aunt, had been subjected to much ill-treatment by his aunt, and at her instigation by his uncle also. Exasperated by her unkindness he determined to revenge himself by shooting her; but in endeavouring to do so he accidentally killed his uncle instead. The memorialist cannot find in any law book an account of the way to deal with a case of murdering one such elder relative in mistake for another. But as the deliberate murder of either an uncle or an uncle's wife is punishable with death by slow degrees, the memorialist think that he has done right in sentencing the prisoner to suffer that penalty. — Referred to the Board of Punishments.

28th December.

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS FOR A BRIGADIER-GENERAL ON THE YUNNAN ESTABLISHMENT.

The Acting Governor-General of Yünnan and Kueichow submits a memorial in which he requests that posthumous honours may be accorded to Brigadier General Ma-ch'ung in order that the merits of a loyal officer may be rescued from oblivion and his soul rest in peace. The deceased, who was a native of Yünnan, held the rank of Commander-in-Chief and had been Brigadier-General at Ho-li in that province for some time. He was Ts'ên Yü-ying's right hand man and had specially distinguished himself in repelling the onslaught made on the provincial capital by the formidable force under the rebel Chief, Lu. He was always in the
front in every battle, and his whole body was covered with wounds received in many a bloody conflict. During the last three years he had been busily engaged in organising defensive measures on the Western side of the province, and while so employed, had contracted malarial fever, which, added to other ailments arising from his wounds, eventually terminated his life. It is suggested that both in the provincial capital and at his native place worship should be paid to him in temples which have been erected to perpetuate the memory of illustrious servants of the state. —Granted by Descript.

APPOINTMENTS.

Téng Hua-hai, the Chief Justice of Yün-nan, who was recently promoted to be Lieutenant-Governor of Hupeh, has started for his new post, but as his successor, Ts'ên Yu-pao, the brother of the late Viceroy, is not likely to reach Yün-nan for some time, the Salt Intendant, T'ang Ping-chén, who is said to combine the quaestor in mode with the fortiter in re, is to carry on the duties of the vacant post. An expectant Taotai name Kuei-lin is to assume temporary charge of the Salt Intendant’s department.

RETIREE OF THE DEPUTY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL OF SAN-HSING.

The Military Governor of Kirin submits an application on behalf of Wen-ko, the Deputy Lieutenant-General of San-hsing, for permission to retire from the public service on the ground of ill-health. The Doctors tell him that the General’s constitution is so undermined with fever that nothing but complete rest can be expected to effect a recovery.—Decree separately published.

29th December.

COREAN VESSEL IN DISTRESS OFF SHANTUNG PROMONTORY.

The Governor of Shantung writes a memorial based upon a report from Shéng Hsia-hui, the Taotai at Chefoo, respecting the treatment accorded to the crew of a Corean vessel which was found in distress on the coast of Shantung on the 29th of August last. The vessel, which was a very small craft, had drifted in a helpless condition into the port of Shihtao in the Jungchêng district. The crew numbered seven men, none of whom could speak Chinese, and only one was acquainted with the written character. This man, being furnished with a pen, wrote down an account of his own and his companions’ experiences. They had started from Chemulpo with a miscellaneous cargo of foreign goods bound for P’ing-yang, of which place they were natives. Before they got far on their voyage they encountered a terrific gale which dismasted their boat and left it at the mercy of the wind and waves. After having jettisoned about half of their cargo, they managed to steady their little craft and finally succeeded in reaching the Shantung coast. The cargo, which was greatly damaged, included 26 slabs of old iron, 250 packages of matches, 3 bales of foreign cloth, 31 pieces of tin, two cases of foreign colouring material, 11 reams of paper, and sundry other articles. The boat was too small and frail to undertake the return journey, and both it and the cargo were, by the desire of the master and crew sold for Tls. 183.5 which was divided amongst them. The men were brought to Chefoo where the Taotai found an opportunity of sending them on to Corea by the China Merchants’ steamer Fuyen. He gave them an official letter to Yüan Shih-k’ai, Director-General of Trade and International Relations in Corea, requesting him to send them to their homes in such a way as he deemed most convenient. It seems that the established rule in such cases is that distressed Coreans should be forwarded to Peking for conveyance to their own country overland, but having regard to the fact that China has now an official agent in Corea and that the passage by steamer from Chefoo only occupies a day and a night, the procedure adopted in the present instance saved considerable delay and has been approved by the Throne.

REMITTANCES TO PEKING.

The provincial revenue at Foochow was during the present year assessed in the following contributions for the Peking exchequer. Tls. 50,000 from the duties upon tea for the Peking subsidy, Tls. 200,000 from the same source for the Board of Revenue, Tls. 50,000 from the liken receipts on foreign opium, Tls. 80,000 for defence purposes on the North East frontier, and Tls. 5,000 a month to form a reserve fund in the Board. Tls. 30,000 of the first, Tls. 90,000 of these second, Tls. 10,000 of the third, and Tls. 20,000 of the fourth of the above sums have already been remitted to Peking and a total contribution of Tls. 40,000 has been made towards the maintenance of the Board’s reserve fund. Further remittances are now being made by means of drafts payable in Peking, the cashing of which is to form the duty of several official agents, who are to travel all the way from Foochow for the purpose.
DISTURBANCE BY KIANGSI BOATMEN IN FUKIEN.

The Viceroy at Foochow reports the arrest and punishment of some more of the Kiangsi boatmen who took part in the riot which occurred last summer in the Shunch'ang district. One of the ring-leaders in the movement, who was a native of the Pinghsiang district in Kiangsi, gave evidence which showed that the organisation partook of a treasonable nature. They had consecrated flags inscribed with high-sounding mottoes and made concerted arrangements for destroying life and property. Over 250 houses in the district had been burnt down by them, twenty others had been partially demolished, and 48 persons had lost their lives at their hands. It is noticeable that, although the criminals were nearly all arrested in Kiangsi, their trial took place in Fukien, the province in which the offence was committed. Nearly a dozen of them suffered summary decapitation, while a number of others who had been forced to join the movement against their will received merely nominal punishment and were placed under police surveillance. The Viceroy himself had recently occasion to visit the district that was the scene of the riot, and found that it had resumed its normal state of peace.

As the end of every tea season leaves a number of stragglers who readily become robbers, instructions have been issued for the stringent enforcement of the tithing system and the weeding out of the bad element in the population.

30th December.

OFFICERS RETAINED FOR TORPEDO SERVICE AT PORT ARTHUR.

The Viceroy Li requests permission to retain the services of two officers named Li Chin-hsien and Li Hsing-kuang, the former of whom is in charge of the torpedo shed at Port Arthur, while the latter is chief engineer of the steam dredger at work in the harbour. Both of them were formerly students in the Foochow Arsenal and went to Europe in 1882, where they acquired an intimate knowledge of the working of torpedo machinery. For the last five years they have been employed in the Chihli establishment, where their skill in fitting and laying down torpedoes and the firm grasp they have of the various branches of mathematics places them in the list of specialists whose services it is very difficult to procure. The request for their retention in Chihli, which was preferred in the first instance by Liu Han-fen, the Superintendent of the Torpedo establishment, is warmly supported by the Viceroy and has received the approval of the Emperor.

31st December.

RAID UPON A MAGISTRATE’S YAMEN.

The Viceroy Li reports the trial and punishment of two members of a confederated band of robbers who made an armed attack one night about a year ago upon the Yamén of the Magistrate of the Tung-kuang district. The men, most of whom were natives of Ts'ang Chow, met together on the second day of the New Year and spent a whole night in arranging their plans. They took separate roads and journeyed the next day in the guise of merchants towards the place which had been fixed upon for the rendezvous at Tungkuang. Arrived there, one of their number cut down a young tree, out of which he made a ladder to scale the walls of the town. Having succeeded by this means in effecting an entrance through a broken down part of the wall they went straight to the Magistracy, where they again made use of the ladder for getting into the premises. Two of their number remained on the roof of the buildings adjoining the wall to receive the plunder and keep watch, while the remainder proceeded to rob the establishment. Their first care was to seize the watchman and warn him not to give the alarm, on pain of losing his own life. When they got into the inner rooms their movements awoke the Magistrate, who called to his assistance the staff of trained athletes which, as is the custom in Chinese households, he retained for the protection of his establishment. They succeeded in arresting one of the robbers, but the remainder, by making free use of their firearms, made their escape with all the plunder. Some time later another member of the band, who was known by the sobriquet of Wang "the simpleton," fell into the hands of the authorities, but he has since died in confinement. The other prisoner, who went under the name of "the pock-marked Chang," was summarily decapitated, and his head exposed on a pole. The Magistrate has already been denounced and removed from office for the laxity of his police measures, and steps will be taken to secure the arrest of the criminals who are still at large.

RE-HEARING OF AN APPEAL CASE FROM CHIHII.

Some months ago a native of Chihli, named Chang Hsün-nan, lodged a complaint at the Censorate in Peking in which
he stated that his brother Chang Chên-nan had been made away with by a number of his neighbours because he refused to become a convert to a false religion which they were propagating in the village. Li Hung-chang was furnished with a copy of the complainant's petition, and was ordered to have the matter thoroughly investigated. From inquiries which he caused to be instituted it appears that Chang Hsün-nan and his brother lived in a village in the Ningching district and were on friendly terms with all their neighbours until a year or so ago, when a society was organised for the protection at night of the green crops belonging to the villagers. These societies, which are common in Chihli, are maintained by contributions from the farmers, and the funds are administered by one of their number who is elected for the purpose. On the present occasion a document, in which all the members registered a vow to allow no abuses in connection with the society, was signed and deposited in the village temple. Chang Chên-nan, who was one of the largest holders in the district, refused to join the society, and a coolness sprang up in consequence between him and his fellow-villagers. It so happened that several sheaves of grain were one day stolen from a field belonging to the Treasurer of the society, and his servant who was sent to try and find them charged Chang Chên-nan with being the culprit. Chang resented this so strongly that he tied the man up and gave him a beating. His master brought an action against Chang, but the case was dismissed for want of evidence, though Chang was required to tender an apology for his treatment of the man. Some days later, when strolling round the village temple, Chang's eye fell upon the paper containing the sworn declaration of the members of the Society, and taking it to be a document emanating from a heterodox sect, he brought a charge against the Treasurer, with the object of having his revenge for the humiliation he had previously suffered at his hands. The case was still in a preliminary stage, when seeing the groundless nature of his suspicions, he decamped and disappeared without leaving any trace of his movements. His brother, thinking from his mysterious disappearance that he had been foully made away with by the members of the Society, revived the proceedings against them for the profession of a false creed, and failing to obtain a favourable hearing for his suit in the local courts proceeded to Peking, where he presented a highly-coloured statement to the Censorate. The case was sent back for re-hearing to Chihli, and at the final trial the lost brother made his appearance and confirmed the version of the matter as given above. Both brothers are to receive 80 blows of the bamboo, and the contumacy of the one who went to Peking is to be further punished by a month's wearing of the cangue.