TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1897.

SHANGHAI:
REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CINA HERALD AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE."
1898.
1st January, 1897.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As Ying Nien has been ordered on special service, A Ke-tan is hereby commanded to take his place as Senior Vice-Commissioner of Octroi and Lieutenant-General of Gendarmerie, ad interim.

(2) Ying Nien being absent on special service, P'u Liang is commanded to act as Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments until Ying Nien returns, and Ch'ung Kuang is commanded to act during Ch'ang Sui's absence as Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works, ad interim.

(3) Huang Shan-tê is appointed Brigadier-General of the Nan-shao-lieh Circuit of Kuantung.

(4) Hsiang Lin is appointed Assistant Military Governor of Ch'ahar, Mongolia.

(5) The other day in answer to our commands, Yen Mou, in reporting on the charges made by a Censor against En Tse, Military Governor and Tartar-General of Heilung-chiang and his subordinates, the memorialist recommended that Pei Yuen, Cheng Wei-chow, and Ch'eng Kuo-chun—the said subordinates—should be placed under the surveillance of the said Tartar-General who was to report on them if they still continued in their evil courses, etc. We approved of the suggestion at the time; but the Censor Sun Wu-Ch'ien has since commented on this suggestion and demurs at allowing the accused to remain longer in Heilung-chiang, stating that with their bad records and having been the subject of constant denunciations on all hands, it would be imprudent to allow them to remain longer as secretaries and scribes and deputies in the Military Governor's yamen at Tsitaihar, etc. The above statement is quite reasonable and we, therefore, cannot permit the accused persons to remain in Heilung-chiang.

The said Military Governor is therefore hereby commanded to forthwith expel the three men from his province, namely, Pei yuen, who is a Manchu, to his Banner Reservation and the other two to their native provinces, without any delay. They are not to be allowed to linger in Heilung-chiang on any account after receipt of this edict.

(6) Chi Ch'eng, Reader of the Hanlin College, denounces the practice of dishonest bankers in making false failures in order to get rid of the necessity of paying out in full depositors' redeeming their notes, etc. For instance, the Tien Yi and two other banks in the Eastern City have lately unaccountably failed and in consequence of their secreting considerable amounts of copper cash, which should rigidly be in the market, there has been a congestion, whereby during the last few days both the troops and common people have been experiencing considerable hardships from the scarcity of cash and the cheapness of silver, etc. We would, therefore, command the General of the Gendarmerie and the Censors of the Five Cities to issue the necessary proclamations prohibiting any further practice of the sort complained of, and, if it be discovered that these banks have been doing this in collusion with the ward police magistrates, to severely denounce the guilty people for condign punishment.

(7) The same officer denounces the time-expired Treasury guards of the Board of Revenue who in conjunction with bad characters gather around the Treasury Vaults whenever they are opened to pay out or receive Government funds and seize the opportunity to steal or otherwise pursue their malpractices, causing considerable loss to the Government, etc. We hereby command the Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, who has special charge of the three principal Treasury Vaults, to personally superintend, at the head of his secretaries, etc., whenever the vaults are thus opened and arrest any outsiders found in the vicinity. He is further to investigate and expel all time-expired guardsmen hanging about the place, and thereby protect the vaults from being robbed, or the Government from suffering from such malpractices.
The Censor Sun Wu-ch’ien urgently recommends a change to present-day requirements to be made in the curriculum of examination during the military competition for degrees. The Board of War is hereby commanded to deliberate upon the said Censor’s recommendations and report the result to us.

The Board of Rites is commanded to deliberate upon a memorial of the same Censor who denounces the practice frequently observed, of late, where successful essays at the examinations are sold to wealthy competitors in which the writers relinquish their chance of getting degrees in favour of the purchasers. The said Censor suggests, therefore, that a special stamp be made to append to each completed essay with the bonâ fide name of the writer thereof.

2nd January.

No papers of interest.

3rd January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Ch’ang Sui is to be transferred to the co-Director-Generalship of the Imperial Granaries at T’ung-chou; Pu Shan is transferred to the Junior Vice-Presidency of the Board of Civil Appointments; K’un Hsiu is promoted to be Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and Pu T’ing is appointed Junior Vice-President of the same Board.

4th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ju Ko is appointed Inspector of the affairs of the Mongol Bordered Yellow Banner Organisation.

(2) Lu Fa-chung is appointed acting Senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors, vice Yang Ju who is still holding an appointment abroad.

(3) Shan Ch’i is appointed Lieutenant-General of the Bordered Red Manchu Banner Organisation and Tsai Cho is appointed to the same rank in the White Hanchum Banner Organisation.

(4) The Imperial Clan Court reports the death of Tsai Tain, a noble of the Imperial lineage, ninth in order of descent, without issue; but that his widow, belonging to the Niu-ku-lu clan, is willing to adopt Pu Hsiau, the second son of Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order and brevet 2nd Order, as the heir of the deceased noble. The wish is hereby granted and as an extra mark of grace we hereby further allow Pu Hsiau to take up the rank of his deceased adopted parent as a noble of the Imperial Clan.

(5) Tseng Kuang-han, Earl Weiyi, is appointed acting Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court.

(6) The Censor Ch’en Chi-chang denounces Pu Erh-tan, the lately retired Deputy Assistant Military Governor of Kirin, who is accused of having wrongly and on his own responsibility executed some of his soldiers, thereby stirring up the wrath and hatred of his troops and endangering the peace of the city of Kirin. It appears that before the accused official retired from the service on sick leave a certain Wên Yang, who had been arrested by the military patrol of Kirin for masquerading as a soldier and extorting money from citizens, defended himself by making a counter-charge against the said patrol, consisting of T’ien Shu-lin and three others, of robbing peaceful people. The accused officer instead of making careful enquiries into these charges or waiting for orders from his superior the Military Governor, took upon himself to summarily decapitate the patrol, which conduct was not only hasty and ill-advised but over-stepping his powers. The above has been authenticated by Yen Mou, Civil Governor of Kirin, and we therefore order in punishment for his conduct that Pu Erh-tan be cashiered of his present rank and dismissed for ever from the public service.

(7) Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, complains of the dilatoriness of the family of the late Li Chao-mei, formerly district magistrate of Huan-hua, Chihli, who was cashiered eventually for failing to make good certain taxes collected by him during his magistracy. Since his death and although repeatedly exhorted by the memorialist to hasten to liquidate the debts of the said deceased official, his heirs have taken no notice of this duty they owe to the memory of their late head, and consequently all the property, real and personal, of the deceased in Chihli province was confiscated by the memorialist at our orders. It has, however, transpired that the deficit still amounts to a large sum and the heirs still declare their inability to make good the balance, etc. As the Government exchequer must not suffer through the defaulting of the officials, we hereby command the Governor of Shantung, the native province of deceased, to investigate in the native town of the deceased official and see what property there is in his name there and confiscate the same to Government.

(8) Yen Mou, Civil Governor of Kirin, in obedience to our commands sends us his report on the general conduct of the
Commandants and officers of the brigade known as the "Ching-pien," or Frontier Defence Brigade, whose dismissal we had been compelled to order owing to their bad conduct. He states that General Tung Yang-ch’un, the dismissed Commandant of the Right Division of the said Brigade, was guilty of great cruelty to the soldiers of the various battalions belonging to his command, and was, moreover, guilty of using a large number of "dummies" so as to pocket the pay of the troops for his own benefit. Furthermore, although there was appointed a Civil Commissioner in the person of one Wu Chi-ch’iao, the latter it seemed never turned up at headquarters. Hence the accused General had the audacity to draw and pocket this officer’s pay also. Sun Yi-heng the dismissed Colonel commanding the Front Battalion of the said Brigade which was stationed at Ngehinuhosolu is said to have been guilty of ill-treating the merchants and people of that important town. When a band of brigands attacked the Tungchü pawnshop in that town and burnt certain portions of the town, instead of coming forward to catch the robbers he remained quiet in his quarters, and eventually encouraged his men to pillage what was left by the robbers. This was naturally resented by the townspeople and a general fracas would have resulted had not energetic efforts been made to prevent the disaster. Then Lin Wei-ch’i, the dismissed Commandant of the Rear Division of the said Brigade is accused of having made away with or hidden a large proportion of the rifles of the troops under him, so that they had not enough firearms to drill with; nor was he found when they were detailed to take their men to expeditions against bandits. He has also been accused of putting down a number of dummies on his roll so as to draw their pay for himself, etc. All such conduct is both disgraceful and reprehensible in the extreme; we therefore command that these three officers be forthwith cashiered and dismissed from the service.

(9) The same high official further denounces General Chang Yu-yun, commanding the Right Battalion of the Left Division of the said Brigade, and Ta T’ai, Manchu Major of the Left Battalion of the said Brigade, for cowardice, stating that when they were detailed to take their men to attack a robber fastness they first delayed their march to an unconscionable degree, and next, when in front of the fastness, dared not lead an attack. The two officers we hereby command to be cashiered as a warning to the rest. The Board of War is to take note thereon.

(10) We have received the memorial of the Censor Pan Ch’ing-lan, asking that orders may be sent to the various provinces commanding that all remarkable acts of filial piety, devotion to seniors, and benevolence, etc., be regularly reported for commendation to the Throne whenever these occur, and, further, that local officials be curbed in their power to maltreat literary graduates, etc. The Boards concerned are commanded to deliberate and report to us.

(11) The Censor Li T’iao-ying states that many cases have occurred to his knowledge where the Throne having remitted the taxes of the people affected by famines and distress, they have been compelled to pay as usual their taxes to rapacious local officials whose avarice knows no bounds. In some cases they have refrained from telling the people of the clemency of the Throne until a certain portion of the taxes has already been paid by the distressed people. If such be indeed the truth then our clemency has been maliciously put to naught and issued simply to fill the pockets of unscrupulous and dishonest officials. This must not be permitted for a moment and the high provincial authorities must not fail to exercise care in such matters. They should, in fact, take care to make careful investigation whenever famines occur, and wherever they find the local officials acting dishonestly they must not hesitate to denounce for severe punishment these avaricious delinquents. No mercy should be shown towards such.

(12) Yen Mou, Civil Governor of Kirin, denounces the prefect Chao Chung-han of having made the pretence of repairing his yamen to compel the people under him to pay extra taxes, etc. As Chao Chung-han is now on leave at his home in Chekiang, the Governor of the said province is commanded to compel the said prefect to make good the amounts he took from the people and he is further to be handed to the Board for determination of an adequate penalty.

(13) We have read the postscript memorial of the same high officer asking that the words of commendation issued by the Throne and recorded in the Board of Civil Appointments in favour of Wu Chan-ch’ing, an expectant chihsin, for good government and commendable conduct be cancelled from the records on the ground of the said magistrate’s recently proved incapability of conduct in administering his
government, etc. Also that the said officer and another expectant district magistrate be turned over to the Board of Civil Appointments for transference to some other province owing to their unsuitability to become magistrates in a rough territory like Kirin. The request is granted, and the Board concerned is ordered to take note of the contents of this decree.

(14) The same Board is commanded to deliberate on the memorial of the Censor P'an Ch'ing-lan asking that the said Board be ordered to issue regulations with reference to dates of seniority of officers who have lost time through having taken leave of absence for mourning, etc., vis-à-vis others who have not lost any time, but who have entered the Civil Service later.

5th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

En Shun is appointed Manchu Compiler of the Hanlin College, and Jui Shun is appointed Reader in the same institution.

No papers of interest.

6th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the report of the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing that according to the custom of our dynasty the 1st day of February next (Chinese New Year's eve) is set apart for the grand worship at the Ancestral Temple of the Imperial Clan. We will, ourselves, appear on this occasion to sacrifice before the altars of our Ancestral Temple, and hereby command Min Hsuan to sacrifice at the Eastern Annexe and Marquis Yin, at the Western Annexe, of the temple. Prince Lung Ching, 1st Order, is commanded to sacrifice at the rear altar, and P'u Ching at the middle altars.

(2) The report of the same Court announces the same date the annual event for the grand worship at the temple of the Year God; Prince K'uei Pin, 1st Order, is hereby commanded to sacrifice there in our stead on that day.

(3) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan Administration.

7th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hu Yü-fén, Governor of Peking, and Sun Chia-nai, Governor Adjoint, reports that amongst the many poor refugees in the capital the Chih Shan-t'ang Benevolent Society's Winter Refuge in the Western city has lodged and fed the largest number of famine refugees in Peking, so far, in so much that the usual government grant of 300 shih of rice (one shih equals 160 catties) has not been found sufficient for the purpose and therefore begs for an extra allowance, etc. Hu Yü-fén's prayer is granted and we hereby command that an extra portion 400 shih be given to the Benevolent Society above named.

Li Fō-chao is appointed Vice Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

8th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received the memorial of Wên Po, Police Censor of the North City, announcing the capture by the police of the said city of two notorious desperadoes of Peking, who belonged to a gang which tried not long ago to forcibly abduct some young girls and who used firearms to resist the police who tried to prevent the deed. We hereby command that the two prisoners be sent to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to law, and let the man already caught in connection with the case be brought face to face with the new prisoners. As for the three others of the gang who are still at large, let every effort be made to capture them in order that the law may be vindicated to its utmost extent.

9th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Board of Rites is hereby commanded to deliberate over the proposal of the Censor Hua Yun to give the examiners at Peking and provincial capitals a certain limit of time to issue the list of successful candidates in the Provincial or Chu Jen examinations, like the plan followed at similar examinations at Nanking.

10th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ting Li-ying, Supervising Censor, sends in a memorial suggesting that the sale of official rank be stopped for ever, as this thing is a disgrace to the country, etc. The Board of Revenue is commanded to deliberate thereon, as well as on another proposition of the Censor to change the present methods of transporting tribute rice by the Grand Canal, in order to save large annual sums paid for transport and freight to the Imperial exchequer.

(2) The Board of War is commanded to deliberate upon the list of names of deserving military and police officers recommended by the Commandant of the Gendarmerie.

(3) The Boards of Civil Appointments and of War are commanded to deliberate upon
the memorial of the Supervising Censor Ting Li-ying, stating that Vicerays and Governors of provinces should be made to understand that cashiered officials, whom the former ask to be restored to their ranks and to be allowed to retain such men in their provinces must know that such requests are made on the petitioners’ responsibility and risk, and that if the restored officials should in future be guilty of any more excesses or misdemeanours their sponsors be punished in common with their protégés.

(4) The Commandant of the Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of eight counterfeiters of spurious copper cash. Let the prisoners be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to the laws of the land. As for the deserving officers who made the capture, as soon as the said Board has finished trying the said prisoners the said Commandant is ordered to send us the list of names for promotion and record.

(5) The same high officer also reports the capture of a gang of twenty robbers who had been murdering and pillaging the suburban cities and villages near Peking. Let these also be sent to the above named Board for trial and sentence, and let strict search be made for two others still at large belonging to the above band. When the said Board shall have finished its labours in the matter the said commandant shall then send us the names of the deserving officers who effected the capture for the usual rewards, etc.

(6) The same officer reports another capture of four bandits caught while robbing in broad daylight. Let the prisoners be treated in the same manner as noted in the foregoing decree.

(7) A similar decree regarding ten thieves belonging to an organised gang in Peking who had been captured by the gendarmerie.

11th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ing Mien (Manchii) is appointed Police Censor of the Middle City.
(2) Wan Pe, (Manchii) is appointed Police Censor of the Northern City.
(3) Wan Pei-yu is appointed Police Censor of the Eastern City.

No papers of interest.

12th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the two Hu provinces, reporting the completion of the trials of the ringleaders of the rival coolie factions who recently created such sanguinary partisan fights in the streets of the newly opened Treaty port of Shasi. As to the report of the Board of Punishments with reference to the above case declaring that the local military and civil officials of Shasi have been guilty of negligence in not crushing the riots at the beginning, we hereby order the said Viceroy to review the evidence in the said trials and report to us the degree of culpability of each of the officials named therein.

Note: — The riot referred to above was owing to the rivalry between the Hankow coolies coming from Wuchang and Hanyang who congregate in very large numbers in Shasi (all four cities belonging to the province of Hupeh). There was a certain part of the river bank where usually lie a number of cargo junks which the Hankow coolies had held as their special “hunting-ground” and therefore claimed the right of transporting into the city all the cargo coming through that particular wharf. This spot was an object of envy amongst the combined Wuchang and Hanyang coolies who trusting in their superiority of numbers attempted one day to usurp this wharf. Naturally, the Hankow coolies resented the act and a grand battle ensued between the two parties in which the latter were eventually victorious. More sanguinary fights ensued, the local authorities being powerless to repress the turbulent coolies. Then followed a reign of terror: trade was almost stopped, and a series of murders began when members of rival parties meeting each other in the streets would try to assassinate one another. It was not until the Viceroy Chang was appealed to and he had sent a strong force of disciplined troops to Shasi that order was restored; but nearly a hundred lives had been lost which in the eyes of the law placed the local officials under a heavy responsibility.

—Translator.

(2) Pu Yuan, a member of the Imperial Clan, is by an act of extra grace given the rank of an Imperial Body Guardsman of the First Class, with privilege of doing duty at the principal entrance of the Palace.

13th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Provincial Administration.
(2) Ch'ing Shan is appointed Assistant Secretary of the Board of Rites in charge of the department having supervision of the Muling Imperial Mausoleum.
(3) Jui Ch'eng is appointed to a similar post in the department having supervision of the Huiling Imperial Mausoleum.

14th January.

IMPRESSIVE DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Commandant of the Gendarmerie reporting the capture of K'ang Pa-lang, a notorious Peking desperado and bandit, at Newchwang to which port he had fled, we hereby command that he be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial. Yang Feng-ming, a First Lieutenant of the Corps, through whose activity and cleverness the above-named bandit was captured is hereby rewarded with a promotion to the rank of a Second Captain, together with the brevet dark blue button. He is also permitted to change his decoration of the plain blue feather to that of a peacock's feather. As for Yang Ping-wei, First Lieutenant of the 3rd class of the Corps and second in command of the detachment sent in pursuit of the bandit, he is hereby made First Lieutenant of the 1st class with the brevet crystal button and peacock's feather.

(2) Liu K’un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang, accuses Shen Shou-ch’ien, Taotai of Hsiichou, of certain misdemeanours, amongst which is failing in properly attending to the administration of his Intendancy, and that when the said Viceroy summoned him to Nanking in order to examine into his conduct, the said Taotai, knowing that he would have to lose his post, made a promiscuous clearance of all unfinished cases tried by him, by allowing all those confined in gaol to be indiscriminately bailed out without regard to the charge under which each prisoner lay, etc. This is most culpable on the part of the said Taotai, and as a warning to others he is this day cashiered and dismissed from office.

(3) The same Viceroy denounces the following officials belonging to the civil service of Kiangsu province:—The expectant prefect, Wia Yü-tien, for carelessness and ignorance of the duties of his rank; Ch’en Tao-chi, sub-prefect of P’echou, for being of mediocre talents and therefore unqualified for discharging the duties of his office; Wang Shu-ting, district magistrate of Antunghsien, for cruelty and being unsuited to the people over whom he rules, and Ling Pin-sen, district magistrate of Kanyihsieh, for unfitness on account of great age to bear the responsibilities of office. With reference to the above-named denounced officers we hereby command Ma Yü-tien to be degraded two steps to the rank of a department magistrate; Ch’en Tao-chi and Wang Shuting to be ordered to vacate their offices compulsorily, and Lin Pin-sen to be commanded to retire into private life. The Board concerned is commanded to take note thereon.

(4) Hsun Ch’ing is appointed Superintendent of the Husian Customs of Kiangsu.

15th January.

IMPRESSIVE DECREES.

(1) The Supervising Censor of the Board of War and Police Censor of the Middle city, Ch’ing Mien, and his colleagues, conjointly denounce the arbitrary conduct of a certain Chang Tê-p’ei, an expectant gaol warden and investigating officer of one of the metropolitan summary police courts. He is accused of having used illegal tortures thereby encompassing the premature death of a prisoner brought to him for preliminary investigation before any guilt could be properly fixed upon the deceased. This is a grave offence and we command that the accused officer be temporarily cashiered and placed under trial before the Court of the Police Censor of the Western City. The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to take note thereon.

(2) The Board of Rites is hereby commanded to deliberate upon and report to us concerning the memorial of the Censor, Sun Wu-ch’ien, suggesting that certain changes be made in the curriculum of the literary examinations of Peking and the provincial capitals, and that further that the old regulations as to subjects required of candidates at the examinations for the degrees of Chüjen and Chinsih (Provincial and Metropolitan graduates) be revised in order to keep pace with the progress of the times.

(3) Liu K’un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces, sends us a list of worthy officers from prefectural to magisterial rank in the province of Kiangsu with the request that the Imperial Commandation be given concerning the virtuous conduct of the official concerned. The following is the list of the said worthy and virtuous officers:—Yen Hsiu, prefect of Chikiang; Shen Hsi-Chin, prefect of Yangchow; Chou Hung-mu, prefect of Hsiuchou; Wong Shu-t’ang, independent sub-prefect of South Tungchou (near Nanking); Chin Yuan-yin, district magistrate of Fênghsien (city of Sungkiang); Shen Ch’uan-min, substantive district magistrate of Taoyuan and acting magistrate of Paoshan (Woosung); T’ang Yao, district magistrate of Tungts’ai; and Ch’en Shao-t’ang, acting magistrate of
T'aoyuan. All the above officers have been eulogised by the said Viceroy as being "men above the common herd of officials and possessed of brilliant talents and steady earnestness in discharging the onerous duties of local officialdom," etc. We gladly desire to express our perfect approbation of the conduct of the officers named herein and command that the words of the Imperial commendation be transmitted by the said Viceroy to the worthy officials concerned. We would here further exhort these prefects, sub-prefects, and district magistrates to continue with zealousness and diligence in their several paths of duty in order to deserve well the confidence and trust we have reposed in them as shepherds and parents of our people. Let them beware of showing a brilliant and zealous beginning in their official life without the proportionate and appropriate completion that might be expected in the future of their several careers. Finally, let our approbation of their conduct be duly noted by the usual Board and recorded in the official biography of the said officers.

(4) Chao Shiu-jao, Governor of Kiangsu, sends us a memorial denouncing the unworthy conduct and mediocre abilities of certain civil officers under his jurisdiction. In the case of the ex-prefect Ma Yu-tien, degraded by a former decree to the rank of a department magistrate at the instance of Liu K'un-yi, Viceroy of Liang Kiang, the said Governor further denounces him on the ground of excessive carelessness and being possessed of a coarse nature. In view of this supplemental denunciation it is evident that the said Ma Yu-tien is entirely unfit to be trusted with the government of our subjects and he is, therefore, ordered to be cashiered of all his rank and titles and to be dismissed from the service. The said Governor also denounces En Shou (Manchu), the sub-prefect of the department of Taihu Lake (near Soochow), for confiding too much to his own servants, thereby gaining for the master a most unsavoury reputation; Yi Jan, another Manchu, an expectant sub-prefect, for keeping no discipline or restraint over his underlings, thereby causing much unfavourable comment amongst the masses; Ling Cho, district magistrate of Wubien (city of Soochow), for being so affected by ill health that it has unfitted him for grasping the details of his usual duties, further accentuated by sly and crafty habits; Wu Kuan-lo, district magistrate of Wusieh, of such vacillating conduct that grave complaints have been made against him before the memorialist by the people of Wusieh; and, finally, Wu Shou-yi, an expectant district magistrate, of avaricious conduct and glossing over his misdemeanours before his superiors in rank. All the above officers so denounced are hereby cashiered and dismissed from their several posts. As the complaints made by the said Governor against Fei Hung-nien, district magistrate of Ts'angtsé, who has been accused of being exceedingly mediocre in talents and abilities and, therefore, unfit for his post, and against Yang Chih-li, district magistrate of Liyang, who is described as a man whose "vitality is exhausted" and whose "discharge of his usual duties is characterised by delay and procrastination," we hereby command that the two officers so denounced be compulsorily dismissed from their present posts and await other employment in the civil service of Kiangsu.

16th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) To Kuan is appointed Manchu sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, and T'ai Pu is appointed Manchu Vice-Director of the Banqueting Court.

(2) Appointing a number of officials to various posts in the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

17th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Chun Liang is appointed Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with the brevet rank of a Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

No papers of interest.

18th and 19th January.

No papers of interest.

20th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Shih Sui-chang is appointed prefect of Kiungchow (Hainan island), Kuangtung province.

(2) T'ao Mu, Governor-General of the Shen-Kan provinces, having recently sent us a special memorial recommending promotions for a number of civil and military officials who had distinguished themselves in certain ways during the campaign against the Mahommedan rebels of Hsining prefecture, Kansu province, we commanded the Boards of Civil Appointments and of War, at the time, to deliberate over the said memorial and report to us whether the promotions so recommended should be confirmed. We are now in receipt of a memorial from Wu Kuang-k'uei,
Supervising Censor of the Board of Civil Appointments, who states that he finds, upon calculation, that no less than 3,000, odd, civil and military officers have already been promoted for services rendered which led to the complete subjugation of the rebels of Hsining and the restoration of peace in that part of Kansu province. These promotions were made at the instance and recommendations at various epochs of the war of T'ao Mu, the above-named Viceroy; Yang Ch'ang-chun, the displaced ex-Viceroy of the said two provinces; Wei Kuang-tao, Governor of Shensi; Jao Ying-ch'i, Governor of Chinese Turkestan; Tung Fu-hsiang, Generalissimo of the Imperial forces in the field and Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Kansu; and Kuei Pin, Manchu Administrator of Hsining—in fact by all the chief officials who had anything to do with crushing the late rebellion of the Kansu Mahommedans while the ranks granted to the recipients consisted of extraordinary steps in promotion in proportion to the important services rendered during that crisis. Owing to the enormous number of promotions aforesaid the said memorialist (Wu Kuang-h'uei) seems to hold a suspicion that there must have been cases where names of persons have been unwarrantably inserted who had nothing to do with the matter, and that favouritism and nepotism must have run riot under cover of the above wholesale promotions granted by the extraordinary gracefulness of the Throne. The said memorialist has also adduced as an example the names of Chang Hsin-t'ai, an ex-department magistrate and a dozen or so others who had been cashiered in other provinces for misdemeanours and the like who had flocked to Kansu to "volunteer for service" during the war and who having luck with them, brought about by the successful termination of the rebellion, had succeeded in getting the said Viceroy to recommend the restoration of their original ranks as a reward "for important (sic) services rendered." In a postscript memorial the same Censor points out the case of the cashiered prefect K'eng Shih-wei. When the restoration of his rank was recommended that person's case which led to his deprivation of official rank was actually yet in suspense, whereby his character had not been decided one way or the other; hence he had no legal claim to ask for the restoration of his former rank. With such oversight on the part of the high authorities who have memorialised for the granting of promotions to reward the officers who have fought during the late rebellion, especially in a case so glaring as that of the cashiered prefect above-named, the memorialist declares it as his opinion that there was either utter recklessness in making up the lists of promotions, or favouritism, friendly recommendations, and nepotism had been exercised in certain cases. The said Censor further asks that the Boards concerned should be command ed to investigate the whole matter and cancel such promotions as seem liable to suspicion of the absence of justice and impartiality. Now we must explain that the Throne graciously grants rewards in proportion to the importance of services rendered to the State, in order to incite emulation and an ambition to distinguish oneself amongst all our officers, civil and military. Hence we most emphatically condemn the substitution of names and reckless recommendations for promotions which reduce the value of the rewards granted by us. We will, however, pass over, for obvious reasons, the various lists sent up to us on former occasions but take exception to the present list made up by the said Viceroy which contains the names of a number of cashiered civil and military officials who demand restoration of their former ranks and privileges. The Boards concerned are, therefore, hereby commanded to investigate the cases of each of the above-noted cashiered officers and see what were the causes which led to their deprivation of rank and titles. They are to differentiate between the seriousness of the misdemeanours of these ex-officers and according to the gravity or otherwise of their former offences recommend or reject the restoration of ranks as proposed by the said Viceroy. The said Boards are to take care not to be unduly influenced by the fact of the bravery and patriotism which led the said cashiered officers to volunteer for service with the army in the field; but they are to judge impartially the pros and cons of each individual case, in order that the really deserving may not lose his proper reward. As for the names of other officers recommended for promotion in the present list, the said Boards are to make a strict enquiry into the actual locus standi of each aspirant after promotion and report to us, in order that the ranks of the truly deserving be free from interlopers and unworthy characters.

(3) The same Censor also sends us a postscript memorial recommending that in future when partially degraded or cashier ed ex-officers who volunteer for service, be
it with the armies of the various provinces, in the frontier or coast defence services, or in the conservation departments of the Yellow and other rivers, that the high provincial authorities receiving such men should be compelled to first send a statement of facts concerning each individual and the history of the causes which led to their partial degradation or total deprivation of rank, to be recorded in the Boards concerned before being allowed to give employment to such men, etc. The Boards of Civil Appointments and of War are commanded to deliberate thereon and report to us.

21st January.

No papers of interest.

22nd January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yi Li is appointed special Inspector of the affairs of the Vanguard Division and of the Brigade doing duty as Escort of the Imperial cortège, both of the Imperial Guards.

(2) The Censors Pen Kuei, Ch'ing Mien, Pao An, and Hsü Lin are appointed special Inspectors of Banner affairs for one year.

(3) The Court of Sacrificial Worship reports that the 12th of February next is set apart for offering sacrifices at the Temple of Harvests; Prince Kui Pin, 1st Order, is commanded to inspect the animals destined for sacrifice on that day and K'un Hsin is commanded to superintend the slaughter thereof.

(4) The same Court announces that the 5th of March next is the day appointed by the laws for sacrificing at the Temple of Literature; Prince K'ai T'ai, 1st Order, is commanded to act as Chief Worshipper and K'uei Ch'ang is commanded to sacrifice at the rear altar.

It is also announced by the same Court that the 7th of March next will be the anniversary for sacrificing at the Temple of the First Physician. Pu Ting is commanded to act as Chief Worshipper and Ch'ung Shou-ho and Yang Chi-ho are commanded to worship at the minor altars on either side of the said Temple.

The same Court announces the 10th of March next as the anniversary for sacrificial worship at the Temple of Confucius, "The First Teacher;" Hsi Chin is commanded to act as Chief Worshipper, while two Hanlin Academists will be appointed to sacrifice at the minor altars on either side of the said temple on that day.

(7) Ch'ung K'uan is commanded to sacrifice at the shrine dedicated to the Sacred Sages on the above-named date.

(8) The 11th of March next being the anniversary for sacrificial worship at the Altar of Our Dynasty, we intend to sacrifice in person there on the day named.

(9) On the 14th of March next, the anniversary for worshipping at the temple of the God of Literature, Prince Ts'ai Hsüan, 2nd Order, will act as Chief Worshipper, and Hsü Cheng-yao is commanded to sacrifice at the rear altar.

(10) The same Court announces the 17th of March next as the anniversary for worshipping at the temple of Kuanti (Chinese god of war), the Scourge of evil spirits. Kui Pin, Prince of the 1st Order, is commanded to act as chief Worshipper on that occasion and Ch'ing Fu will worship at the rear altar.

23rd January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) K'uei Pin, our Resident at Lassa, reports that he has removed from office a Tibetan Abbot named Gorguncha, who was also armed with secular powers, owing to general misconduct and incapability. The memorialist now asks that Gorguncha be summoned to Peking to answer the charges made against him, etc. The request is granted and the Mongolian Superintendency is hereby commanded to take charge of the matter and summon the said Abbot to Peking.

(2) With reference to another memorial by the same memorialist which reports that the conduct of certain other Tibetan dignitaries requires investigation, etc., we hereby command the said K'uei Pin to make the necessary enquiries and report to us.

(3) The said Resident also denounces a Mongol official named Chan Chin-cho and requests that he be removed from his present office and the Mongolian Superintendency be commanded to appoint the accused to some other post, etc. The said Superintendency is commanded to investigate the case and report to us. The said Resident also complains that no less than 600 odd Mongol nobles of the Cherchen league of Mongols who have succeeded to the ranks and titles of their fathers have been unable to get their letters patent from the Mongolian Superintendency. We hereby command the officers of the said Superintendency to hasten over the matter after due investigation; they are forbidden to raise obstacles to or "table" the patents required.
24th January.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) Ch'ing Shu (Manchu) is appointed prefect of Liangchou, Kansu province.

(2) Sun Chia-nai, Governor Adjoint, and Hu Yu-fen, Governor of Peking, conjointly denounce certain territorial officials of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu. The expectant magistrate Ch'en Shou-ch'un is accused of low conduct and of being addicted to currying favour with those superior in rank in order to get their assistance in procuring substantive appointment for him, etc. For this misconduct we hereby degrade the said magistrate to the rank of a gaolwarden in a prefect's yamen or to that of an assistant magistrate (8th rank). Li Yen-ch'ang, magistrate of Tachehghsien, is accused of incompatibility in his relations with the people of his district. He is ordered to vacate his post and await other employment. The police magistrate of Kuphek'ou (Great Wall entrance), Li Mei-hsin, and Sun Chih-min, gaolwarden of Pingkohsien, are, the first accused of inveterate habits, (opium smoking or imbibing,) and of having left his post without permission, and the second of shamming death in order to avoid taking up his post. Both the two men are hereby cashiered and dismissed from the service. The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to take note thereof.

(3) The said memorialists also request that the district magistrate Sieh Hsi-fen be appointed magistrate of the Metropolitan district (in Peking) of Tahsinghsien. The request is granted and the Board concerned is ordered to take note.

(4) The said memorialists further ask for an extra grant of rice in aid of the Kuangjen Benevolent Society's gruel station at the Kuangchii gate of Peking owing to the unusual number of famine sufferers and city poor who have been seeking help and food since the winter opened. We hereby grant another gift of 300 shih of rice to the said Society in order that our poor subjects be properly fed during the winter.

25th January.

**IMPERIAL DECREE.**

(1) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of four notorious bandits belonging to a band that had been infesting a neighbouring prefecture and who generally escaped inside the limits of the Metropolitan Prefecture in order to avoid pursuit, etc. The prisoners are hereby ordered to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and punishment according to the laws. As for the rest of the band whose names are known, we hereby command that strict search be made for those still at large, and that as soon as the trial of the officers and men be finished a list be sent in of the names of the officers and men of the gendarmerie who distinguished themselves in making the capture so that proper notice be taken of those of deserving conduct and proportionate rewards granted to them.

26th January.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) The Censor Li Nien-tzu denounced the other day Ch'en I-pei, the department magistrate of Chunhua, Chihli, in consequence of which we commanded Wang Wên-shao to investigate the matter and report to us. The report of the said Vice-roy is now before us in which he declares that all the charges preferred by the said Censor are groundless and unproven; but that the accused had been unable to put proper restraint over the conduct of his personal attendants, which of itself constitutes a fault. We hereby command the said department magistrate to be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of an adequate penalty. As for the accusations made against the deputy Yang Chin-shih, who had been sent to distribute famine relief to the people of Chunhua, it has been found that the accused official is not fit to carry out the relief owing to his ignorance of the wants of the people, in consequence of which the said deputy has been guilty of several misdemeanours. He is hereby cashiered and dismissed the service.

(2) Chang Huai-yü is appointed Brigadier-General of the military division of Palik'un (Lake Barkul district), Eastern Chinese Turkestan.

(3) Wang Fêng-ming is appointed Brigadier-General of the military division of Ili (Kuldja).

(4) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of eight desperadoes who have a large number of murders and robberies recorded against their names. The prisoners are hereby ordered to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial, and let strict search be made for those of the band who are still at large.

(5) With reference to a memorial by the same high officer recommending certain officers of the Northern and Right battalions of the Gendarmerie who had distinguished themselves by energy and activity in
capturing bandits, the Board of War is hereby commanded to deliberate over the
said list and report to us for confirmation.

27th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

With reference to the denunciations by the Supervising Censor, Sieh Hsi-hang,
against certain Taotais, etc., belonging to the Hunan provincial service, we ordered
Ch'en Pao-chen to investigate into the charges and report to us. The memorial of
the said Governor is now before us in which he reports that some of the accusa-
tions against the Taotai Ch'i'en K'ang-yung, the expectant magistrate Li Ju-chun,
and Yu Liang-tung, district magistrate of Taoyuan, have turned out to be partial-
ly true. These three officers are therefore hereby cashiered and dismissed the service.
For the charges against Li Ching-hsi
(he was a secretary in the Provincial Judge's yamen), who has been found guilty is hereby ordered
to be deported from Hunan to his native town in Chekiang.

SENTENCE ON MURDERERS.

Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli,
reports a crime of unusual gravity from his jurisdiction and the sentences imposed on
the criminals. The crime in question took
place in December last in the district of Chuchun, where a son at the instigation of
his mother murdered his father. As this
was a most serious crime memorialist
ordered the case to be sent to Paotingfu
for trial by the Provincial Judge, Chi Pang-chén. The said Judge having made the
usual investigations reported that he had
found the murderers guilty of the crime they were accused of and recommended
that both mother and son suffer death by
the slow and shameful process (lingchih) in accordance with the laws of the land. Memo-
rist, however, wished to be sure that the
accusations were just and so ordered Yuan Feng-lín, the Provincial Treasurer, to make
a special trial of the case. The evidence first reported was adhered to in this trial which showed as follows:—Chang Hsi-feng,
the murdered man, was a well-to-do farmer
of Chüehouhsien. He had an only son
(Chang Tse-kuang), the murderer, who was
so petted and spoiled by his parents, especially by the mother, that as he grew
older he became unmanageable and fell into
dissolute habits. To get money to supply
his wants Chang Tse-kuang used to per-
suade his mother to get it for him until at
last they began to sell portions of the land
belonging to the father. In spite of the
latter's remonstrances the mother and son persisted in their course until it became
evident to the father that unless something
was done to stop the two they would soon
sell the house which sheltered him and
them. So the father one day assembled
all the headmen of his clan and complained
of the conduct of his wife and son and
asked for protection against them. It was
then decided that the remainder of the property of 47 mou of land be retained for
the support of the father in his old age,
and the dissolute son and his mother were
there and then interdicted by the seniors of
their clan from touching this land on pain
of suffering punishment administered by
the clan. This stopped the pair for a short
-time; but the gambling debts contracted by
the son became too pressing and, assisted
by his mother, Chang Tse-kuang tried to
mortgage or sell the 47 mou of land in
secret. The father found the matter out
and forcibly upbraided his wife and
son for their conduct and in attempting
corporal punishment on the son the
mother assisted the latter in getting away
from his father's clutches. Exasperated
beyond reason the father at last said
that the best way to stop this would be
to kill both wife and son. When the
pair heard this they began to consult so as to
lay hands on the father first before he could
put his threat into execution. So on the
night of the 30th December last Chang
Tse-kuang having first filled himself with
alcoholic drinks and egged on by the mother,
who persistently declared that if they did
not kill the father he would kill them,
seized hold of an iron rake and marched
into his father's room where he lay on the
kang or stove-bedstead. The mother also
followed into the room to assist the son if
necessary. Three fearful blows were then
dealt with the iron rake on the head of the
murdered man, the third blow on the back
of the head being the fatal stroke. When
Chang Hsi-feng was killed, the mother
dressed the corpse with an old cotton-
wadded jacket and with the parricide carri-
ed the body to a back garden wall. Placing
the corpse beneath the wall the guilty pair
drew down a lot of bricks from the top of
the wall, half burying the body with the
débris, so as to make it seem to outsiders
that the old man had been killed by
the falling of the wall over which he
was supposed to have tried to vault.
The next morning the brother of
the deceased having his suspicions reported to the magistrate of Chiuchousien who finally extracted the above confession from the parricide and murderess. The law for this crime demands that both the woman and her son be sentenced to death by the lingchih process, the head of the son being exposed in the village where the crime was committed, the mother's head in consideration of it being a woman's being exempted from this exposure. Memorialist upon receiving the above confirmed report at once gave orders for the carrying out of the sentence recommended by the said Provincial Judge, in accordance with the laws of the land.—

Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

28th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We Kuang-tao, Governor of Shensi, denounces a number of incompetent officers in his province and asks that the accused officials be degraded or cashiered according to the list presented with the memorial. The request is granted and the Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to take note thereon.

29th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) E-k'ō-t'ang-a, Military Governor and Tartar General of Fêngtien province, Manchuria, recommends the bestowal of adequate promotions on the officials detailed by him to reorganise the likin and customs of the Eastern Marches on the frontiers of Corea. As through the efforts of the said officials the revenues of the cities in question have been annually increased by nearly half a million taels, the officials named deserve proper recognition for their successful efforts, namely, the Taotai Wang Hsi-hsun, who is hereby rewarded with having his name specially recorded in the Grand Council for the first vacant Taotaship in Fêngtien; the department magistrate Tê Lin, who is hereby promoted to the rank of a sub-prefect; the district magistrate, Cha Fu-chi, who is hereby rewarded with the privilege of wearing a prefect's brevet button as soon as he gets his sub-prefect's rank; and the magistrate Tu Chin-iao who is promoted to be a sub-prefect as soon as he shall have received his substantive district magistrate's post. As a special bounty of the Throne the officials promoted above are exempted from personally coming to Peking for an audience for examination of their qualifications, etc.

(2) Pien Pao-ch'uan, Viceroy of the Min-Chê provinces, reports the death of Chang Chi-kuang, late Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Chêkiang, at Ningpo headquarters. We are deeply grieved at the loss of this faithful servant and command that he be accorded burial rites and the government grant to his family befitting his rank as General. Further, as a recognition of the eminent services rendered by the deceased General during the Taiping rebellion, we hereby bestow on his eldest son Chang Shih-min the rank of a sub-prefect, and upon his second son Chang Tsu-yao the rank of an Assistant Secretary of one of the Six Boards. The Boards concerned are to take note.

(3) Ch'ên Ch'i-t'êng is appointed Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Chêkiang, vice Chang Ch'i-kuang, deceased.

(4) Jui Hsüan, a Reader of the Hanlin College, denounces the rowdyism and want of circumspection of the sons and heirs of the high Manchu and Chinese officials residing at Peking, and complains that the parents of the young men do not keep proper restraint and discipline amongst them. Many cases have been cited in this memorial which, if true, show that the young nobles are under lax discipline indeed. We would, therefore, utter a note of warning to all concerned, and exhort all to behave in a proper and seemly manner so that they may deserve the confidence we shall have to place in them in the future when they succeed their fathers. If, after this decree, any be found to have neglected our warning, we shall surely punish such and we might add that the parents of the delinquents will not escape scot-free either.

(5) Lu Chüan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, accuses Wang Hu-ch'ing, magistrate of Chiangansien, of avarice and making himself an object of hatred amongst his people; and Wu I-shih, magistrate of Yenyuanhsien, of mediocre abilities and neglecting his ordinary duties. Both the accused officers are hereby cashiered and dismissed the service.

(6) The same Viceroy complains of the many frauds prevalent during the literary examinations for the degree of Chüjen in Chêngtu and asks permission to revise the rules current in the examination halls, which favour frauds rather than prevent them. The said Viceroy is hereby commanded to frame what rules he thinks best and embody them in a proclamation for the information of all. The candidates, also, are commanded to keep themselves more under discipline during the examinations, and the assistant examiners are exhorted to use every diligence in preventing frauds so that only the worthy can attain their degrees.
30th January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yu Hung-liang is appointed marine sub-prefect of Hsinmen, Chekiang province.

(2) Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, denounces a number of magistrates and directors of studies belonging to the various district magistracies of his province, for incapacity, avarice, or fraud. We hereby cashier the accused officials as per list handed us by the said Governor.

(3) The same Governor denounces General P'eng Ch'ing-yang, commanding the front battalion of the Yellow River Contingent, and Tu Yung-fu, Colonel commanding the rear battalion of the same contingent, for drawing the pay of "dummies" on the battalion roll for their private aggrandisement, and of having done river embankment work in a slipshod manner. Both the accused officers are hereby degraded to the rank of First Captain and removed in punishment thereof. The expectant Major Yen Ta-sui belonging to the River Conservancy Bureau is also accused of wasting a large sum of government money on useless river works, etc. The accused officer is degraded to the rank of second Captain in punishment of his incapability.

31st January.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Li Nien-tzu, the Supervising Censor, complains of the glaring frauds prevalent at Nanking during the provincial examinations for the "chünjen" degree and he, therefore, prays that orders may be given to the Viceroy and Governors concerned to prevent a recurrence of such frauds. We hereby command Lu Kun-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang, and Chao Shu-jao and Teng Hua-hsi, Governors of Kiangsu and Anhui, respectively, to frame more stringent rules for the guidance of the Proctors and Examiners at the said examinations when the licentiates of Kiangsu and Anhui assemble at Nanking to compete for the "chünjen" degree, so that only the worthy and deserving shall be able to get their degrees.

1st February.

No papers of interest.

2nd February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

This day being the 1st day of the new year, the Imperial Astronomical Board sent in a report to his Majesty that the direction of the wind coming from the south-east prognosticates a year of plenty and long life to men. His Majesty will celebrate to-morrow by eating the sacrificial meats with the Court at 8 o’clock, and later in the forenoon will proceed to the Southern Lake Palace to pay the compliments of the season to H.I.M. the Empress Dowager, after which his Majesty and Court will return to the city.

FALSE RETURNS.

Yen Mou, Military Governor and Tartar General of Kirin, denounces the district magistrate of Nunganhsien for making unreliable reports of the quantity of grain in his district granary and for listening entirely to the reports of the li-tos or village constables concerning the condition of the country instead of making personal investigations into the matter. In 1890 according to the reports of previous magistrates of Nunganhsien the annual collection of taxes in kind of the said district was 3,000 shih of rice which are laid up in the district granary to provide for emergencies such as war or famine. But on the 14th of October last Tu Hsiao-ying, the magistrate of the above district reported that owing to a drought and consequent famine in Nungan, the people were in danger of starvation, but that according to the constables and headmen of each village the fields would still be able to produce about three-tenths of the usual crops. At present, however, there was a little danger of famine, etc. On the 10th of December the said magistrate again reported the condition of his district and again quoted from the reports of the constables and headmen that there was "no hope of a harvest and that the crops were a total loss." That over 3,000 families belonging to the hamlets of Nungho and Nunglo were in danger of utter starvation, not counting the people of other hamlets. There were, he reported, only 1,300, odd, shih of rice available in the granary to feed the sufferers which was manifestly insufficient to satisfy the wants of the people, etc. The said magistrate had, therefore, collected several thousand taels for next spring which was the real moment of distress amongst the famine sufferers, etc. He promised also to make out for memorialist a list of the families and number of souls that will require aid. Memorialist upon receiving the above two reports made enquiries about the matter and finds that Nunganhsien lies in the public lands granted to the Mongol league of Korlos, and that the lands are rented by Chinese squatters who have settled in the country; hence the Imperial Government has nothing to do with
the taxes of the territory. Hence, whenever a famine happens, the rule has been to collect local private charity; but never has the grain in the government granary been touched to relieve these famines. Since, however, the said magistrate had promised the people of his district to get the provincial authorities to interest themselves on behalf of the sufferers, it has been considered politic to act accordingly so that the people may not complain of partiality on the part of the Authorities, and so permission has been given to sell the granary rice to the people at cost price. According to the reports of former magistrates of Nunganhsien, the amount of grain set aside in the granary for emergencies was, as already stated above, 3,000 shih of rice; whereas the present magistrate declares that only 1,300, odd, shih are laid up in the said granary which shows a large deficiency somewhere. Upon memorialist making enquiries the said magistrate stated that the 3,000 shih was only a "make-believe-for-show" report of previous magistrates, for never has this reserve amounted to over 1,300, odd, shih. Memorialist was greatly astonished at this charge of the magistrate against his predecessors. If the charge be true then his Majesty may see in what state Kirin has been and is at present. To clear matters memorialist intends to find out the names of the previous magistrates of Nungan and carefully investigate as to the causes which led them to make false returns to their superior officers. But the present magistrate has been guilty of recklessly making reports relying solely upon the words of village constables and headmen instead of personally investigating a serious matter like the present, whereby he has been guilty of neglect of duty. Memorialist therefore has punished the delinquent magistrate by removing him from office, and has appointed a trustworthy and more active officer to succeed the man, pending a thorough investigation into the whole case.—Recript: Granted.

3rd February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow at 9 o'clock to the Temple of Imperial Longevity for worship.

4th February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty after transacting State affairs to-morrow morning will then proceed to the Southern Lake Palace to pay a visit to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager, and at mid-day will attend the Tzekuang Pavilion to witness athletic games, wrestling, etc., between Manchus and Mongols belonging to the retinues of the Mungol Princes who have come to Peking to pay New Year obeisances to His Majesty.

5th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received instructions from H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager to grant Liu Kuang, Duke Ch'enguangchiayiung, the privilege of using vermilion-coloured reins for his riding pony, and we therefore issue this decree sanctioning the request of her Imperial Majesty.

(2) Acting also on the recommendation of her Imperial Majesty we hereby grant Po Wei, Prince of the 3rd order, the privilege of doing duty inside the Inner Palace.

(3) The son of Tsai Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order and brevet Prince of the 2nd Order, Po Ju, is hereby granted the civil Premier button (Tou-p'ing-ting-tui) in accordance with the request of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager.

6th February.

No papers of interest.

7th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Hsü Hui-feng is appointed Literary Chancellor for the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu (Peking.)

DISBANDING SUPERNUMERARY CAVALRY.

En Tsé, Military Governor and Tartar-General of Heilung-chiang, reports the return of the four battalions of cavalry belonging to the Chénpien or Frontier Defence army, from Fêngtien; this corps having been taken by the former Tartar General E k'o-tang-i in 1894 to Fêngtien to fight the invaders (Japanese). Owing to the absence of the cavalry brigade, memorialist was compelled to select from the territorial battalions in Tsitsihar a body of 200 mounted young men to undertake police and patrol work hitherto done by the said brigade before the war. The money saved by the disuse of baggage coolies attached to the Chénpien Army was made to do duty to pay the additional wages of the new cavalry patrol. Now, however, the above cavalry brigade has returned from Fêngtien, and memorialist after an inspection sent them back to their former quarters to resume their usual duties. Hence memorialist has disbanded the newly raised cavalry with instructions to return to the
DESTRUCTION OF CROPS IN KANSU.

T'ao Mu, Viceroy of Shen-Kan, reports that certain sub-prefectures and districts belonging to Kansu province have had their crops destroyed by hail and rain so that the summer and autumn of last year produced very scanty harvests. Relief has been organised to be distributed in the districts suffering from scarcity of food, while those districts which have suffered only partial loss will be to pay their taxes at a later date. According to Ts'eung Ho, Provincial Treasurer, some twenty-two districts have suffered loss in one way or the other, while the district of Chanshien, and the sub-prefectures of Huinhua and Hochou, which have also suffered, have been specially exempted from paying taxes for 1896 owing to the rebellion having been active in those places. The other districts will be allowed a delay to pay taxes in proportion to the extent of their losses.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

9th February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning, after transacting State affairs, to the Imperial Ancestral Hall to make sacrificial worship after which his Majesty returns to the City Palace.

No papers of interest.

10th February.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

T'an Chun-lin, Viceroy of the Two Kuang provinces, sends a report denouncing the conduct of a number of local authorities of Kuangtung who deserve either degraded in rank or cashiered. Liu Shen-t'ang, district magistrate of K'ai ping, Kuangtung, has been accused of possessing a weak intellect and of making a muddle of the cases he has had brought before him for trial, and in consequence of which he was at one time in danger of punishing the innocent parties in a certain case. But as the accused is a man of high literary rank and his knowledge above the average, he is hereby ordered to change his post for that of a Director of Studies in a district college, pending selection by the Board of Rites. Chu I-ho, district magistrate of Haininghsien, has been accused of dilatory conduct and thereby laying up considerable arrears in his usual duties. Both these officers are hereby commanded to resign their present posts and await further appointment. Ts'in Han chang, an expectant gaolwarden of the Provincial Judge's Court, is accused of corrupt practice in connection with the likin barrier station under his control, such as accepting bribes and encouraging his subordinates to extort from traders and the people; the deputy magistrate, Chang Huan tou, in buying timber for the Government is accused of giving false returns; Ch'en Chung-fan, petty officer of the 9th grade, Class B, is accused of conduct similar to a Buddhist bonze, and disgracing his cloth; finally, Chang Lin, police magistrate of the Chuhsing ward of Hup'uhsieh, is accused of acting in a thoughtless manner and of unduly advantage of the market place. All the above enumerated officials are hereby commanded to be forthwith cashiered as a general warning to all and clearing the official atmosphere of undesirable characters. The Board of Civil Appointments is hereby ordered to take note of the same.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yün Tsu-yi, Provincial Treasurer designate of Chekiang, vice Lung Hsi-ch'ing, deceased.

11th February.

A DOUBLE MURDER IN KIRIN.

Yen Mou, Military Governor and Tartar General of Kirin, reports that in June last year a petition was received from the sub-prefect of Yitungchou, Kirin, to the effect that one Tsao Yung-tai, a native of the said sub-prefecture, had in a fit of madness murdered his uncle (who stood in the place of his father) and a fellow-lodger who had come to the aid of the first-named murdered man. It appeared that the murderer had been afflicted with intermittent fits of madness for several years, but as often as these fits would come on, so often would they subside soon after, during which times the murderer never exhibited any ferocity or thirst after blood. He was an unusually mild non-vaniac. For this reason, therefore, neither his uncle, now deceased, nor the rest of the family and neighbours thought the malady serious enough to report to the local authorities, in order to have the said Tsao Yung-tai fettered and confined in prison out of harm way. So matters went on until the middle of June, aforesaid, when
all of a sudden Ts'ao Yung-tai was attacked by madness again. In this instance he somehow got hold of a lance or broad bladed spear placed in the house with other weapons used for defending the place against banditti. Taking the spear outdoors the madman flourished it as if wading off an attack of imaginary enemies. His father Ts'ao Shun being afraid that he would hurt some passer-by, came out of the house and tried to take away the spear. Instead of complying the maniac made a lunge at his father, the point of the weapon entering the old man's left arm. Another lunge pierced his left side when he fell down dead. In the meanwhile a fellow-lodger, Jen Chen, hearing the noise at the door came out to help the old man to wrest the weapon away from the maniac; but the latter, now apparently madder than ever at the sight of blood, fiercely attacked Jen with the spear, killing him in the same manner as he had killed his father. The nephew of the fellow-lodger happening to pass by, gave the alarm, and a crowd of neighbours collecting they soon overpowered the murderer and took him to the sub-prefect of the city. When the maniac was brought before the magistrate he is said to have suddenly assumed a sullen and morose air and seemed unable to comprehend any of the questions put to him. In fact he displayed all the symptoms of a monomaniac. Now the law demands that any person showing maniacal symptoms must be taken to the local magistrates for confinement by his relatives, or, failing them, by the neighbours, whom the law makes amenable to punishment if default is made and no report be made to the magistrates. The right and left neighbours of the Ts'ao family were therefore guilty of a misdemeanour similar to that of a man who seeing or knowing of an intended murder fails to report the same to the authorities. The law commands that a parricide must suffer death by the ling chih process and his head be exposed in the place where he committed the murder. This has been done with the above-named murderer, and the neighbours and relatives who failed to report the circumstance of the murderer's craziness to the authorities were also punished in the usual way by giving each 100 blows of the bamboo. As the law allows the execution of criminals, where, the scene of their murders exceed 300 li distance, to be done at the capital, and as Itungchou is more than 300 li from Kirin, the murderer was executed at Kirin and his head has been sent for exposure to the first-named city.—

Rescript: Noted. Let the Board of Punishment also take note.

12th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES

The Bannerman Tu Chun, who personally appealed to us this morning for redress as we were on our way to the Palace from sacrificial worship is to be handed to the Board of Punishments to have his case thoroughly investigated.

13th February.

THE TRIBUTE OF KIANGSU.

Liu Kun-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang province, and Chao Shu-jao, Governor of Kiangsu, conjointly report the amount of grain sent by Kiangsu province as Tribute Rice for 1896 to Peking. As Wang Won-shuo, Viceroy of Chihli, had obtained the permission of the Throne that this Tribute Rice should, in future, be entirely sent by the sea route (either by sea-going junk or by the China Merchants' S.N. Co's steamers) the memorialists have complied with his Majesty's commands in the matter. As the Board of Revenue demanded an extra amount of Tribute Rice for 1896, memorialists wish to point out that through the clemency of the Throne in former times Kiangsu's contribution to the Imperial granaries was ordered to be decreased to a certain amount "for ever." Furthermore, owing to the province not having entirely recovered, as yet, from the disastrous effects of the Taiping rebellion, there are yet whole districts lying fallow since they were devastated by the rebels. Memorialists did indeed introduce measures to encourage the people of the province to cultivate the deserted districts, and rejoice to say that they have succeeded in a great measure during the last couple of years, so that the grain produced by the reclaimed fields amounted to a considerable number of piculs last year. But they regret to have to record that owing to the drought followed by incessant rains during the previous season, these successes have been counteracted in a great measure by the failure of the harvests in other parts of the province. Memorialists, however, now beg to report that with the exception of Ta-tu district in Chinkiang prefecture, which devotes its tribute rice towards specially supplying the Banner garrison of Chinkiang, the following 31 sub-prefectures and districts are compelled by law to furnish the said Tribute Rice of Kiangsu, namely, the districts of
FEB. 13.—17.]

CH'ANGCHOU, YUANHOU, WUHSIEN, CH'ENGTSANG, CH'ANSHAN, CHAOCHEN, K'UNSHAN (QUINSAN), HSINHOU, HUATING, FENGHSIEN, LOUHSIEN, CHINSHAN (KINSHAN), SHANGHAI, NANNHUI, CH'INGP'U, CH'UANSHA, WUCHIU, YONGHU, WUSIEH, CHINKUEI, CHIANGYIN (KIANGYIN), TSINGHAI, CHINCH'AI, TANGHAI, CHINHAI, KUHAI (KALDING), PAOHAI (WOOSUNG), and the sub-prefecture of Taich'ang. The said districts belong to the prefectures of SOOCOH, SUNGKIANG, CH'ANGCHOU, CHINKIANG, and the above-named independent sub-prefecture of SAI CH'ANG. The tribute rice contributed by the above-named and already sent by sea to TIENSTIN en route to the TUNGCHOW granaries amounted, for 1896, to the total of 797,140 odd shih, (one shih equals 160 catties.) In addition to the above there had to be sent for the purpose of making up for leakage, difference in weight of the shih between KIANGSU and PEKING, and food for the official staff connected with the Tribute Rice Collection and Transport Department, a total of 21,480 odd shih of rice, and another 65,210 shih of rice as payment in kind for freight to the sea-going junks entrusted with the transport of this rice to TIENSTIN.

RESCRIPT: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

14TH FEBRUARY.

BRIGANDS IN HSUCHOU.

Chao Shu-jao, Governor of KIANGSU, reports that he has executed several members of a gang of bandits amounting to nearly twenty in number, who had been pillaging certain farmhouses in TAOUYUAN and TANGSHAN districts in 1895. In June of that year ten men of the gang robbed the farmhouse of Hu Li-yi in the first-named district, the plunder consisting of oxen, mules, donkeys, opium balls, money, and clothes. The robbers were armed with firearms, swords, and spears, and when a resistance was made, the robbers shot and killed a man named Hu Chin-kuei, a neighbour of the robbed family. A month afterwards, the same gang, numbering eighteen men, raided the farmhouse of Chou Chia-yen, in the district of T'ANGSHAN, and shot and killed the younger brother of the said owner of the farm house. The plunder taken by the robbers consisted of horses, mules, money, and clothes. Six of the bandits were captured and sent on to SOOCOH for trial. In the meantime one man died in prison. But when the time came to decapitate the robbers, the corpse of the one who had died in prison was also taken out on the execution ground and the head chopped off in company with the companions of his crime, in accordance with the law provided in such cases.—RESCRIPT: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

15TH FEBRUARY.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ku'ei Pin, Prince of the 1st Order, being now in mourning for his mother, his place as Captain-General of the Yellow Banner of Mongol troops is given to Ch'i Hsiu, President of the Mongolian Superintendency, ad interim.

(2) As the post of senior prefect of YUNNAN is one of exceptional importance, we hereby command the Viceroy and Governor of the said province to select from among the substantive prefects of the whole province the man they think best fitted for the post of prefect of YUNNANFU, and let the post vacated by the prefect of their choice be given to SUNG NGO.

(3) The Commandant of the PEKING Gendamerie reports the capture by his force of five out of six of a gang of counterfeiters who had been selling and making forged patents of nobility rank and posthumous honours. The prisoners are to be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentenced according to the laws of the land, and strict search should be made for CHANG CH'UN-SHE, the member still at large, so that not one may be allowed to escape the meshes of the law. The said Board will attend to this matter.

(4) The same high officer also reports the capture by his force of another leagued band of desperadoes, whereby eight members out of nine have been captured. The prisoners are to be handed to the said Board for trial and sentence, and strict search should be made for HSIANG HSIAOU still at large.

(5) K'UEI LIN is appointed prefect of HUANGCHOU, HUPEH province.

(6) WU CHAO-PIN is appointed Brigadier-General of the military division of NANYANG, in the province of HUNAN.

16TH FEBRUARY.

No papers of interest.

17TH FEBRUARY.

SHIP-BUILDING IN THE FOOCHOW ARSENAL AND DOCK.

Yu Lu, an officer of the Premier button, brevet rank, a President of one of the Six Boards of PEKING, cashiered but retained in office as Tartar-General of FOOCHOW and Commissioner of the FOOCHOW Arsenal and Dockyard, reports upon the official trial trip of the ship of war CHIENCING, built at
the Foochow dock and shipbuilding yard. The ship's keel was laid in 1893 by the then Viceroy of Ming Chê, T'an Chun-lin, and was destined to be a transport to carry grain for the Government, and the price of building her was estimated at Tls. 220,000, odd. The length of the Chien-ch'ing between perpendiculars is 252 feet 7 inches, and breadth of beam 34 feet, 1 inch. depth of hold, 25 feet, 1 inch, and burthen 1,900 tons. The depth at the bow of the ship, when loaded, is 14 feet and 16 feet at the stern (all calculated in Chinese feet). In April, 1895, the engines of the Chien-ch'ing were put into her, consisting of compound horizontal engines, with four boilers, two large and two small, the indicated horse-power of the engines being 1,600. It was at first intended to have finished the vessel this year, but, owing to the urgent need of ships in the Peiyang, work was hastened on her. Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, has since turned the vessel into a training ship for the cadets of the Tientsin Naval Academy and changed her name to that of Tung-ch'i. In consequence of the ship being taken over by the Peiyang authorities, the latter sent the sum of Tls. 180,000 to memorialist on account of the ship. At the trial trip of this ship in August last year, the vessel was put under the command of Commander Wang I-p'eng, Captain of the Fêch'o, sloop-of-war, memorialist being also on board with the Assistant Commissioner of the dockyard, the expectant Taotai, Yang Chen-yi. At a pressure of 100 pounds and 84 revolutions the Chien-ch'ing's recorded a speed of 114 knots, and it was demonstrated that with better fuel she could be made to make 13 knots an hour. When it was found that everything had worked satisfactorily, the ship was turned over to the command of Captain Li Ho, of the Peiyang navy, who with his crew had come down to Foochow to receive her, and take her up to Port Arthur; she will be armed in the North. Another vessel, the Fuch'ou, which had been completed and commissioned for service in 1895, has also been taken over by the Peiyang naval authorities, and her armament of quick-firers and new guns has been returned to the arsenal, and, it is intended to make them form part of the armament of a protected cruiser already built at this yard. This vessel is to be named the Fuau and her engines and boilers are all ready for placing inside of her. It only remains to place the steel protection for her battery, and work is proceeding rapidly on her in this connection. The cruiser Yuank'ai stationed at Ningpo, is now being overhauled and repaired in this dockyard. As soon as the new European staff engaged for the arsenal and dockyard shall have all arrived [a large number came out from France in March of this year—Translator] memorialist intends to set to work at once to build new works, foundries, etc., according to present day requirements, in this Naval yard, in order to be able to construct, equip, and prepare for sea ships equal to the best cruisers and men-of-war of modern navies.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

18th February.

No papers of interest.

19th February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will proceed with the Court to-morrow forenoon at 10 o'clock to the Tzekiang Pavilion to entertain the visiting Mongol Princes and nobles and to witness athletic games and trials of strength between Manchu and Mongol wrestlers and athletes.

20th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'en Pao-chin, Governor of Hu-nan, sends us the following denunciation of certain unworthy and incapable officers under his jurisdiction:—T'sin Erh-tan, district magistrate of Yungting-hsien, is spoken of as having a muddled intellect and making himself ridiculous whenever he moves in any matter; Sieh Fa-yung, acting police magistrate of Huangmou, in the district of Hsiang-tan, is accused of lack of control over the actions of his subordinates, causing much comment amongst the people in regard to their conduct. Tai Shu-chih, police magistrate of Liangtien, in the sub-prefecture of Tênglinchou is accused of frivolous conduct and possessing a very mediocre reputation. All the above named are to be forthwith cashiered and dismissed from service. Shan Chia-yung, district magistrate of Tungtsao-hsien, is stated to have fallen into a state of decay as to character and ability and to be incapable of attending to his duties properly. Let the said magistrate be ordered forthwith to resign his post and retire from the public service. Kuo Peng-yun, district magistrate of Yuanchianghsien is accused of being weak both as to character and ability and unsuited to the locality over which he has been placed, but owing to his being a literary graduate of high rank his
education is of superior merit and he therefore can be utilised by being transferred to the rank of a district director of studies to await appointment from the Board of Rites. Finally, Ku Yu-ch'eng, district magistrate of Shanhuhsien, is accused of lazy conduct and of being neglectful of his duties. He is forthwith ordered to retire from his present post and await further appointment, in order to serve as a warning to others. The Boards concerned are to note thereon.

(2) The same high official reports the case of Chien Shou-ch'ing, deceased, formerly district magistrate of Hsiaoyinhsien, who when in office failed to make good to the provincial treasury a large sum in taxes on land and grain in his district, and although he is now dead his heirs and assigns have also failed to liquidate the said debt, and asking that an edict be issued authorising the usual steps to be taken for the recovery of the same according to law. The sums due by the said deceased official were as follows:—Tls. 5,290, odd, for land tax; Tls. 1,120, odd, for miscellaneous taxes; Tribute rice intended to be transported to Peking by the canal boats during the year 1894, valued at a sum of Tls. 5,311, odd, and Tls. 511, of the appropriation for yamen expenses. None of the above debts had been discharged either by the defaulting officer or his heir after his death. In consequence of this, the then Governor of Hu-nan asked and obtained the permission of the Throne to cashier the man and allow him a certain period to repay the above to the provincial treasury. At the time the said accused official succeeded in repaying Tls. 700 odd, and his family still owe the provincial treasury a total sum of Tls. 4,610. We hereby command the Governor of Peking to search and find out what property belonged to the late deceased official so that it may be confiscated to government to help in paying back the man's indebtedness. As for the deceased official's family let steps be taken to compel their departure from Hunan and find out what property belonged to the former province be seized by the authorities on behalf of the treasury.

21st February
IMPERIAL DECREE

We have received the report of Sung Ngao, Superintendent of Customs at Shahuk'ou, (an outlet in the Great Wall, north of Peking and meaning 'the place where the tiger was killed'), announcing the expiration of his year of office and transmitting a sum of money consisting of surplus taxes collected at the post over and above the set limit required yearly from the Shahuk'ou Customs. With reference to the said surplus, consisting of Tls. 8,074, let the amount be handed over to the Keeper of the Privy Urse: there being no necessity for rewarding the said Superintendent with these fruits of his energetic management of the said Customs. The Minister concerned will take note of the matter.

(2) Hsi Lu, Pu Liu, and Fu Ming are hereby appointed Assistant Chamberlains as a mark of extra grace on our part.

[Note:—An Assistant Chamberlain is usually Captain General of one of the Eight Banners into which Manchu, Mongol and Chinese Bannermen (Hauchun) are respectively divided, and he and his colleagues take turns in commanding the Palace Guards of the Imperial Household troops.—Translator.]

22nd February.

THE LAW REGARDING THE SENDING OF ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, reports the result of the trial of a certain Chien Ting-pih, an expectant District Magistrate of the 4th class, who had been found guilty of the crime of sending anonymous letters to the Governor of Peking, the Provincial Judge, and the Treasurer of Chihli, containing false and foul charges against a connection by marriage, of whom the said writer of anonymous letters appeared to have been jealous, with the confessed object of creating the suspicion of the high authorities against his alleged enemy. The case was transferred to Tientsin by the Governor of Peking, Hu Yu-fen, owing to the fact of the victim of the accused ex-magistrate being in that city in charge of a likin station. Upon receiving the despatch of Hu Yu-fen, the memorialist immediately deputed the investigation of the matter to Shen Chia-p'en, prefect of Tientsin, and the following reliable evidence has been extracted from the guilty party:—

The accused Cheng Ting-pih is a native of Shao-shing, Ch'kiang, and was an officer who had obtained his first steps by purchase, from which by successive promotions he attained the rank of an expectant magistrate of the 4th class, being relegated to await employment in Honan province. He had also the decoration of the Plain Blue Button. In 1877 while in Honan the accused somehow got an appointment to be acting magistrate of Lotinghsien, Honan,
but subsequently betrayed his limited education and inability at the usual annual examination of magistrates held by the Governor and Treasurer of Honan. In consequence of this Cheng Ting-pih was denounced to the Throne and degraded to the rank of a deputy magistrate or its equivalent—that of gaolwarden in a prefect's yamen. In 1881 the accused got his name inserted in the list of deserving officers who served through the campaign in Kuldja (III) after the reconquest of Chinese Turkestan to the Imperial Rule, and got his rank of full magistrate restored to him as a consequence, with the exception of awaiting preferment from the Board of Civil Appointments instead of being sent to Honan as expectant magistrate. In 1895 the accused came to Tientsin and through the usual "go-betweens" was engaged to and legally married to a daughter of the late Chang Lin, Second Captain of the Huhsiu battalion, near Peking. At the time the accused got acquainted with one Huang Chen, an expectant deputy magistrate, a connection by marriage. Shortly after his marriage, his mother-in-law, who was reported to be quite well off came and lived with her daughter the wife of Cheng Ting-pih; but eventually for some reason or other removed again to Huang Chen's (another son-in-law) house, and with herself she removed also everything she possessed to the latter's house. This fired the envy and jealousy of Huang against Huang whom the former suspected of having reviled his character to the mutual mother-in-law, so that filled with distrust of the ultimate views of her new son-in-law, the old lady had moved herself off from his house and settled at the older son-in-law's house. The matter was further aggravated by the old lady's refusing to lend any more money to her new son-in-law. Actuated by feelings of revenge and jealousy the accused decided upon a trip to Peking to petition the Board of Civil Appointments for preferment and seized the opportunity of sending an anonymous despatch to Hu Yü-fen, Governor of Peking accusing Huang Chen of incest, etc., with the object, as the accused declared, of "raising suspicion against Huang's character" so that he would be made to lose a lucrative post in the likin service. To make things "sure," Cheng also wrote anonymous letters, which he sent by post from Peking to the Provincial Treasurer and Judge at Paotingfu. The latter however, treated the anonymous communication with silence and took no notice of them. But last year in August Cheng Ting-pih was caught in his own meshes; for when going a second time to the Governor of Peking's yamen he presented a petition praying for a new appointment. His handwriting struck the said Governor as peculiar and remarkably like that written by the anonymous writer of the infamous letters of accusation against Huang Chen. So following up the clue the said Governor caused Cheng to be placed in custody and examined, whereupon the whole infamous scheme was brought to light. The law demands that the writer of anonymous letters to officials resulting in fatal consequences be punished by death by strangulation, but as in this case nothing resulted from Cheng Ting-pih's anonymous communications but discovery of his own infamous scheme, with addition of loss of rank he has been punished one degree less, that is to say, bambooed 100 blows and banishment for three years. As he was an official and the afore should have known better, the sentence has been made a degree harsher by sending him to hard labour on the post roads in Chinese Turkestan. — Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments deliberate thereon and report to us.

23rd February.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCES.

His Majesty granted farewell audiences this morning, (preparatory to their leaving for their newly appointed posts) to Yün Tsu-yi, Treasurer of Chekiang, Wo Häng-ngeh, Assistant Commandant of the Banner troops and military colonists of Kuldja, Yü San, Manchu Brigade-General of Chap'ur, Chekiang coast, and to Tsai Chan and Tê Yuan, Commandants respectively of the Manchu garrisons of Kaishe, Liaotung Peninsula, and the city of Honan. No papers of interest.

24th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The other day the Censor P'ăng Shê denounced Sung K'un, Governor of Kueichou, for accepting bribes and other irregularities incompatible with the high office he holds, etc. We then delegated Sung Fan, Viceroy of the Yün-kuei provinces, and Huang Huai-sen, Governor of Yunnan, to investigate into the above charges. The joint report of these officers is now before us in which it is stated that the charges made by the said Censor have not been proved, but that when in 1895 there was a bad harvest in Kueichou, T'ăng Shu-sen, the then Treasurer of
the province, failed to report the matter to his superior nor did Sung K'un cause strict enquiries to be made as to the seriousness of the threatened famine, nor did he urge upon his subordinates the necessity of a speedy and thorough investigation. Sung K'un, therefore, without waiting for details memorialised the Throne on the subject of the threatened famine in his province, and accordingly got permission to receive from Chihli pecuniary relief, which upon arrival he promiscuously caused to be scattered and distributed amongst the alleged famine districts, irrespective of the actual conditions which governed separate villages. Furthermore, Sung K'un has been found blamable for giving too much liberty to his yemen usher, Ho Liu, whose conduct with a certain Liang Ping-ch'un, an expectant assistant magistrate, has caused much comment in Kueiyangfu, the provincial capital. The accused Governor is therefore handed over to the Board for determination of an adequate penalty. As for the late Treasurer of Kueichou, Tang Shu-sen, above noted, who it now transpires had been guilty of gross misconduct and ignorance of the wants of the people, although he is dead, still he must be further punished by having all his rank and titles taken away from his name. The civil officials who associated themselves with the usher of the accused Governor have shown no self-respect and have disgraced the service. We therefore command that the above-named Liang Ping-ch'un, assistant magistrate of Ping Mei-liesien, and Liu Pao-hou, district magistrate of Chunyihisien, be both cashiered and dismissed the service.

25th February.

THE SHANGHAI TAOTAISHIP.

A postscript memorial by Liu K'un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces, reports that upon receiving notice of his Majesty's appointment of Liu Ch'i-hsiang, Manager of the Kiangnan Arsenal, to the Shanghai Taotaiship, or the Su-Sung-Tai Intendancy of Kiangsu province, memorialist having regard to the great importance of Shanghai as the centre of an immense international trade, and the consequent responsibilities of the post, has thought it best to instruct the new incumbent Liu Ch'i-hsiang to make no delay in taking over the seals of his new office, which his long residence in Shanghai and intimate knowledge of the port peculiarly fit him for. Orders, were also transmitted to Liu Hai-huan, substantive Taotaiship of Chinkiang and then acting Taotaiship of Shanghai to hand over the latter post as soon as possible to his successor. Furthermore, owing to the extensive improvements and additions intended to be made in the said Kiangnan Arsenal in the near future and the proposed manufacture of modern small arms and the casting of heavy ordnance according to the latest inventions in that establishment, memorialist has thought it inadvisable to appoint a new man to take Liu Ch'i-hsiang's post in that arsenal, and has accordingly retained the latter in his old post, hence the said officer's official designation will be Taotaiship of Shanghai and Superintendent of the Kiangnan Arsenal, in the future.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

26th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Once in every three years there is made out for our perusal and approbation a list of our Ministers and officers resulting from an examination into their official records during that time, and this is one of the means by which the Imperial Government endeavours to stimulate the emulation of all Manchu and Chinese officers of the metropolis, high and low. And those who have distinguished themselves by most careful and diligent attention to their several duties we reward by handing them over to the Boards for the determination of extraordinary favours at our hands in order to make them examples of most favoured treatment on the part of the Throne. The time for the examination into the records of our Ministers and officers during the last three years having now arrived we received, this morning, a list from the Board of Civil Appointments praying us to look into the detailed records therein contained. We find that Prince Kung has been distinguishing himself by extraordinary exertions in the performance of his duties, and we commend him for his equitable and loyal attention thereto, thereby standing at the head of the list. By his diligence and exertions, day and night during a most trying crisis of our history, he has proved himself a Pillar of the State, and he is hereby ordered to be handed over to the Imperial Clan Court for the determination of extraordinary rewards. With reference to Shih Tu, Prince of Li, 1st Order; Li Hung-tao, Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Appointments; Weng Tung-ho,
President of the Board of Revenue; Kang Yi, President of the Board of Works; and Ch'ien Ying-p'u, President of the Court of Censors, who have all distinguished themselves by strict attention to their duties by day and far into the night; by uniform courtesy and harmony amongst their colleagues, and yet performing their duties to the utmost extent, and by diligence and care in everything that came in their way during the three years under review, we hereby command them to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate rewards. As for Li Hung-chang, Senior Grand Secretary, we have for very many years leaned upon and confided in him, while he, on the other hand, has never shirked his duties on the score of fatigue. We hereby hand him to the said Board for the determination of adequate rewards. With reference to Wang Wen-hao, Viceroy of Chihli, he has distinguished himself by the success in which he has performed his duties and in the care of the country surrounding the Imperial capital. He is hereby rewarded by the cancellation of the black mark against his name by which he was degraded three steps in rank but retained in office. Liu Kun-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces, whose ripe experience in the service of his country has been a special help to the Throne, and whose shoulders bear lightly the responsibilities of a most important post, we hereby commend him to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate rewards. As for the rest of those contained in the list before us, they are hereby commanded to continue as before in their several posts.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty granted the usual New Year audience to the foreign Ministers in the capital, at the Wên-hua Throne-hall, this morning. The foreign Ministers present were Colonel Denby, United States Envoy; Mons. Gérard, French Envoy; Sir Claude MacDonald, British Envoy; Baron von Heyking, German Envoy; Myneher Knobel, Netherlands Envoy; Mons. Michel, Belgium Chargé d'Affaires; Mons. Pavlov, Russian Chargé d'Affaires; Signor Vitale, Italian Chargé d'Affaires; Mr. Uchida, Japanese Chargé d'Affaires; Senor Soliveres, Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, and Doctor von Rosthorn, Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires.

THE COPPER CASH QUESTION IN HUPHEH.

Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hu-Kuang provinces, and Tan Chi-hsün, Governor of Hupheh, jointly report the scarcity of copper cash as a medium of exchange in that province, which has been, of late, a crying evil to trade and the convenience of the masses. Since 1887 when at the command of the Board of Revenue, the Paowu mint of Hupheh, began coining copper cash, it was kept running for only one year and then stopped, in consequence of which copper cash has become scarcer and scarcer of late years while its value has leaped forward by immense strides and bounds through the cessation of the supply, while the demand has been as great as or even greater than before. Added to which owing to the short-sighted policy of the high authorities of neighbouring provinces the door has been closed against the export and the free inter-provincial circulation of cash. As Hupheh is a province situated in a central position in the Yangtze Valley and receives and sends forth commodities to the North and South of her frontiers, and has always been the point of gathering for traders and merchants from all parts of the Empire, it is self-evident that it would be to the advantage of all for the free circulation of copper cash, instead of copying the conservative policy of the other provinces which seek to guard the interests of their own territories to the exclusion of the rest of the world; but that would never do for a province like Hupheh. Furthermore, taxes on land, tribute rice, likin and other revenues must be paid, for the most part in copper cash: hence if no steps be taken now to coin this money, there will be no other remedy for relieving the wants of the people. The establishment of proper mints is therefore a supreme necessity at the present moment in order to fill the void that has been and is being made wider and wider as time passes. The new copper cash will also be a necessary adjunct to the silver dollars and subsidiary coinage of the province. The memorialists have already given this subject much consideration and thought, and have therefore come to the conclusion that it would be much more economical in the long run to order foreign dies and machinery for making the proposed copper currency, instead of resorting to the old native methods of manufacture. For the old
The way of making *cash* not only turns out coarse and badly shaped *cash* but will cause loss to the government. The last native-made *cash* cost the government a loss of nearly twenty per cent, although the price of foreign copper and spelter bars was then much cheaper than the market price ruling at present. At that time the price for every *picul* (100 catties) of foreign copper was Tls. 12, odd, and foreign spelter sold at Tls. 5, odd, per *picul*. In the winter of 1885 the foreign copper bought for the mints was paid for at the rate of Tls. 20 plus several *mao* per *picul*. The rate ruling just now is Tls. 21, odd, per *picul* while spelter has risen in value to Tls. 7, odd, per *picul*. Hence, with the present exorbitant rate, if the native way of making copper *cash* be adhered to the loss to government will amount to over thirty per cent, which alone would be an obstruction to the coining of copper *cash* to relieve the congested state of the market. Furthermore, it must be remembered that the specific gravity of native-made *cash* is much inferior to that made after the foreign style, while the copper in each *cash* is less, without considering the question of manual labour which is far more expensive than working by machinery. In a word, the native made *cash* is in every way inferior to the foreign machinery-made *cash* which is both beautifully made and costs less labour. Moreover, although the samples given of native made *cash* seem passably fair enough, those made in bulk are coarse and are an eyesore to the people who must use them. Memorialists, therefore, determined to raise for the nonce the necessary funds for purchasing and transporting a cargo of copper and spelter and send it to Canton to the mints there for making a supply of copper *cash* for Hupeh province. The weight of each *cash* corresponds to that recommended last year in July by Liu K’un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang-Kiang provinces, sanctioned by the Board of Revenue, and confirmed by special edict, namely, seven *fen*, or candareens, each. But as the Canton mints are manufacturing *cash* for several other provinces also, the proportion turned out each day by them for Hupeh is necessarily small, and therefore subject to much delay and also insufficient to meet the demands of the people of Hupeh. Moreover, the steps taken to obtain the necessary supply of copper and spelter and the getting of the manufactured *cash* to Hupeh are most roundabout and troublesome, viz.:—the copper and spelter are bought in Shanghai; are then transported to Canton, and then returned to Hupeh, after being struck into *cash*, entailing much expense and delay. The simplest way and the cheapest would, therefore, be to erect a foreign mint in Wuchang itself, where all the *cash* that may be wanted can be easily turned out off-hand and without delay. Of course the expense of setting up such a mint would require a large sum of money—more than what would be required for a native mint; but, the innovation would be well worth trouble and expense for then it would make it easy to coin *cash* cheaply for ever, when once the necessary machinery had been set up in Hupeh and the advantages to the people would be without limit. The memorialists having this idea in view have, after repeated consultations with the Provincial Treasurer and Taotaia for raising the requisite money, decided to employ the money collected by the second named memorialist two years ago for building a factory for the manufacture of breach-loading two men *jingals* (tsaich ‘iang) and mountain guns, which that official when acting Viceroy of Hu-Kuang obtained the sanction of the Throne to establish. As there is no urgent necessity for establishing the above named factory at once, while the *cash* mint is an ever pressng necessity, memorialists would ask the permission of the Throne to employ this money for establishing a foreign mint. They intend to order the Hanyang Iron Works to make the large sized plant for the mint while the small pieces which cannot be made in Hanyang can be ordered from the foreign engineering works at Shanghai. In that case the expenses of establishing the new mint will be reduced to a minimum. The memorialists can also engage experienced native artisans to work at the new mint which will be built on a spot in the western portion of the Wuchang Arsenal, and which is the original site of the old Paowu mint. Memorialists having sent the expectant district magistrate Chang Tsing and Lieutenant Hwang Fu-hua to Shanghai to make enquiries as to the probable expense needed to obtain dies, etc., from foreign manufacturers, received a report that the prices demanded by English and German firms were too high while the most economical were those tendered by the American Trading Company which ordered from San Francisco the necessary disc-forming, stamping, cutting and other machinery, whilst the time promised for the arrival of the same is much speedier than that agreed to by British and German firms. The entire price demanded was Tls. 32,360, odd, and the time...
to arrive at Wuchang within six months from date of order. Besides the above, the pumps, trucks and smelting moulds, etc., ordered from Shanghai foundries amounted to Tls. 1,700 in all.—

Rescript: Granted. The Board of Revenue is to take note.

27th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Wen Po, Police Censor of the North City, and his colleagues, praying for an extra grant of grain for the poor refugees in that vicinity. It says that the refuge at Liang-chianyuen, under the management of the Pehshan charitable institution, has been considerably embarrassed and its scope limited by the want of sufficient rice to feed the starving women and girls who apply for shelter at that refuge. Although the Throne has already graciously granted 300 shih of rice to that refuge for winter charity, this amount has been found insufficient owing to a large influx of female refugees to Peking during the winter, etc. As a mark of extra bounty we hereby command that an extraordinary grant of 200 shih of rice be given to the said refuge, and the said Censor and gentry having charge thereof are commanded to distribute the same so as to afford the best relief to all concerned. The Board of Revenue is commanded to take note of the above.

(2) With reference to the Triennial Examination into the official records of all our Ministers and officers, we have noticed that amongst those belonging to the 3rd grade and under the Metropolitan officials, Chang Lun-kuei, Assistant Sub-Director of the Imperial Astronomical Board, and Li Té-ch’ang, Vice-Director of the Imperial College of Physicians, were not present before us on that occasion. They are therefore commanded to explain why they were absent from the ranks on such an important occasion, and the Board of Civil Appointments is hereby commanded to investigate the matter and report to us. The others belonging to the grades named above are commanded to continue their several duties as formerly.

28th February.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Court of Sacrificial Worship reports that the 20th of March next is to be the date dividing the winter from spring, on which occasion it is customary to sacrifice at the Altar of the Sun. We hereby command P’ei Ching to perform the usual ceremonies on that day.

(2) The same Court reports that the worship of Lake K’un-ming and the Dragon King falls on the 23rd of March next. We hereby command Ch’ung Kuang to worship at both places on that day.

(3) The same Court announces that on the same day sacrificial worship should be conducted at the Huijchi Temple and at the temple of the River god. We hereby command Li Shan to conduct worship at both places on that day.

(4) Wang Wén-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, announces the death at his home in Tientsin of a high military official, whose military record was a valuable one. The deceased officer Ts’ao K’ê-chung, who until recently held the post of a Naval Commander-in-Chief of Kuangtung, served at an early age in the army fighting against the Taiping rebels in Hupeh and Anhui provinces. He then served under the Manchu General To Lung-h against the Nien-fei rebels, and when the Kansu Ma-hommedans rebelled he was ordered with his command to that province to suppress the rebellion. The deceased gained fame as a loyal and courageous officer and his military record is filled with brilliant deeds of bravery and dash. We therefore accentuate our admiration of this officer by commanding that his family receive the extraordinary benefits granted by government for the families of such officers as have met their deaths in camp through excessive labour and fatigue, and we further command that his military deeds be recorded in the dynastic history, and a memorial temple be built in his honour at Tientsin and in the provinces where he served.

(5) We have received the joint memorial of the Directors-General of the Imperial Granaries and the Governor of Peking, praying that extra grants of rice be given to the refuge and gruel station at Wangshuyuan, T’ungchou, owing to a much larger number of famine refugees and poor than usual during past years having frequented the said station this winter, in consequence of which the 1,500 shih of rice first granted by decree to the Wangshuyuan gruel station have been found to be insufficient, etc. We hereby order another grant of 300 shih to be handed to the officers in charge of the said station. The Board and yamen concerned will take note thereon.

(6) Sung K’un, Governor of Kueichou, requests that special post mortem honours be accorded Taotai Kao Yi-lien, who had done considerable service as an organiser of country militia serving against Kueichou insurgents and aborigines. The memorialist
Kao Yi-lien, by the said Governor is hereby preferred on behalf of the deceased Taotai, Kao Yi-lien, by the said Governor is hereby refused.

(7) Ch'ung K'un is appointed Chief (Manchu) Supervisor of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

1st March.

IMPEROIAL DECREES.

(1) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports that he has had delivered over to him by the officers of the Prince of Ch'üan's household a number of criminals who had been caught charged with kidnapping and holding to ransom a certain trader of Peking. The substance of the case is reported to be as follows:—In January last a timber merchant named Tung Chung-jen, the owner of the Kuang-feng timber hong, while returning to his own home from paying a business visit at the palace of the Prince of Ch'üan was waylaid on the road by some sixteen persons, many of whom belonged to the retinue and household of the said Prince. These men carried off the said timber merchant and then demanded a large ransom for his release. It was eventually found that the raid had been made by a watchman of the Prince's palace named Chao Ch'uan-hsing and others. Upon being arrested the said watchman was tried by the said Commandant and the names of his confederates extorted from the prisoner. The gendarmes then arrested the giewa (member of the collateral branch of the Imperial Clan) To Tseng and two others, and also summoned by warrant a certain Jen Lang-shan alias Jen Tê-lu, the Chief Eunuch of the said Prince's household on the ground of complicity in the said abduction. The victim of the abduction was at that time seriously ill and so could not appear to confront his abductors. The evidence of the prisoners being mainly wandering and made at random they were remanded to await the recovery of the said timber merchant. The eunuch and five others belonging to the Prince's household were sent back to the palace with the request that they be placed under surveillance, while the remaining eight person were sent for confinement to the Board of Punishments or to the Imperial Clan Court for a strict investigation into their case. We hereby command that all the prisoners be tried and punished according to the laws of the land and that those who are members of the Prince's household be also handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and punishment like the others. The case, however, is to wait until the said timber merchant be so far recovered as to be able to appear in court to testify against the criminals. As for the two men concerned in the same conspiracy but who have so far escaped arrest, let strict search be made for them and when captured be then be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and punishment according to law.

(2) The Board of War is commanded to deliberate over the list of deserving officers of the Peking Gendarmerie who have distinguished themselves by diligence and courage in arresting robbers and desperate characters and whose names have been given us in obedience to our decree commanding the same.

(3) Wang Hsi-fan is appointed a Reader of the Hanlin Academy and Li Tien-lin is appointed an Expositor of the same institution.

2nd March.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty the Emperor will return tomorrow from the Lake Palaces to partake of the sacrificial meats with the Court, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes. H.E. the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang has asked and obtained a leave of absence from Court duties for five days.

No news of interest.

3rd March.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will return from the Lake Palace to Peking to morrow at 6.30 a.m. to partake of the sacrificial meats, after which the Court will return to the Lakes.

SILKS, ETC., SENT BY THE HANGCHOW GOVERNMENT LOOMS TO PEKING

Shu Chen, Superintendent of the Hangchow Government Silk Looms, sends his annual report of the quantity of silks, satins, etc., and fine cotton cloths manufactured during 1896 for the use of His Majesty and the Imperial Household and for the Board at Peking During the year under review memorialist having previously arranged with the Likin Bureau of Hangchow for the requisite funds to work his looms for the purpose of sending the usual annual supplies to Peking, got a monthly grant from the said Bureau of 10,000 strings of copper cash (one "string" of cash equals
1,000.) This cask memorialist turned into silver sycee at market rates. In August 1896 memorialist was able to send under charge of trustworthy deputies to Peking 300 pieces of silks, pongees and raw silks, for the special use of Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress and Empress Dowager; 100 pieces of the same stuffs for use of Court officials, 764 pieces of silks, pongees and raw silks for the use of the inmates of the Palaces; 200 catties weight of silk threads and floss for stitching the clothes of the same; 1,000 pieces of fine cotton cloth for the Imperial Households of their Imperial Majesties and, 1,000 pieces of silks, satins, pongees, and raw silks for storage in the godowns of the Board of Revenue, for government gifts, etc. The above have already been delivered at their destinations and the fact has also been recorded. After employing the necessary artisans and weavers at the looms, memorialist was able to send a similar quantity of silks, satins, pongees, etc., like those mentioned above to Peking, the bearers of the stuffs having started overland from Hangchow in the month of December last with instructions to deliver the goods as usual to the officers of the Imperial Household department and the Board of Revenue. The total sent by the Hangchow looms, including both times, aggregated 4,550 pieces of silks, satins, etc., 400 catties weight of silk thread and floss and 2,000 pieces of fine cotton clothes. A detailed account of expenditures in regard to the same will be sent in another memorial. — Rescript: Let the yamen concerned take note.

4th March.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

The rotation for the periodical inspection of the Imperial armies in the various provinces has this year fallen upon the provinces of Fukien, Chêkiang, Kuangtung and Kuangsi. We therefore hereby appoint Pien Pao-ch’uan, Viceroy of Min-chê province, to inspect the troops in the various military circuits of Fukien province; Liao Shou-feng, Governor of Chêkiang, to inspect the troops in the circuit of Shantung in reply to an enquiry from the Governor of Shantung in reply to an enquiry from the Governor of Shantung, and Shih Min-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, to inspect the troops in Kuangsi province. The said high officers are commanded to go through these special duties with care and diligence, for the army is one of the most important departments of the Empire. We annually expend immense quantities of treasure on our troops because by their means we have to prepare to prevent aggression, and encroachments from without. Of late years our Viceroy and Governors have been in the habit of looking upon this duty of inspection as so much writing on paper. Hence the army has fallen day by day into worse plight, neglect and inefficiency. This is in truth failing in their duty to us and the confidence we have reposed in them. We would, therefore, once more, exhort the Viceroy and Governors to be more alive to their duties and use every care in examining the troops under them, and to denounce truthfully to us the officers of regiments which have proved themselves to be incapable, weak, old or ill-disciplined. No leniency must be allowed.

5th March.
OFFICIAL ETIQUETTE.

Liu Shu-tang, Governor of Honan, reports that he has received the petition of one Lu Ch’ing-tang, a native of Chining-chou, Shantung, a cadet by purchase of the Imperial Academy, who bought the rank of department magistrate and got appointed by a decree of the last Chinese year to the department magistracy connected with the prefectural city of Kueitê-fu, Honan. It seems that when the said officer arrived at Kueitê-fu, to take over the seals of his office, he found upon enquiry that the post was inside the limits of 500 li (185 miles) distance from his native city of Chining-chou, in Shantung province. The etiquette in the provinces is that an officer appointed to a substantive civil post lying inside of 500 li from the said officer’s native city, the said officer is bound by law to report the case to his superior officers and ask to be transferred to a similar post at a point beyond the 500 li noted above. As a matter of fact, confirmed subsequently by a communication from the Governor of Shantung in reply to an enquiry from the memorialist, it appeared that Chining-chou is only 320 li (106 miles) distant from Kueitê-fu and that the said department magistrate has acted properly in reporting the case to memorialist. In view of these, therefore memorialist has in consultation with his colleagues, the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, decided to effect a transfer between the said Lu Ch’ing-tang and Li Jui-tu’ung, department magistracy of the prefectural city of Huai-fu, in the same province. This will bring the former officer to a post considerably further than the 500 li prescribed by official etiquette. — Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.
6th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Chang Ying-huan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Minister of the Tsungli Yamen, is hereby appointed Special Ambassador to the Court of St. James to congratulate H. M. the Queen of Great Britain on our behalf on the completion of H. M.'s reign of sixty years next June.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty granted audience this morning to Chang Ying-huan in the Grand Council Chamber, when the latter returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him.

No papers of interest.

7th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wang Yu-tsao, Treasurer of Szechuan, is hereby promoted to be Governor of Kueichou. He is further commanded to proceed straight to his post, and not come up to the capital for his audience.

(2) Yu Ch'ang, a former Treasurer whose period of mourning has expired, is hereby appointed to be Treasurer of Szechuan vice Wang Yu-tsao promoted.

(3) We have received the report of Ting Ch'un, Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan, and Ts. 3,802, odd, composing the surplus received from duties over and above the limit annually required by law. The said surplus is hereby ordered to be handed to the keeper of the Privy Purse. As for the memorialist's prayer that a reduction of the amount fixed by law, required annually as a surplus, let the Board of Revenue report thereon.

8th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Ta Lai is appointed, by special grace, to go on duty at the Ch'ientsing gate of the Palace.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Yu Ch'ang, the newly appointed Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan had an audience of H.I.M. the Emperor in the Grand Council Chamber, this morning.

No papers of interest.

9th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Police Censor of the North City, Wen Po, asking rewards for deserving officers of the ward police whose courage and daring secured the capture of a number of desperate criminals who had fled into a neighbouring district, let the Board of Civil Appointments report on the list so presented.

(2) As Kuei Hsiang and Cha-la-feng are now on duty at the Southern Hunting Park, Chin Ch'i is appointed acting Captain-General of the Hanchun Bordered White Banner Corps, and Jung Lu is appointed acting Captain-General of the Blue Mongol Banner Corps.

(3) Fén Ch'ê, Ming Hui, Kuang Chung and Sê-p'u-ching being on duty at the Southern Hunting Park, the posts of Lieutenant-Generals of the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner, Bordered White Mongol Banner, Bordered Red Mongol Banner, and Bordered Red Hanchun Banner Corps, are given ad interim to Kuan Hsiang, Tsai Tsê, Yung Lung and Ying Hsin to take charge of.

(4) Yi Kung is appointed acting Commander of the Imperial Escort during the absence of Fén Ch'ê at the Southern Hunting Park.

(5) A K'e-tan is appointed Senior Lieutenant-General of the Left Wing of the Van Guard Division of the Imperial Guards during the absence of Fén Ch'ê in the Southern Hunting Park.

(6) The officers mentioned in this list recommended for promotion by the various Boards in accordance with the triennial records of the Metropolitan Government, are commanded to fill the posts in the list herein named [then follow a number of appointments and the names of the appointees, aggregating 280 persons.]

(7) Yang Chung-lien is appointed Taotai of Hotung Intendancy, Shansi province.

(8) Chü Huang-chi is appointed Chief Supervisor of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

10th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Boards of Civil Appointments and of Revenue are commanded to deliberate upon the proposition of the Censor P'êng Shê to compel persons buying the privilege of being appointed to first vacancies as district magistrates in the provinces to pay the full fees instead of, as heretofore, a considerable reduction.

(2) Sung An is appointed Brigadier-General (Manchu) of Malanchen together with a seat on the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department in Peking.

11th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

With reference to those of sixty-five years of age and above, commencing with Chin K'usi, who were recommended to us
by the Board of Civil Appointments as having distinguished themselves during the past three years for energy and diligence in their duties and who were introduced to us this morning, it is our pleasure that they be commanded to continue their duties in their present posts in the various Boards.

12th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie (Jung Lu, also Assistant Grand Secretary of State, Member of the New Ministry of War, President of the Board of War, and Minister of the Tsungli Yamen), giving a list of the deserving officers of his force who captured the notorious Peking desperado and chief of brigands Kang-hsiao-pa-erh, who was with difficulty traced to Newchwan, last winter, arrested at that port, brought back to Peking, and sentenced to execution by the Board of Punishments, lately. The following are the names of the deserving officers and the promotions accorded to each, by special Imperial grace, in order to stimulate their brother officers and men of the gendarmerie to greater earnestness and diligence in their duties:— Wu K'ung-lin, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Right Battalion, Peking Gendarmerie, is hereby ordered to be handed to the Board of War for special promotion; Wu Hsiao-chang and Wang Wei-huan, Second Captains, brevet First Captains and decorated with the brevet dark blue button and peacock feathers are rewarded with the privilege of assuming the brevet button of Majors as soon as they shall have obtained the substantive rank of brevet Second Captains; Wu Ta-li, First Lieutenant and brevet Second Captain, is to be rewarded with the brevet of First Captain as soon as he has obtained the post of Second Captain. Hui Wei-kuei and Liu Chen-kang, expectant First Lieutenants, are to be rewarded with the rank of brevet Second Captains as soon as they shall have obtained the substantive posts of their present rank. The Board of War is commanded to put on record the promotions noted above.

(2) We have received another memorial from the same high officer reporting the capture by his force of six members of a gang of brigands who had been pillaging and murdering, firearms in hand, a number of villages in the adjacent districts outside Peking. We hereby order the prisoners to be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to the laws of the land. As for "Liu" Wei and "Hsiao" Wang (i.e. nicknames Old Wei and Young Wang) two other known members of the same gang who have so far escaped arrest, let strict search be made for them so that the entire band may be exterminated from the country.

13th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, reporting the sudden rising of the Yellow River caused by the melting of the ice, whereby the districts of Lich'eng and others were inundated causing much loss to buildings which were undermined and destroyed, etc. The memorialist at the time of sending in his memorial had already devised methods for stopping the breach caused by the recent overflow, at the same time asking to be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments to be penalised for his inability in preventing the catastrophe. He also reports that as a preliminary measure he has warned his subordinates in charge that he refrains from denouncing them to the Throne in hopes that they may be energetic and diligent in their endeavours to repair the evil and thus save their loss of rank, etc. It appears that on the 23rd of February last, the melting of the snows caused the embankments of the inhabitants of the districts of Lich'eng, Cha-geh'lin, and Yuanfang to be destroyed and a breach was made measuring over 400 feet in width. The inundation also flowed into the neighbouring district of Ch'itung and thence found its way to the sea, etc. As the catastrophe seems to have been caused by nature, against which man's strength is insufficient to defend itself, and as the said Governor states that he abstained from denouncing his subordinates in charge of the River Conservation Bureau, we hereby command that one month's grace be given to these officers, namely, Chiang Chao-kuei, expectant Taotai and Chief Commissioner, Wu Yao, prefect and Assistant Commissioner, and Liu Chen-hsing, First Captain, commanding the River works patrol, and they are hereby commanded to stop up the said breach within one month's time from this decree. Failing this they are to be severely denounced for negligence in their duties. As for Li Ping-heng, the memorialist, he is hereby—as he has requested—handed to the Board for determination of an adequate penalty.
(2) Li Hsing-ju, Taotai of Tientsin, is hereby promoted to the Provincial Judge-
ship of Fukien, vice Chang Tséng-yang retired.

HOMICIDE.

Ch'ang Kè-g, Tartar-General of Ili and Chinese Turkestan, and Chung Lán, Civil
Governor of the same province, reports the murder of a Manchu military colonist of
the Sibe tribe, named E-kê-t'u-shan, by his wife Wa Hén-chih and her paramour, Mu
Tê-ch'un, also a Sibe colonist and a herdsman of the Imperial flocks in that
province. The illicit relations between the latter two began five years ago, but
the husband, their victim, being com-
pelled by his duties to be frequently
away from home, knew nothing of the
matter until late one night in November,
1894, when he unexpectedly returned
to his home and found an intruder in it
who, hiding behind the door as it was
being opened, dashed through the opening
just as the husband got inside. As a
result, the wife, Wa Hén-chih, being un-
able, satisfactorily, to give an account of
her conduct, was severely beaten by her
husband and the injunction was laid never
to allow Mu Tê-ch'un to enter the
house again. Being unwilling, for obvious
reasons, to report the matter to the military
authorities for the arrest of the paramour,
the husband simply kept a strict watch
over his wife's conduct, until he was
compelled to leave home on duty again
some months afterwards. Then Mu Tê-
ch'un again began to frequent the house
and often asked the woman to conspire
with him to encompass the death of her
husband through the many beatings
she had received at his hands of late,
consented to do so, and the paramour then
left. The next day Wa Hén-chih told her
husband that she wanted her fur clothes as
it was getting colder and asked him to go to
the p-washop kept by Pe-nan-erh-pai, near
the temple of the goddess of the water mill,
to redeem her clothes. Not suspecting any
foul play to be intended, E-kê-t'u-shan con-
ented, and taking money with him for the
purpose also told his wife to make ready
and go with him. Unable to excuse herself
the woman was forced to go with her
husband, and just as the couple passed
out of the city gates she observed her
paramour seated on horse-back armed with
a long quarter-staff waiting at a distance
outside the city. When Mu Te-ch'un
saw the pair coming out of the city he
made a dash forward to the temple in
question which was about a mile from
the city and sparsely inhabited. It was
dusk when husband and wife having re-
demed the fur clothes started for the
return journey, on foot, as before. The
murderer, who had kept out of sight all
the time, then galloped at full speed as the
retreating figures were being lost in the
gloom of fast darkening night. When
the horseman got up to the pair there
was no one else in sight. Charging at
full speed on the back of E-kê-t'u-
shan Mu Tê-ch'un swung his quarter
staff and as he brushed past his victim
the staff was brought down with crush-
ing violence on the head of the
husband who immediately fell stunned
to the ground. Pulling up his horse the
murderer dismounted and approached
the prostrate form of his victim and clutching
hold of his 
head once more, and with such force
that the brains of the murdered man were
freely scattered about the spot and upon
the garments of the murderer. In the mean-
while, Wa Hén-chih frightened at the scene
of blood fled citywards without waiting to
watch the result; but as soon as her
paramour saw that his victim was stone
dead he flung the body into a grass grown
ditch on the side of the road so that no
one should stumble over the corpse during
the night, and regaining his horse galloped
after Wa Hén-chih whom he carried on his
horse behind his back and escorted to
her home; telling her on the way what
he had done. After he had seen the
woman safely inside her home the murderer
galloped back to the spot where his
victim lay and carried the body to a large dry
ditch farther away and deposited it. This
was about 4 o'clock in the morning. This
done the man returned to Wa Hén-chih's
house and told her what had been done.
That same morning a heavy fall of snow occurred, still further obliterateing for months to come any traces of the murdered man. But Chiu Li-shan, the latter's y-nger brother, happened to return that day from his camp and enquired for E-k't'-u-shan. The guilty woman replied that he had left on the day before for the camp. Chiu Li-shan immediately told an uncle of the matter saying that it was strange for his elder brother to go to the camp since he was off duty, and so the two returned to camp to hunt for the missing man; but of course failed. Returning home they again questioned the woman, who prevaricated in such a manner that they began to suspect foul play and accordingly reported the matter to their military commander. The woman was arrested and confessed under torture the whole tale. The man was therefore sentenced to die by the slicing, or Ling-ch'ih, process and her paramour by decapitation according to the laws of the land.—Re­script: Let the Board of Punishments report at once.

14th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Court of Sacrificial Worship reporting the 4th of April next as the annual ceremony of sacrificing to the manes of the various Emperors who have sat on the Throne of China. [From Fuhi the first Emperor to the last Sovereign of the Ming dynasty, Chung Aheen.—Translator] K'ai T'ai, Prince of Cheng, 1st order, is commanded to worship at that temple on that day in our stead and the Vice-Presidents of Boards P'u Liang and K'un Hsiu are commanded to worship at the side altars.

The 12th of April next being the anniversary for worshipping at the shrine of the First Agriculturist, P'u Ching is commanded to worship there in our stead on that day.

(3) Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, reports that Chang Taeng-yang, Provincial Judge of Fukien, who obtained leave of absence to return to Tientsin to recuperate his health, having been unable to recover before the expiration of his leave asks to be permitted to resign his post, etc. The request is granted.

(4) Ch'ung Li, formerly Military Governor of Jeho, and Hsü Ying-k'uei, President of the Board of Works, are hereby further appointed Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên.

15th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the list of Court officers belonging to the three Imperial Palaces who possessed first-class records for the last three years, recommended to us for promotion by the Controllers-General of the Imperial Household Department, it will be observed that we have placed a circle (with the "Vermilion Pencil") around the names of a certain number in the said list. We hereby command that the said Controllers-General shall transcribe opposite the names of each officer thus encircled, a detailed summary of the conduct and ability of the said officers and introduce them to us at a special audience to be designated by us. The rest in the said list are to continue as before in their several posts.

(2) We have received the joint memorial of the Vice-President Chang Sui and his colleagues sent recently on special duty to the Imperial mausolea reporting that they had succeeded in destroying all the insects which had been devastating the pines and firs planted there, at the Southern Lakes and in the western hills, etc. Since the memorialists have completed their duties in this respect there is no further need for them to remain where they are and they are therefore commanded (Chang Sui and Ying Mên, Vice-President of the Imperial granaries and Board of Works, respectively, and their several staffs) to return to Peking to resume their usual duties. With respect to the future treatment of the pests, P'u Lin, the superintendent at the mausolea, and his colleagues are hereby commanded to pay careful attention to the subject so that we may not be troubled with them any more hereafter.

16th March.

A NEW ERA IN EDUCATION IN HUNAN.

Chiang Piao, Literary Chancellor of Hunan province and a Senior Academician of the Hanlin Imperial College, begs to report the result of his recent administration of the metropolitan college of Chungaha, the capital of Hunan, in order to encourage study and research amongst the students and licentiates of the said province, this being the special duty of a Literary Chancellor, who is expected to keep a good look-out for men of promise and ability. The literary colleges hold a competitive examination once a month, while the Literary Chancellor holds two in the space of three years. If there are no colleges to serve as a supplement to the labours of the Literary
The memorialist learning of this state of though the Literary Chancellors of the time went on the expenses far outstripped state when the memorialist came to Hunan. for the college, the results were most barren enlarged its scope, etc. As a result the majority of these eager seekers after knowledge had to be turned away from the college, and many were the sighs of disappointment of the indigent scholars who had come from their distant homes only to be debarred from satisfying their desires and ambitions. Hence, though the Literary Chancellors of the time were moved to pity by the sight and tried their best to procure extra funds for the college, the results were most barren and matters were still in this unsatisfactory state when the memorialist came to Hunan.

The memorialist learning of this state of affairs at once set about to subscribe from out of his own salary sufficient funds to form prizes at the quarterly competitive examinations. He next paid out of his own private purse money enough to build extra quarters for distant students in the college compound as well as new libraries which memorialist filled with old and new publications of commentaries on the classics and the like, bought from far and near.

Memorialist has also recently formed classes in the said college for the study of astronomy, and typography, taking observations of the heavenly firmament and surveying, while he has also presented the said institution with scientific instruments, chemicals, models, etc., whereby the students could be taught, by practical experiments, in chemistry (analytical and theoretical) and electricity. In this way, memorialist thought that in addition to the study of the ancient classics and history, the students should also be taught, pari passu, the sciences of modern times.

The projects still under discussion are the establishment, in the near future, of mathematical and geographical classes and a class for the study of modern foreign languages, as well as the publication of an educational magazine, where its readers could keep bright their knowledge of modern sciences and arts and widen their ideas on such subjects, etc. This has been done in obedience to the special decree issued by the Throne on the 11th of August, 1896, in response to the memorial of the Taungli Yamen on the subject of encouraging the study of the New Learning, i.e., modern sciences and arts.

Upon looking over the Imperial Catalogue dealing with the question of colleges in the Empire, the memorialist finds that in the constitutions of the Mukden College, Manchuria, and the Chint'ai College of Chihli, there are regulations providing, in the case of the first-named college, a specified sum to be annually deducted from the rents of the various college lands in that province, for distribution amongst the tutors and indigent students of that particular college. In the case of the second, the other colleges of Chihli are bound to deduct annually from the rents of their endowed lands a certain amount aggregating to a total of Tls. 400 per year for the said Chint'ai College to be given as bonuses to teachers and indigent students of the said institution. Then when it was eventually found owing to the great number of indigent students staying there that that sum was insufficient for the purpose, the crops of the military grant lands at Feng-paying, Chihli, were assessed for Tls. 200
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per annum to assist the Chint’ai College, etc. So, upon calculation, memorialist finds that taking the whole of the rents of the endowed lands of the various colleges in Hunan after paying out expenses, there can easily be obtained a surplus of Tls. 500 to Tls.600 per annum, which used to be handed over by former Literary Chancellors of Hunan, and paid into the Provincial Treasury for public works, etc. Now as the college in question—the Chiaoching College, in Changsha, was originally established for the benefit of the indigent students of the whole province and not locally as is the case of the other colleges, memorialist thinks that the above-noted surplus accruing from rents belonging to colleges of the whole province should rightly be handed over for the use of the said college in order to support the working of the new additions to the curriculum inaugurated by memorialist, and which is the subject of this paper. His Majesty’s consent is therefore earnestly solicited by the memorialist.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned deliberate over the matter and report to us.

17th March.
No papers of interest.

18th March.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to scrutinise the list of petty civil officials and gentry of the Northern City, who have been recommended by Wen Po, Police Censor of the city and his colleagues, for promotion in consideration of their services in procuring the capture of a band of desperadoes who have been infesting the said city for some time past. The said Board will report to us the result of their scrutiny.

No papers of interest.

19th March.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) Granting promotion to some fifty secretaries, assistant secretaries, scribes, etc., belonging to the six Boards and three Courts of Peking, in proportion to the decree of ability and diligence in their duties during the last three years as presented by the Presidents of the said Boards.
(2) Hsi Yuan is appointed Libationer (Senior Director) of the Imperial Academy.
(3) The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to deliberate over the memorial of Sun Chia-nai, Governor Adjoint, and Hu Yü-fen, Governor of Peking, recommending that Shen Chung-mu, at present department magistrate of Chiezhou, Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu, be promoted to the post of sub-prefect of the northern frontier of the said prefecture.

20th March.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) With reference to the three yearly conduct list of Court officers attached to the three Palaces belonging to the Imperial Household Department presented by the Comptrollers-General of the said Department, we hereby command that with the exception of Jung K’o and Chi Tê who are to be excluded from the privilege, the remainder of the officers in the said list are to be recorded in the books of the Grand Council for first vacancies in proportion to their several ranks.
(2) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of six members of a gang of armed bandits who have recently been infesting the neighbourhood of the Imperial Prefecture. The prisoners are hereby commanded to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to the laws of the land, and as soon as the said sentences have been given out the said Commandant shall be permitted to recommend for special promotion and pecuniary reward the deserving and energetic officers who effected the said capture.
(3) A postscript memorial by the same high officer reports the flight from his post of a volunteer Second Captain and hereditary noble of the 8th grade, belonging to the Southern battalion of the Gendarmerie force of Peking, named Peh Sung-nien, and the request that the said refugee be cashiered for his conduct. The request is granted and the commander of the said battalion is empowered to prosecute search for the runaway so that he may be brought to punishment for his misdemeanour. The Board concerned is commanded to take note.
(4) Decree commanding that the deserving officers whose names had been recently recorded in the Grand Council for first vacancies, shall be introduced in batches of two at a time each morning, commencing from the 23rd of the month, in the Grand Council Chamber where they are to give specimens of their penmanship for approval by us.
(5) With reference to the memorial of Hsiang Lin and his colleagues reporting that Kuo Jen, holding the civil rank of an assistant secretary of one of the six Boards and Comptroller of the Ta-erh-chi Mongol
tribe of the herdsmen in Ch'ahar, had been accused of certain misdemeanours by the said herdsmen, we note that the said memorial is incomplete and possesses no detail of the charges which have been made against the said Comptroller. To this end, therefore, we refrain from issuing a decree on the case in order to give the memorialists the chance of adding details to their memorial.

(6) As Chang Yin-huan has been ordered on a special mission abroad, Hsü Tung-yi is hereby ordered to act ad interim as Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, etc., during the former's absence from Peking.

(7) Hsiang Lin, Administrator of the Mongolian Dependency of Ch'ahar, reports the escape from the post roads of Chiang Chi-fu, cashiered ex-gaolwarden of Haich'eng and Chao Lin, cashiered ex-police magistrate of Newchwang, who were working out on the said post roads the period of banishment for cowardice during the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. We hereby command that strict search be made for the runaways along the entire route of the post roads and that in case they are found they should seek safety by returning to their native towns the Governors of Anhui and Peking are commanded to keep a strict look out in their several jurisdictions, for signs of the escaped exiles.

(8) We have received the joint memorial of T'ao Mu, Viceroy of Shên-kan; Tung Fu-hsiang, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Kansu, and Kuei Shun, Imperial Resident of Haining and Kokonor reporting the complete pacification of that Mongol dependency and the vicinity of the western portion of the Great Wall, and the effacement of the Mahommedan rebels from those places. In this connection the memorialists recommend that promotions and rewards be granted to the deserving of the Mongol princes, dukes, nobles, officers and tribesmen who distinguished themselves during the war, just as those that were given to the Chinese officers who crushed the rebellion inside of the Great Wall, etc., in order to encourage the Mongols to emulate each other in bravery and courage in time of war, etc. [Then follow the names of sixty to seventy Mongol nobles, chiefs and subordinate officers.—Translator.] We have, however, noticed a case of gross neglect and carelessness on the part of the officers of the Mongolian Superintendency, namely, that although the memorial in question put down the name of a certain 1st class Mongol for promotion, viz.:—Su-nan-wu-to-ch'ü-chi, the Mongolian Superintendency in reporting upon the said memorial called that noble by the name of "Su-nan-wu-to-ch'ü-chi." We must, therefore, hand the Secretaries of the said Superintendency concerned in the matter over to the regular Board for the determination of adequate penalties, while the President and Vice-President of the same are also handed over to the Board for investigation into their conduct. The Board concerned is commanded to take note thereon.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Chang Yin-huan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Special Ambassador to Great Britain to convey the congratulations of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress-Dowager to H.M. Queen Victoria on the sixtieth anniversary of her reign, had his farewell audience of the Emperor in the Grand Council Chamber this morning preparatory to his departure for Europe.

21st March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Ministers of the Grand Council are commanded to issue our decree that on the 26th instant all princes, dukes, nobles and officers who are to do duty on that day within the Palaces are hereby commanded to appear at Court in full Court dress.

FATHERS AND SONS PROHIBITED FROM SERVING IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY IN THE SAME PROVINCE.

Liu Hsiang-sheng, brevet Provincial Commander-in-Chief, recorded in the books of the Grand Council for the first vacancy, and substantive Brigadier-General of the Wenchow Military Circuit in Chêkiang, reports that he has received the Imperial edict issued on the 30th of August, 1896, at the instance of the Board of War, recommending that a new law be enforced prohibiting fathers of high military rank to be in the same province as their sons who are civil expectants or substantive officials, or vice versa, similar to the law prohibiting fathers and sons, brothers and first cousins, of civil rank serving in the same province. Now memorialist was appointed to his present post in July, 1894, while since 1876 his son has been a civil official in the same province, commencing first as a sub-prefect by purchase and attaining his present rank of expectant prefect and brevet Taotai of Chêkiang in due course of promotion. Since, however, the above decree has been issued the case has become changed and hence memorialist hastens to report his present
circumstances to the Throne and prays for the Imperial instructions in the matter, whether his son should be transferred to another province or not.—\textit{Rescript: The Board of War is commanded to deliberate and report thereon.}

22nd March.

\textbf{IMPERIAL DECREES.}

(1) Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, reports that he has been asked to memorialise on behalf of Chang Tsêng-yang, Provincial Judge of Fukien, who is now on sick leave in his native province of Chihli, to the effect that although his leave is about to expire his maladies still remain the same, and praying to be allowed to resign his post in order that better to attend to his illness. The request is granted and Chang Pêng-yang is hereby permitted to resign his Judgiship.

(2) Chêng Li, ex-Military Assistant Governor of Jehol, and Hsü Ying-K'uei, President of the Board of Works, are this day appointed Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamen.

(3) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

23rd March.

\textbf{IMPERIAL DECREES.}

(1) Li Hsing-jue, Customs Taotai of Tientsin, is hereby promoted to the post of Provincial Judge of Fukien, vice Chang Tsêng-yang, retired.

(2) The Censor Sung Peh-lu complains that nowadays the Boards, to whom are given the privilege of deliberating and reporting upon matters of state presented to the Throne are most careless and negligent of their duties and do not try to get a true comprehension of the subjects they have been called upon to deliberate, hence they make light of grave suggestions and argue against important measures in the way most pleasing to their own prejudices. The memorialist, therefore, prays that stringent orders be issued exhorting the various Boards to pay more care and stricter attention to whatever matters they may have been called upon by the Throne to decide. Now such a state of affairs is to be deprecated and denounced as most harmful to the welfare of the Empire. We would, therefore, call the attention of the Presidents and high officials of the various Boards to analyse in the future impartially and with more care whatever measures they are called upon to decide and report upon and further, persons who memorialise the Throne on various matters are to take heed that the cause they advocate at the time has received an impartial weighing of the pros and cons before being presented to the Throne for acceptance. They must know that they cannot escape the strict scrutiny of the Throne if they have memorialised from purely private motives and not for universal benefit.

(3) Ch'ang Sui and Ying Nien jointly report that the walls around the Eastern Imperial Mausolea have for the most part tumbled down and are sadly in need of renovation. The Vice-President P'ù Shan and Li Tuan-fên are hereby ordered to go to the Eastern Mausolea to examine the said place and make an estimate of the sum required for the new works, etc.

(4) At the audience given Ch'ang Sui and Ying Nien this morning the said Vice-Presidents reported that although they had managed to destroy the greater portions of the insects which had been for years devastating the trees and plants round about the Imperial Mausolea, the situation is still very grave. It appears that there were signs of these pests in the summer of 1896 and in the following autumn they matured and swarmed about in such numbers that all the trees in the Mausolea grounds were covered by them. The fault lay with the high officials entrusted with the care of the said Mausolea, who failed to report the true condition of affairs at the right moment, so that when a memorial was sent to the Throne the trees were already almost past redemption and those who had been appointed to destroy the insects often found their best efforts rendered futile by reason of the ever-increasing numbers of the insects and the deep hold they had taken on the trees. Now P'ù Lin and his colleagues who had the care of the said Mausolea entrusted to them knew very well that the trees planted there formed the principal féngshui of the place. Instead therefore of taking extra care and using more diligence in their duties, these officers totally neglected them and not until We had sent special commissions to investigate did the truth come out, and it was found that searching for and destroying the pests was no light task. These officers, namely P'ù Lin, Lin Chia and Wên Jui have therefore been guilty of gross negligence and laziness, and we hereby send them to the usual Board for the determination of extraordinary penalties and punishment. We also command that in the future the above officers shall arrange in proper manner as to what must be done to prevent a recurrence
of the evil, and that any dereliction of duty will be visited with even severer punishment in the future.

24th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Li Pei-yung is appointed Major of the Right Battalion of the Viceregal troops of Chihli province.

No papers of interest.

25th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from Wang Ting-siang, a censor, complaining bitterly of the laxity of the regulations and system of organised frauds in the Imperial schools specially established for the primary and higher education of children belonging to the Imperial Clan and the Collateral Branches (gioro), and praying that commands be issued insisting on a thorough overhaul of existing regulations and the establishment of stringent rules for future guidance of all concerned, etc. We hereby command the members of the Imperial Clan Court to act conjointly with the Imperial Schools' Board and consider the memorial in question and report to us the result.

(2) Shih Kang, Senior Brigadier of Jeho, who is now in Peking, is ordered to do duty in the capital, while Yen Tseng is appointed to fill the said Shih Kang's place in Jeho.

(3) Of those officials belonging to the various Courts in the capital who were presented in audience to us this morning on the basis of their three years' official record, we hereby command that Ch'ing Fu, Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship, San Te, Vice-Director of the Court of Revision—a branch of the Court of Censors,—and Li Tê-ch'ang, Vice-Director of the Imperial College of Physicians, be ordered to return to their present posts and attend to their several duties as heretofore.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, and Minister of the Taungli Yuanên, obtained this morning leave of absence for ten days. After transacting State affairs and granting the usual audiences in the Grand Council Chamber, His Majesty the Emperor and Court will proceed to the Yingsiu gate of the Palace Garden to see on bended knees H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager start for the Lake Palace tomorrow morning.

The whole of this day's Gazette is occupied with the final report of Wei Kuang-tao, Governor of Shensi, regarding the complete pacification of the Kokonor (Mongolia) region which had been invaded by a large force of Kansu Mahommedans, the last remnants of the rebels, driven from their native province by the Imperial armies to take refuge beyond the confines of China proper. The Hunan army corps under the above-named Governor co-operated with the Kansu troops of the Generalissimo Tung Fu-hsiang, the Kuangtung and Manchus, etc., in pursuing the last remnants of the rebels, driven from their native province by the Imperial armies to take refuge beyond the confines of China proper. The Hunan army corps under the above-named Governor co-operated with the Kansu troops of the Generalissimo Tung Fu-hsiang, the Kuangtung and Manchus, etc., in pursuing the last remnants of the rebels, driven from their native province by the Imperial armies to take refuge beyond the confines of China proper. 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26th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of E-k'o-t'ang-ha, Tartar-General of Fengtien, Manchuria, stating that he has made careful estimates of the sum required for repairing and renewing the decorations of the Mausolea belonging to our revered ancestors of the Imperial dynasty near Moukden, and the said memorialist also asks us to select a propitious day for the commencement of the work in hand. The Imperial Board of Astronomy is hereby commanded to select such a day at any time during the month of April next, and notify the said Tartar-General of the chosen date. On the other hand, as soon as the auspicious day arrives the said Tartar-General, assisted by the Civil Governor of the province, Chung Ling, is to see that everything be reverentially and carefully commenced as befits the inauguration of such a sacred task.

(2) Ching Sing (Manchu) is hereby promoted to the Salt Commissionership of the Ch'anglu Circuit of Chihli province, vice Li Hsing-jiu transferred to become the Provincial Judge of Fukien vice Chang Tseng-yang, retired.

(3) Sieh Hsi-hang is hereby appointed to be prefect of Chingchoufu, Yunnan province.
27th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Granting extraordinary promotions to a number of Metropolitan and Provincial officials for their good records during the last three years of their official duties.

(2) We have received the memorial of Wu Ting-fen, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, etc., asking for leave of absence to enable him to return to his native city in the south for the purpose of restoring the graves of his ancestors, etc. We hereby grant the memorialist two months' leave for the purpose indicated.

(3) The Board of Civil Appointments is hereby commanded to deliberate over the joint memorial of Sun Chia-nai, Governor Adjunct, and Hu Yu-fen, Governor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu, recommending the expectant sub-prefect Siew Yu-kei, to fill the substantive post of sub-prefect of the Western Marches, Shuntienfu, and report thereon to us with all haste.

(4) Hua Chin-shou is transferred to become Senior Director, and Li Chao-wei, Vice-Director, of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Governor Adjunct and Governor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu jointly report that during the previous day and night Peking and the surrounding towns obtained a fall of over three inches of snow.

A SIX-FOLD MURDER.

Yen Mow, Tartar-General of Kirin, Manchuria, reports a six-fold murder,—which came dangerously near being a seven-fold one,—in the Tartar village of Sunchiatun, Kirin province, on the night of the 7th of January last, and the summary execution of the sanguinary wretch whose horrible crime called for his instant removal from this world. It appeared that the murderer, named Lu Ching-t'ang, was a hired labourer on the farm of the Blue Bannerman Ch'eng Wan-hsuan, at Sunchiatun, and had always been liberally treated by his master. In 1896 Lu Ching-t'ang became suddenly possessed of a strong desire to visit his native town in China proper, but was unable to do so owing to lack of the necessary funds to carry him home. He apparently brooded a great deal over his misfortune but dared do nothing to forcibly obtain the money he required owing to the awe he had of Ch'eng Wan, the son of his master, who was possessed of immense strength and belonged to the local militia. But on the 7th of January, Ch'eng Wan, having important business away from home left the place unprotected, although there were other fellow-labourers besides the murderer on the farm. When Lu saw that his young master was to go away for the day and night it occurred to him (Lu) to impersonate a robber, as Sunchiatun being a small hamlet in a sparsely settled district the place had often been raided by scattered bands of brigands living in the neighbourhood hills and forests. In the room the murderer usually slept in were four male labourers and two female hands. Lu's first intention was to despatch these four and trust to frightening the females of the household to obtain the money and silver ornaments he wanted, while the great age of Ch'eng Wan-hsuan, his master, precluded any anticipation of any effective resistance on the latter's part. Lu, therefore, waited until 10 o'clock on that fatal night, when finding that all in the room were fast asleep he rose, dressed himself, and then proceeded to the wood-yard to get the axe which was used to split firewood. Having obtained his weapon Lu walked back stealthily to the general sleeping room, and began (contrary to his first intentions) to strike promiscuously those occupying the room with his axe, calling out "robbers!" with every blow of his weapon upon the unfortunate heads and shoulders of his sleeping victims. The noise he made fortunately aroused one of the labourers, who slipping away from his bed, or k'ang, managed to get to the door before the murderer perceived his escape. Lu, at once, gave chase without waiting to see whether his five victims were alive or not, but his intended victim succeeded in escaping. In the meanwhile Ch'eng Wan-hsuan, his master, being also aroused by the cries of the murderer made his way to the sleeping room of his labourers and was met half way by Lu who replied to his master's question as to what was the matter by making a vicious swing with his axe at the old man's head. The latter, however, evaded the murderous stroke and turning round wrested the weapon away from the murderer. In this dilemma Lu ran to the wood pile and selected a club-like limb of a tree and dashing upon his master unawares brought him down with a stunning blow. Thinking that he had killed his master, the murderer suddenly bethought himself of those whom he had left in the general sleeping room. So he returned to the apartment and began raining numerous blows with his club on the
heads of each of his five victims—three male labourers and two female field hands—who had, however, apparently already received their quietus from the axe, for they were all in the same position as he had left them when chasing after the escaped labourer. Being now satisfied with his handiwork the murderer tied his own clothes into a bundle and then visited the quarters of his master and mistress. Just then he saw the aged wife of his master tottering across the courtyard to raise her husband’s prostrate body. The murderer at once brought her down with one blow of his club, and then walked into her room with the intention of ransacking the place for money. He, however, seemed to feel that some time must have already elapsed since he chased the labourer who had fled and that the latter must have by this time aroused the neighbours—who lived far separated from each other—in which case he (the murderer) thought that he had no time to lose if he wished to escape arrest. He had no time as he thought even to change his blood-stained garments now dripping with the gore of his victims. A sudden fear seemed to seize the man and he at once fled from the house, forgetting even to take with him his own bundle of private effects. A few minutes after the murderer had gone, Ch'eng Wen, the son, returned from his trip to town and saw the horrible sight that greeted him of his aged father and mother lying prone in the courtyard but still breathing and bleeding from fearful gashes on the head. Assisting his parents to their room and leaving them in the hands of the female house servants, Ch'eng Wen, armed with a sword, at once gave chase, vowing to cut the murderer down at sight. In the meantime neighbours were coming to the rescue led by the escaped labourer, and to avoid these the murderer started for another point. Here, however, a police patrol happened to be encamped and seeing the man and his garments reeking with blood at once stopped him and asked him whence he had come and whither going at such an hour of the night—long past midnight. They were unable to make out his incoherent replies when Ch'eng Wen arrived on the spot and identified Lu as the murderer of five of his fellow servants—for the old mother was still alive when Ch'eng Wen started off in pursuit of the murderer. When Lu was brought back to the farm escorted by the police patrol, it was found that the old lady of the house had also died from the effects of her club wound, thus making six victims, while the master of the farm also lay in a precarious state, hovering between life and death. The law demands that when a murderer makes away with three lives he is to be sentenced to die by the slow and shameful process (ting-ch'hê). In this case Lu Ching-t'ang killed six; three males and three females. Memorialist therefore ordered the sentence of the law to be carried out immediately after Lu Ching-t'ang had signed his confession before the memorialist without waiting, owing to the gravity of the crime, for His Majesty’s Rescript in the matter. —Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

28th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) En Shou is appointed Taofcai of the Shen-Au Intendancy of Shensi province.

(2) Ts'ai Hsin reports that the Eastern Imperial Mausolea require thorough repairs and prays that orders be issued to commence the necessary works without further delay, etc., We hereby command K'un Hsin to proceed with all haste to examine the repairs required for the Eastern Mausolea and then make a careful estimate of the amount required for such works.

(3) Hu Pin-chih, Governor of Shansi, denounces Li Chin-chang, district magistrate of Tienchensien, and Wang Chi-ho, acting district magistrate of Pui-sien, for effete police organisation whereby their several districts have been overrun with robbers, and that then fearful of the consequences they tried to suppress matters by trying to browbeat the victims of the robbers to report simple thefts instead. A summary punishment must be given to such unworthy and crafty magistrates and we hereby command that these be immediately cashiered and dismissed from the service. The memorialist further complains of Wang Eu-fo, Director of Studies in Hochou, for being absent from his post without authorised leave; of Kuang Kuang-hue, for being superannuated and of mediocre abilities and therefore unfit for his duties of superintendent of studies of Choyuenhsien; and of three petty police magistrates for unworthy conduct. All the officials referred to above are hereby to be cashiered and dismissed from their posts.

(4) As Wu Ting-fen has obtained leave of absence to return to his home, his post of Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments is hereby given to Chang Ying-lin to act for him ad interim, and Yang Yi is also commanded to act temporarily as acting Vice-President of
the Board of Works, which acting appointment is also held by Wu Ting-fen.

29th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

As the post of senior prefect of Ch'angtu, the capital of Szechuan, is one of exceptional importance, we hereby command the Viceroy of the province to select the man whom he thinks best fitted for the Ch'angtu post from amongst the substantive prefects of Szechuan, and let P'an Ping be appointed to the post vacated by the officer of the said Viceroy's choice.

30th March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Yen Moi, Tartar General of Kirin, reports the death of Sha-k'ê-tu-lin-chapu, the Brigadier-General of the Manchu troops stationed at Hunchun, and requests that special honours be granted to the deceased in consideration of his faithful services during the Taiping and Mahommedan rebellions. We are deeply grieved to hear of the said General's death and hereby command that his family be granted the usual funeral expenses befitting his rank and also that all black marks against his official record be erased and cancelled.

(2) Ting Li-ying is appointed censor of the Shansi Circuit.

31st March.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tsêng Ch'ung is appointed Superintendent of the Imperial silk looms of Kiangnan (Nanking).

(2) We have received H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's commands to bestow the three-eyed peacock feather upon P'un Wei, Prince of the 3rd Order. We reverentially obey H.I.M.'s illustrious commands and hereby grant the said decoration to P'un Wei as directed.

1st April.

No papers of interest.

2nd April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Sun Wu-ch'ien is appointed prefect of Ch'uchou in Szechuan province.

Note:—This official is quite a young man and was a censor especially well-known in the capital as a man of great honesty and integrity, and an unheeding foe to the mal-practices of the officials both at the capital and in the provinces. Doubtless his incompatibility made his enemies go the usual way to get rid of him by securing him an outside appointment, the farther from Peking the better. Hence the above appointment to the far distant province of Szechuan where the ex-censor may now bury himself alive if he chooses. As a censor in Peking, possessed only of the 5th rank, Sun Wu-ch'ien stood on a footing of equality, by virtue of his post as "the Eyes and Ears of the Emperor," with the highest official in the capital; but although he is now supposed to be "promoted" to be a substantive prefect, namely, to be an official of the 4th rank, Class B, he at once sinks down to his level and becomes the subordinate of every Taotai (4th rank, Class A) in Szechuan who is but one step higher than he is. While a censor in Peking these very Taotais would have to grovel before Sun Wu-ch'ien; but once out of the capital the ex-censor will doubtless have "to mind his p's and q's" when coming into contact with the former.—Translator.

(2) As Wu Ting-fen has obtained leave of absence to return to his native city to repair the graves of his ancestors his post of Treasurer and Superintendent of the three treasury vaults of the Board of Revenue is hereby given ad interim to Ch'en Hsin-fen.

3rd April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ta Ch'un is appointed Inspector of the affairs of the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner Corps.

(2) Fu Tung-ê is appointed to a similar office in the Manchu Rifle Brigade organisation.

No papers of interest.

4th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have ordained that the 26th of this month be made the date for the exchanging of winter official hats for summer hats, which is to be observed throughout the Empire.

(2) Li Tien-lin is appointed Expositor, and Hua Chin-shou Reader, of the Hanlin College.

(3) Sung K'un, Governor of Kuichow, reports the result of his triennial examination of the records of the officials under him. Amongst those mentioned for a special Imperial recognition are Ch'uan Mow, prefect of Chenyuanfu, Kueichow province, who is described as a
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specially clean-handed officer who really
loves the people and has their welfare
at heart; in fact, the memorialist pro-
phesies this officer's future advancement
as specially fitted to hold by his great
talents and foresight the most responsible
positions. En Liu, prefect of Ts'ai-choufu,
is said to be very talented and sagacious
and who never makes any mistake in the
performance of his duties; Chang Sheng-
chen, sub-prefect of Ch'ung-chou, has the
reputation of always trying to bestow
benefits among the people under him and
being exceedingly popular wherever he has
held office; the same is also said of Chi
Hung-sieh, sub-prefect of Huangping-
chou; finally Wang Wei-kü, Director
of Studies of Tienchuhsien, and Wang
Hung-lin, Director of Studies of Chenzu-
hsien, are both described as men of pro-
found literary knowledge and brilliant
scholars who have popularised essay writing
and classical researches amongst the
students under them, and hence have
turned out more brilliant and successful
students at the literary examinations
for degrees than any other Director of
studies in the province. In recognition
thereof we hereby command that the
officials eulogised above be all handed to
the Boards of Civil Appointments and of
Rites for the determination of extraordinary
rewards. On the other hand the same me-
orialist in a postscript memorial charges
Li Shu-jen, an expectant prefect, of im-
proper conduct and actions denoting low
cunning incompatible with his rank. P'ang-
Chung-hung, an expectant army First
Lieutenant, is accused of lack of control
over his actions and being frequently found
guilty of extortion. With reference to the
two officers above-named they are hereby
punished by being cashiered and dis-
missed from the service. The Boards of Civil
Appointments and of War are hereby also
commanded to take note.

5th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received the memorial and ac-
companying list of names from the Board
of Revenue requesting that rewards be
granted to all the officials belonging to the
various provincial governments named
therein who have distinguished themselves
in promptly forwarding the annual Kansu
and Turkestan subsidies, during the year
just passed. Owing to this promptitude
the high authorities of Kansu and Chinese
Turkestan have had no occasion for memo-
ralising the Throne, as was formerly the
rule, praying that the provinces which have
to furnish the above contributions be com-
manded to make no more delay in forwarding
these important remittances, etc. We
hereby command the Board of Civil Ap-
pointments to report on the said memorial,
and the appended list of names of des-
erving officials is also ordered to be hand-
ed over to the said Board for investigation.

6th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hu Ching-kuei is appointed Ta-tui
of the Ninghsia Intendancy of Kansu
province.

(2) Liao Shou-feng, Governor of Chê-
kiang, denounces the following officials
serving under him:—Hei Shâ-lieh, district
magistrate of Fenghuahsien, Chêkiang,
is charged with being superannuated and not
energetic enough to perform his duties pro-
perly. The said official is hereby commanded
to retire from his post, at once, being all-
owed the privilege of retaining his proper rank
in private life. T'ang Chi, district magistrate
of Huangyenhsien is declared to be a crea-
ture of impudence, thoughtless to a degree
in the discharge of his duties, and unfit
for his present post. The said official is
ordered to resign his post and await
some other appointment. Chang Ch'eng,
deputy magistrate of Jenhohsien (Hsing-
chow) is accused of crafty conduct and go-
ing beyond his powers in receiving, on
his own responsibility, petitions on civil
cases and investigating them judicially,
which is the prerogative of the district
magistrate alone. So also is Kao Huan,
guardian of the district magistracy of Lan-
ch'hsien, who is also accused of extra-
vagant conduct and inability to keep his
underlings under proper restraint. The
last-named two officials are hereby cashiered
and dismissed from their posts as a warning
to others.

(3) Appointing some fifty to sixty officials
to the various Provincial governments.

(4) Pan Ch'ing-lan is appointed Police-
Censor of the Southern City, Peking.

7th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

With reference to the punishments
to be awarded to the officials having charge
of the Eastern Imperial Mausolea for
negligence of their duties in having been
unable to discover until too late the real
extent of the ravages of the tree-destroying
worms and grubs surrounding the said Mau-
solea, we have now before us the joint report
of the Boards of War and Civil Appointments
and the Imperial Clan Court, who recom-
me as, and we hereby confirm, the following
sentences, namely, that P'u Ling and Ling Chia, nobles, ninth in order of descent of the Imperial Lineage, Chief Superintendents of the said Mauso'ea, be hereby dismissed from their posts and fined annually, for four consecutive years, one-half of the income belonging to them by right of their rank and Imperial lineage, without going into details as to prospects of commuting their penalties by "set-off" of good conduct marks. As for Wen Jui, Brigadier-General and Superintendent of Octroi at Malanchen and a Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department, for his share in the general negligence of duties and carelessness, we hereby cashier and dismiss him from his post.

8th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Commandant of the Gendarmerie reports the capture by his men of five timber thieves who had been surreptitiously sawing down forest trees belonging to the Imperial demesnes called the Chingan farms. Some of the thieves being members of the Imperial Clan and collateral branches thereof, we hereby command that the Imperial Clan Court join the Board of Punishments, to whom the said prisoners are hereby handed, in trying the men and sentencing them according to the laws of the realm. As for the three members of the Imperial Clan who have escaped and are still at large, let strict search be made for them so that the whole gang may be punished and broken up.

No other papers of interest.

9th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Sung An is appointed Brigadier General and Superintendent of Octroi at Malanchen and a member of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department vice Wén Jui, cashiered for neglect of duty.

(2) With regard to the promotions to be awarded to the Metropolitan officials who have had exceptionally good official records during the past three years and who have been granted an audience twice, we hereby command that of this batch Yang Shu, Li Pei-min, Chu Fu-hsien, Ts'ai Yung-an, Hsi Shou-lien, Lu Chung-ch'i, Yeh Ch'ang-chih, Ch'i T'ai, En Hao, Lóo Ping-shao, Shao Yi, En Ch'ung, Chung En, Yen Ts'ing, and Hsu Shou-lien will retain their former ranks, while the Imperial Clansman Ying Tze is commanded to retain his rank of expectant Metropolitan officer of the 4th or 5th grade as heretofore. The Imperial Clansman Ch'ung Shou is promoted to be an expectant Metropolitan officer of the 4th or 5th grade, while the Imperial Clansman Ch'i Tè is made an expectant Metropolitan officer of the 5th grade. The remaining fifty to sixty officers as per list are to have their names recorded in the Grand Council for vacancies either as Taotais or prefects.

10th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing that on the occasion of the coming summer solstice sacrificial worship should be performed within the precincts of the Imperial Ancestral Hall, etc. We hereby announce that it is our desire to be present at the said functions on the day in question where we intend to offer personal worship before the tablets of our Imperial Ancestors. P'u Ching is also commanded to assist and sacrifice at the rear shrines; Tê Shou at the Eastern shrines, and Huang Yung-an at the Western shrines.

(2) The same Court further announces that on the 5th day of the 4th moon (7th May) special sacrifices should be made before the altars of the Temples of Heaven and the Earth. In this connection we also intend to personally sacrifice in those temples, while En Ch'ing, Li Jui, Chung Hsüi, and Ying Ch'in are commanded to sacrifice at the four minor altars, respectively, on that day.

11th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chung Hsüi, Censor of the Shantung Circuit, denounces the effete organisation of the police force in the Northern City of the capital. In consequence of this state of affairs robberies and thefts occur there in constant succession without it ever happening that the police succeed in making a single arrest of the guilty. The inference to be drawn from this is that these very police are in active collusion with the robbers and thieves themselves, etc. This is a lamentable state of affairs for the North City and plainly shows the utter uselessness of the men and officers of the police force of that city. What then are the police magistrates doing and what do they consider to be their proper duties in this respect? We are exceedingly angry at being informed of this by the said Censor. We therefore command that the police gaolwarden, Sun Ch'i-yung, be forthwith cashiered and dismissed from his post, and that the Commandant of the

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Gendarmerie investigate the matter and denounce and report to us what punishment should be meted out to Captain Wang Lien-ch'u, head of the police force in that quarter. The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to take note thereon. (2) The said Board is also commanded to investigate the revised list sent in to day by the Censor of the Southern City, recommending extraordinary rewards for the gentry and headmen of the said city who lately distinguished themselves by their energy and diligence in capturing a number of bad characters infesting the said district. (3) In February last the river at a place called Hsiaoshat'an, or Small Sand Banks, dividing the two districts of Lich'eng and Ch'angch'iu, Shantung, suddenly overflowed its banks causing eventually two large gaps in the embankments at Hsiaoshat'an and Huchiaku. Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, immediately commenced at the head of his subordinates to close the two breaches and finally succeeded in doing so on the 3rd instant. This is prompt and creditable work and in reply to a memorial received from the said Governor recommending that extraordinary promotion be awarded to those of his military subordinates who distinguished themselves by their vigilance, energy, and tact, we hereby command that in addition to the cancellation of the decree cashiering them in consequence of the above breaches, sundry promotions, with their original ranks as bases, be also given to the deserving officers in order to create emulation amongst all officials connected with river conservancy works. 12th April. IMPERIAL DECREES. We have received the memorial of Pien Pao-ch'uan, Viceroy of the Min-Chê provinces, denouncing one T'ang Hsi-chung, gaolwarden of the district magistracy of Ch'unganhsien, Fukien, whose culpable negligence caused the escape from prison of a notorious pirate named Cho Mao-lin, who was lying under sentence of death. The said Viceroy is to place the said gaolwarden under arrest as well as the rest of the gaolers under him in order to see whether the escape of the condemned was connived at by them in consideration of a bribe, or on some other account. The said gaolwarden is also to be first cashiered of his rank in order to reduce him to the common level when the time for his trial arrives. As for Tu Hsiao-ch'un, the acting magistrate of Ch'unganhsien, in whose yamen the said pirate was confined, we hereby command that he be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of the usual penalty for not keeping a better look-out over his own premises; at the same time the usual period of a hundred days is to be given for the recapture of the escaped criminal, failing which the offending officials will be subjected to more severe punishment. 13th April. IMPERIAL DECREES. We have received the memorial of the Censor Sung Peh-lu, suggesting some radical changes in the balances and scales used in the various departments of revenue in the empire so as to make a standard system of weights for the whole country, and not as now, to allow each province, and even city, to use a special balance of its own at variance with every other place. In this way the said Censor seems to think that the government will be a gainer by adhering to a standard weight, etc. The Board of Revenue is commanded to report thereon. No papers of interest. (1) Lien Sheng, the Police Censor of the Eastern City, and his colleagues, report that they have, in obedience to a previous edict, made out a list of names of the most deserving of the gentry and police officials of the said Eastern City who have on various occasions displayed energy and vigilance in breaking up or bringing about the capture of various gangs of desperadoes and banditti who had been using the said Eastern City as a base to raid upon the neighbouring townships and villages outside of Peking. The memorialists pray that the usual promotions may be granted to the officers and gentry set down in the said list, in order that due encouragement may be given to the public spirit displayed by them. We, therefore, command the Board of Civil Appointments to scrutinise the said list and report thereon to us as to what promotions should be given to each of the persons named therein. (2) Ting Li-ying is appointed Supervising Censor of the Treasury of the Board of Revenue, i.e., Keeper of the Seals. (3) Kuei Nien is appointed to go and investigate the affairs of the Manchu White Banner Corps organisation. 15th April. IMPERIAL DECREES. Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations. No papers of interest.
16th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

SUMMARY PUNISHMENT OF AN UNFILIAL PRINCE.

(1) We received this morning a special edict from H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager Ts'ui-hsi-tuan-yü-k'ang-yi, etc., etc., which we hasten to confirm. It is to the following effect:—

The Princess Fu Chin, 2nd Order, the Consort of the late Prince Fu Chin, has presented to us (the Empress-Dowager) a memorial complaining of the headstrong, wilful, and unfilial conduct of Prince Tsai Shu, 3rd Order (Beichen), her eldest son and the heir to his father's estate. As a matter of fact he frequently showed contempt of his mother's efforts to restrain his headstrong conduct and of late has wilfully shown disrespect in his daily bearing towards his widowed mother. For instance, the 10th instant was the birthday anniversary of the Princess Fu Chin. Instead of showing due filial piety by evincing an interest in or directing the proposed festivities to be held in honour of the occasion, Prince Tsai Shu pretended to fall ill the day before and asked to be excused from participating in them, thereby evading certain important ceremonies which as the eldest son and head of the house he should have tried by every means in his power to perform. Then, to crown all, when our (the Empress-Dowager's) birthday presents to his mother arrived at the Fu Chin Palace, Prince Tsai Shu made no attempt to appear and show his loyalty and respect for us, as well as thankfulness for this mark of Imperial bounty to his mother, by reverentially kneeling at the grand entrance of his Palace while the Imperial gifts were being borne within. Furthermore, neither did he worship at the tablets of his ancestors nor pay congratulatory obeisance before the image of his mother, which he should have done on such an occasion, even if he had been considerably more ill than he pretended to be. In a word, this audacity, this contempt for the first principles of filial piety and loyal devotion to his parent has really gone beyond bounds, and if we do not make a most severe example of the culprit we cannot expect to see dutiful and loyal conduct in others. Our (the Emperor's) sentence, therefore, is that Tsai Shu be forthwith stripped of his princely title and handed over to the Imperial Clan Court for the administration of eighty blows of the broad-bladed bamboo. He is then to be immured for ever within the four walls of an empty room. We hereby depute the carrying out of our sentence to Shih Tu, Prince of Li, 1st Order, who is the senior member of the Imperial Clan, and he is to see that the sentence be wholly carried out. As for the successor of Tsai Shu, we hereby leave the Princess Fu Chin herself to select the next heir to the late Prince Fu Chin and his estates.

(2) Tao Mu, Viceroy of Shen-Kan, reports that K'uei Shun, Imperial Resident at Hsining, having received news of the death of one of his parents, asks permission to retire into mourning, and that someone be appointed to succeed him. K'uei Shun is hereby given 100 days' leave of absence to enable him to return to his Banner Reservation and assume the usual mourning. Lien K'uei is appointed Imperial Resident pro tem during K'uei Shun's absence. The Board concerned is to take note.

Note.—The period of mourning for a parent among the Manchus is 100 days; for the Chinese it is 27 months. During these periods no mourner is allowed to hold substantive office which possesses an official seal—these seals whether gold, silver, copper, or wood are all made and engraved at the Board of Rites in Peking. Officials who have been discovered to have purposely delayed or omitted reporting to their superior officers the deaths of their parents, in order to get as much money as they can before retiring into enforced mourning, have not only lost their rank and posts entirely, but have even been banished to work as convicts on the postroads in Manchuria, Mongolia, or Chinese Turkestan to atone for this greatest of social crimes in Chinese estimation.——Translator.

(3) E-k'o-t'ang-á, Tartar General of Föng-tien, Manchuria, denounces the carelessness amounting to crime of a certain T'ang Yü-ts'ing, First Captain of the left battalion of the Rear Division of the Army of Föng-tien. It appears that one Wang Chao-kuéi, an expectant chihhsien, or district magistrate of Shansi, was returning from Shansi to his native city of Liaoyang, and was sailing up the Liao river accompanied by his family in three boats. Not many miles from Liaoyang some pirates had attacked the mandarin's boats and after looting them had just rowed off, when the above-named captain and a squadron of cavalry, whose duty it is to patrol the river for pirates, rode up along the river banks attracted by the noise on the river. Without making the least investigation as to who were the pirates and which were the plundered boats, the said captain at once gave the order to his men to fire
into the latter, probably taking them to be pirates. The above-named district Magistrate fell at the first volley, while the real pirates escaped! This is most strange, and must be strictly enquired into. Let the said Captain be cashiered and handed over to the local authorities for trial and such of his men as were guilty of like carelessness, and let them be punished according to law.

Note:—The above is an instance how affairs have sometimes to be falsified when reported to the Throne, for to tell the truth would have been fatal to some of the highest of the officials from Moukden to Liaoyang, where the murder took place. The only portion of the above decree which was true was about the Shansi magistrate returning to his native city of Liaoyang. As a matter of fact, it seems that the real pirates were the Captain and his patrol. But to acknowledge this to the Emperor would have been equivalent to acknowledging that all the troops in Fengtien were pirates and robbers, and the General himself the greatest of them all! In such a case quite a number of heads would have to fall before the Emperor's wrath could be appeased, while the lightest punishment would have been banishment. A similar case happened in Honan some thirty odd years ago when Mei Chi-chao was Governor. Thirty-three men were beheaded, including the Taotai, prefects, etc., of the Intendancy where the murder took place, while the Governor and Provincial Treasurer were exiled. The Judge happened, luckily for him, to be in Peking at the time or he also would have been banished. A Censor passing by the scene of the murder en route for Peking learned the whole story from the survivors, and reported the matter to the Throne with the above result. In the case under review there was no Censor. The Captain and four of his men were eventually beheaded by the river side on the identical spot of the robbery and murder. A compensation of Tls. 3,000 was also given as solatium to the deceased mandarin's family.—Translator.

(4) The other day we sent Ch'ung Hsi to investigate the alleged frauds perpetrated by the officers in charge of the Imperial herds and stud preserves in Mongolia, in collusion with those in charge of the Imperial mews at Peking. The said Ch'ung Hsi now hands in a list of names against whom certain charges have been proved. We hereby command the Board of Punishments to arrest these men and to sentence the guilty according to the laws of the land.

17th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

P'u Lun is appointed Director of the Board of Music.

18th April.

No papers of interest.

19th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Court of Sacrificial Worship announces that the 6th of May next will be the day for the annual sacrifices to the Bounteous Harvests. We hereby command Prince Tsai Hsin to examine the sacrificial animals, and the Vice-President K'un Hsiu is commanded to superintend their slaughter before the altars.

20th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Mu Ch'i-hsien is appointed Taotai of the K'ai-Kuei-Ch'en-hsti Intendancy of Honan province.

(2) We have this day received the instructions of H. I. M. the Empress-Dowager stating Her Majesty's sympathetic compassion for the sufferings of the famine-stricken people of the districts belonging to the Ch'uantung Intendancy of Szechuan (East Szechuan), as well as for those in the Western portion of Hupeh province who are suffering in a similar manner. The reason for this scarcity of grain and consequent famine is alleged to be a preponderating fall of rain in the autumn of last year, while in the winter following the weather was too dry and without snow. H. I. M. the Empress-Dowager, wishing to show her compassion in a substantial way, commands, and we hereby confirm her order, that the sum of Tls. 100,000 for Szechuan and Tls. 50,000 for Hupeh be drawn from the Treasury of the Privy Purse and remitted post-haste to Lu Ch'uan-lin and Chang Chih-tung, Vicerows of Szechuan and the Hukuang provinces, respectively, who are hereby commanded to make all speed to send relief where it is most needed within their jurisdiction. In this way Her Imperial Majesty hopes that she may be instrumental in saving some of her faithful subjects' lives. In supplementing Her Majesty's commands we would exhort the said Vicerows to deserve the confidence Her Majesty places in them and supplement the sympathy and compassion the Empress-Dowager has for our "black-haired" subjects by energetically and carefully carrying through the plans of relief in aid of the distressed agriculturists of these two provinces. For this is most
important and the only way in which the people can partake of the Imperial bounty.

21st April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Commandant of the Gendarmerie reports the arrest of a notorious rowdy and swindler named Li Fu-ming, who has this time been caught for trying to gull Pe­kingites into the belief that he has been authorised by the Board of Revenue to collect money for shares in the proposed railway between Peking and Hankow. The said Li Fu-ming tried two years ago to run a steam flour mill in Peking in opposition to the local mills worked by manual or animal labour. For this interference with the daily subsistence of the poor of Peking we cashiered him of his degree of military "chujên," and furthermore ordered him to be deported to his native town where the local officials were to hold him under strict surveillance. But the said ex-chujên has surreptitiously returned to swindle the people of Peking again, and he has even printed certain regulations, etc., about building railways in order to give a better colouring to his specious attacks on the purses of the super-ignorant. This is really a serious crime against the laws of the country and should by no means be permitted. We hereby command the said Commandant to hand the said swindler to the Board of Punishment, which is commanded to strictly try the man and punish him according to the laws of the realm.

22nd April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hu P'ing-chih, Governor of Shansi, reports that he has after careful examination recently brought to light a number of frauds perpetrated by the late cashiered Shen Yu-tien, while he held the important post of acting Brigadier-General of Tatung, Shansi. It appears that the deceased had before his death taken a systematic percentage out of every article of expenditure he had the authority and power to make throughout the whole extent of his military circuit, such as extracting a regular percentage from the pay of his troops; from the prices of horses; from repairing and building barracks and camps, etc. It is necessary, of course, to recover the above sums; but, as, upon investigation, it has transpired that the deceased has left no property either in the provincial capital nor at Tatung, memorialist suggests that enquiries shall be made in his native province of Hunan to see what property is still left belonging to his estates there, and, if any, that it should be confiscated and sold on account of the Shansi provincial exchequer which has suffered through the conduct of the cashiered general. Again, it has been affirmed that the son-in-law of the deceased, namely the cashiered prefectural recorder Chia Yu-ch'ien, when his father-in-law was alive held the post of chief accountant in his yamen and naturally handled the most part of the immense sums stolen by the deceased ex-general. Upon enquiry, however, there is no clue to the missing son-in-law who has disappeared completely, leaving no trace behind him in Shansi and its neighbouring provinces. Hence it will be a most difficult task to find him and make him disgorge his plunder, etc. We hereby command on the one hand that dispatches be sent to every Viceroy and Governor of the Empire containing a delineation of the ex-recorder, and on the other, that Ch' en Pao-chen, the Governor of Hunan, be commanded to search for the estate of the dead ex-general and to confiscate it as already stated.

(2) As we have sent Yung Lung out on a special mission, we hereby command P'ing Shou to act as Lieutenant-General of the Yellow Hanchun Banner Corps, ad interim, and Ling Ngeh is to act as Lieutenant-General of the Bordered Red Mongol Banner Corps ad interim during Yung Lung's absence.

23rd April.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Yang Kuo-ting is appointed Brigadier General of the Chenyuan Military Division of Kueichou province.

24th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Assistant Grand Secretary, Li Hung-tsao, President of the Board of Civil Appointments, beseeching an extension of his leave owing to his maladies still lingering with him and also that some one be appointed to act as President of the Board of Civil Appointments for him ad interim. We hereby grant Li Hung-tsao another month's leave from his duties with the advice not to be flurried about his sickness, but to keep cool and quiet, with a determination to get convalescent by securing perfect rest free from the toils and worries of office. We therefore command Sun Chia-nai to act for Li Hung-tsao at the Board of Civil Appointments until he is perfectly convalescent and strong.
(2) Ch'ang En, Deputy Military Governor and Manchu Brigadier-General of Hangchow, reports that as he has filled his present post for two consecutive terms he wishes to be permitted to go up to Peking for an audience with us. Now it has always been the custom for Tartar Generals and Manchu Brigadier-General to write their memorials in the Manchu language when they wish to ask for an audience, but it seems that the present memorial is written entirely in Chinese, which is therefore a decided breach of etiquette. Ch'ang En is hereby turned over to the Board of War for the determination of an adequate penalty.

(3) Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, asks that punishment may be meted out to Ch'ing Shang-tao, the retiring Taotai of the Chi-tung-t'ai-wulin Intendancy of Shantung, on the following grounds:—When the accused had the chief control over the Yellow River Conservation Bureau he used to take advantage of his position to sell appointments to those who could pay for them, in preference to those who had the ability but were minus the means of buying his favour. Hence, as an excuse to receive presents the accused used to demand and pocket large percentages from material bought by his agents such as timber, poles, matting, etc., etc. Now if we allow such barefaced conduct like that narrated by the said Governor to go unpunished others will be following in the accused official's footsteps and it will be hard to prevent such conduct in the future. We therefore command Ch'ing Shang-tao to be forthwith cashiered as a warning to others. The Board of Civil Appointments is to take note.

25th and 26th April.

No papers of importance.

27th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

E-k'o-ts'ang-à, Tartar General and Military Governor, and Chung Lin, Civil Governor of Fengtien, Manchuria, have sent us a joint report of the repairs needed for the "Eternal" Mausolea—the last abiding places of our Imperial ancestors. The Grand Reception Halls require considerable repairs and the grass lawns in front must also be returfed, while the pavilions on either side of the landing places of the artificial rivers must be completely overhauled. The memorialists request that the Imperial Astronomical Board may be commanded to select an auspicious day for the commencement of this important work, etc. We hereby command the said Board to choose at once the lucky day and inform the memorialists as speedily as possible in order that no time may be lost over the work. On the other hand the memorialists are to see that every little work is done in a thoroughly workmanlike manner and not in that shoddy way which looks gorgeous and handsome at first sight but which can never last long. As for the funds to be raised let it be as recommended by the memorialists which the Board of Revenue is to take note of.

28th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

With reference to the memorial of the Censor Li T'iao-yung suggesting that a regular account may be kept of the matters referred from time to time by the Throne to the various provincial high authorities for report thereon and that at the end of each year a summary for that year be sent up to Peking to be placed on record, we hereby command the various Viceroyes and Governors to pay strict attention to this regulation and that they make no delay in sending us their several reports on subjects sent to them for deliberation. Further, they are to make a summary of these same reports at the end of each year, and must know also that we cannot allow in the future any more delay in sending the said summaries for record and reference.

29th April.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Making various changes in the Censorial and Hanlin departments and appointing a number of officials to the various provincial administrations, the candidates being over-time metropolitan officers who have to make way for younger and more energetic aspirants for fame.

(2) Shou Shu is appointed acting Commandant of the Peking Gendamerie during the absence of Jung Lu who has been sent on a special mission.

30th April.

No papers of interest.

1st May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We received the other day a memorial from the Hanlin Reader, Chi Ch'eng, denouncing one Pa-ta-ma-rh-ao-rh, a new Mongol noble, who before
receiving the Imperial confirmation to his new rank, on the death of his father, had the audacity to act as if he had already been confirmed in his new nobility, and appointed his own followers to take possession of the various posts in his gift, etc. We accordingly referred the case to Shou Ying, the Captain-General of the Banner Corps of the said Mongol noble, with instructions to investigate and report to us. The report of the said Captain-General is now before us, to the effect that although he cannot find proofs of the accused, who is a Mongol noble of the East Banner of the Alachcin league, having established any illegal tribunals or issued orders for the extortion of money from those under his jurisdiction before his rank was confirmed by the Throne, yet the said noble has been proved to have given commissions, in military rank, to his followers and slaves, which is illegal, etc. We, therefore, command the said Mongol to be cashiered of his rank as a punishment for being too premature in assuming the privileges of his rank before receiving recognition from the Throne. Again, with reference to the complaint that every new Mongol noble assuming his rank never fails to require certain illegal fees from his subordinates, we hereby decree that from henceforth no such fees are to be paid, and that if in future nobles are found demanding or accepting such fees they are to be forthwith severely denounced and punished therefor. The Mongolian Superintendent is hereby commanded to take special note.

(2) We have received the memorial of Ch'en Pao-chên, Governor of Hunan, reporting the death of Liu Ming-ch'êng, an expectant Provincial Commander-in-Chief, and former Brigadier-General in Hunan, and regret to learn the loss of such a faithful servant. The deceased was an officer under the late Marquis Tso and served in the campaigns against the Taiping Rebels and Kansu Mahommedans, during which he obtained a brilliant record. As a reward, therefore, of his loyal services we hereby command that his military deeds be entered into the dynastic history by the State Historiographer's Bureau and that an extraordinary government grant be given to the deceased General's family for his funeral expenses, etc.

(3) A decree confirming the degradation, dismissal, and cashiering of a large number of local officials of Chihli as recommended by Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of that province.

(4) Li Chao-hui is appointed Senior Director, and Wa Shu-mei, Junior Director, of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

(5) We hereby appoint the 16th instant as the day for the examination of those who desire to be appointed as Literary Chancellors to the provinces during the current year. The place of examination will be the Pa-ho Throne-hall.

2nd May.

No papers of interest.

3rd May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ting Chih-huh is appointed Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seal of the Treasury of the Board of Civil Appointments.

(2) The Imperial Clan Court reports that Prince I Mu, 4th Order, has presented a memorial praying to be allowed to adopt Tsai T'ao, a son of a Duke of the Imperial lineage, to be the former's son and heir, etc. The prayer is granted and Tsai T'ao shall now be recognised in the future as the son of the said Prince.

4th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received a memorial from the Censor, Chou Ch'eng-kwong, exposing the way the provincial officials have in dealing with robbery and murder cases brought to their notice, and complaining of the illegal tortures prevalent in their yamen, etc. Now, whenever such cases come before these officials, it should be their duty to enquire into them as soon as possible in order that our subjects, the common people, may not suffer through delay and procrastination in dealing with them. Instead of this, however, the said Censor states that the officials delight in procrastination and seek complications by such delays. Then illegal tortures are used to compel witnesses, etc., to acknowledge what the presiding magistrates want them to say, in consequence of which justice is often miscarried, etc. We would therefore impress upon the Viceroyys and Governors of provinces to exhort their Provincial Judges to exercise vigilance in discovering such frauds against justice and to severely denounce the officials guilty of such conduct; at the same time, the latter must be exhorted to reform their ways of treating such cases in order that there may be no cause for future complaints, etc.
5th May.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(2) Huang Chün-lung is appointed Police Censor of the Middle City of Peking.

(3) Wang Chao-lin is appointed assistant police magistrate of the Western City of Peking.

No papers of interest.

6th May.

**MODERN FIREARMS AND STEAMERS REQUIRED IN MANCHURIA.**

E-k'6-i'ang, Tartar-General of Fengtien, Manchuria, reports that owing to the disgraceful state of the ordnance department of his province, and the uselessness of the riverine navy, the duty of which is to patrol the waters of Fengtien after pirates and smugglers, he has been compelled to send this special memorial asking to be allowed to buy the necessary modern armaments and steamers required in his province as the first step towards securing peace and tranquillity in Manchuria, which, since the recent war, has been made the rendezvous for wholesale brigandage and piracy. In former times a Viceroy, Governor, or Tartar-General was privileged to make his own purchases on his own responsibility and to send his deputies to Tientsin or Shanghai to enter into contracts with foreign firms in the name of the province sending them. But as there is now in force an Imperial decree commanding all provincial authorities in need of foreign arms, machinery, ships, etc., to report the matter to the Throne first, and, if favourable, to first apply to the Ordnance Bureaux and Naval Depots of the Nanyang and Peiyang administrations and the Hupeh Ironworks, etc., for the things required, and not until it was found that these administrations could not furnish them were Viceroys and Governors of provinces permitted to ask permission of the Throne to order modern firearms and ships of war from abroad. The procedure then was to communicate with the Viceroys of the two administrations who would then write on the applicants' behalf to the Ministers stationed in foreign countries to order these matters for them.

"The provincial high authorities," continues the decree in question, "shall not be allowed to send their own deputies to the Treaty ports to make contracts and give orders for their respective government, etc." Now the state of aff airs as found by memorialist since his arrival in Fengtien is as follows:—We have the men, but have not a sufficiency of breech-loading modern fire-arms and ammunition. Modern arms of precision are getting improved upon, day by day, and those firing smokeless powder are the best according to the experience of the memorialist. Fengtien province therefore needs a sufficiency of these arms of precision in order to provide against future contingencies. Owing to their expense, these new arms need not be used by the troops in their daily drills, but when danger appears these rifles should by all means be placed in their hands. The memorialist bought a few years ago several hundred small-bore magazine rifles with a certain limited quantity of smokeless cartridges for them, and they proved most satisfactory to the troops (during the late war). But this sort of ammunition was soon exhausted so that memorialist was left in a dilemma. He therefore, communicated at once with a foreign firm for a supply of the requisite ammunition; but up to the present moment the ammunition has not arrived at Moukden owing probably to the great difficulty of transport and expense of first cost. So far the rifles are so much dead loss to memorialist without the requisite ammunition and it is most important to remedy this so that the rifles may not be found wanting in times of emergency and danger. Of course the territorial battalions of the province are provided with some kind of firearms, but these are only a limited quantity of antiquated matchlocks and two-men jingals—utterly useless in modern warfare, as memorialist has found by experience. The question now is to properly arm our Manchurian troops with good arms and ammunition and to drill them thoroughly in their use. [The memorialist is the famous Tartar General I, whose troops were so favourably reported upon by the Japanese officers in the vicinity of Fenghuangchêng in the Yalu Valley during the late war.—Translator.] The main question, however, was that of finance. Where was the money to come from to arm the troops in such a thorough manner? Memorialist, after due consultation with his subordinates, finds that there is a scale of rewards in rank, etc., given to any person contributing money to the provincial government, and persons holding a certain military rank in the Tartar or Chinese army can easily buy promotion by paying money to the exchequer for the purchase of arms and ammunition. In this way, therefore, memorialist has been able to raise a goodly
sum which is being constantly increased, which he is now prepared to expend on the great purpose he has in view. Memorialist granted an audience, recently, to a certain foreign arms merchant in Moukden who informed him that he (the merchant) had with him 400,000 smokeless cartridges for small bore Mauser rifles, 5,000 single-fire Mausers for infantry, and 1,200,000 cartridges for them. He also said he had also on the way out one million smokeless cartridges for the small-bore Mannlicher magazine rifles, and further stated that he had with him 2,180 infantry Mannlichers, with short bayonets, the balance of a contract with the Peiyang administration. The said merchant then offered to sell the whole of the above to the memorialist. The latter, finding that the price charged for the Mannlichers was extremely moderate, accordingly made arrangements with the said merchant to purchase the whole lot offered him in order to provide for future emergencies, and he (memorialist) asks the sanction of the Throne to this. Again, the main rivers of Fengtien which constitute the Great Liao, the Hun, and the Taichih, rivers, have an expanse stretching and winding through the country to a distance of many thousands of li. Every year, in the spring, summer and autumn, these rivers rise to an abnormal height enabling numerous grain junks, etc., to sail up and down the province. Owing to this piracy is quite frequent in these waters, but owing to the antiquated and rotten state of the inland war-junks, the latter are never able to catch the pirates and their swift craft who easily outstrip the former whenever a chase is attempted after the completion of a piracy. In some cases piratical junks have been known to simulate the mandarin junks and thus come suddenly and unawares upon the trading craft, much to the detriment of the latter who often accused the naval people of committing piracy. Hence memorialist has decided to buy, to commence with, one swift steam launch to cruise especially after pirates in the rivers named above. If the price demanded for these steam launches be reasonable memorialist intends to buy two of them, if possible. In a word the smokeless cartridges, the Mannlichers and Mausers and their ammunition and the steam launches noted above are matters indispensable and urgent to the province of Tungch'in, and further, as memorialist will be able to buy them all out of the funds raised by him without touching the exchequer proper of the province, he hopes his Majesty will grant him the necessary sanction to complete the purchase without delay.—

Recript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

7th May.

No papers of interest.

8th May.

THE BUILDING OF THE TELEGRAPH LINE IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, T'ao Mu, Viceroy of Shen-Kan, and Jao Ying-ch'i, Governor of Chinese Turkestan, jointly present an account of expenses incurred in constructing a telegraph line in Chinese Turkestan, beginning from the city of Turfan, not far from Hami, outside the Great Wall, and passing through the cities of Kharasjar, Kuch'i, Marabashi, and thence to the old city of Kashgar, a distance of 2,381 li in a straight line. All these cities are south of the Tienshan or Celestial Mountains, which divide Kuldja from Kashgaria. The Imperial sanction for the line was given in January, 1893, and it was completed in February, 1895, including a stoppage of two months in Ak-su, owing to the severity of the winter which precluded outdoor work. The appropriation for the Kashgarian telegraph line amounted to Tls. 284,000, odd, equally divided between the special funds reserved in the Shanghai Customs Bank for the Embassies abroad, and the fixed deposit of the Admiralty (now defunct) at Peking. The sums actually expended amounted to Tls. 61,506, odd, for telegraph wire from abroad; Tls. 109,140, odd, for cost of surveys, transport of materials by water and land, and the pay of the coolies attached thereto; Tls. 18,207, odd, pay of surveyors and officers and construction staff; Tls. 2,278, odd, for new telegraph stations, and Tls. 33,774, odd, for cost of timber and telegraph poles—this last, however, should be paid by the local authorities of Kashgaria—or a total amount expended on this work of Tls. 225,607, odd, leaving a balance of over Tls. 54,000, still in the hands of the Kashgarian government which will be brought forward on account of the extension of the telegraph line into Kuldja from Tihuafu, the provincial capital.—

Recript: Let the Boards of War, Revenue, and Works take note.

Two more memorials by the same high officers reporting the amounts expended in building telegraph lines between Shuchou, near the western extremity of the Great Wall, to Tihuafu (Urumtsi), the capital of
Chinese Turkestan, a distance of 2,069 li in a straight line between the two points—a most difficult work over hill and dale and across the great Kansu desert called Gobi. The mount used for this line, which includes several minor branches connecting important commercial or military centres, en route, was Tls. 173,653, odd. The Kuldja line, a distance of 1,130 li, cost a total of Tls. 82,301, odd.

9th May.
COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty the Emperor will grant an audience to the new Austrian Minister Chi Kan in the Wenhua Throne-hall to-morrow forenoon.

No papers of inter, st.

10th May.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty granted a special audience this morning in the Wenhua Throne-hall to H.E. Chi Kan, Austro-Hungarian Minister to Peking.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch’ung K’u-an is appointed a Sub-chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with the brevet rank of a Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

(2) We received a memorial from Su Lutai, Brigadé General at Kupeik’ou (an entrance in the eastern part of the Great Wall), reporting that several Banner troopers under his command have in the habit of receiving double rations and Banner allowances owing to the carelessness of the officers of their regiments. We hereby command that the officers culpably negligent in this matter be handed to the Board of War for the determination of adequate penalties [names given], and further, that in view of the above discovery it is probable that such drawing of double rations, etc., cannot be an uncommon thing amongst the Banner garrisons throughout the Empire, We therefore command all the Manchu generals commanding our Banner troops to make all proper investigation into this matter and report at once to us.

11th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We received this morning a report from the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie announcing the capture, in conjunction with Hu Liang-chü, district magistrate of Hsienhshen, Chihli (formerly a favourite civil Aide or Usher of Li Hungchang when the latter was Viceroy of Chihli—Translator), of three members of a small gang of bandits who had been infesting the said magistrate’s territory, and who, on the present occasion, had been raiding a hamlet, various members of which had been seriously wounded by the said bandits. We hereby command that the captured robbers be at once handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and punishment according to the laws of the land, and further, that after the case has been dealt with as above, the conduct of the energetic magistrate above-named be presented to us in the usual report, in order that proper recognition may be given of such conduct which, of late, has been quite rare amongst local authorities in Chihli and elsewhere.

12th May.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Li Hsing-jui, former Salt Comptroller of the Ch’anglu Circuit of Chihli and Honan, and Provincial Judge-designate of Fukien vice Chang Ts’eng-yang resigned, was received in farewell audience this morning by his Majesty in the Grand Council Chamber. During the audience, the new Judge asked and received permission to visit his home before proceeding to his new post—a month’s leave being granted him for the purpose by the Emperor.

THE CHINESE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE RECENT MAHOMMEDAN REBELLION IN KANSU.

T’ao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces, sends to the Throne a report as follows:—About the middle of June, 1895, the Grand Council transmitted by telegraph an edict of his Majesty stating that on that morning a certain Censor had memorialised that the origin of the Mahommedan Rebellion in Kansu was really due to a religious struggle for supremacy in the city of Hsünhua, amongst a sect called the Sayeds. The contestants applied to the local department magistrate for redress and justice. Instead of giving the justice prayed for the local magistrate demanded money from the litigants before he would decide! Naturally, this gave grave cause for discontent amongst both parties, with the result that when the mandarins tried to enforce the law to maintain order, the flame of insurrection began to burn fiercely at once, spreading throughout the province. Owing to the preliminary successes of the insurgents, the trouble resulted in a widespread and very serious rebellion. “The man who was the cause of all this,” remarked the said Censor, “was Ch’én
Ch'ing-lin, judicial commissary of Hsün-hua who was then also acting sub-prefect of that city." His Majesty therefore commanded the then Viceroy of Shen-Kan (Yang Ch'ang-chün) to have the official so denounced arrested at once, and brought to trial in order that a proper investigation might be made of the matter, and future causes of discord amongst the Mahomedans of Kansu guarded against, etc. In view of the said edict, the said Viceroy Yang at once ca-hiered Ch'en Ch'ing-lin and ordered him to be brought with all haste to the provincial capital, Lanchou, for trial. When the accused official was brought to the provincial capital, he was at once placed under the charge of the senior prefect (prefect of Lanchou) who had orders to make a strictly impartial investigation of the case. At this juncture owing to the seriousness of the rebellion and the need of every official to concert measures of defence and supply regarding the city of Lanchou which was threatened by the rebels, there was no leisure to attend to the accused official's case. Hsün-hua was also cl-sely besieged by the rebels this time, and the sub-prefect murdered by them. With the relief of Hsün-hua by the Imperial armies, however, the crisis was passed, and shortly afterwards the acting sub-prefect, Aoyang Lo-ts'ing, reported the capture by him of some of the principal Mahomedans concerned in the above case, namely, the hereditary Mahomedan commissaries of justice, Han Ch'ü-chung and Han Ying-lu, and certain other witnesses, viz:—Han "Liu-ké" (or Han, the sixth child,) and Han "Ch'i-shih-erh" (or Han, "72 catties," apparently alluding to a time when he weighed 72 catties). These men were sent under strong escort to Lanchou by the said acting sub-prefect and handed over to the provincial authorities. After sever-r trials before a joint court consisting of Ts'eng Ho, Provincial Treasurer, and Ch'nou Sui, acting Provincial Judge, the following evidence was taken, which has been confirmed by a sub-qu-rnt trial before the memorialist in person. The accused official, namely, Ch'en Ch'ing-lin, is a native of S. T'ungchou, province of Kiangsu. Six years ago, he was promoted from the gaol-wardenship of Sutinghsien to the post of judicial commissary of Hsün-hua. During March, 1894, there occurred a schism in the Mahomedan mosques of Hsün-hua wherein Han Nourlii, head Mollah of what is called the old sect, and Han Loo-szu (Han Number 4) head Mollah of the new sect, while holding a violent debate one day, came to blows with each other, supported by their respective followers, resulting eventually in a mutual plundering and burning of each others' villages, etc. Although Han Ch'i-chung, the hereditary Mahomedan commissary of justice, tried his best to heal the breach between the two parties, the fanatics on each side were too strong in numbers to listen to reason, and recourse was had to the sub-prefect, namely, the late Ch'ang K'ong (who was murdered by the fanatics in the beginning of the rebellion—Translator). Ch'ang K'ong, on being informed of how matters stood by the said Mahomedan commissary of justice, at once summoned the recalcitrant Mollahs before his court. No one, however, attended the summons. But in September of that year (1894) Han Nourli, Mollah of the old sect, sent several persons in succession to the sub-prefect praying for mercy. Ch'ang K'ong, however, refused to entertain the plea without an enquiry of some sort. One of the present witnesses, namely Han "72 catties," and another man were then sent to Hsün-hua to beg the prefect there to use his influence in making his subordinate, the Hsün-hua sub-prefect, take more notice of the case. The said prefect, however, sent these two men under escort to the Hsün-hua sub-prefect, to be dealt with by the latter, who thereupon imprisoned the men. The following month (October) Ch'ang K'ong supported by a military force went several times in person to the Mahomedan villages outside the city and eventually arrested both of the Mollahs and several [names given] of their immediate clansmen. (They all belonged apparently to one clan, the Han.—Translator.) While the case was beast tried before the late sub-prefect, a Mahomedan chief named Ma Kun-liang, of Hochou, suddenly appeared with a strong force of mounted Mahomedans and getting hold of the two hereditary Mahomedan commissaries of justice of Hsün-hua, compelled them to go with him to the sub-prefect's yamen to demand bail for the prisoners in order to enable them to settle their differences out of Court. The late sub-prefect, over-awed by the armed rebels, gave his consent and released the prisoners. Shortly afterwards Ch'ang K'ong died.

Note:—The real story, however, was that the Mahomedan chief from Hochou broke open the Hsün-hua gaol and released his fellow-religionists and murdered the sub-prefect Ch'ang K'ong, a Manchu, who had refused to allow bail without a substantial
bribe, which the Mahomedans were too poor to give; otherwise the case would have been finished long ago and possibly a rebellion averted. This is substantially what was given in an official dispatch from Kansu and translated in the North-China Daily News some time in November or December, 1894, and afterwards corroborated by the Censor who denounced the Hsiin-hua officials as the primary cause of the Mahommedan rebellion of 1894, 1895, and 1896 in Kansu.—Translator.

Upon the death of Ch'ang Keng, the accused officer under review, the judicial commissary (Ch'en Ch'ing-lin) was appointed acting sub-prefect. But in the meantime the two sects began fighting amongst themselves again, and created such disturbances in and around the city that the said Ch'en Ch'ing-lin was on the point of petitioning for more troops from Lanchou when the whole province began to fill with rebels who pillaged and burned wherever they went. Hsiin-hua was besieged by the rebels and all communication with the outside world cut off. After the relief of Hsiin-hua was accomplished in the following year the accused officer was at once ordered to appear at Lanchou for trial. From the evidence obtained, memorialist is of opinion that it was the late sub-prefect Ch'ang Keng's permitting the head Mollahs and their followers to be bailed out that caused the insurrection in Hsiin-hua, with which the accused official at that time had nothing to do. The Mahomedan hereditary commissaries of justice, Han Ch'i-chung and Han Ying-lu, proved themselves loyal to the State during the rebellion. Hence the above three officials cannot be said to have caused the rebellion which ensued. The Mollahs, on the other hand, who began the trouble have all been slain or executed, in the meanwhile, for their participation in the rebellion, and those who were really the cause of all the trouble are now dead, hence there is no necessity of going further into the matter.—Rescript: Approved.

13th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chiang Yin-lung, Brigadier-General of the Yen-Sui Military Circuit of Shensi, and Huang Wan-p'eng, Brigadier-General of the Aksu Military Circuit of Kashgaria, are commanded to resign their posts and come up to Peking and report at the Board of War for an audience.

(2) Ts'ing P'o, prefect of P'uchou, Shansi; P'ang Hsi, prefect of Liangchou, Kansu; and Wen Huan, prefect of Heng-chou, Hunan (all Manchus), are hereby commanded to resign their posts and report at the Board of Civil Appointments for an audience.

(3) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

14th May.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

Liu Lung-kuang is appointed First Captain of the Left Battalion of the Middle Brigade, belonging to the Division of the Colonel Commanding at Hochienfu, Chihli province.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty went this morning to Eho Park to pay his usual obeisance to the Empress-Dowager, and returned the same day to Peking.

15th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We hereby appoint the 18th instant for the examination of the theses of the competitors for posts of Literary Chancellors in the province.

(2) Lo P'ing-m is appointed Brigadier-General of the Yen-Sui Military Circuit of Shensi province vice Chiang Yun-lung called to Peking.

(3) Chang Chung-p'en is appointed Brigadier-General of the Aksu Military Circuit of Kashgaria vice Huang Wan-p'eng, called to Peking.

(4) Ts'eng Shu-ts'un is appointed prefect of P'uchou, Shansi, vice Ts'ing P'o, called to Peking.

(5) Yen Ch'ung-liang is appointed prefect of Hengchou, Hunan, vice Wen Huan, called to Peking.

16th May.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

All Chinese and Manchus having the literary rank of chinshi (Metropolitan Graduate) and holding posts as Vice-Presidents of Boards, sub-Chancellors of the Grand Secretariat, or 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades of the Metropolitan rank, who did not compete the other day at the examinations for posts as Literary Chancellors in the provinces, are hereby commanded to present themselves at the Imperial Library on the 19th instant, to compete at essay writing as a test for qualification for the above-named posts. Those, however, who do not desire to compete are allowed the privilege of sending their excuses to the Board of Rites which shall then strike off their names from the roll of competitors.

No papers of interest.
17th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, denounces certain officers connected with the Yellow River Conservation Bureau for fraudulent practices, such as supplying inferior materials for embankment works, as well as buying insufficient supplies in order to pocket the difference resulting therefrom, etc. Now it must be obvious to all that the proper construction of river works in Shantung is of supreme importance to the whole country, hence such culpable conduct as supplying insufficient as well as inferior materials for these important public works constitutes a serious crime which ought in no wise to be condoned. We, therefore, command that the following penalties be given to the officers named in this decree, the severity of which is to be commensurate with the degree of culpability of each:—

We hereby command that the following expectant district magistrates of Shantung be forthwith cashiered, viz.:—Ch'ing Jui (Manchu), Liu Chia-ch'en, Sung Hsiu (Manchu), and Ch'ê Ying-tou. With reference to the expectant district magistrates Yang Sien-chia and Wang Wei-hsien, we hereby command that they be degraded to the rank of recorder and judicial commissary in a prefect's yamen, and assistant district magistrate, respectively, as a warning to their fellow officials to refrain from following in the footsteps of the above-named.

(2) Ch'ung Kuang (Manchu), a member of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department and Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, has sent us a prayer to be allowed to resign his office on the ground of serious illness, etc. We hereby grant the said Ch'ung Kuang another month's leave of absence, there being no necessity for him to resign his post.

18th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We hereby appoint the Grand Secretary Lin Shu (Manchu), Comptroller-General, and Wêng T'ung-ho, President, respectively, of the Board of Revenue; Hsü Ying-k'uei, President of the Board of Works; Ch'i Hsiu (Manchu), President of the Mongolian Superintendency; Hsü Shuming and Yang Yi, Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents, respectively, of the Board of War; Li Tuan-fên, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments; Ch'en Hsiio-fên, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; Mien Yi (Manchu), Senior Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency, and T'ung Chin-ch'ung, sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, to be judges and to look over the essays of the competitors for posts as Literary Chancellors and Assistant Literary Chancellors in the provinces, at the forthcoming examinations in the Paoho Throne-hall.

19th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have perused the memorial of the Censor Chou Chêng-kuang, recommending certain innovations with regard to the storing of reserve grain in the various provincial cities of the Empire. The Board of Revenue is hereby commanded to take the matter under consideration and report to us the result of their deliberations thereon.

20th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tai En-p'u, Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seal of the Treasury of the Board of Revenue, denounces the lax manner in which the local provincial officials who have failed to make good their tax deficits to the provincial treasuries, have been of late dealt with by their superiors the high provincial authorities. The memorialist suggests that defaulting officials be henceforth severely punished, since these defalcations or delays in paying up arrears in taxes if totaled up would aggregate to many hundreds of thousands of taels—a welcome addition to the present depleted condition of the Imperial exchequer. We certainly agree in toto with the sentiments set forth in the said memorial and would warn the Viceroys and Governors of our provinces to be more on the alert in the performance of their duties in this respect. They are, henceforth, given the liberty to denounce as severely as possible any delinquencies such as these noted above by the said Censor, and we look to our high authorities to cleanse the official arena in this respect.

(2) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, Jung Lu, reports the capture by his force of the remaining members of the band of desperadoes formerly led by the notorious K'ang Pa-erh who was traced to Newchwang last spring, captured, brought back to the capital, and summarily decapitated by special Imperial decree. Five of the gang (names given) were captured yesterday after a desperate fight, in which some of the gendarmes were wounded, and these prisoners
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we hereby command are to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to the laws of the land. There now remains, according to the report of the said Commandant, only one member of K’ang Pa-erh’s gang, Yang “No 4,” who is still at large, having escaped arrest, so far. Let no effort be spared in compassing this man’s capture in order that the whole band may be swept from the face of the earth. As soon as the Board of Punishments shall have given sentences on the five men above noted, we command the said Commandant to present to us a list of the deserving of his officers and men who distinguished themselves by their bravery and energy in capturing these desperadoes, in order that adequate rewards may be granted to them. Further, those officers and men of the disciplined battalion of Fengtien province who assisted the gendarmes in capturing K’ang Pa-erh in Newchwang, and later on the five members of his gang in other parts of Manchuria, are also to be rewarded for the effective aid given by them to the Peking gendarmes, and the said Commandant is hereby commanded to include the deserving ones of the said battalion in his list to be presented to us. 

(3) The Court of Sacrificial Worship announces that the 13th day of the 5th moon (12th June) will be the anniversary of the birth of Kuan Ti, the God of War, and that it will be necessary to offer special sacrifices at his godship’s temple on that day. We hereby command K’ai T’ai, Prince of Cheng, 1st Order, to sacrifice in the said temple on that day in our stead, while Ch’ing Fu is commanded to sacrifice at the rear altars of the same temple.

(4) The 21st of June being the occasion of the Summer Solstice, we hereby announce our intention of personally sacrificing at the temples of the Earth and the Bountiful Seasons in honour of that day. Chung Hsiu, Li Jui, Ying Chun (Manchus), and Huang Ying-an are hereby commanded to accompany the Court and assist in sacrificing at the four minor altars connected with the said temples.

21st May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received a memorial from Hu Ping-chih, Governor of Shansi, requesting that permission may be given him to cashier, arrest, and confiscate the property of one Wang Ting-jui, a fourth-class expectant district supervisor of instruction, and ex-acting district magistrate of Shouyang, Shansi, as a punishment for failing to make good some Tls. 800, which he had collected during his acting incumbency, but which the said officer failed to make over to his successor when the former resigned his seals of office, etc., In the meantime, since the alleged delinquent returned to T’aiyuanfu, the provincial capital, to await further appointment, in spite of repeated appeals from the Provincial Treasurer to refund the said debt, the accused official ignored them all until the patience of the memorialist has been worn out with this unwarranted procrastination, with the result that he recommends that not only the delinquent be cashiered, but arrested, and his property—whatever there may be—confiscated in order to serve as a warning to other local officials in the future. We hereby command that the said Wang Ting-jui be forthwith cashiered upon the arrival of this edict at T’aiyuanfu, and that he be placed in confinement while investigation is made by the said Governor and his colleagues to find out what property the accused owns both in Taiyuanfu as well as in Shouyanghsien, the district where he held office. If these be found insufficient to make good the sum of the accused officer's debt to the Imperial government, we hereby authorise the said Governor to place himself in communication with Wei Kuang-tao, Governor of Shensi—the native province of the accused—and order the confiscation of whatever property may stand in the name of the said Wang Ting-jui in his native city. For in this way only can the revenues of the Crown be properly protected.

22nd May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

As Ch’ang Shan, ex-Tartar General and Military Governor of Kirin, Manchuria, has returned to the capital, he is hereby granted the privilege of returning to his old post as one of the officers of the Guard at the Chi’ent’aising gate of the Imperial Palace.

MODERN ORDNANCE FOR CHINGCHOUFU.

Liu K’un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces and Imperial High Commissioner of the Nanyang administration, reports that having received a despatch from Haiang Hang, Tartar General of Hupeh province and Military Governor of the City of Chingchoufu, Hupeh, requesting the memorialist to supply him with modern firearms and ordnance, owing
to the wretched condition of the ordnance department of the Manchu garrison of the last named city which has only antiquated firearms of the old style, and, further, as memorialist took into account the importance of the city of Chingchou which dominates and guards all the Imperial highways connecting the south with the northern parts of the province and those provinces to the north of it, the said memorialist considered it of the first importance that the troops of Chingchou should be properly armed in order to be able to cope with any of the numerous bands of brigands infesting the borders of Hupeh and the northern provinces. Hence, although the request of the said Tartar General was rather irregular, since he should have made his request through the Viceroy at Wuchang, the importance of the matter prevented the memorialist from taking exception, and he has therefore sent by special gunboat 500 stand of breach-loading centre-fire Remington rifles with 500 cartridges for each rifle, and also a battery of four 6-centimetre calibre steel breach-loading Krupp guns, to be used as horse artillery, together with 300 rounds for each gun. His Majesty's approval is now asked for this matter.—Rescript: Let the Boards of War and of Revenue take note.

23rd May.

PROMISSUOUS SHOOTING.

Tan Chung-lin, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and Viceroy of the provinces of Kuangtung and Kuangsi, and Hsu Chen-yi, Governor of Kuangtung, send a joint memorial concerning a case of promissuinous shooting in the city of Lienpingchou, Kuangtung, wherein a man who was intending to shoot down an enemy, fatally wounded instead the latter's wife with the first shot, and with the second instantaneously killed his own mother. Owing to the seriousness of the crime the culprit was brought to Canton for trial before the Provincial Judge, and later on, the evidence obtained by that officer was confirmed by a personal investigation before the memorialists themselves. The murderer was a member of the militia of the city of Lienpingchou and was noted for his filial piety towards his widowed mother. The man he wished to kill was a neighbour, and the two men, moreover, owned adjacent pieces of land on the hills behind the said city of Lienpingchou. One day, while the latter, a man named Liu Ah-hsi, was cutting trees and picking up brushwood for firewood in the hill land aforesaid, he happened to be standing just on the boundary separating the two properties when the mother of the murderer, (a man named Chou Ah-lu), passing by at the time, suspected that the former was stealing the brushwood from her property. She at once accused Liu Ah-hsi of theft, and he conscious of having done no wrong naturally resented, resulting in hard language being used on both sides. The old woman then returned home and told her son, who had just returned from guard duty, about the disrespect shown by their neighbour, living opposite the way. This so exasperated the son who was naturally of a violent temper, that he went at once across the street to seek for Liu Ah-hsi. He found his enemy and without more ado struck a blow at Liu. Liu dodged the intended blow and turned round to return the compliment, when Chou ran back to his own house and picking up a club came out again to attack Liu. Just then Chou's mother came up and seeing her son with a club in his hand, ready for mischief, and on the point of crossing the street she laid hold of his club, and partly by force, and partly by words of command, persuaded him to go back into the house. This done, the mother pushed the son into his room and locked him up inside. This room faced the street and the wooden walls being full of crevices and apertures, Chou could easily see what was going on outside. He saw Liu still standing in the street in front of his own door, but swearing away and gesticulating in the direction of Chou's house. This apparently so inflamed the hearer that he looked around for some means of getting out of his room "to have it out" with Liu. At this moment he espied his musket which belonged to him by virtue of his connection with the city militia. He instantly took down the weapon which hung on the wall ready for use, and drawing out the old charge reloaded the piece with a slug putting a fresh percussion cap on the nipple. Chou then shoved his gun through an aperture in the wall and deliberately aimed it at Liu, who ignorant of the shot in store for him still stood swearing in front of his house. Just as Chou pulled the trigger of his gun, Liu's wife issued from the door, and in so doing just covered her husband's person. The result was that the woman received the ball in her left side, and fell moaning to the ground. Enraged beyond bounds at this outrage upon his wife Liu dashed into Chou's house eager to wreak vengeance on the perpetrator, and crying out that he was determined...
to have the latter bound and taken before the authorities. When Chou saw that his shot had missed his enemy, and that the latter was actually in his (Chou's) house, the murderer reloaded his gun determined to shoot at him again. His gun reloaded, Chou pushed the muzzle through an aperture near the door of his room. But just as he fired his own mother had rushed up in front of Liu to push him out of the way—knowing that her son would fire again, now that his blood was up. In doing so the old woman received the bullet in her back killing her instantly, thus saving once more Liu's life.

As soon as Chou recognised the enormity of his crime, although done accidentally, he at once came out gun in hand, and made his way to the sub-prefect's yamen to whom he gave himself up. As the law makes no allowance for accidental homicide, the memorialist in consequence of the murder being that of the homicide's own mother at once ordered Chou Ah-lu to be executed by the lingchih or "slow and shameful process." The sanction of his Majesty is requested to the above sentence.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments speedily report thereon.

24th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ho Fu is appointed special Inspector of the affairs of the Bordered Red Banner of the Mongolian Corps.

(2) Ch'en Ch'i-chang is hereby appointed Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.

MILITARY ECONOMIES IN KANSU.

T'ao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces, announces his inability to cut down the strength of a certain portion of the garrison of Kansu province, especially as regards the corps under the special command of General Tung Fu-hsiang, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Kansu and Generalissimo of the Imperial armies in the North-West. These troops called the Tung Ch'in or "Tung Army Corps" are veterans of former Mahommedan wars and served both in Kansu and Chinese Turkestan. They number twenty full battalions or 10,000 men and as they were specially detailed by Imperial edict to keep the peace in Kansu and are regarded with respect by the Mahommedan population, memorialist thinks that it will be misjudged economy to attempt to cut down the strength of this corps, at the present crisis, in order to save a paltry several tens of thousands of taels a year. The utter uselessness of the sedentary territorial regiments during the recent rebellion has been too well proved, hence, it would be much to the advantage of the province both as to future peace and quiet, as well as economy, if the strength of those troops be cut down in accordance with the Imperial commands lately issued to all the provinces in the Empire. But as the situation in Kansu province is different from the other provinces of the Empire, memorialist requests leave to keep the Tung Army Corps intact, as it now stands, instead of having its economical conditions interfered with at present. The saving through cutting down the regimental strength of the other corps and brigades in Kansu will amount to some Tls. 250,000 per annum. As it costs Tls. 300,000 to keep the Tung Corps, memorialist proposes to devote the above saving to that corps and the balance still wanting can be made up by economies in other branches of the civil administration.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue report thereon.

25th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Punishments is commanded to make a strict investigation into the case of the common soldier Tu Lin who appealed to us yesterday morning while we were on our way to Eho Park.

(2) T'ao Mu commends in eulogistic phrases the patriotism and benevolence of Tung Fu-hsiang, our Provincial Commander-in-Chief in Kansu. He states that the said General seeing the great distress of the people inhabiting the districts of Haich'eng and Pingyuan who were the first to suffer from the ravages of the rebels during the late Mahommedan rebellion, at once gave Tls. 10,000 to the civil authorities to buy grain and agricultural implements and cattle for the sufferers. Such an act of philanthropy ought not to pass unrecognised and we therefore command the Board of War to consider some adequate reward to the said General as a mark of the Imperial approval.

(3) Hsieh Yuan is appointed Taotai of the T'ung-Shang Intendancy of Shensi.

(4) Li Hsi-tung, Taotai of the above-named Intendancy, is hereby transferred to the T'eng-Lai-Ch'ing Intendancy of Shantung (Chefoo Taotaiship).

(5) Li Kuang-chiu is appointed Taotai of the F'eng-Yun-Lu-Sza Intendancy of Anhui (Fengyang Taotaiship).
26th May.

COURT CIRCULAR.
The Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, Minister of the Taungli Yamen, was granted one month's sick leave by his Majesty this morning.

No papers of interest.

27th May.

No papers of interest.

28th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) Ngêh Lé-ch'un is appointed Brigade General of the Manchu garrison of Kiôngning, Kiangsu province.
(2) Tai Ngao is appointed Senior Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

29th May.

No papers of interest.

30th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Sung Fan, Viceroy of the Yun-Kuei provinces, denounces in severe language the conduct of Lei Chia-ch'un, Colonel Commandant of the territorial battalions garrisoning the city of Lingping and districts surrounding the said city, and his subordinate officers for: 1st—pocketing the pay of the men under them; 2nd—for reducing the strength of the various battalions and keeping "dummies" on the regimental rolls; 3rd—for keeping the arms of the troops in a wretched condition, and, 4th—for going about and leaving their posts at will. Such conduct should be visited with condign punishment and we hereby cashier the said Colonel Lei Chia-ch'un, and his subordinates the First Captains Li K'un-yung, Yang Chih-tsing, and Ma Ch'ii-lang, and the Lieutenant-Colonels Liu Hsiu-ho and Yang Tsai-mao. All the above-named officers together with the previously cashiered ex-Major Yang Ch'un-ts'ai, are further hereby ordered to be banished to the military post-roads in Chinese Turkestan to expiate their crimes there. As for the said Viceroy we commend him for his boldness and diligence in his duties in denouncing the cashiered officers and he is therefore excused, by special grace, from being relegated to the Boards for penalties in permitting such discreditable conduct within his jurisdiction.

(2) With reference to the above decree Tsou Hsing-lun, Taotai of the Ling-An-K'ai-Kuang Intendancy of Yunnan; Liu Chun-lin, prefect of K'aihuafu; Liu Wanch'UN, Brigadier General of Lingyuan, and Kao Tê-yu, Colonel of Lingyuan, are hereby pardoned and excused from penalties for their diligence in their duties and determination in reporting the disgraceful condition of affairs in the territorial battalions at Li-g-ping, etc., to the said Viceroy.

31st May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) Chou K'eh-k'uan is appointed Chief, and Yü K'un, Assistant, Literary Chancellor of Yunnan for the ensuing year.
(2) Tu Pen-shun is appointed Chief, and Ch'en Peh-t'ao, Assistant, Literary Chancellor of Kueichou for the ensuing year.

1st June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) We have received the annual report of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, of the Hu-kuang provinces, on the conduct of the local authorities and magistrates of the cities under the said Viceroy's jurisdiction, and we note that the said Viceroy praises some while, on the other hand, he denounces others who he considers should be punished. Of the first class, Ting Kuo-chên, sub-prefect of Mienyang; Li Chin-chiang, chihsien of Tsiaoyang; Chang Chi-ch'ing, substantive chihsien of Mach'êng and acting chihsien of Chianglin, and Ch'en Ch'ung-chiang, chihsien of Yitu, are eulogised by Chang Chih-tung as fine examples of honest, energetic and benevolent-minded officials from whom the people under them may reap the advantages which come from just and equitable rule. The said Viceroy sincerely believes that with time and experience the four officers will be an ornament to the higher spheres to which their talents and probity will, in future, bring them without fail, etc. Let the marks of our Imperial approval be sent to the officers above-named with our earnest hope that with the confidence they have now obtained from their highest superior officer they will show increased energy and diligence in their duties so as to deserve the eulogy pronounced on them by the said Viceroy. Let them not follow the example of some unfortunate officers who showed energy and talent at the commencement of their careers yet wound up with a name for incorrigible laziness. The said Viceroy further gives a list of the officers who have disappointed him, and broken the rules of honesty, and made themselves generally
unfit for the duties to which they had been appointed, viz.:—Wang Yi-hsin, former chihhsien of Jenshien and Ho Pao-hsin, an expectant chihhsien and formerly acting sub-prefect of Mien-yang. These two are the worst, as reported by the said Viceroy, and we therefore, command them to be instantly cashiered and dismissed from any post they may now be holding. As for Yang Chung-ts'ao, chihhsien of Chenchianghsien, he is hereby commanded to be dismissed from his post and to be further degraded to the rank of recorder in a prefect's yamen, or as an assistant chihhsien (8th rank). The expectant chihhsien Li Yu-k'uan is also to be degraded to the rank of a police magistrate (9th rank). As for Hsü T'ao-li, formerly acting chihhsien of Chuhsihsien, and Yii P'ing-hsin, substantive chihhsien of Kunghsien and formerly acting chihhsien of Tunghsuhsien, they having shown incapability of government, but being men of high literary rank, are hereby ordered to resign their present rank and service in exchange for that of director of studies in district magistracies and await appointment at the hands of the Board of Rites. The other recommendations in the said Viceroy's memorial are granted as usual.

(2) The 22nd day of the current month (21st June), being the occasion of the summer solstice we shall go in person to offer special sacrifice at the Altars dedicated to Earth and the Rain-god and we hereby command P'u Ching to act as Inspector of the sacrificial animals while K'un Hsiu (both Vice-Presidents of one of the Six Boards) shall examine the entrails of the said sacrificial animals in connection with the above named rites.

2nd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chou Kuang-k'uan is hereby appointed Chief Literary Chancellor for the province of Yünnan, and Sung K'un is appointed Assistant Literary Chancellor thereof.

(2) Tu Pên-chang is appointed Chief Literary Chancellor, and Ch'ên Peh-tao, Assistant Literary Chancellor, of the province of Kueichou.

3rd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'i Hsiu, President of the Mongolian Superintendency, is hereby appointed Examiner-in-chief of Archery, on foot and on horse-back, of the Banner candidates for the degree of chihjen (provincial graduate) at the forthcoming competitions.

(2) Yi Lieh is appointed Chief Proctor at the said competitions.

(3) We have received the memorial of the Censor Yang Ch'ung-yi who complains of the great scarcity of copper cash throughout the Empire, in consequence of which copper cash has become exceedingly dear in the exchange markets. The great trouble lies in the fact that although the purchasing power of the said copper cash has thereby become correspondingly increased, the prices of grain, meat and food generally instead of declining as might be expected, have also become proportionately—at the rate of one in four—higher than when cash was normal. The price of copper cash thus becomes enhanced a little over twenty per cent above its normal level. Grain, for instance, formerly priced at 2,000 cash per picul should by rights have been purchasable at the rate of 1,600 cash; but instead of this people have to pay 2,250 cash per picul. Thus the scarcity of this money of exchange the poor people of the country have to suffer both in the dearth of money as well as in enhanced prices of provisions. This sad condition of affairs the Censor assures us is universal throughout the Empire, and he therefore prays that strict commands be forthwith issued to the Viceroy and Governors of provinces to re-open the old mints which have been closed for many years within their several jurisdictions, and where there have been none that new mints be established in order that a free supply be given to the people of this Empire. The said Censor further denounces the people in charge of the government mint in the Southern City of the capital and states that the word “mint” in their case is but a hollow name, etc. The Board of Revenue is commanded to investigate the whole matter as presented by the said Censor and report to us at an early date.

(4) We have received a memorial from Pien Pao-ch'ü, Viceroy of the provinces of Fukien and Ch'üehiang, asking that instructions may be sent to the newly-appointed Provincial Judge of Fukien to hasten to take up his post as there are considerable arrears in the duties of the said post which a mere Acting Judge has no authority to settle, etc. With regard to the above, the said newly-appointed Provincial Judge, Li Hsin-jü, when at his farewell audience with us the other day was granted one month's leave to return to his native city to repair the dilapidated
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graves of his ancestors. We hereby command Li Hsing-jui to make no more delay on the road to Foochow upon the expiration of his month's leave, but journey post-haste to his new post.

(b) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

4th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Kuan Ting-hsien is appointed Censor of the Metropolitan or Peking Circui.

5th June.

No papers of interest.

6th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ying Lin, Military Governor of the Jeho territory is hereby ordered to remain at Peking and await other appointment at Court.

(2) Hung Ch'i is hereby appointed Military Governor of the Jeho territory, while Ying Lin retained at Court.

7th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ang Keng, Tartar General of Kuldja, writing upon the distinguished services rendered to the Imperial Government in the sixties by a certain Hutukhtu (Mongolian Buddhist Saint or Spiritual Ruler) named Kung-mu-pa-t'ou-kung-mu-pa-ju-p'u-chun, pays a tribute of admiration to the said Saint who, when Chinese Turkestan and Kuldja had been overrun by Mahommedan rebels, and an attempt was being made to invade the Mongolian Territory of Tarbagatai (immediately to the north-east of Kuldja), showed great courage and loyalty by leaving in person the Mongol tribesmen under his jurisdiction against the invaders, and succeeded, eventually, in driving off the rebels, ther-by holding Tarbagatai for the Crown, when all the other country round was held and garrisoned by foes.

The said Tartar-General, therefore, considers that proper recognition should be made by the Throne of the splendid services of the said Saint; and therefore prays that a special edict may be issued granting permission to the heroic soul of the said Hutukhtu to become an Avatar again. In other words, that his spirit be reembodied once more to serve again the sacred dynasty, for the preservation of which he had fought valiantly in the sixties against the Mussulman rebels, and held an important region for his sovereign in spite of the vastly superior forces of the enemy. Now the Eastern branch of the Tartar tribe of Mongols and the Oelots of Tarbagatai are anxious to have the reembodiment of their beloved Saint once more amongst them, and have therefore petitioned the memorialist to pray the Throne to grant them their wish. The prayer is hereby granted, and the said Saint shall be appointed Hutukhtu of the Monastery of Yenyunchichenhun when he becomes an Avatar, and permission is also hereby granted for a special memorial temple to be built in the city of Tarbagatai to commemorate the loyalty and valiant deeds of the said Saint in his former life during the reign of the late Emperor Tung Chih, (1861-1874), and also as a token of the Imperial favour towards the Huang Chiao (Yellow-robed branch of the Tibetan Buddhist Hierarchy), as well as to satisfy the wish of the population of Tarbagatai.

(2) We have received a report from Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hunan and Hupeh (Hu-Kuang provinces), denouncing the ex-Second Captain (now deceased) of the Grain Police Service, stationed at Hsangch'aug, for failing to refund certain sums of money due the treasuries of the Provincial Treasurer and Grain Intendant of Hupeh province. Many calls were made upon the said Second Captain for this money, but no notice was ever taken of these appeals and now the said officer is reported to be dead. Such conduct must not be allowed to pass to the detriment of the Imperial Exchequer, and we hereby command Chao Shu-jao, Governor of Kiangsu (the native province of the deceased officer), to send a deputy to Tsinghsien, the native city of the late officer, to investigate and confiscate whatever property stood in the defaultor's name when alive. The confiscated property is to be sold and the proceeds given up to the treasuries which have been mulcted of their just dues.

8th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hunan and Hupeh, states that an aged officer, a native of Hupeh, namely, Chia Hung-chia, ex-Governor of Yunnan, now retired, who obtained his rank of chien sixty years or a cycle ago, is still alive and by right of literary etiquette and courtesy should be permitted to attend a second time the Luming Banquet given to the new chien of Hupeh, who shall
obtain their M.A. degree in the forthcoming literary competitions at Wuchang. Unfortunately the said ex-Governor was formerly dismissed from the service for certain faults and at the age of over ninety years he still lives in retirement at his home in Hupeh, etc. In recognition of the said Chia Hung-chao's great age we hereby grant him the rank of a third grade button (light blue) and permit him to attend the Luming banquet in honour of his cycle of literary rank.

(2) Huang Hsiu-sen, Governor of Yunnan, sends us a list of defaulting officers who owed taxes, collected by them during their terms of office, to the provincial treasury. The following are the names of the officers complained of:— Yeh Tze-chun, former district magistrate of Luch'unhsien, now deceased; Hsieh Lun, former district magistrate of Wensienhsien, now deceased; Wang Feng-mu, ex-acting sub-prefect of Anping; and Siao Jen-k'uei, ex-acting department magistrate of Luhai, already cashiered. The above named either died before clearing their accounts with government, or did not refund a single cash, or surreptitiously returned to their native cities in order to escape paying their debts to the Imperial Exchequer. This is most culpable, and we hereby command the Viceroy of Fukien, the Governor of Chekiang, and the native produce of the defaulters, to seize and confiscate the properties of the officers above denounced, in order that the Imperial Exchequer may not suffer through the frauds of these dishonest ex-officers.

9th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Punishments complains this morning, that the officers appointed to try the case of the defaulting herdsmen and officers in charge of the Imperial stud farms in Mongolia, have been unable to agree upon the sentences to be given on the various culprits in the above case and suggest that we should appoint special Arbitrators to go over the whole case, listen to what the special justices have to say in the matter, and decide upon what shall be done in the said case, etc. We hereby appoint the Assistant Grand Secretary and Commandant of the Mandarin Gardenerie, etc., Jung Lu, and Hsii Ying-k'uei, President of the Board of Works, etc., to act as Arbitrators in the above case and report to us their decision thereon.

(2) In regard to the above case, certain of the accused have been charged with having promised or paid bribes to their superior officers connected with the Imperial Mews, but to stringent and searching questions made with reference to these charges the accused stoutly refuse to give a single straightforward answer. The Board of Punishments therefore prays that the officers so accused be commanded to resign their posts so that they may be put on their trial like the rest. The request is granted and the Superior Secretaries of the Imperial Mews, Chi Ta, Yun Lin, and Shih Heng are hereby commanded to resign, and Jung Lu and Hsii Ying-k'uei, the Arbitrators, are hereby commanded to try them in connection with the above charges.

(3) Yao Wen-cho, Literary Chancellor of Yunnan province, sends us a report wherein are denounced a number of directors of studies of districts, sub-prefectures, and prefectures in the said province, who are charged with being not sufficiently learned to take charge with ability of the education of the youths of that province. He also gives the names of five of these educational officers whose literary lore is above the average and begs that some mark of Imperial recognition and approval be given in their case, etc. These able officers are, therefore, hereby given the brevet rank of Secretaries of the Grand Secretariat as a reward for their diligence in their duties while the rest accused of incapability are hereby cashiered and dismissed the service.

10th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

(2) Ch'un Shun is appointed Salt Intendant and Taotai of the Jui-Yuan-Liu Inactive of Kiangsi province.

No papers of interest.

11th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Keh Pao-hua is hereby appointed Chief Literary Chancellor, and Hsii Pei-lisien Vice Literary Chancellor, for the province of Fukien.

(2) Shu Lien (Mongol) is appointed Chief, and Lu Fu-yao, Vice, Literary Chancellor for Kuantung province.

(3) Ying Min-sui and Tan Chi-ju are appointed to similar posts in Kwantung province.

(4) The other papers received a memorial from the Censor Yang Chung-hou denouncing certain local officials in Eastern and South-Eastern Manchuria for collecting
illegal taxes from the people already overburdened by the ravages of war and poor harvests, etc. We, therefore, instructed the Tartar General and Military Governor of Fengtien, E-K'ot-t'ang-ü, and Sung Lin, the Civil Governor, to make a joint investigation of the said charges. We have now the report of these two officers concerning which it has been denied that illegal taxes had been levied, but owing to the universal distress the officials complained of should have had a conference as to arranging about giving time to the people under them for paying their taxes, owing to the present condition of the country, and thereby exercise benevolence in government, instead of compelling them to pay taxes regardless of the fact whether they are able to pay on the spot or not, etc. Such conduct is extremely reprehensible, for the accused officials should also have remembered our decree issued at the close of the late war commanding all local officials in Manchuria to treat the people kindly owing to the sufferings they had recently passed through. Further, that if districts were found to be very poverty-stricken or barely recovered from their straits to not only grant time to the people for the payment of their taxes, but also to grant them a discount of 30 per cent. The accused officials have therefore been guilty of cruelty and neglect of duty. We, therefore, hereby command that Pan Yun, Major of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner Corps, garrison of the city of Fenghuangcheng (near the Yalu), shall be forthwith cashiered and removed from office. Ch'en Yu, Acting Captain of the above named Banner Corps garrisoning the said city; En Ch'ing, Major of the Bordered Red Manchu Banner Corps, garrison of the city of Hsiuyen, and Teh Ying, Captain of the White Manchu Banner Corps garrisoning the same city, are, for their implication in the above charges, to be handed to the Board of War for determination of adequate penalties. The same punishment is also to be accorded to Jui Yao, Military Commandant of Fenghuangcheng, and Ch'ing Lu, acting Military Commandant of Hsiuyen, for neglect in keeping a better supervision over the conduct of their subordinate officers, and as a warning to all.

12th June.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Governor of Peking reports this morning that over one inch of rain fell last night in the capital and around the vicinity of the Imperial Prefecture. No papers of interest.

13th June.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

Ting Jên-ch'ung is hereby promoted to the post of Reader and Tsao Fu-pao, Recorder, respectively, of the Hanlin Academy.

INSURRECTION AMONGST THE SZECHUAN ABORIGINES.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, reports a number of eruptions of various "civilised" aboriginal Miao tribes inhabiting the districts of Mapien, Leipu, Yühsi, and Ngopien, who, with those amongst certain pure savage tribes, are considered the bravest and most restless amongst the Miao tribes of the province. They are however, governed by their own chiefs, and generally act independently and do not know how to combine amongst themselves. On the 3d of March last about a hundred or so young tribesmen, belonging to Niehch'ien, made an incursion into the low country bordering Mapien where are many Chinese as well as the more peaceable of the aboriginal tribesmen, and attempted to burn and plunder the market town of Yuch'an-lin. This was however prevented by Captain Yang, a veteran in border wars, who, at the head of a company of troops, sent by General Wang, Military Commandant at Mapien and commanding the Ts regiment, chased the enemy back into the mountains before much damage was done. It was thought that seeing that the troops were on the alert the young and restless tribesmen would desist from invading the civilised towns. But contrary to expectation a fortnight later another tribe mustering several hundred warriors suddenly appeared before the towns of Takeng, Lion's Head, and Tawan, and began plundering, killing, and burning wherever they went. Fortunately the townsmen got behind their city walls before many lives were lost, and only seven were killed; but twice that number were taken into the hills for ransom and twice the last number of people were more or less wounded by the aborigines during the latter's attacks on the said towns. Large numbers of houses were, moreover, plundered and then burnt. Three battalions of troops were speedily collected by General Wang, reinforced by a small force of town militiamen, and an advance was made in a semicircle to surround the enemy as they were scattered about at their work of plunder. On the 21st of March the enemy were found massed at a place called Maping and in front of
their camp there ran a mountain stream. An attack was at once made on the enemy's camp and the troops crossed the stream to be met by a storm of missiles, consisting of arrows, stones slung from slings, and bolts and bullets from matchlocks. As the enemy had been joined by other tribesmen, encouraged by the former's recent successes, they outnumbered the troops. So the militia battalion of Mongpa was called out to assist and the next night the troops fording the stream stormed the enemy's camps killing a large number of them. The enemy retreated and the troops burned 300 to 400 of their houses and captured a large number of spears and swords and a quantity of skin rugs and clothing of the savages. Ninety heads were also brought back to camp by the troops as trophies. The enemy twice again made a stand against our troops, but were defeated both times, losing thirteen of their headmen, who were decapitated on the spot as soon as captured, in order to strike fear into the insurgents' hearts. This had the desired effect and the remaining chiefs asked to parley for a surrender and made promises of future good behaviour. Two of the most formidable of their chiefs, Ch'i Na and Shi Ha, were also captured, and will be confined at Mapien as hostages for the future good behaviour of their several tribes. An amnesty was eventually granted the rebellious aborigines but not until they had given up all the captives they had made in the plains at the commencement of their raid. Memorialist thinks that with this, the severest lesson ever dealt the aborigines, they will become more quiet and law-abiding in the future; but to provide against certain eventualities he has ordered General Wang to post a strong force to guard the passes leading into the aborigines' country, and he now asks for the promotion of the most deserving of his officers who distinguished themselves in the recent campaign.—Rescript: Noted. Let the Boards concerned report on the list of names handed in by the said Viceroy.

14th June.

MACHINERY FOR A NEW MINT AND QUICK-FIRING GUNS FOR SZECHUAN.

Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hsuan and Hupeh, reports that he has received a request from La Ch'uean-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, to buy for the latter province foreign machinery for striking silver dollars and the subsidiary coins and copper cash, and also for a supply of the newest pattern magazine rifles, quick-firing mountain guns, and the necessary ammunition, etc. The said Viceroy also asks that when the above are purchased and en route for Ch'engtu that the provincial governments through whose territory they will have to pass will not collect likin duty on them. As memorialist considers that such a purchase of the Szechuan Viceroy is one of the first principles of strengthening the country and one to be commended, he gladly joins the said Viceroy in asking His Majesty to command that no duty be collected on the machinery, firearms, and ammunition by the provincial governments, en route. —Rescript: Noted. Let it be as requested.

15th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ung Kuang (Manchu), Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, reports that notwithstanding the four months' leave of absence from his duties graciously granted by the Throne to enable him to restore his health, his leave is about to expire and yet his health is just as bad as before. Hence, in order that the duties of his office may not suffer through lack of supervision, the memorialist prays to be permitted to resign his post in order that he may devote all his time to attending to his maladies which are very serious, etc. We hereby command that Ch'ung Kuang be granted another month's sick leave, there being no necessity of a successor to him at present.

(2) We are extremely grieved to receive the news of the death of Chang Chih-wan, the lately retired Grand Secretary, which happened yesterday in the capital. The deceased statesman came to Peking in the thirty-ninth year of the reign of K'ang Hsi (1628-1722), the twenty-fourth year of the reign of An Hui (1711-1722) and the fourteenth year of the reign of Hsien Fong (1722-1724), having been appointed Imperial Commissioner (Kuai yun). At his request the Board of Civil Appointments appointed him to the post in order that he may devote all his time to attending to his maladies which are very serious, etc. We hereby command (Ch'ungyuan) that the Board of Civil Appointments appoint Chang Chih-wan to a high post in the Imperial Library, he being a member of the Hanlin Academy. Under successive reigns his great literary abilities always secured for him posts of importance and trust and eventually obtained for him a high appointment in the provinces (provincial Treasurer of Fukien). He was afterwards recalled to Peking and for fifty years served, in various capacities, in the Six Boards during the reigns of Hsien Fong, Tung Chih, and of ourselves. His habitual carefulness and diligence in his duties gained him our whole confidence and we advanced him to the
highest posts within the reach of a subject (i.e., Grand Secretary—a life office—and Comptroller-General of the Board of Civil Appointments—Translator). Last year, his age which brought with it the usual maladies compelled the deceased statesman to repeat-dly ask to be allowed to resign his various posts which we at last granted, giving him permission, however, to retain his full rank of Grand Secretary in his private life with the salary attached there. (i.e., 4,000 piculs of rice per annum, equal to Tls. 10,000—Translator.) His death fills us with grief at the loss of a faithful servant, and in recognition of his loyal services we hereby command that a Tuo prayer coverlet be given the deceased for a shroud, which we command Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, to carry to the house of the deceased, with a bodyguard of ten members of our Personal Body Guard. (From the ranks of these men are appointed the Tartar Generals, Lieutenant-Generals and Brigade-Generals sent into the provinces—men who hold the highest military grades obtained at the Triennial competitions, immediately after the literary examinations.—Translator.) The said Prince is also commanded to pour out the funeral libations before the bier of the deceased statesman in our name, as a last token of our respect for him. Furthermore, the usual government pecuniary grant shall be made to the family of the deceased officer, and all black marks against his name shall be erased from the official records. Permission is hereby also granted for the transport of his remains through the Imperial City back to his native city of Namp' (chihshn), in Chihli province, and the local officials en route are hereby commanded to give every aid for the safe transport thereof. His son Chang Jui-yung who is now an Under-Secretary in the Board of Punishments is hereby promoted to the rank of a full Secretary in the said Board, which post he is to take up as soon as his three years of mourning shall have expired. His grandson Chang Yun-ch' i is hereby granted the honorary rank of Master of Arts (chujen) with privilege to compete at the Chinshih (Doctor) examinations, three years from hence.

16th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Bureau of Transmission of Decrees and Official Despatches, asking that acting Directors (one Manchu and one Chinese) be appointed to the said Bureau in view of the recent appointment by us of the substantive Directors, Sha Lien (Manchu) and Keh Pao-hua to become Literary Chancellors in the provinces. We hereby appoint Tsai Ts'ai (Manchu) and Li Fat-suo to the acting Directorships of the said Bureau, during Sha Lien and Keh Pao-hua's absence from Peking.

(2) The Board of Rites announces that the time has come for the transference of the tablet of the late Prince Ch'un, Father of the Emperor, from the mausoleum of the late Prince to the Imperial Ancestral Temple, and requests that two high officers of the Court be appointed to escort said tablet to Peking, etc. We hereby appoint Pu T'ing (Manchu), Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and Li Tuan-fen (Chinese), Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, to escort the sacred tablet from the mausoleum to the Imperial Ancestral temple at Peking.

(3) With reference to the Imperial Guards officers who are to be appointed to supervise the precincts of the P'ao-hua's throne-hall during the examinations of the Metropolitan officials for the posts of Literary Chancellors in the provinces, we hereby appoint the following members of our Personal Body Guard to undertake the said duties, viz:—Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, Duke of Chih, Shao Ch'ai, E Li-pu, and Chu'an Shan, to patrol the precincts during the first half of the examinations, and Prince Pu Lun, 4th Order, Fu Sen-pu, Ai Lung, Ch' ang Kuei, and Seh Ling- to patrol during the latter half of the said examinations.

17th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have just received the memorial of the Censor, Chang Ch'un-yi, denouncing Hsieh Yiu-sheng, President of the Board of Punishments, for encouraging and protecting his nephews in their evil courses in interfering with justice in certain important cases while being tried by the local courts in Chihli province. In the present instance, it appears that a certain notable of the district of Yutienhsien, Chihli, had been guilty of bribing the newly cashiered Censor Pu Sung to denounce the chihsin or district magistrate of the said Yutienhsien “for using cruel and illegal measures in a certain case over which he had been asked judicially to decide.” The nephew of the said President of the Board of Punishments, named Hsieh Chi alias Hsieh Ju-chou is charged with having been the go-between in the said bribery and is alleged to have guaranteed the success of the
said denunciatory memorial. In doing this, the said Censor, Chang Ch'ung-yi, declares that the accused President was guilty of accepting a bribe from his nephew in order to use his power as President of the above-named case against the said chief of the Yüeh-hsien, and further that the said President in consideration of the alleged bribe promised to use his influence with his colleagues in giving a favourable sentence in accordance with the wishes of the giver of the bribe in the first instance, etc. These charges being very serious, as made against a high Minister of our Court, must be investigated and probed to the bottom, and we hereby appoint the Grand Secretary Hsü T'ung to undertake the task and make an impartial and truthful report of the result to us. Ch'í Hsü, (Manchu) President of the Mongolian Superintendence, is also hereby appointed to act as Assistant High Commissioner to investigate the above case.

18th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Chiu-hsi, Salt Intendant of Hunan province, is hereby promoted to be Provincial Judge of Yünnan.

(2) Ch'iao Ta-chii is appointed Brigadier-General of the Urga Military Division of Kuldja, Chinese Turkestan.

(3) E-k'o-t'ang-k, Tartar General of Fengtien province, Manchuria, denounces the lax discipline and carelessness of the gaol-warden and his subordinates belonging to the sub-prefectural yamen of Shingking, Eastern Manchuria, which enabled an armed band of marauders last May to steal inside the city walls and breaking into the gaol liberate certain members of their band who had been captured by the troops and were then lying under sentence of death. It is true that the gaolers and thief-catchers belonging to the yamen turned out in force to resist the marauders, resulting in a number of the former being killed and a still greater number seriously wounded by the bandits. But there must have been considerable carelessness in the guarding of the city gates and gaol, containing, as it did, a number of condemned criminals, otherwise the banditti could not possibly have succeeded in getting into a walled city and then breaking with such ease into what should be the well-guarded precincts of a sub-prefectural yamen. We therefore command that the gaol-warden of the city of Shingking be cashiered and stripped of his rank of judicial commissary of a prefect's yamen, and that he and his subordinates be placed under arrest and be taken to Moukden where the said Tartar General and the Civil Governor of Moukden, Sung Lin, can personally investigate the case to find out whether any bribery had been accepted by the accused to facilitate the liberation of the condemned men by their comrades.

As for Lin Chung-ch'i, the sub-prefect of Shingking, who claims to have been absent from the city on official business in the country villages when the gaol was broken into, although he seeks to wash his hands of all blame in the matter, on the strength of the above circumstance, the affair is too serious to be lightly passed by, and we hereby command that he await the decision of the Board of Civil Appointments which has been ordered to deliberate over his case. As a matter of fact, it is extremely important that these escaped criminals be recaptured as soon as possible, and those who liberated them must also be arrested by the said Tartar General who is hereby commanded to send out troops to assist the said sub-prefect in effecting their capture, within the limit of time prescribed by law in such cases.

19th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We hereby appoint the Grand Secretary K'un Kang, the Presidents of the Boards of Revenue and War, Wéng T'ung-ho and Hsü Ying K'uei, and the sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, Lu Pao-chung, to examine the theses of the competitors at the examinations for Literary Chancellorships in the Paoho Throne-hall.

(2) The Prince of Jui is appointed to sacrifice, in our stead, before the sacred Imperial tablet within the Hsiao-lin Imperial mausoleum.

(3) Jung Lu, Commandant of the Peking Gendamerie, etc., reports the capture by his force of four members of a gang of bandits who, with arms in band, robbed an escort of soldiers in charge of treasure destined for the Board of Revenue, outside the Capital. The men arrested are hereby commanded to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and punishment according to the laws of the land. As for Ta'ao Erh-ta, the chief of the band, and others still at large, no efforts should be spared in trying to effect their capture at a speedy date.

(4) The same high officer reports the capture by his force of eight members of a gang of robbers who had been guilty of using violence and murder in plundering a house in an adjacent district belonging
to the Imperial Prefecture. The robbers are to be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to the laws of the land. The said Commandant is hereby also ordered to send us a list of the most deserving of his officers and men who distinguished themselves in making the above capture in order that proper rewards may be given them in order to stimulate the efforts of the other officers and men.

(5) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

20th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Censor, Sung Peh-lu, denounces the present system of granting new patents of nobility to hereditary heirs who have just assumed the ranks and titles handed down by their predecessors, and declares that the whole system stinks with fraud and the foul ways of depriving legitimate heirs of their rights when unable to pay the fees (legal and illegal) demanded for assuming titles by right of primogeniture. The Boards concerned are commanded to investigate and to recommend some better system of protecting the rights of minors to their titles.

(2) Lien Sheng, police Censor of the Eastern City of Peking, denounces the conduct of one Kuei Peh, an Imperial Clansman, who on the 12th of the month forced his way into an assistant police magistrate's yamen and by rowdyish conduct and bullying manner tried to obstruct the course of justice, thereby showing contempt of court in a regularly instituted court of justice within the sacred precincts of the Imperial Capital. The accused Imperial clansman is also charged with having struck down the screen behind the presiding judge's bench in the said court, etc. We hereby command that the accused clansman be handed over to the Imperial Clan Court which, in conjunction with the Board of Punishments, shall investigate into the truth of the said Censor's charges.

(3) The same Censor also hands us a postscript memorial suggesting that Imperial Clansmen (Yellow Girdles) and members of the Collateral Branch of the Imperial Clan (Red Girdles) be compelled to wear their distinguishing girdles wherever they go, and that if in the event of their entering a court of law without their girdles they be treated like commoners without any special privileges, etc. The Imperial Clan Court is hereby commanded to deliberate over and report upon the said memorial to us at an early date.

21st June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Huang Chün-hsien (ex-Consul-General at Singapore—Translator) is hereby appointed Salt Intendant of Hunan province and Taotai of the Changsha and Poching Military Circuit of the same province, vice Li Chin-hsi (Ex-Viceroy Li Hung-chang's nephew Translator) promoted to the Provincial Judicature of Yunnan.

(2) When we appointed Sieh P'ei-hsien, Recorder of the Hanlin Academy, the other day, to become Vice-Literary Chancellor of Fukien province,—he having passed a creditable examination in the Paolho Throne hall—we received the next morning a memorial from the Censor Wang Ting-hsiang, accusing the said appointee of having been guilty some years ago of giving unbridled license to his servants to extort money, etc., from the local officials of Shansi province while the said Sieh P'ei-hsien was en route for Kansu province to take up the post of Vice-Literary Chancellor of that province. This was a serious charge and we therefore cancelled the present appointment of the accused Hanlin Recorder, commanding in the meantime Hu Ping-chih, the Governor of Shansi, to investigate with all speed into the truth of the above charge. In the meanwhile we hereby appoint Huang Shao-ti to succeed Sieh P'ei-hsien as Vice-Literary Chancellor of Fukien, aforesaid.

22nd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chu Yi-fan is hereby appointed Chief Literary Chancellor and Ch'en Tung-lin, Vice-Literary Chancellor, of Hunan province.

(2) Chang Jen-fu is appointed to a similar post in Szechuan province, and Yang Chieh-san is appointed the above-named officer's Vice-Literary Chancellor.

(3) Lien Chia (Manchu) is appointed Chief Literary Chancellor of Kansu province, and Wang Ting-hsiang is appointed Vice Literary Chancellor of the same province.

Note.—This last appointment is considered the poorest in the gift of the Emperor and equivalent to semi-banishment for a while. Hence any one appointed to Kansu province as Literary Chancellor is usually thought to have incurred the displeasure of either the Emperor or his most favoured
advisers, who seek this as one of the means of burying the appointees in oblivion for at least twelve months, where they cannot do any mischief or work against the high officials at Court. Censors who are considered too outspoken are the ones generally appointed.

COUNT CIRCULAR.

The Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, Minister of the Tsung-li Yamen, was granted this morning an extra leave of one month from duty at Court.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Li Hai-huan, substantive Taotai of Chinkiang, was received in audience by his Majesty in the Grand Council Chamber this morning, and received instructions from his Majesty to proceed to Germany as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Courts of Berlin and The Hague.

23rd June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received the memorial of the Board of Revenue reporting that the three years' term of the high provincial officials appointed to supervise the transport of the nickel and copper ores of Yunnan and Kueichou mines for Peking is about to expire, and praying that new officials be appointed to succeed them, etc., we hereby appoint Yu Ch'ang, Provincial Judge of Szechuan, to supervise the said transport while the ore is en route through that province; Wang Chih-ch'un, Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, for that province; Nieh Chih-kuei, Provincial Treasurer of South Kiangsu, for Kiangsu; and Chi Pangchen, Provincial Judge of Chihli, to supervise the transport of the said ore while passing through Chihli province en route to Peking. We would exhort the above newly appointed high officials to pay every diligence and care to the safe transport of the said ore through their several jurisdictions during the succeeding three years, and to severely denounce to the Throne any laxity or negligence of duty of the officers escorting the said ore. Great care also should be taken to prevent the ore from being plundered by the numerous banditti en route. The necessary troops by land and gunboats by water, should be applied for in advance by the officers in charge of the ore, in order that due provision may be made by the high provincial authorities named above. Any failure in duty will be visited with severe penalties to all concerned. Further, should any of the high authorities named above be transferred or promoted, or compelled by any untoward circumstances to leave their present posts, we hereby authorise their successors to undertake the duties required in this decree.

Memorial by Shao Chih-ch'eng, Provincial Treasurer of Kueichou, reporting his taking over of the acting seals of the Governorship of the said province on the 23rd of April, from Sungk'un, (Manchu) degraded and removed from office. Also memorial from Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hukuang, reporting that he handed on the 27th of May, the seals of the Governorship of Hupeh to T'an Chi-hsun upon the latter's return to Peking, to which city the said Governor had been called in April by a special edict of the Throne.

24th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Weng Tseng, (Manchu) is appointed Vice-Director of the Bureau of Transmission of Decrees and Official Despatches.

(2) Chuang Heng, (Manchu) is appointed Taotai of the Ch'ing-Ch'en-tung Intendancy of Kiangsu, (Chinkiang Taotaihip), vice Li Hai-huan appointed yesterday, Minister Plenipotentiary to the Courts of Berlin and The Hague.

COUNT CIRCULAR.

Li Hai-huan gave thanks to his Majesty this morning for his appointment abroad.

25th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hsia Hsitig-yu having reported the expiration of his three years' mourning for his parent announces his readiness to enter the public service again, and we, therefore, appoint him to his old post of Brigadier General of the Military Division of Yuchiang in Kiangsi province, which he had to resign at the death of his father three years ago. But he is still to be retained in command of the troops garrisoning Laichou, Shantung, and vicinity.

Note:—The above named General who is also decorated with the Imperial Yellow Riding Jacket and the premier button, was, while but a lad of nineteen years of age, a dashing leader of a band of 800 Nienfei mounted rebels, all young and possessed of the reckless spirit animating their youthful chief. To the restless energy of Hsia's band is attributed the death of the celebrated Prince Sang-ko-lin-in, the Mongol Prince who gained fame
in repulsing the first British attack on the Taku forts, Tientsin. Prince San-ko-lin-sin was eventually appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial forces defending Peking and Tientsin from the raids of the Nienfei Rebels, soon after the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion, and his outposts stretched as far as the frontiers of Chihli and Shantung provinces. While at the head of a bodyguard of 3,000 Manchu and Mongol cavalry, the Prince got entangled amongst the marshes and bushes of the country in the vicinity of Têhêhoun, Chihli, when seizing their opportunity this band of Nienfei which had been howling on the outskirts of the Imperial force, made a bold and dashing charge upon the Têrta cavalry, scattered them and finally killed the famous Prince who had been forced to seek safety in flight though much against his will. It is averred that "had it not been for this Prince San-ko-lin-sin could have escaped with safety back within his own lines, as did most of the superior officers with him who were evidently more careful of their skins than this bluff and rugged Prince." With the defeat of the main body of the Nienfei by the armies of the brothers Li, Hsia (like thousands of other Taiping and Nienfei chiefs) at once transferred his allegiance to the victorious Imperialists and with the remnants of his band did good service for his new masters by defeating again and again the Mohammedan rebels of Kansu, who held his name in great terror. For his dashing services Hsia obtained his Yellow Jacket "for bravery," while yet a young man of 25 years of age. It was his body of cavalry also which secured the assassinated qody of the famous Andijani chief Yakub Beg of Kashmir to Korka, this Prince having been poisoned by one Nazir Bek the Mahomedan Governor of Khotan (South-west Kashmir), who went over to the victorious Chinese as soon as he had administered the fatal draught of poisoned tea to his thirsty Master—Yakub Beg—after a disastrous battle with the cavalry of Generals Hsia and Kuei. General Hsia must now be considerably over seventy years of age, but he is still full of vigour and energy and fit for many years yet of active life. His father died at his home in Laichou, (where General Hsia is still stationed owing to the trust and confidence Governor Li of Shantung has in him) three years ago, at the advanced age of 97, but in the full possession of his faculties at the time of his death.—Translator.

(2) We have received the report of Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, stating that work on the Yellow River embankments at West Hanch'ü is impossible owing to the state of the silt in the river in that vicinity, and asks that permission be given for delaying the work until the autumn, when the state of the river will be more favourable to the object in view. The request is hereby granted, but we would enjoin upon the said Governor to keep vigilant watch over the 30,000 feet of new embankments already put up in the said region, as any mishap to them will be visited with condign punishment on the ones guilty of neglect.

26th June.

FORESHORE ACCRETIONS IN ANHUI

Têng Hua-hsi, an officer of the Civil Premier button and Governor of Anhui province, reports that he has received an Imperial edict promulgated at the instance of the Board of Revenue, instructing the memorialist to levy extra money from the purchasers of the foreshore accretions of the Hsihu or Western Lake, in the district of Yo-t'aihsien, in Anhui province, on the ground that the purchase prices fixed by the local officials were ridiculously low in comparison with those paid by the purchasers of foreshore accretions in South Kiangsu, etc. With regard to the foreshore land in question memorialist states that previous to his entering upon office, during the incumbency of the late ex-Governor, Shen Ping-ch'êng, (1888-1893), the Yo-t'aihsien foreshore lands were occupied by both natives of the district as well by squatters from other provinces, who fought and squabbled for possession to cultivate this low-lying region. But it was not until the latter called in bands of rowdies and desperados to their aid that the then Governor, Shen Ping-ch'êng, asserted the majesty of the law, drove out the bad characters, memorialised the Throne on the subject and framed regulations for the guidance of the local officials in regard to the land. In other words, the foreshore was surveyed, mapped and marked into four classes of land, viz. :—High, Middling, Low, and Very Inferior or most-low ground. A careful investigation was made into the conditions of the region and the circumstances of the people round about who would be the natural purchasers and tax payers of the said land, and it was found that not only was the said foreshore in very low country where the slightest rise of the Huai river would suddenly inundate it, but that this was actually the case nine out of every ten years. Hence purchasers of the land were generally the
worst sufferers, paying taxes for sub-
merged land and only able to harvest their crops at rare intervals, which taking into consideration the poverty of the land-holders they could ill afford. Indeed, they were on the point of asking for Government remission of taxes when his Majesty’s decree above-noted arrived at Anching (Nanking) the provincial capital. On the other hand, the purchasers of the foreshore accretions in South Kiangsu (Kiangnan) were all men of wealth whilst, moreover, the land they had purchased was, without exception, very fine alluvial fields, etc. Hence they were fully able to pay the assessed value made by the Kiangsu government on the said land, and have not lost anything by their purchases. Memorialist is able to make this assertion as all this passed under his personal supervision when he held the post of Provincial Treasurer of South Kiangsu. The two cases are therefore not parallel, and memorialist asks that the old order of things may be adhered to in the case of the Yü-t’aihishien foreshore accretions in justice to the landholders, otherwise he fears that the people will be discontented, and all the more easily lend a willing ear to the agents of malcontent assemblages (secret societies are evidently meant by this).—Translator.

Rescript: Granted: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

27th June.

KANSU OFFICIALS.

Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-kang province, etc., reports in a postscript memorial the arrival at Lanchou of Ting Ti-ch’ang, the newly-appointed Provincial Judge of Kansu, from his audience at Peking, and that he had authorised the acting Judge to hand over the seals to the new arrival. On the other hand, the vacancy in the Hsining Taotaiship caused by the promotion of the above named Ting Ti-ch’ang, to the Provincial Judgeship is still unfilled by the Throne’s nominee, and so the memorialist had to appoint an acting Taotai in the person of the expectant Taotai Hu Chung-Kuei, who has so far gained the confidence of his superior officers by his energy and intelligent attention to his duties. As for Hu Chin-kuei, prefect of Ninghsiafu, Kansu, who was lately promoted to the Taotai ship of the Ninghsia Circuit, owing to the non-arrival of the new prefect selected by the Throne and the indispensible presence of the said Hu Chin-kuei required in Ninghsia city, at present, to settle the pacification question (after the late rebellion of Mahommedans), memorialist has taken upon himself to order the said Hu Chin-kuei to remain in his old post until relieved by the nominee of the Throne, in order that the ground made by the old incumbent may not be lost by putting some new inexperienced official to handle such delicate matters. His Majesty’s approval is asked therein.

—Rescript: Noted.

28th June.

THE GOLD MINES IN THE AMUR REGION.

Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli and Imperial High Commissioner of the Pei-yang Administration, etc., reports that he has been compelled by the glowing result of the man gement of the Muho river gold mines in the Amur region to request his Majesty’s special bounty in the matter of granting special recognition of the efforts of the officials and staff connected with the above mines. Especially should this be done in view of the fact that through the energetic and economical as well as enterprising management of the officials concerned, they during the years 1891-1895, extended the operations of the Company by opening the gold mines in the vicinity of the Chi-ikan river and at Kuanyin hill. From 1891 to 1895, the three mines paid in royalties to the Heilungchiang government on behalf of the military chest of the said province a total sum amounting to Tls. 530,000 ; to the military chest of the Pei-yang Administration an aggregate amounting to Tls. 100,000 ; Tls. 89,000, odd, to the Kiangsu Famine Relief Fund; and Tls. 67,000, odd, towards the Chihli Famine Fund. In addition to the above the sum of Tls. 36,000, deferred bonus, was paid over to government, making a total royalty, not including dividends to shareholders, of over Tls. 820,000. by the said mines in four years. This is a great difference compared with the royalties paid between the years 1887-1891 (the first four years of the mines’ existence), which amounted to a total of only Tls. 33,000. Hence, memorialist thinks that the men to whom the prosperity of the said Muho mines is due deserve special promotions at the hands of the government which has benefited thereby to such a large amount. Memorialist requests therefore permission to present a list of eighty names which constitute the whole staff of the mines in question. —Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments report thereon.
29th June.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Governor of Peking reports a rainfall of over three inches during the previous twenty-four hours, and states that the shower will be beneficial to the crops in the Imperial Prefecture.

30th June.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty accompanied by the Court will proceed to-morrow morning to the Yingshin gate of the Imperial Palace to receive H.I.M. the Empress Dowager who returns to the Forbidden City from Eho Park for a couple of months' stay in Peking.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty received in audience in the Grand Council Chamber, this morning, Hsü Hwei-feng, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, who had been sent on detached service as Literary Chancellor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu, and who reported the completion of his labours at the examinations for the B.A. or hsii-ts'ai degree.

No papers of interest.

1st July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wen Ch'i, P'u Liang, and Fu Chung-à are appointed 4th-class guardsmen of the Imperial Body Guards. T'ai Ho-pu, T'uan To-pu, En Ch'uan, Pao Heng, Ngeh T'u, and Hung Ngeh are given the rank of 1st-class guards of the Imperial Body Guards, with the decoration of the plain blue-feather. The newly appointed guards (chosen from successful candidates at the recent military examinations for the chin-shih or 3rd degree—Translator) are all to do duty at the Ch'ientsing gate of the Forbidden Precincts. Pao Lin is to be given the decoration of the Peh-t'ang-à.

(2) The other day the Board of Punishments reported the result of the trials of the Imperial herdsmen of the Taling river who had been charged with irregularities in making up the annual and triennial reports of the number of horses belonging to the Imperial herds that had died during these periods, and further asked us to appoint special High Commissioners to go over the whole case and decide upon the future rules for governing the Imperial Herds' administration in the future. We accordingly appointed the Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of War, Jung Lu, and Hsi Ying-k'uei, President of the Board of Works, to undertake the duty. The said High Commissioners only recommended stricter observance, than heretofore, of the original regulations by the superior officers in charge of the Imperial Herds, and that if through neglect of the herdsmen it be found at the end of each annual inspection that the number of horses which have died exceeds the limit allowed by law those in charge be severely denounced for neglect of duty and punished therefor. The officers at the Imperial Mews are also commanded to be more careful in the future and make perfectly reliable reports of the number of horses sent in every three years from the herd, their condition, general qualities, etc. Any further neglect of duty in this line will be severely dealt with in the future.

(3) With regard to the postscript memorial of the same Board charging certain officers connected with the Imperial Mews administration of cunning and crafty dodging of questions at the recent trials, above noted, we hereby command that Chu Tê, Senior Assistant Secretary, Heng Yu, Scribe, of the said Mews, as well as the head herdman, Hsü Sng-t'üi, be temporarily cashiered and reduced to the common ranks in order that they may be questioned in the usual way (i.e. subjected to torture if necessary, which could not be done while they held official rank.—Translator).

2nd July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(2) Yesterday morning, during the progress of the Imperial cortège to Eho Park, a woman, Chang Lui-shih, a commoner of Chihli province, personally appealed to us for justice. We hereby command that the appellant go to the Board of Punishments which is hereby commanded to make a strict investigation into her case, so that strict justice may be given to all our subjects.

(3) All civil and military officials, high and low, connected with the Imperial Court on duty at the Palace to-day, are commanded to appear in full dress Court costume.

3rd July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yen Hsi is appointed prefect of Kiu-chiangfu, Kiangsu province.
Gendarmerie are hereby commanded to issue warrants for the arrest of the ab- 
sconding witnesses T'an Ho-ting alias T'an 
Chih and Su Tung, alias Su Chih-shu, in or-
der that the case may be settled as early as
possible.

(4) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provin-
cial administrations.

(5) The Board of Revenue is commanded to look into the regulations relating to the
appointment of attachés (Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Scribes) of the
Six Boards to posts in the Granary Department as the Censor C'eng Sze-chan
complains of injustice and fraud therein.

4th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship announc-
ing that the date for the semi-annual sacrifice to the God of Fire falls on the
22nd of July, we hereby command Kuei Ch'ang to superintend the sacrificial
ceremonies on that day at the temple of the Fire God in our stead.

(2) The same Court states that on the occasion of our birthday anniversary on the
26th day of the 6th moon (25th July), the 27th of July should be set apart for
special worship at the Imperial Ancestral Temple. Prince Lung Ch'ing is hereby
commanded to sacrifice before the rear altars there on that day on our behalf.

(3) The 1st day of the 7th moon (28th July) being the festival of the Autumnal Equinox, we shall go in person to the
Imperial Ancestral Temple to offer up sacrifices in honour of the occasion. Prince 
Tsai Hsun will sacrifice before the Rear, Prince Ming Hsun before the Western, and 
Te Sheng before the Eastern altars.

(4) The Board of War prays that two high military officers be appointed to command
the Imperial guards selected to police the examination halls of the Manchu candidates for the licentiate or B.A. degree. We
hereby appoint Fen Ch'ou to command the Left battalion and Té K'uei to command the Right Battalion on the said occasion.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty granted audience in the Wenhua Throne Hall this morning to the
new Japanese Minister to Peking.

5th July. 

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Revenue is commanded to deliberate on the memorial of the
Censor Hsiu Tso-k'un praying that instructions may be issued commanding the
considerable money which enabled him to conceal his identity under the guise of a certain high official in whose service his having previously been reduced to the rank of a secretary of a province, jointly request rewards to be granted the brevet rank of a director of instruction in the Imperial Academy at Peking. In a postscript memorial by the same literary chancellor, he denounces Wang Wei-kan, assistant director of instruction of Tinghaihsien, for being most deceptive and sly, by nature, and unfit in every particular for such a responsible post as director of instruction under his jurisdiction, as a reward for their energy and earnestness in attending to their duties, as shown by the flourishing progress of the various colleges under them. We hereby command the Board of Civil Appointments to deliberate on the said Han Ch’ing-huo’s case.

(2) Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces, and Wei Kuang-tao, Governor of Shensi, jointly request rewards to be granted to certain officials, fortunes, and notables of the district of Hsiyang, in Shensi province, for the prompt manner in which they set about crushing a notorious ruffian named Kao Yen-ch’ien, who attempted last year to raise an insurrection in this district, just at the moment when the provincial authorities were busy in pacifying the two provinces after the recent rebellion of the Mahommedans. Although the force collected by the said insurgent was strong in numbers and created panic and devastation, while the insurrection lasted, the officials and gentry of Hsiyanghsien at
the head of whom was Ching Hsin, the recently promoted Taotai of the Shen-An Intendancy, of Shensi, displayed so much energy, courage and patriotism and and gathered together such a determined army of militia and volunteers, that they soon crushed the insurrection and captured the leader Kao, within four months of the commencement of the disturbances. Such promptitude and patriotism is commenda-ble and we hereby grant the rewards as recommended by the memorialists in accordance with the list herein attached. [List of some thirty names given and the promotions requested for each man.]

(3) With reference to the premier class of successful candidates amongst the Senior Grade of members of our personal guards, we hereby command that the thirty-nine men be presented to for audience, two each day, after to-day, in which they are to write out before us their names, length of practice and study of military tactics, and their proficiency in the various kinds of weapons, etc. Should it happen that we are engaged in other duties, the couple destined for audience on that day shall be presented the morning following at 6 o'clock, and so on.

7th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chia Ch'i-sheng is hereby appointed Brigadier-General of the T'ung-yung Military Circuit of Chihli province vice Wu Hung-1, deceased.

Note:—The deceased officer was known to foreigners as having shown much kind hospitality and help to the survivors of the Bokhara disaster at the Pescadores, several years ago, and to whom the Committee of the Foreign Fund presented an expensive rifle, a gold watch, a telescope, etc., in token of the foreign community's appreciation of the General's kind help.

(2) Jung Tieh-cheng is appointed Brigadier-General of the Yungchou Military Circuit of Hunan province.

(3) Ch'ing Hsiang and Wang Cho are appointed Proctors of the approaching literary examinations for the licentiate degree.

8th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his men of five notorious robbers, belonging to a gang of desperadoes, who have been terrorising the vicinity of the Capital by their ferocity and ruthless murders when-ever resistance is offered by their victims. The last act of the gang was severely wounding seven persons belonging to a farm house, outside the city walls of Peking. We hereby command that the five robbers be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and sentence according to law, and that immediate steps be undertaken for the capture of the rest of the gang.

(2) The same Commandant hands us a list of deserving officers and men who distinguished themselves, on a previous occasion, in capturing a number of bandits and desperadoes. The Board of War is hereby commanded to scrutinise the said list.

9th July.

THE ACTING PROVINCIAL JUDGESHIP OF HUNAN.

Li Chin-lisi, Salt Intendant of Hunan, reports the taking over of the seals of the Provincial Judgeship of Hunan. The memorialist received at the end of May last, a despatch from Ch'en Pao-ch'en, Governor of Hunan, sending information of the death of Kuei Chung-hsing, the Provincial Judge at Ch'angsha, the capital of the province, on the previous, day and commanding him to act, for the time being, as Judge, pending the selection of another Judge by his Majesty, etc. Memorialist accordingly having settled all his affairs connected with his Intendancy handed over his seals to his acting successor and took over the seals of the acting Judgeship on the 1st of June last. In accordance with etiquette memorialist hereby reports the date of his taking over of the said seals to the Throne. Rescript: Noted.

10th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yüü Yii-ting is hereby appointed Groom of the Library in the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir-Apparent.

(2) We have received the report of Lu Ch'un-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, stating that one Wu Lu'erh, a condemned criminal lying in the Peug-hau district goal of that province, had succeeded in escaping from prison through the carelessness of the gaolwarden and his assistants. We hereby command that the said gaolwarden be cashiered and sent under arrest, together with his assistants, to Ch'engtu for trial by the said Viceroy himself, in order to find out whether any bribery had been accepted to facilitate the escape of the said condemned from prison, or otherwise. As for K'ang Shou-ting, the district
magistrate of Pêngshanhsien, who declares that he was absent from his yamen on special official business, at the time of the said breaking of gaol, thereby thinking to exonerate himself from responsibility in the affair, we fail to see it in this light and command that the said magistrate be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of a proper penalty for his carelessness. The said Viceroy shall see to it that every effort be made for the recapture of the said Wu Lao-erh within the period limited by law, in order that justice may take its usual course and the laws be not cheated.

11th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hsü Shu-min, Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, is hereby appointed to go to Chêkiang province as Chief Literary Chancellor to bestow the degree of M.A. (Chê-tien), and Wu Yu-shêng, member of the Hanlin Academy, is appointed Assistant Literary Chancellor of the same.

(2) Huating Shao chi, Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, is appointed Chief Literary Chancellor for the M. A. examinations in Hupeh province, and Yung Yeh-ch'i is appointed Assistant Literary Chancellor.

(3) Chang Peh-hsi is appointed Chief Literary Chancellor for Kiangsi province and Yang Chia-ch'i is appointed Assistant Literary Chancellor.

12th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yen Mo, Tartar-General of Kirin, denounces the gaolwarden in the yamen of the Military Governor of Hunchun. The accused is a petty military hereditary noble, named Wu Pêng-ngêh, and is charged with breaking the regulations in regard to exiles banished to Kirin, in that he allowed the criminals confined to his charge to roam about at will instead of being confined. In this way, his exile named Li Yu was allowed to get into communication with a gang of bandits, and acting in collusion with them, robbed the residence of the Manchu Colonel Ch'un Sheng of a considerable amount of money. Such a case is not on a par with an ordinary case of carelessness, and requires prompt action. We, therefore, command that the said Wu Pêng-ngêh be cashiered and handed over to the Kirin authorities, and punished according to law.

(2) We have received the memorial of the Police Censor of the southern city, Mu Têng-ngêh, accusing the judicial deputies of the Board of Punishments of framing excuses in order to avoid responsibility in giving heavy sentences in an important case, and praying us to command the said Board to push on the trial of the case of the commoner, Chao K'un, who has accused a certain Lien Sze-t'ang of having abducted a member of the complainant's family. The said case was taken before the memorialist's court and by him sent up to the Board of Punishments for sentence, owing to the case being too serious a one for him to give judgment upon. On the other hand, the judicial deputies of the said Board, who had been ordered to try the case, attempted to get off from doing so by framing excuses to the effect that "as the abduction had taken place at a distance from the walls of the capital, namely, in the western suburbs, in the district of Wanpinghsi-n, whereby it would cause much trouble and delay in assembling witnesses, etc., the said case should be transferred to the court of the Wanping magistrate, it having occurred within his jurisdiction." The deputies further commanded the said magistrate to report the results as soon as he had completed the evidence. This is without doubt an attempt to shirk responsibility, and as the case was sent up by the said memorialist to the Board of Punishments, by what right did it hand the same over to the district magistrate? We hereby command the said Board to assemble the petitioners and witnesses in the case at an early date, and try it in a just and equitable manner. They must get the true bearings of the case and sentence the really guilty ones according to law. Let there be no more evasion of responsibility.

(3) Na-sun-cho-kâ'-tu of the Tushê-u Khanate, Khalka Mong-lâ, is hereby commanded to resign his post of Imperial Commissioner at Urga.

13th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of seven members (names given) of a gang of robbers, amongst whom are some members of the Imperial Clan, and praying that the prisoners may be handed over to the Board of Punishments, which is to be commanded to try them in conjunction with the Imperial Clan Court, etc. The prayer is granted, and we further command the said Commandant to use every effort to capture those of the gang still said to
be at large. The yamen above named are commanded to take note.

(2) The same Commandant further reports the capture of two notorious criminals who have been accused of belonging to a large band of bandits, who have been pillaging the suburbs of the Capital and a number of villages in the vicinity of Peking. We hereby command that the two prisoners be handed over immediately to the Board of Punishments for trial.

(3) The same Commandant presents a list of deserving officers and men belonging to his force who distinguished themselves in capturing notorious criminals and desperate bandits, and prays that adequate promotions be granted to those named therein in order to stimulate emulation amongst the other members of the Corps, etc. We hereby command the Board of War to scrutinise the said list and report thereon to us at an early date.

(4) Tsu-te-s'ui-k'to-chih of the Tsetsen Khanate, Khalka Mongols, is hereby appointed Imperial Commissioner at Urga, vice Na-sun-cho-ku, dismissed.

14th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from Hsiang Lin and his colleague E Ch'un-á, stating that Chuang Té-ming, an ex-Censor, who was banished to work on the post-roads for accepting bribes during his Censorship, has subscribed a large sum of money to the Post-roads Administration, and praying that the money be accepted and the donor given a word of Imperial commendation, etc. Now the said ex-Censor was clearly convicted of having accepted a disgraceful bribe and deserved punishment for his crime, which was a serious one. We forbid the acceptance of money from this person and we hereby strongly censure the memorialists for failing to make a discrimination, and for recommending the acceptance of donations from such a criminal.

15th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Liu En-p'u is appointed Chief Special Examiner of the Kiangsu M. A. competitions, and Chu Hsi-én is appointed Assistant Examiner.

(2) Peh Chin-lin is appointed Chief Special Examiner for Shensi province, and Liu Hsio-ch'ien, Assistant Examiner at the M. A. examinations in the said province.

(3) Chao K'uang is appointed Second Captain of the Tribute Rice military police battalion of Anhui, at Nganking.

16th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Sung Lin, Civil Governor of Moukden, reports that his maladies are such that he feels that he cannot continue the duties of his office properly and, therefore, prays that he be permitted to resign. His prayer is hereby granted and he is allowed to return to his Banner Reservation to recruit his health.

(2) With reference to a postscript memorial by the said high official praising the talents and abilities of Chih P'eng (another Manchu) at present Taotai of the Fengtien Post-roads Administration, and recommending that exception be made in the said Chih P'eng's favour by granting him extraordinary promotion, so as to enable him to qualify for the post to be vacated by the said memorialist, this is clearly overstepping the limit of his privileges and we hereby command that the said Sung Lin be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of an adequate penalty for such audacity.

17th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces, prays on behalf of Lung Tsai-tien, Brigadier-General of the military division of Shuchou, Kansu, that he be allowed to resign his post on grounds of illness, etc. The request is granted.

(2) Ting Chieh is appointed Civil Governor of Moukden vice Sung Lin resigned.

(3) Ho Chien-wei, Brigadier-General of the military division of Hochou, Kansu, is transferred to the command at Shuchou, vice Lung Tsai-tien, resigned on account of illness, and Tso P'o is appointed to Hochou vice Ho Chien-wei, transferred as above.

18th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Censor Hua Hui denounced recently Huang Yu-ên, Provincial Treasurer of Fukien, of conduct unbecoming one of his high rank and further accused him of haughtiness and avarice. In view of this we commanded P'en Pao-ch'uan, Viceroy of Min Chê, to secretly investigate the said charges and report truthfully to us. The report of the said Viceroy is now before us in which he states that the accused official has not been found guilty of remissness in his duties, nor can proofs be obtained of the truth of the charges made against him by the said Censor, but
he has been found to be too lenient in his treatment of his subordinates, so that the underlings in his yamen have been found to have been guilty of outrages while having been brought to account, from the responsibility of which it was impossible to absolve the accused official. We hereby command that the said Huang Yu-ên be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for determination of an adequate penalty. As for the staff of the said Provincial Treasurer who have been found guilty of various misdemeanours, Ping Yüan, an expectant sub-prefect of Fukien, is hereby degraded to the rank of gaolwarden in a prefect's yamen, or that of a deputy district magistrate, and T'ang Yu-shih, formerly acting marine sub-prefect of Foochow, who has already been degraded upon a previous denunciation, is hereby ordered to be deported to his native city and is not allowed to linger in Foochow any longer. The Board concerned is commanded to note the same.

(2) Appointing a number of Censors to inspect the tribute rice newly arrived at the Imperial granaries in Peking and North Tungchou.

(3) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

19th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Censor P'ang Hung-shu, complains that the people of Chekiang and other provinces suffer a great deal by being compelled to pay their land taxes in copper cash after the old exchange tariff for silver, in consequence of which there is much distress in the provinces through the avarice and dishonesty of the collectors of revenue. He recommends that the officials concerned be commanded to make equitable reductions in their computations between the value of copper cash and silver, etc. The Board of Revenue is commanded to report upon the said memorial.

(2) Lung En is appointed Junior Director of the Imperial Stud Court (Assistant Master of Horse.)

20th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The 23rd instant being the date appointed by Her Majesty, the Empress Dowager, for removing her Court, we hereby command all the Princes, Dukes, nobles and high ministers of our Court on duty at the Palace on that day to appear in full court robes in honour of the occasion.

(2) The 27th instant (28th day of the 8th month) being the anniversary of our birthday we hereby command that the 25th, 26th, and the 27th instant be declared a public holiday, and the members of our Court are excused from attendance on duty on those days.

21st July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(2) Ma Wei-p'ê is appointed deputy assistant magistrate of the Eastern city.

(3) Têng Wên-yung is appointed gaolwarden of the assistant police magistrate's yamen in the Northern city.

No other papers of interest.

22nd July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Prince Ts'ai Ying and Tsa-le-fâng ê are appointed Proctors at the archery competition on horseback and on foot of the Manchu Banner candidates for the licentiate or B.A. degree.

(2) En Shun is appointed one of the Proctors at the literary examinations of the same candidates.

(3) We have received the memorial of Hsü Tâo-k'ûn, a Censor, reciting the great distress of the people of Kiangsi province in consequence of the recent floods there, since the beginning of the summer, caused by incessant rains in the spring. We fully sympathise with our poor subjects in their troubles and hereby exhort the provincial authorities of Kiangsi to exert themselves to the utmost in transporting food and money to the famished districts.

(4) E Ling-nâh, Tartar General in Kansu province, denounces Teh Têng, senior Colonel of the Left Wing of the Manchu garrison of Liangchou, Kansu, of having swallowed up all the money set aside in the military exchequer at Liangchou for purchasing arms and ammunition to fit the troops out with proper rifles, etc., after the style of the foreign-drilled regiments. It appears upon investigation by the memorialist, who had recently been appointed to the said post, that the said accused officer had the control of the military chest for over a dozen years, during which time he had pocketed the said surplus in collusion with the Banner Captains Yü Chen and Yung Hsiên. This conduct merits severe punishment.
on the culprits, and we hereby command that the said Colonel be forthwith cashiered and dismissed for ever from the service; that his peacock feather decoration be publicly plucked forth from his hat, and that he be sentenced to hard labour on the military post roads to expiate his crime.

The accused two Captains are also hereby cashiered, while the military Sub-Captain En Yuan, who has proved himself to be a quarrelsome disposition and guilty of conduct unbecoming a man of his rank is also commanded to be cashiered as a warning to others. The Mongolian Superintendency is hereby commanded to take note,

23rd July.

No papers of interest.

24th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chi Pang-chuân, Provincial Judge of Chihli, is hereby promoted to the Provincial Treasurership of Fukien vice Huang Yu-yên, dismissed on the denunciation of the Censor Hua Hu.

(2) Yuan Shih-k'ai, substantive Taotai of Wenchow (ex-Resident at Seoul, Corea—Translator) is hereby promoted to become Provincial Judge of Chihli, vice Chi Pang-chuân promoted to Fukien as above.

(3) The other day the Censor Chêng Sze-chên denounced T'ân Chung-lin, Viceroy of the province of Kuangtung and Kuangsi, of favouritism and the appointing of relatives and kinsmen to positions of trust and gain in his Viceralty—who blind his eyes as to their conduct—to the exclusion of worthier men whose only fault was that they were outsiders and had no private claims on the great man. The said Viceroy is also accused of avarice, sensibility and lack of energy and promptness in dealing with the duties of his high post (he is nearly eighty years old—Translator,) and is charged with being constantly imposed upon by those about him. We therefore appointed Hsi Chên-yi, Governor of Kuangtung, to make secret investigation into the truths of the charges contained in the said Censor's memorial, and to report impartially to us, free of bias or the wish to screen a colleague. The report of the said Governor is now before us in which he states that with reference to the principal charges made, namely, that the accused official had been imposed upon by the expectant prefect Fang Kung-hui, who was anxious to buy the monopoly of the Weising Lottery in Kuangtung province; that the accused official was unable to find out that the Colonel Commandant at Canton, Feng Ming, had been receiving bribes from the said Fang Kung-hui to push the latter's schemes in the viceroyal yamen; and, lastly, that the said Viceroy had failed to punish the Chang Chung, a First Captain in the Hunan Brigade of Canton, for rowdyism and conduct unbecoming an officer of the Imperial army, he (the said Governor) begs to point out that the three persons above-named had already been denounced to the Throne by the accused high officer at a date prior to the formulation of the above charges, and further, that the said Viceroy had already dismissed them from office long before our edict had arrived at Canton. This, the memorialist says in conclusion is not at all like being guilty of having been imposed upon, and we agree with him that the said Viceroy is still worthy of our confidence. But the three men named above are really unworthy men, and their reputation is most unsavoury, hence, we hereby command that they be forthwith cashiered and dismissed from the service. As for the petty official of the 9th grade, Class B, T'ân Hsiin (a kinsman of the Viceroy.—Translator) who having been found to have received bribes, has already been cashiered and dismissed, and is charged with having been imposed upon, and we cannot hold him guiltless and command that he also be cashiered with the above named three officials. With reference to T'ân Pao-ch'üan, an expectant prefect of Kuangsi and the son of the accused Viceroy as he has been proved to have had nothing to do with the above matter nor had been guilty of interference and improper conduct, there is no necessity of dealing further with his case and he is hereby excused.

25th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Chêng Yüeh-yi is appointed Taotai of Wenchow (Wén-Ch'i Intendancy of Chêkiang) vice Yuan Shih-k'ai, promoted Provincial Judge of Chihli.

No other papers of interests.

26th and 27th July.

No papers of interest.

28th July.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AT CH'ANGSHA

Chêng Pao-ch'êan, Governor of Hunan, in answer to an intimation of a certain Censor that the magistrates of the two districts of Ch'angshahsien and Shanhuahsien, which compose the capital city of Ch'angsha,
do not pay much attention to the duties of their important posts, reports that, as a matter of fact, the two officials concerned are surrounded by more difficulties of which anyone who has not had personal knowledge would find it difficult to believe. These officials, as magistrates of the provincial capital, have duties and expenses from which the magistrates of cities elsewhere are exempt. They have to provide many things for the yamen of their superior officers whose name is legion in the provincial capital, and many other expenses provided by law which swallow up their income, so that men placed in such posts find themselves involved in such financial difficulties and problems to make both ends meet at the end of each year that their time becomes necessarily occupied in such matters, to the neglect of all other duties. Through stress of circumstances they are compelled to devote all territorial and judicial matters to deputies, while they themselves are engrossed in financial denunciations and complaints of the gentry and people of the metropolis, and next, to devise some means to supply from the surplus funds an annual subsidy to the magistrates in question, to enable them to be free from that anxiety which burdens the life of every magisterial incumbent in Ch'angsha, namely, the fear that they may be unable to clear their annual accounts of taxes with the provincial treasury. They know that imprisonment and confiscation will surely follow them if they are unable to pay into the treasury the money demanded from them annually for taxes, etc., and with the terroir of this danger hanging by a hair over their heads, in face of the innumerable expenditures which they must bear as metropolitan magistrates, and which swallow up every available income they have, it is not to be wondered at that the nightmare of deficient revenues far out-balances the honour of being selected for such posts. But if a method be devised to assist these officials financially the memorialist feels sure that they will henceforth pay more attention to judicial matters and no more complaints need be made on that score in the future. Memorialist has found a source of income from the interest accruing on a large deposit in the pawnshops, kept as an emergency fund, which may be diverted towards assisting the two district magistrates of Ch'angsha, which he prays his Majesty to give him authority to pay to the two officials concerned.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

29th July.

No papers of interest.

30th July.

The whole of this day's Gazette is occupied with a memorial by E k'o-t'ang-á, Tartar General and Military Governor of Fengtien, Manchuria, in answer to the denunciation of a certain Censor charging the local officials of the sub-prefectures of Fenghuang (near the Yalu river) and Isiu-yen, at the head of the Liaotung Peninsula, with having surreptitiously collected tithes from the people of the two sub-prefectures as well as land rents of the estates of certain Princes and nobles at Peking in defiance of the special decree absolving the people of Lower Manchuria from taxes for the space of three years, owing to their having suffered so much in the late war with Japan. The charges are denied in toto, and it is stated that the rents were not new ones but owing for many years previous to the war, and also that but three-tenths of the whole were demanded in obedience to a former Imperial edict, etc. The Emperor simply writes the word "Read" on the memorial in question, which shows that the matter is still under discussion by the Grand Council.

31st July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

With reference to the memorial of En Shun, the Police Censor of the Western city, reporting that the head of the grain octroi department named Chang Yün-t'ang had complained to him of the fraudulent proceedings of the clerks in the yamen of the tribute rice commissary, we hereby command Hu Yü-f'en, Governor of Peking, to investigate the matter and re-print the grain regulations in order to afford no further excuses of ignorance by breakers of the law.

1st August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

We have received the memorial of the Assistant Grand Chamberlain Jung Yi praying that he be allowed to resign his
post owing to chronic illness. His prayer is granted.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

His Majesty granted audience this morning to Li Hung-chu, the newly appointed Provincial Judge of Fukien, in the Grand Council Chamber, during which his Majesty graciously granted him permission to return to his home, on leave of absence for one month, before starting for his new post.

2nd August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Sun Chia-nai, President of the Board of Rites and Governor Adjunct of Peking, is hereby promoted President of the Board of Civil Appointments (Senior Board of the Six Boards—Translator) vice Li Hung-tsao, the late Grand Secretary, deceased.

(2) Hsie Tsing-kuei, President of the Board of Works, is appointed President of the Board of Rites, vice Sun Chia-nai promoted as above.

(3) Ch’ien Ying-p’yu, resident of the Court of Censors, is promoted to be President of the Court of Censors, vice Chien Ying-p’yu promoted as above.

(4) Liao Shou-heng, Imperial Commissioner of the Tungchow granaries, is promoted to be President of the Board of Revenue, vice Liao Shou-heng promoted as above.

(5) Hsiu Fu, President of the Board of War, is hereby further appointed Assistant Director of the Bureau editing the Collect ed Institutes of the Imperial dynasty.

(6) Weng Tung-ho, President of the Board of Revenue, is hereby further appointed Tutor of the Hanlin Bachelors in the Hanlin Academy.

3rd August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Senior Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, is hereby appointed Chief Examiner of Essays in the Wuying Throne-hall.

Note: This is the place where audience is give by the Emperor to successful candidates at the triennial examinations com­ peting for the Chinshih military degree, and where their compositions are written and examined by officers appointed by the Throne. Amongst the successful Chinshih one hundred and twenty of the best are selected for the rank of Shihwei (equivalent to the literary Hanlin) which entitles the holders to be members of the personal bodyguard of the Emperor. There are four classes of these Shihwei, the lowest of which is equal in rank to a Second Captain in the regular army, while those of the highest class are rewarded by being appointed Provincial Commander-in-Chief (Ts’iu) and Brigadier-Generals (Tsung-p’ing) in the case of Chinese and Tartar Generals (Tsungchun) and Assistant Military Governors, (Tut san), with Manchus and Mongols.—Translator.

(2) With reference to the recent passing away of the late lamented Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Appointments, Li Hung-tsao, We have received a special decree from H.I.M. the Empress Dowager Tze-hsi, etc., who desires us to express to the Court and high Ministers in the metropolis and the provinces her Majesty’s deep and sincere grief at the death of this faithful servant, who so loyally served the dynasty during three reigns. His teriling character and unwavering loyalty have been greatly appreciated both by her Majesty and by ourselves. Although the late Assistant Grand Secretary had been suffering from acute pains from rheumatism and gout in the legs he still persist ed in trying to attend personally to the duties of his high post, although we often gave him permission to ask for leave of absence to attend to his maladies. Last spring, however, his malady became too severe and he was compelled to repeatedly ask for permission to resign for fear of neglecting the duties of his various posts, but unwilling to lose entirely his valuable services we never granted the request but allowed him to stay away from Court as long as he pleased, hoping that in this way he could obtain a much-needed rest and freedom from anxiety and thereby recruit his health. We also deputed our own physicians to wait upon this faithful servant and ordered the prescriptions to be filled from our own private medical stores, sending often special officers to see how our late Minister was progressing. Judge then of our grief and that of her Imperial Majesty all of a sudden to hear of his death. Her Majesty has therefore commanded me to appoint Prince T’ai Ying, 4th Order, to go and offer sacrifice before the remains in her Majesty’s stead, accompanied by an escort of ten Shihwei (members of the Emperor’s own personal bodyguard—Translator) in order to mark her Majesty’s respect for the deceased statesman and her sympathy for the bereaved family.

(3) We are further grieved to learn of the death of E-k’6-tan-pu, Brigadier-General of Chinese Bannermen (Hanchin) at Canton. The deceased officer’s military record
dates from the fifties, when during
the reign of the late Emperor Hsien Feng
he was promoted from the ranks of
his imperial Majesty's personal bodyguard
to take command of Banner troops fighting
against the Taiping rebels. He served in
the notable campaigns in Chihli, Honan,
Shantung and other provinces, and won
distinction and promotion until he was
appointed Commandant of the Chinese
Bannermen in Canton, in which capacity
he gained both the admiration and respect of his superior's the successsive Tartar Generals of Canton and
the love and devotion of his soldiers.
In recognition of the deceased officer's
faithful service, We hereby command that
all errors set against his name in the
recoir's of the Board of War be herewith
erased and let the said Board report to us
the pecuniary and other allowances due to
the bereaved family at the hands of their
grateful sovereign.

(4) Fu Feng (Manchu) is appointed
Junior Director of the Court of Revision.

4th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ung Kuo, se-nior Vice President
of the Board of Civil Appointments,
again asks us to permit him to resign his
post owing to chronic illness which he
cannot get rid of within any reasonable
time, while he promises that if he be
allowed to retire for a time and he finds
himself once more convalescent, he engages
to prostrate himself before the Palace gates
to pray us to restore him to office, etc. As
we cannot afford to rob ourselves of such
a valuable servant we hereby grant him
another month's leave of absence from his
duties, there being no necessity just now
to appoint any one to take over his post
for good.

(2) At the audience granted this morning
by us in Elio Park we noticed that the list
of names presented to us in Manchu
characters was in many places wrongly
written. This carelessness must not be
permitted to pass unnoticed and we hereby
command that an investigation be made
as to who were on duty at the Park Palace
this morning so that penalties may be
visited on the delinquent secretaries.

(3) Appointing a number of officials to
the Metropolitan and Provincal adminis-
trations.

5th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Lu Chung-chi is hereby appointed
Special Imperial Examiner at the triennial
examinations for the M. A. degree in
Shantung province and Li Kuei-lin is ap-
pointed Assistant Examiner. They are
given the privilege of travelling by the
Imperial post service.

(2) Wang Tsu-tung is appointed Special
Imperial Examiner to Shansi province and
Yao Shu-mi Assistant Examiner for the
M.A. competitions during the triennial
examinations in Taiyuenfu.

(3) Kuan Ting-ho and Hua Chun-sen
are appointed Chief and Assistant Imperi-
al Examiners in the above named capacity for
the province of Honan.

6th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Sung Kuei (Manchu) President of the
Board of Works, and Liang Pei (Manchu)
Vice-President of the Court of Censors,
are appointed Chief and Assistant Ex-
ininers, respectively, of the Manchu,
Mongol, and Chinese candidates for the
M. A. degree for Translators in the Manchu
and Chinese languages at the forthcoming
triennial examinations for Bannermen
of the three nations.

(2) Wo-erh-ching-Dgeh (Manchu) and
P'ei Wei-an are appointed Proctors at the
above named competitions.

(3) Keng Yi (Manchu) and Peng Sheh
are appointed to keep tally of the list of
names in the roll call of the Banner
candidates competing at the said triennial
examinations for the degree of M. A.
Translators of the Manchu and Chinese
languages.

(4) The following officers are ap-
pointed to conduct the search, for
"cribs" (chia-tai) on the persons of
the intending competitors who present them-
selves for examination, namely, Prince
Tsai Hün ; Pu Shan, (Manchu) Junior
Vice-President of the Board of Civil
Appointments ; Ch'ên Hsiao-fen, Junior
Vice-President of the Board of Revenue ;
Chang Ying-lin, Junior Vice-President of
the Board of Rites ; Wen Ch'ih, Director
General of the Imperial Granaries ; Ying
Sing, Tsai Lan, Shu Chun, En P'au
and Hsiu Chieh.

(5) As to the Brigadier-Generals who are
to command the Imperial Guards detailed
to keep order in the examination halls and
military competition grounds on the present
occasion, we hereby appoint Prince Yi
Kung to command the Guards in charge
of the Left Wing and Prince Jung Lung
to command the Right Wing within the
examination precincts.
7th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ung Huan and Chih Jui, Imperial Administrators and Vice Imperial Administrator at Urga have denounced to us the defiant conduct of a Mongol Djassack, or chieftain, named A-yo-erh-se-teh-tan-chu-mu-tsa, who having been made a defendant in a case of extortion defied the authority of this Captain General of his League and left his post without getting permission to do so, and without waiting for the judgment to be given in his case by the memorialists and the said Captain General, pretending that he was going to appeal his case to Peking. Such conduct is clearly outrageous and shows a lack of discipline and control over his temper on the part of the accused chieftain. In punishment thereof we command the said accused Duke to be cashiered from his chieftainship over his tribe, or Banner, and the post is hereby given to the degraded Duke's eldest son Su Lun, as a warning to the other chieftains amongst the Khalka league of Mongols.

No papers of interest.

8th August.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

The following Princes and members of the Imperial House are commanded to proceed to the Eastern and Western Imperial mausolea to offer the annual autumnal sacrifice, namely, Prince Tsai Yuen and Pu Tu.

9th August.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Imperial Majesty has announced his intention to proceed to-morrow morning, after transacting State affairs, to the Chienfu Mausoleum to worship before the image of his Majesty's father, the late Prince Ch'un. The Court will attend in sober garments.

“HANDING OVER THE SEALS.”

Pu Lin, an Imperial Duke of the 3rd degree, begs to report the date of his handing over of his seals of office to his successor. The memorialist was recently informed by the Board of War that in obedience to an Imperial edict to deliberate over the penalty to be accorded the memorialist and his colleague Sin Chia, an Imperial Duke of the 4th degree, “for having been careless in not reporting the existence of insects which had been destroying the trees planted in the Eastern mausolea,” it had been decided that the penalty was to be dismissal from office. In reverential obedience, therefore, to the Imperial commands issued shortly after the above communication the memorialist made arrangements to hand over charge of the administration of the said mausolea to his successors, namely Prince Yu K'un, 4th Order, and Tsai Ho-yen, an Imperial Duke of the first degree, which ceremony was performed on the 22nd of May last by the handing over of the keys of the said Mausolea and the Imperial seal of office attached thereto.—Rescript: Noted.

10th August.

AN INHUMAN MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Huang Huai-sen, an officer of the brevet civil premier button and Governor of Yunnan, reports a case of horrible cruelty on the part of a woman belonging to the district of Ninggerhhsien, in Yunnan, assisted by her daughter on the person of her daughter-in-law. The murderess was likewise of an exceptionally cunning nature, and, but for the energy and shrewdness of the acting magistrate of the said district, Sieh Shi-h'ah-sun, might probably have escaped detection and a crime of surpassing and revolting inhumanity and fiendishness allowed to pass unpunished. But the gods never err in sending retribution and the culprits were arrested and have been condemned to the death which their crime deserved. As soon as the case was reported to memorialist by the said magistrate and considering the matter to be one of great urgency that retribution should be swift, instructions were at once sent to get a true confession from the criminals so that they might be sent to the capital to suffer the last penalty as soon as possible. As a proof of the cunning of the chief criminal she persuaded her daughter to retract their former confessions before the district magistrate when the case was referred to a lower court, namely to the judicial tribunal of the prefect of Yunnanfu, which succeeded at last, with two assessors from the Provincial Judge's tribunal of the First Instance, in getting the true account of the affair which substantially tallied with what was confessed at the time of their detention by the magistrate of Ninggerh. The details as given in final evidence before the memorialist were as follows:—

The chief criminal was the woman Huang Yuan-shih, and her accomplice in crime was her unmarried daughter Huang Tsu-ying.
The victim of their fiendish and horrible cruelties was Huang Li-shih, the wife of Huang Ta-chang, the only son of the chief murderer, and the sister-in-law of Huang Tsu-ying. The husband of the murderess—a young man—was of the same age and his father were licentiate and acted as teachers in the city of Ningerh, some distance from their home, and so they were seldom at home. The old woman kept an inn in the country on the great highway leading past the city of Ningerh to the provincial capital, Yunn-fu. About eighteen months ago a certain traveller, a stranger named Lung, happened to put up in the Huang family’s inn and being an avaricious beldame, the old woman Huang Yuan-shih accepted the offer of the said Lung to prostitute her daughter Huang Tsu-ying. For this Lung paid the old woman six taels, staying in the inn two nights. It so happened that the man Lung greatly admired Huang Li-shih, the daughter-in-law, on account of her beauty which the poor girl was famous in that part of the country. But when she took the money she did not calculate upon the chastity of the daughter-in-law, who declared that she would prefer death before she could be induced to be unfaithful to her husband. In spite of entreaties and threats Huang Li-shih remained firm to her principles of chastity, and so to the old woman’s great chagrin she had to give up the six taels of silver that the man had handed to her. The old woman reproached her son for not returning to the city after the New Year holidays. His son did not accompany him on that day, so when night came the old woman, fearful lest she should persuade her own people to complain to the authorities on the charge of forcing a respectable girl to become a prostitute, a crime which the law is very strict against. Unable to bear longer the stories that went the round of his sister’s sufferings in the Huang family, Li Chén-shiang assembled in January, 1896, a crowd of his fellow villagers to go with him to the Huang’s village and demand satisfaction from Huang Ta-chang and his father Huang Chi-chen. The upshot of this was after Li-shih had told the assembly of the cruelties she had suffered for refusing to be unchaste, that the old man Huang Chi-chen publicly scolded and beat his wife and daughter for what they had done, and also ordered his son to kowtow to the brother-in-law and his fellow-villagers as a sign of apology, at the same time promising on behalf of the old woman his wife that no attempts would be made to prostitute Li-shih again. This apparently satisfied the brother and his fellow-villagers and they went back to their homes. Huang Chi-chen then re-entered his house and gave his wife, the old woman, and his daughter another beating, after which he had to return to the city to re-open his school after the New Year holidays. His son did not accompany him on that day, so when night came the old woman, being filled with a great hatred against Li-shih for being the cause of her receiving two beatings at the hands of the old man, peremptorily ordered the son to beat his wife. The son went down on his knees to his mother to pray for mercy for his wife, but the old beldame was determined and the young man grudged to be driven by his mother’s taunts picked up a stick and struck Li-shih severally times with it, but not sufficient to hurt her. Then the old woman reproached her son for not striking Li-shih hard enough and she being on the floor received a couple of kicks which hurt the poor girl on her right side. When Li-shih upbraided her husband for treating her like this, the young man threw down the stick and dashed off in a frenzy outside the inn gates.
The room being now left to the three women, the old beldame at once picked up the stick dropped by her son and commenced to belabour her daughter-in-law with the greatest cruelty, drawing blood from the head of her y-er victim. The sight of blood seemed to have maddened the old woman for she ordered the daughter to take a rope and twist it tightly round Li-shih's neck to prevent her calling out for help, while she herself got hold of a pair of scissors and using a chopstick to force Li-shih's tongue out the old beldame clipped off the edge of her daughter-in-law's tongue, calling out at the same time, "There, you can now talk like a blackbird and tell the whole village how I treat you!" Not satisfied yet the old fury tore off Li-shih's clothes and clipped off her left nipple and a piece of the flesh on the left thigh. Seeing that Li-shih was still alive, she proceeded other fiendishnesses too horrible to put down on paper, which effectually killed her victim, the daughter all the while helping the mother by holding Li-shih down on the ground and preventing her from getting up and trying to escape after her cowardly husband, who should have remained and prevented his mother from making a murderer of herself. They then secreted the body of the poor girl and gave out next day that she had run away, while they accused Li Chen-siang, the brother of the missing girl, of having helped his sister to escape. There were some indeed who were even inclined to believe this story, but in the meantime the district magistrate heard an imperfect rumour of the affair, and set about to discover the whole thing by himself. After some detective work during which he made personal enquiries at the inn in ordinary clothes, his suspicions were so far confirmed that he sent his runners to summon Li Chen-siang, the brother of the missing girl, and then in official state went to the inn and ordered a search to be made on the grounds. The sudden appearance of the magistrate, whom the old woman and her daughter at once recognised as the disguised fortune-teller who had lived in their inn for two days, so frightened them that they confessed, without torture, the whole of their inhuman crime and pointed out the well into which the body of the poor girl had been thrown four days before. The remains were in a horribly mutilated state and the whole of the Huang family were arrested and thrown into prison, while instructions were asked from memorialist as what should be done in the matter. In the meanwhile, Huang Chi-chen, husband of the murdereress, being sick at the time of his arrest became worse, and died before the criminals could be sent under escort to the provincial capital. As the circumstances are so unusual, insomuch that there is no law covering the case the memorialist has been compelled to sentence the murdereress and her family by analogy and comparison with the law governing cases almost similar, but not exactly like it. Hence he has sentenced the old beldame to decapitation, which, under the circumstances of being a senior of the victim, is the severest he can give by law, although she deserved a more dreadful penalty. The daughter has been sentenced to death by strangulation after the autumn assizes this year. As for the husband the analogy in his case—that of a man grievously beating his wife without just cause, but not fatally—the law provides that he should be bambooed 60 blows and banished for a year, but owing to his conduct having been done at the command of his mother whom he could not disobey, the sentence has been made one degree lighter and that is 100 blows and a short imprisonment. The old man who had been reprehensible for not preserving better order and family government at home should also be made to suffer for his neglect, but since he has died in the meantime there is no necessity for going further into his case. The man Lung, the author of all the subsequent troubles, should also be punished and a warrant for his arrest has been sent out by the Provincial Judge. Finally, the poor victim Li-shih, who stood firm in her determination to be chaste, although death was staring her in her face at the hands of the hag whose glaring optics were bent over her—such firmness to do right deserves the highest commendation and should be made an example to the women of China for all time. Hence the memorialist has arranged to have a p'ai-lou or memorial arch erected over her grave with a sketch of her sad life and horrible ending. Memorialist, in conclusion, thinking that summary retribution should be made in a horrible and fiendish case like the present in order to strike terror into the hearts of similar natures, therefore ordered the execution of the woman Huang Yuan-shih immediately after it was determined upon, and her daughter was also strangled at the same time. His Majesty's approval is requested thereon. —Rescript: Noted. Let the Board of Punishments also take note. 11th August. No papers of interest.
12th August.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

13th August.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) With reference to the sacrifices to be offered at the temple of Literature on the 2nd of September next as petitioned by the Court of Sacrificial Worship we hereby command Pu Ching to preside on that day in our stead and Hsü Ch'eng-yoü is further commanded to sacrifice at the rear altars on the said occasion.

(2) The 10th day of the 8th moon (4th September) being the anniversary of the birthday of the First Teacher and Sacred Sage K'ung (Confucius), Jung Li, Assistant Grand Secretary, President of the Board of War, etc., etc., is hereby commanded to offer sacrifice at the temple of the said Sacred Sage in our stead, while two members of the Hanlin Academy are commanded to sacrifice at the minor altars on each side on the said occasion.

(3) Hei Yuan is further commanded to sacrifice on that day at the Chungseng temple in our stead.

(4) The 5th of September (11th of 8th moon) being the date appointed for worshipping at the shrine dedicated to the Imperial Dynasty we hereby announce our purpose of personally sacrificing there on that day.

(5) The 6th of September being the occasion set for sacrificing to the K'muning Lake and at the temple of the Dragon King thereof we hereby command Li Shan to proceed and preside over the sacrifices there.

(6) Huai T'a-pu is also commanded to worship on that day at the Huichi temple and the temple of the river deity of Peking on that day.

(7) The same day being the anniversary for sacrificing at the temple of Kuanti (god of war) we hereby command the Prince of Li to sacrifice at the front altar and Ching Fu at the rear altars.

(8) The Prince of K'eiching is commanded to worship at the temple of the Moon on the 21st September next on the occasion of the autumn festival, and K'un Hsü is to worship at the minor altars on the said occasion.

(9) The Ministers of the Grand Council are hereby commanded to inform the officers of the Court that everyone doing duty at the Palaces on the 18th instant is commanded to appear on that day in full court robes.

14th August

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) The Censor Sung Peh-lu reports to us a case which happened last year in which two men were poisoned to death in the Middle City, but which was hushed up owing to the influence and wealth of the guilty parties who heavily bribed the Police Censor, Chang Chung-yi and other subordinate officials of the said Middle City. Further that in spite of the repeated attempts of the widowed mother of one of the poisoned men to ask for an investigation and inquest the officials of the said city have, so far, succeeded in preventing her petition from getting beyond their courts. The memorialist hearing of the matter accuses the said Police Censor Chang Chung-yi of trying to suppress such a case of vital importance as that of murder and prays that the Board of Punishments may be commanded to take up the matter and make a thorough investigation, so that the guilty ones may suffer and the unfortunate widow get justice. The memorial is hereby granted and the said Board is ordered to investigate in a strict and impartial manner and report to us.

(2) The same Censor reports that he has been informed that some hereditary chiefs of aboriginal tribes, holding judicial power, now on their way to Peking for an Imperial audience, have been guilty of extorting from the local authorities of towns en route, and prays that a prohibitory edict be issued forbidding the said chiefs from acting against the laws of the land. With reference to the above we might say that such chiefs coming to Peking are entitled by law to a certain amount of food, fodder and transport for themselves and their followers from the various districts through which they may pass en route, but they are not allowed to demand in excess of the provisions set by law. We therefore hereby command that the various district and department magistrates and sub-prefects concerned shall send up reports to their several Viceroy's or Governors where it has been found that the said aborigines have been guilty of encouraging their followers to create disturbances and make extortion en route, in order that the guilt may be fixed on the proper persons.

(3) The same Censor further presents a memorial complaining of the delay in which appointments of teachers for the Banner
schools are made now-a-days, and praying that an edict may be issued commanding the Imperial Household Department and the Bureaux concerned to decide upon a more effective and speedy manner of appointing the said teachers to these schools. The Department and Bureaux concerned are commanded to take note and report thereon.

16th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Kuan Ting-ho having been appointed to a mission outside the capital his post of Director of the Imperial Academy is hereby given to Huang Sze-jung pro tem.

(2) At the Imperial audience granted this morning to the newly-appointed Shan-tung General Lin Hsu-ch’uan, he was guilty of a breach of etiquette in that after prostrating himself to thank us for our gracious bounty be did not keep in his kneeling position to await our reply but stood up at once. Such conduct is indeed uncouth, and we hereby command that in punishment there for the said General be forthwith cashiered and dismissed.

(3) At the audience granted this morning to General Lin Fu-hui, newly appointed to Chihli, his replies to our questions were in breach of Court etiquette, and he is therefore handed to the Board of War for the determination of an adequate penalty.

16th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Court of Censors report that the cashiered Brigadier-General Lin Yi-hua of Kuangtung has sent a substitute to the Capital to complain that his case is still in suspense, and that many months have passed without a decision being arrived at one way or the other, and the petitioner prays that something may be done to hasten the high provincial authorities of Kuangtung in the matter. We hereby command the Viceroy T’an Chung-lin, and the Governor, Hsii Chen-yi, of Kuangtung, to settle the said General’s case at an early date and report to us.

(2) Prince Kung and his colleagues at the head of the Military Archives Office report that the special staff under them occupied for several years past in compiling the history of the various Mahomedan Revolutions in Kansu and Shenai; the history of the Mahomedan Rebellion in Yunnan, and the history of the Miaoze (aborigines) Rebellion in Kueichou, having lately completed their arduous duties are deserving of reward for their exertions and scribal work, and that the 1st Class Secretaries of the Tsungli Yamén, specially appointed to superintend the printing of the said three histories, be rewarded for their diligence in executing this part of the work, etc. As the said histories have been approved by us and the work expended on them is deserving of commendation and reward we hereby grant the prayer of the said Prince and his colleagues and award the promotions prayed for. [Here follow the names of about 120 officers belonging to the Military Archives Office and the various Boards and Courts of Peking and the promotions for each of them.—Translator.]

(3) E-ko-t’ang-à and Chung Lin, Military Governor and Civil Governor, respectively, of Moukden, report that the work of repairing the Lungén mausoleum in the Fuling mausolea of our Imperial ancestors is about to be completed and pray that a day may be set for the final joining of the principal roof beams of the said mausoleum. We hereby command the Astronomical Board to choose a propitious day for the said ceremony, and the said memorialists are commanded to reverentially perform the functions required when the said propitious day and hour shall have been chosen by the said Board.

(4) The same memorialists report the approaching completion of similar repairs on the Chientsing mausoleum of the said Fuling mausolea of our Imperial ancestors and pray that a day be set for joining the principal roof beams of the same. The Board of Astronomy is hereby commanded to choose at once a propitious day in this month for the performance of the said ceremony.

(5) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

17th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Supervising Censor Wen Yü (Manchu) in which he prays that Chinese Bannermen (descendants of the Chinese who invited the Manchus to invade China and overthrow the Ming dynasty.—Translator) connected with the Imperial Cortège department, who have hitherto been given less privileges than those of the same department who are Manchus, be placed on a par with the latter and that like their Manchu colleagues whenever the post of a Manchu Brigade General or Deputy Assistant Military Governorship be vacant the Senior Chinese Bannerman of the Imperial Cortège department be also given the chance of.
getting the said coveted distinction. The memorialist further states that Manchu secretaries of the Imperial Cortège department have the privileges of wearing the peacock's feather decoration, and he prays that a similar privilege be hereafter granted Chinese Bannermen holding such rank, etc. Now the above plainly show that the said memorialist has been merely putting forward the views of others, that he has been solicited to ask for favours by parties interested therein and that he therefore knows not what he speaks of. The privileges of which he complains Chinese Bannermen to be deprived of were settled upon centuries ago by our forefathers. The said Censor has shown himself liable to be influenced and has been culpable of memorialising against established custom. He is therefore unfit for his present post, and he is removed from his office of Supervising Censor but is allowed to return to his former yamen, i.e., the Court of Censors—as an ordinary Censor.

(2) The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to report upon the list of names of gentry and notables of the Eastern city for whom rewards are asked for by Shu T'ai Police Censor of the said city and his colleagues on the ground that the said gentry and notables had distinguished themselves in giving substantial assistance to the Peking Gendamerie in capturing certain notorious bandits and desperadoes who had infested that portion of the capital for the past year.

18th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of War has presented a memorial asking us to appoint Examiners to preside at the examination of Bannermen, in archery on horseback and on foot, competing for the M. A. degree. We hereby appoint K'un Kang and Tsa-le-feng-a to fill the said posts.

(2) Ying Shou is appointed Proctor at the above-named competitions.

19th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As the Imperial Duke Fu Chu-li has to retire into mourning for the death of his father we hereby command Fen Ch'ao to act as Lieutenant-General of the Blue Banner of the Chinese Banner Corps ad interim.

(2) The Board of Civil Appointments is commanded to deliberate upon the memorial of Sun Chia-nai, Governor Adjoint, and Hu Yu-fen, Governor, of Peking respectively, recommending that Shen Chung-mu, at present sub-prefect of Pachou, be promoted independent sub-prefect of the Northern Marches.

20th August.

No papers of interest.

21st August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ang Jui (Manchu) is appointed prefect of Kancheou, in Kansu.

(2) Yesterday as the Imperial Cortège was returning to Peking from Eho Park we were appealed to for justice by one Chiang Chung-chien, a commoner of Honan province, and also by the commoners, Wang Tè-fu and Li Hua-ting, of Huphe province who claimed that they had been oppressed by the local authorities of their respective districts. We hereby command the Board of Punishments to make a strict investigation into the cases of the said commoners and report the result to us.

22nd August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ien Chün-hsiau, Literary Chancellor of Shansi, sends us an eulogistic memorial praising certain officials under his jurisdiction in Shansi and asking promotions for them as he has found the said officials uniformly earnest and diligent in their duties, and in character and conduct every way worthy of the honour of being termed members of the literati. We join the said memorialist in commending the conduct of the said officials, and hereby command that Jen Lai-p'o, formerly district director of studies of T'unghsiaien recently promoted to be prefectural director of studies of P'uchou prefecture; Ying Pu-hsia, departmental director of studies of Yungningsien; Liu Ts'ai-hsin, district director of studies of Ningwisien, and Chang Kuang-huan, sub-director of studies of the hamlet of Chien-yuan-hsiang, be rewarded as follows:—Jen Lai-p'o, Ying Pu-hsia and Liu Ts'ai-hsin are hereby each granted the brevet rank of Secretary of the Grand Secretariat, and Chang Kuang-huan is given the brevet rank of a director of studies in the Imperial Academy, in order to stimulate a feeling of emulation amongst the other directors of studies in the said province of Shansi.

(2) The same memorialist in a postscript memorial also eulogises two 1st class licentiates of Shansi, namely, Hu Ying-sheng of T'aiyuenfu (provincial capital) and Ku Ju-kang of Ch'ihsin. In reward therefore we
Hereby grant the said licentiates the rank of sub-director of studies to await appointment by the Boards.

23rd August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Prince of Chuan is appointed Chief Commissioner of Ocroi at the Ch'ung-wen gate of Peking and Kuei Hsiang (the Emperor's father-in-law—Translator) is appointed Vice-Commissioner of the same for the ensuing year.

(2) Wu-erh-ch'ing-ngeh is appointed Special Inspector of the affairs of the Red Banner of the Mongol Banner Corps for the ensuing year.

(3) Pen Kuei is appointed Special Inspector of the affairs of the Yellow Banner of the Hunchin or Chinese Banner Corps, also for the ensuing year.

24th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Hu P'ing-chib, Governor of Shansi, reporting the illness of the Manchu Brigade-General Te P'u and praying that permission may be given the said Brigade General to retire from the service. The permission is hereby granted and Te P'u is allowed to return to his Banner Reservation and recruit his health.

(2) We are sorry to learn of the death of Yi Wei, an Imperial noble 10th in line of descent, and Deputy Assistant Military Governor of Hsingking, F'engjien. (The oldest ancient capital of the present dynasty and situated in the Changpeiahan mountain range of Manchuria. Moukden is a comparatively modern capital of this dynasty—Translator.) We hereby command that all black marks against his name shall be erased from the records, and that the government grant in proportion to his official rank be given the deceased officer's family in recognition of his services to the dynasty.

25th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Liu Hsi is appointed Deputy Assistant Military Governor of Hsingking, F'engtien, vice Yi Wei, Imperial Noble and Clansman, deceased.

(2) Hu P'ing-chib, Governor of Shansi, denounces the gaolwarden of the sub-prefecture of Kofengchou, Shansi, for permitting a number of criminals confined in the prisons of the said sub-prefecture to escape. The said Governor is hereby commanded to cashier and arrest the said gaolwarden and his subordinates and make a strict investigation as to whether any bribery had been given and received in the case and to sentence the guilty ones according to law. As for Hsi Shu-ching, the sub-prefect concerned, who makes the declaration that he was 'sent on official business at the time of the escape,' we hereby command the said Governor to make secret enquiries whether there has been any fraud and attempt at concealment in his case, and, if so, to severely denounce the said culprit.

(3) Ch'ang Shun, ex-Tartar General of Kirin, is appointed Commissioner of the Peking Field Force.

26th August.

No papers of interest.

27th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Chuang Chien, Superintendent of the Imperial Silk-looms at Soochow, having reported that he has been very ill of late, asks for leave to resign his post and permission to return to Peking. His request is granted, and he is to come to Peking and resume his rank as First Class Secretary in the Imperial Household Department.

28th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hai Feng is appointed Superintendent of the Imperial Silk-looms at Soochow, vice Chuang Chien, resigned.

(2) As this is the year for appointing new Literary Chancellors to the provincial administrations, we hereby appoint Li Hung-k'uei to become Literary Chancellor of Fung-tien and Vice-Governor of Moukden, and his former post of Vice-Governor of Peking is hereby given to Li Pei-yuan. Chang Ying-lin is appointed Literary Chancellor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shantungfu (Peking and its dependencies); Chu Hung-ch'i is appointed to Kiangsu; Hsii Chih-hsiang to Anhui, and Yeh-Ping-jen to Shantung; Liu Ting-h-ing is appointed Literary Chancellor to Shansi; Chu Fu-ts'en to Honan, and Yeh Erh-k'ai to Shansi; Hsin Ch'i-yü to Kansu; Tai Hung-t'ao to Fukien, and Hsi Shu-min to Ch'eng-kung; Li Fu-t'ao to Kiangsi; Wang Tung-yu to Hubei, and Hsii Jen-shuo to Honan. Wu Chin-yi is appointed Literary Chancellor of Szch'uan, Chang Peh-hsi of Kuangtung and Liu Yuan-liang of Kuangsi. Chang Chien-hsun is appointed to Yunnan and Fu Tsang-yü to Kueichou. As Hsi Shu-min and Chang Peh-hsi are at present occupied on special missions in the provinces they are hereby excused from coming to the usual Imperial audience, but are to proceed straight to their posts.
29th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szech'uan, reports that on the 12th of June last a condemned criminal, named Wén P'ai-yuan, confined in the prisons of the sub-prefect of Yu-yang, in Szech'uan, assisted by twenty-three other prisoners, suddenly rose against the gaolers and in the fight that ensued killed and wounded a large number of the latter as well as some soldiers who came upon the alarm being given. Some of the prisoners made their way to the private apartments of the acting sub-prefect Ch'en Tè-tung with the object of murder and pillage, and severely wounded him. The latter's son Ch'en Hung-cho, an M. A. of Hupeh, seeing his father in danger came to the latter's rescue, and in trying to protect his parent from further harm was killed by the gaol-breakers. Wounded though he was, however, the said sub-prefect bravely led his men to the attack and, assisted by the military, managed to kill on the spot nine of the prisoners, recapturing alive the ring-leader Wén Pei-yuan and six others. Three others were subsequently captured. These ten were eventually summarily executed by an order from the said Viceroy. We hereby command the goal warden of Yu-yang to be forthwith cashiered and arrested and brought to Ch'eng-tu for trial before the said Viceroy. As for the said sub-prefect, having but lately arrived at Yu-yang and being then, moreover, busy with issuing famine relief coupled with his subsequent conduct during the fighting that occurred, we must commend him for what he did and excuse him from the penalties which such an affair would surely have been imposed upon him. The filial piety shown by his son is also most commendable, and we hereby grant permission to the said Viceroy to suggest something to commemorate the deceased M. A.'s filial piety.

30th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As Chü Hung-chi is absent from the capital on public business as Literary Examiner, his acting post of Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments is hereby given to Ts'eng Kuang-han (Earl Wei-yü—Translator) pro tem., while the post of acting Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court held by the said Ts'eng Kuang-han is hereby given to Kuei Hsien to hold ad interim.

(2) Chuang Ying-lin having been sent on a special mission to the provinces as Literary Examiner, Ch'en Hsiö-fen is hereby commanded to act as Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites pro tem., while the acting Vice-Presidency of the Board of Civil Appointments held by the latter is hereby given pro tem. to Hsü Hui-fêng.

(3) Wang Fu, a commoner of Chihli province, who personally appealed to us for redress during the Imperial progress yesterday morning, is hereby handed to the Board of Punishments which shall make a strict investigation into his case and see what wrongs should be redressed, if any.

(4) Hsü Hui-fêng, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, is commanded to do duty as usual in the Upper Imperial Library.

(5) Li Hung-k'uei, newly appointed Assistant Civil Governor of Moukden and Literary Chancellor of the province of Fêng-tien, is commanded to finish his duties as Assistant Examiner at the M. A. examinations in the capital before proceeding to his new post.

(6) Lu Hsiang is granted the brevet rank of a Deputy Assistant Military Governor and is hereby appointed Assistant Imperial Resident at Kóbó, Mongolia. He is further given the privilege of travelling to his post by the Imperial courier service.

31st August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Prince Lung Ching is appointed Chief Commissioner of Octroi at the Chung-wên gate of Peking, and Kuei Hsiang (the Emperor's father-in-law—Translator) is hereby appointed Assistant Commissioner of the same.

(2) Wu-erh-ch'ing-nych is commanded to go and inspect the affairs of the Mongol Red Banner Corps for this year.

(3) P'an Kuei is appointed to a similar post in respect of the Yellow Chinese Banner Corps.

(4) Chuang Chien, Imperial Silk Loom Commissioner at Soochow, having reported illness and requested to be allowed to resign, his prayer is hereby granted and permission is given him to return to Peking.

1st September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have all along watched with pleasure the ability and humane government of Yi Wei, an Imperial Noble and Military Governor of Hsingking, (ancient capital of the present dynasty in Manchuria prior to Moukden—Translator), and therefore deeply regret to hear of his unexpected
death at his post the other day. We hereby command that all black marks against his official record be forthwith erased from the official archives, and that the full government gratuity accorded to one of his rank be granted the family of the deceased officer.

(2) Lin Hsi is appointed Military Governor of Hsinking, Manchuria, vice Yi Wei, Imperial Clansman deceased as above.

(3) Hsi Chen is appointed Brigadier-General of the Right Wing of the Manchu garrison at Hsien, capital of Shensi, vice Lin Hsi promoted to Hsinking as above.

2nd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the denunciation made against the gaoler of Kofeng-chou, Shensi, for permitting a number of prisoners to break gaol, we hereby command the Governor of the said province to reduce the said gaoler to the ranks and arrest him and his assistants for examination to see whether bribery had been accepted from the friends of the prisoners concerned. The sub-prefect of the said city of Kofeng-chou, who has declared that he was absent from town on the day of the breaking of the gaol, is hereby ordered to be examined to find out whither he has not attempted to screen his fault and negligence by a subterfuge.

(2) Hai Feng is appointed Imperial Silk Loom Commissioner of Soochow vice Chuang Chien, resigned.

(3) The present year being the time for appointing new Literary Chancellors to the provinces we hereby appoint Li Hung-k'uei to Moukden; Chang Ying-lin to the Imperial Prefecture of Shantienfu (Peking); Chii Hung-chi to Kiangsu; Hsi Chi-liang to Anhui; Yao Ping-jan to Shantung; Liu Ting-ching to Shansi; Chu Fu-hsien to Honan; Yeh Erkai to Shensi; Hsia Chi-yu to Kansu; Tai Hung-chih to Fukien; Hsu Shu-min to Chekiang; Li Fa chao to Kiangsu; Wang Sung-yu to Hupeh; Hsi Jen-shou to Hu-nan; Wu Ch'ing-ti to Szechuan; Chang Peh-hsi to Kuangtung; Liu Yuan-liang to Kuangsi; Chang Chien-hsin to Yunnan, and Fu T'eng-yo to Kwei-chou. As Hsii Chi-liang, Hsi Hung-chi, and Chang Peh-hsi are already in the provinces as Special Examiners for the M. A. degree, they are hereby commanded to proceed direct to their new appointments and shall not be required to come to Peking for the usual Imperial audience.

(4) Decree commanding Lu Chi'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, to summarily capititate the recaptured prisoners who tried to break gaol in August last at Yüyang, and who killed a number of gaolers, and soldiers and also the son of the chihsien, a ch'ieh-juan of Hupeh, who was on a visit to his father. The name of the son of the said magistrate of Yüyang is permitted to be recorded in the historical archives for his filial piety in trying to defend his father, thereby receiving the death blow which was meant for his parent.

3rd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) According to the Ch'wang-t'ien (or Spring and Autumn Annals—Translator), it has been stated that an eclipse of the sun on the first day of the year betokens an impending calamity, hence the sovereigns of every dynasty which has proceeded us have always made it a point, whenever an eclipse of the sun is prognosticated, to undergo self-abasement and humble themselves before Heaven in order to avert the wrath from above. In the case of our own Imperial dynasty, for instance, during the reigns of Their Majesties K'ang Hsi and Ch'ien Lung (1662-1794) there were observed two eclipses of the sun which fell on a New Year's Day; and now, according to the Board of Astronomy, the first day of the 24th year of our reign (22nd January, 1898) there will be yet another eclipse of the sun. We are filled with forebodings at this news and hasten to seek within ourselves for sins which may have thus brought the wrath of high Heaven upon the land. We further command that the ceremonies of congratulation usually held on New Year's Day in the Taiho Throne-hall be curtailed and only ordinary obeisances be made, the place being changed to the Ch'ien-tsing Throne-hall instead of in the Taiho Throne-hall. The banquet usually given to Imperial Clansmen on New Year's Day must also be stopped, and when the eclipse occurs let all the members of the Court wear sober garments and assemble in the inner Palace before the altar set up to Heaven to pray for forbearance and mercy to the country at large. This is so far as shall concern ourselves, to show our desire to propitiate high Heaven; but as Her Majesty the Empress Dowager is an elder and senior it is but right that the full ceremonies be observed in paying the Court's obeisances to Her Majesty on New Years' Day. Let all the Yamsia concerned take note.
(2) With reference to the officers who have been appointed Literary Chancellors in the provinces they are to be presented to us in batches of two each morning in the Grand Council Chamber. If it should happen that we be engaged for the morning in worship at the temples or shall have gone to Eho Park let the two new Literary Chancellors who should have been presented to us on that morning defer their audience until the next morning, and so on; there shall be no definite day set for the audiences of the above named officials.

4th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of E-k’tang-ā, Military Governor of Fengtien and of Chung Lin the Civil Governor of Mukden, jointly reporting that the sacrificial hall of the Imperial mausolea at Mukden and a tomb of one of the Imperial Concubines of the First Emperor of this dynasty are all so dilapidated that unless repairs be made at once the memorialists fear that the whole fabric may be affected thereby. We hereby command the Board of Astronomy to select at once a day for the commencement of such repairs, some time this month, and we further command the memorialists to reverently prepare everything that may be necessary for the day so selected, the notification of which shall be sent by courier to Mukden without delay.

(2) We hereby appoint Sun Chia-nai, President of the Board of Civil Appointments, to be Chief Examiner at the triennial examinations for the M.A. degree at Peking, and let the following Presidents of Boards and Courts act as Assistant Examiners, namely, Hsu Fu, Yü Tê and Pu Liang.

(3) Decree appointing the minor officials who are to assist at the above named triennial examinations.  

(4) Another decree appointing the officers to be on duty as watchers in the inner courtyard of the said examination halls.

(5) Princes Yi Kung and Sê Ling-ā are hereby commanded to take their respective regiments and encamp at the right and left entrances of the said examination halls and patrol the said precincts during the examinations.

(6) Decree appointing the Censors who shall act as Receivers of Essays at the various sections of the examination halls.
district. As soon as the memorialist learned of this movement be at once sent Brigadier-Generals Wu Wan-ts'ai of Kiang-chou and Lin Pang-sheng of Pak-hai (Peihai) to crush the insurrection. This apparently did not take long for within a fortnight the said bandit chief was captured, immediately decapitated and his head sent to each village in the district to show the people thereof and thereby restore confidence and peace once more in the disturbed region. The memorialist now specially reports that the whole district of Shihch'eng and the adjoining district of Hop'u have been pacified. We commend the activity of the above-named Brigadier-Generals and hereby command in reward therefor that they be made Provincial Commanders-in-chief as soon as a vacancy occurs. [Here follow the names of some thirty military officers who served in the campaign and the promotions granted to each.—Translator.]

8th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The other day we received the memorial of the Censor Wang T'ing-hsing wherein he denounced Sieh Pei-hsien whom we had appointed to be Assistant Special Examiner at the triennial competitions for the M. A. degree in Kansu province. Owing to the above denunciations we cancelled Sieh Pei-hsien's appointment and commanded Hu P'ing-chih, Governor of Shansi—the province where the accused official was said to have been guilty of misdemeanours—becoming his rank at the time, which was also Assistant Examiner for Kansu in 1894—to investigate the said charges. The report of the said Governor has now been received in which he states that the charge that Sieh Pei-hsien, when returning from Kansu to Peking in 1894, was guilty of allowing his servants to carry smuggled goods has not been proved, and further that the charge that when he lost certain valuables en route he compelled the magistrate of the district where the thefts occurred to pay him the value of the missing articles was also found to be without foundation. One thing, however, the memorialist found the accused official culpable of, and that was giving his servants too much discretion to act in certain contingencies, which was the cause of his making enemies against himself and which brought the Censor to hear of the above charges. We hereby command that the Hanlin Compiler of the Second Class, Sieh Pei-hsien, be handed to the Board for the determination of a penalty.

9th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) K'uei Ying (Mas'chu) Assistant Military Governor of Kuei-ch'ang, in Shansi province, sends us a memorial that he is in very bad health and that he finds himself unable, in consequence, to attend to his duties. He now prays that he be allowed to resign his post and return to Peking to recruit his health. The request is granted and the petitioner is permitted to return to his Banner Reservation.

(2) We have received a memorial from Chao Shu-ch'iao, Governor of Kiangsu, who reports that in Shao-chow there lived an aged member of the gentry named Chang Yun-wang, who a cycle or exactly sixty years ago obtained his M.A. degree at Nanking. The said Chang Yun-wang is now eighty years old and he was also a former Provincial Judge of Shantung. As the law permits anyone who has lived to see a cycle pass over since he obtained his M.A. degree to partake of a second Luming banquet the memorialist prays that permission be granted the said aged notables to proceed to Nanking and join the young M.A. of the present year at their Luming banquet. The request is hereby granted and as a further mark of our appreciation of the auspicious event we now grant the said notable the brevet rank of the second grade—red button—with permission to wear his new decoration at the said banquet.

10th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) K'uei Ch'eng is appointed Assistant Military Governor of Kuei-ch'ang in Shansi province, vice K'uei Ying, resigned.

(2) Weng Tung-ho, Imperial Tutor and President of the Board of Revenue, is hereby made an Assistant Grand Secretary with permission to retain the first named post.

(3) We have received the memorial of Sung Fan, Viceroy of the Yü-Kuei provinces, praying that the degraded ex-Treasurer of Yunnan, Tsen Yii-pao, be restored his rank in consideration of his former military record which was a brilliant one. The said ex-Treasurer while holding his post was, by the force of circumstances, suddenly made an acting Viceroy of Yunnan and Kueichou two years ago, but owing to charges made against him of having employed the wrong persons in his yamen and other posts of importance he was not only deprived of his acting Viceroyship but also of his Treasurership. In consideration, however, of his former
good record while serving under his brother the late Ts'ên Yu-ying, Viceroy of Yun-Ku, we now grant the memorialist's prayer and the said Ts'ên Yu-pao is hereby restored to his rank of a Provincial Treasurer.

11th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As Tsâ-lê-feng-à and Kuei Hsiang are now encamped at the camp of instruction in the Southern Hunting Park, their posts in the Capital of Captains-General of the Blue Mongol and Border Banners are hereby given pro tem. to Huai T'a-pu and Kuei Pin.

(2) As Fên Ch'ê is now encamped with his battalion in the Southern Hunting Park the post of Comptroller of the Imperial Mint is hereby given to En Shou pro tem.

(3) The posts in the capital held by Fên Ch'ê and Hsiu Chên such as the Lieut.-Generalships of the Border Yellow and Blue Manchu Banners are hereby given pro tem. to Prince Ts'ai Ying and K'ê-tân, respectively, during the former two officers' absence at the Southern Hunting Park.

(4) K'uei Hsün is appointed acting Lieutenant-General of the Blue Manchu Banner vice Fên Ch'ê now encamped at the Southern Hunting Park.

(5) A K'ê-tân is appointed acting Commandant of the Vanguard Division of the Imperial Guard vice Fên Ch'ê absent at the Southern Hunting Park.

12th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Têng Hua-hsi, Governor of Anhui, reports that Wu Ting-fén, Junior Vice-President of the Board Civil Appointments, who was ill two months ago, by special Imperial grace, returned to his native province of Anhui to repair the tombs of his ancestors, now writes to memorialist that he has not been able to finish his duty at the said tombs within the two months allowed him to do so by his Majesty, and hence requests the memorialist to report the matter to the Throne and pray that the said Wu Ting-fén be permitted to resign his post for the time in order to enable him to devote his time to such an important duty as has now devolved upon him as the sole living descendant of his ancestors. The prayer is granted and Wu Ting-fén is permitted to resign his post.

Note.—It appears that ever since Wu Ting-fén got his degree of Hanlin twenty years ago he had been kept by his duties at Peking in consequence of which he has been absent from his home during all that time. As the only living member of his family his request to remain in Anhui to repair his ancestors' tombs therefore becomes, in Chinese eyes, all the stronger, and the Emperor could not do otherwise than to allow his prayer—Translator.

13th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Tu-n-yü, Literary Chancellor of Anhui province, denounced recently one Ts'ên Ts'ai-jang, a degraded ex-Censor, and President of the literary college of Ningchou, for having interfered with the said memorialist in his duty while he was examining the students of the city. As the said Literary Chancellor, upon investigation of the affair, is also to blame, we hereby command that he be handed to the Board for determination of an adequate penalty, and further that the accused ex-Censor be ordered to be deported from the town of Ningchou. The Boards concerned are to take note thereof.

(2) We have received the memorial of Lu Chu'an-lin, Viceroy of Szech'uan, reporting the death of Lei T'u-yun, a brevet Provincial Commander-in-chief, and at one time acting Brigadier-General of Chung-king, and praising the military record of the deceased officer stating, moreover, that while in office not only were the soldiers benefited by his beneficent rule but also the common people round about. The cause of the said officer's death is alleged to be the breaking out of his old wounds received during the late Taiping and aboriginal rebellions since 1850. In response to the above we hereby command that the said General Lei Tsu-yu be granted extraordinary posthumous honours proportionate to his rank and that his family be also granted assistance with special funds commensurate with their case. The Boards are to take note.

(3) The same Viceroy also denounces certain local authorities in Szech'uan, viz: Fang Lien-iing, the district magistrate of Kuanhsien, on the ground of senility and decay, and lacking in the necessary energy and brightness requisite for the incumbent of such an office, he being over 80 years of age; and Siao Shih-k'ái, director of studies at Luchou, on the same grounds. These two officers are ordered to retire into private life on their present ranks. As for the expectant district magistrate Chang Chao-chi, chief of the Aboriginal Bureau at Maokung,
who has been accused of praying upon the
people, in consequence of which he had
been denounced to the memorialist several
times, and the expectant police magistrate
Liu Yung-yü, who has been accused of
dishonesty, while head of a branch opium
liquin barrier, let both the accused be
forthwith cashiered and dismissed from
office as a warning to the officials of
Szech'uan.

**A MILITARY LOTHARIO.**

T'o Mu, Viceroy of the three provinces
of Shensi, Kansu and the New Dominion
(Hsinchiang or Chinese Turkestan—Translator),
denounces a Manchu officer named
Hsiu Ch'ang, holding the rank of Lieut-
enant-Colonel in the territorial army of
Kansu, for being of a gay and frivolous
temperament and too fond of the society of wo-
m'en to the detriment of his military duties
while commanding the middle battalion of
the Kansu Prvinicial Commander-in-chief's
headquarters brigade. Lately, however, the
accused officer has been still further guilty
of violating the laws of propriety and
decorum in that while on the retired list,
being in mourning for the death of his
father (the period being 100 days for
Manchus—Translator), "he did buy to be
his concubine, the widow of his dceased val-
et named Wang Erh And not content with
this he also bought a woman of the people,
named Fan Shih, to be a fourth concubine,
all of which acts are in truth breaches of
propriety and a disgrace to his uniform and
mandarinism in general." Memorialist has, therefore, first taken the
responsibility of removing the accused officer from his command, at the request
of his Commander-in-chief, and now prays that the said Hsiu Ch'ang be further cash-
iered and dismissed from the Army in dis-
grace. The vacancy occasioned thereby
in the Lieut.-Colonelcy above noted has
been filled already by the next officer
under the accused in the Kansu territorial
army. His Majesty's approval is asked for
with regard to the above.—Rescript:
Noted.

14th September.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) With reference to the case of one
Wang Yuan-lai, a citizen of the Middle city
of Peking, whose death, under suspicious
circumstances, was reported to the Throne
by the Censor Sung Peh-lu, and in con-
sequence of which we ordered a special
tribunal of the Board of Punishments to
try the case and bring the guilty ones to
justice, we have now further received a
memorial from Ting Chih-shih, a Supervising
Censor, who denounces the methods
of the said tribunal in investigating the
case and accusing the judicial deputies
of having been guilty of using illegal and
excessive tortures while trying to obtain
"confessions." The second memorialist
further prays that some high minister of the
Court be specially appointed to go over
the whole ground, etc. As we find upon en-
quiry that the said case is still in suspense
and that a verdict is, as yet, as far off as
ever, we hereby command that the Pre-
sidents and Vice-Presidents of the Court of
Censors shall join the Presidents and Vice-
Presidents of the Board of Punishments
in forming a special tribunal to re-try the
said case and earnestly endeavour to get at
the truth of the whole matter. We insist
that the case be sifted to its very drugs.

(2) K'o-t'ang-a, Tartar General of
Fengtien and Milita-y Governor of Mou-
den, and his colleague, having reported
that the repairs to the Fulin Mausolea
have been completed, now prays that a
special day be selected for the replacing
of the sacred tablets of our ancestors in
their proper niches within the said
buildings, etc. We hereby command the
Imperial Board of Astronomy to select
an auspicious day for the performing of the
above functions sometime during the month
of October, and that the said K'o-
t'ang-a be ordered, upon learning the
selected date, to reverentially and care-
fully carry out the important duty conferred
upon him and his colleagues in this matter.

15th September.

**IMPERIAL DECREES.**

(1) Appointing a large number of of-
officials to the Metropolitan and Provin-
cial Administrations.

(2) Yu K'un, a noble of the Imperial Clan
and head inspector of the Eastern Mausolea,
reports a wonderful dispensation of the
gods in protecting the trees in the said
Mausolea grounds from the insects which
devastated the Western Mausolea this year.
The memorialist states that, when he heard
the destruction of the trees in the last-
named Mausolea, he carefully examined the
trees in the grounds of which he had
charge and found that some of them had
also been attacked in the same manner
by grub and insects. In consequence of
this he (the memorialist) at once went
and performed a pilgrimage to the Malan
Cliff where stands a temple dedicated to
the "five gods." Reverentially and humbly
the memorialist prayed that protection
be given to the trees in the Eastern
Mausolea grounds and besought the protection generally of their sacred godships. Judge of memorialist's great surprise and joy then when he returned and made a second examination of his trees and found that of those that had been attacked the grubs and insects in them had all been destroyed by supernatural agency while those still untouched seemed to be more flourishing than ever! As this appears to be a direct dispensation of the mercy of the gods in question and an answer to the reverent and humble manner of the memorialist, he thinks that Imperial recognition should be made of the wondrous fact and he prays that a tablet written by the Imperial hand be bestowed upon the gods to be hung within the temple of the said "five gods" at Malan Cliff, as a token of the gratitude of His Majesty for the protection granted to the trees surrounding the sacred Mausolea of the Imperial family, etc. We indeed feel thankful for this beneficence of their five godships and hereby grant the tablet prayed for on their behalf. Furthermore, as the said memorialist also prays that a special designation be bestowed by us upon their godships for the perpetuation of this act of special protection we hereby command the Board of Rites to take the matter up and report upon an appropriate appellation for bestowal upon the said gods.

16th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hung Yung-an is appointed Brigadier-General of the Changchou Military Circuit of Fukien.

(2) With reference to the charges made by the Censors Chang chung-yi and Chiang Shih-fen against Hsieh Yün-shêng, President of the Board of Punishments, of having given secret aid to his nephews in their attempts at getting money by illegal and doubtful methods, and with reference to which charges have been proved against the said nephew Hsieh Ju-chou, official name Hsueh Chi, we hereby command that he be cashiered and kept in prison pending the completion of the case. The other guilty officers are also to be cashiered as soon as sentence can be given in their cases. As for the important witness Su Yueh-po, who has so far escaped arrest, we hereby command the Viceroy of Chihli and all the metropolitan local officials to search for the man in order to bring the whole case to a close. Now with reference to the accused President of the Board of Punishments, Hsieh Yün-shêng, as he has certainly been found to have been lax in keeping due control over the junior members of his family, he is hereby turned over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of an adequate penalty. As for the first-formed judicial tribunal of the Board of Punishments delegated to try the said case, it appears that there were certain grounds for complaint of the Censor Chiang Shih-fen that attempts had been made to slur over the faults of the said accused President. This should not go unpunished and we therefore hand over the First-class Secretaries Tang Meng and others to the proper Board for the determination of adequate penalties.

Note.—The accused President of the Board of Punishments is an elder brother of the late Hsieh Fu-ch'eng, formerly Chinese Minister to Great Britain and France—Translator.

17th September.

No papers of interest.

18th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hsü Shu-min, now Literary Chancellor in the provinces, is hereby appointed Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments. Before his arrival at Peking his post is to be temporarily administered by Hsü Hui-fêng.

(2) Yang Yî is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Board of War and he is still to act ad interim as acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works with control over the mints.

(3) Shou Ch'ang is appointed (Manchu) Junior Vice-President of the Board of War and he is still to act as acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments until further orders.

(4) Ch'ing Mien is appointed Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seals of the Board of Punishments.

19th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chi Lan is appointed Inspector of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner Corps this year.

(2) Chung Lien is appointed Inspector of the Yellow Mongol Banner Corps this year.

20th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received the memorial of Yii K'un, an Imperial noble and Inspector of the Eastern Imperial Mausolea, reporting that certain portions thereof require
reparations before the end of the year and requesting that a high Court Minister be sent to investigate and make the proper estimates for work in the said repairs, etc. We hereby appoint Yüan Nien, Vice-President of the Board of Works, to go to the said Mausolea and report thereon to us.

(2) The same high official denounces the avarice and extortionate demands made by certain Manchu officers while escorting the coffin of Wan Kuei-fei (Imperial Concubine of T'ung Chih—Translator) from Peking to the Eastern Mausolea last August. We hereby command that the officials named in Yü K'un's memorial be turned over to the Board of Punishments and an enquiry held into their conduct during August last.

21st September.

No papers of interest.

22nd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Censor Pan Ch'ing-lan reporting the death of Kuo Shih, the mother of the late Commodore T'eng Shih-chang, (Captain Teng, Commander of the Chinese cruiser Chihyuen, which was sunk by a torpedo while trying to ram a Japanese cruiser in the battle of the Yalu, Sept., 1894.—Translator). As the deceased lady had done her duty to the State by teaching the principles of loyalty and devotion to her son whose heroic death in refusing to survive the loss of his ship is a proof thereof, we desire to show further our commendation of such conduct on the part of our subjects, and hereby command that an autograph tablet be presented to the family of the deceased Commodore in commemoration of the teachings of a loyal lady to a heroic son.

(2) We have received the report of the Board of Civil Appointments with reference to Siieh Pei-hsien, First-class Compiler of the Hanlin Academy and ex-Assistant Special Examiner of Kansu province, who was denounced the other day by a Censor. The said report states that the said Siieh Pei-hsien should be penalised by the loss of two steps of rank and transferred to a lower post. This penalty is not to be allowed to be commuted by the setting-off of good marks. But as the said degraded officer has yet another penalty of degradation of another step of rank in connection with a minor accusation he is allowed in the latter case to commute the said penalty by a general set-off of his good marks against the bad.

23rd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Hsiit Ch'eng-yao is appointed Assistant Director of the Imperial Clan Court.

No papers of interest.

24th September.

THE EXPENSES OF THE NANKING ARSENAL.

Wang Wén-shao, Viceroy of Chihli and Imperial High Commissioner of the Peiyang Defences; Liu K'un-yi, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces and Imperial High Commissioner of the Nanyang Defences; and Chao Shu-ch'iao, Governor of Kiangsu and ex officio Vice-President of the Board of War, jointly memorialise concerning the expenses of the Nanking Arsenal, the accounts of which have been presented by the Director-in-chief, Sung Shou, Provincial Treasurer at Nanking, for the year ending 1895, and which having been carefully examined by the memorialists they now pass as correct and request the Boards of Revenue, Works, and of War also to approve. There was a surplus of T$193,350 from the previous year's accounts, and the sums subsequently received from the departments disbursing the expenses of the said Arsenal amounted to a total of T$237,512.40, that is to say, received from the Kiangnan I.M. Customs, (Shanghai), Kiangnan Pay and Defence Department, and the Kingling (Nanking) Pay-master-general's Department of the Huai Army, at Yangchow. The expenses for the year under review included for materials, etc., T$121,960.90; for pay and food of artisans and labourers employed in the said Arsenal, T$12,194.10 for salaries of Arsenal officials, clerks and bodyguard of Director-in-chief and Manager; for freight and transport of materials by boat, steamer, and carriers, T$7,822.20; and repairs for sundry portions of the Arsenal, T$1,481.90, total T$237,354.40. With regard to the total expenditures noted above the sum of T$106,089.40 should be entered into the accounts of, and passed by, the Board of Revenue; the sum of T$7,922.20 by the Board of War, and T$123,443.90 by the Board of Works, or the total sum of T$237,354.40, leaving a surplus for the year of T$351.50 to be carried forward to next year's account. The list of small arms and field guns, and ammunition manufactured at the said Arsenal is also made out and presented to the said Boards in conjunction with this memorial. His
Majesty's approval is asked with reference to the same.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

25th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The following Board Ministers, viz., Hsiu Yung-yi, Pu Shan, Hsü Hui-feng, K'un Hsiu, Pu Ti, Yang Yi, and Liao Shou-heng, and the Censors, Tai Ngo, Ting Chi-lun-shih, Pu Kuei, Ch'en Chi-chang, Chung Hua, Cheng Sze-chuan, Sung Lin, Hu Fu-chen, and Mu Tieng-geo are appointed to serve as a Committee and Sub-Committee to examine candidates for office from the provinces who come up to the capital for an audience.

(2) Hu Yu-fan, Governor of Peking, and Li Tien-lin and Ch'en Chao-wen are appointed Inspectors of the Imperial Cien schools for the ensuing year.

(3) Prince Yi Kung and E La-pu are appointed to try the new guns made by the Peking arsenal for the inland naval gunboats.

(4) Sê Ling-a is appointed Searcher at the Left Middle entrance of the Imperial Palace.

26th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship within the Palace stating that the 1st day of the 9th moon (26th inst.) is a day set apart for special sacrifices to the Imperial manes, we hereby command Prince Siao, 4th Order, to sacrifice in our stead before the Imperial tablets within the Palace.

(2) The Duke Min is commanded to sacrifice on the same day at the temple of Solid Harmony in our stead.

(3) With reference to the memorial of the Board of War asking that a Superintendent be appointed over the Government stables of the said Board we hereby appoint Yung Hui to the above post.

27th and 28th September.

No papers of interest.

29th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As Ming Hui is now encamped with his regiment at the Southern Hunting-Park his post of Lieutenant-General of the Bordered White Mongol Banner is temporarily given to Kuan Hsiang.

(2) Lu Ch'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, is command’d to give up his post and come up to Peking where he is to await further employment. The Viceroyship thus vacated is hereby given to Li Ping-hêng, now Governor of Shantung, but prior to his arrival at Ch'angtu, the Viceroyship of Szechuan is to be administered ad interim by Kung Shou, Tartar General of the said province of Szechuan.

(3) Chang Ju-mei, Provincial Treasurer of Shensi, is hereby promoted to be Governor of Shantung vice Li Ping-hêng, promoted to the Viceroyalty of Szechuan.

30th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the penalties to be administered to the persons implicated in the charges of attempted bribery and fraud exposed by the Censors Chang Chung-yi and Sung Pei-lu the other day, we have this day received the report of the Board of Civil Appointments thereon which is given as follows:—For his inability to keep a proper restraint upon the younger members of his family, Hsüeh Yin-shêng, President of the Board of Punishments, must suffer the degradation of three steps of rank and be transferred to a lower post; Tang Meng, First Class Secretary in the Board of Punishments, who has been found guilty of trying to screen his superior officer's faults, is hereby degraded one step in rank but is to be kept in his original post. As for the other officials who have been found culpable in one way or another in trying the said charges and in questioning the witnesses, etc., the penalties recommended by the above-named Board, which are hereby confirmed, are that Ying Jui and Yung Ch'ung-jan, First Class Secretaries in the Board of Punishments, are to be fined a whole year's salary; Sung Kuei, former (Manchu) President of the Board of Punishments, lately transferred to be acting President of the Board of Works; A Kê-tan, Senior (Manchu) Vice-President of the Board of Punishments; Li Tuan-fan, former Senior (Chinese) Vice-President of the same Board, lately transferred to the Director-Generalship of the Imperial Granaries; Wen Lin, Junior (Manchu) Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and Hsü Shu-min, former Junior (Chinese) Vice-President of the same Board, now transferred to be Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works—all the above-named high officers are to be penalised by being fined six months' salary. Finally, Hsüeh Chen, First Class Compiler of the Grand Secretariat, is to be fined nine months' salary. None of the above-named penalties shall be allowed to be commuted by the setting-off of good marks.
(2) Li Hsi-lien, Provincial Judge of Kueichou, is promoted to be Provincial Treasurer of Shensi service Chang Ju-mei promoted to the Governorship of Shantung, and Yu Heng, (Manchu) Taotai of the Kuei-Hsi Intendancy of Kueichou province, is hereby promoted to the Judgeship vacated by the said Li Hsi-lien.

(3) Kuei Lin (Manchu) is appointed Taotai of the Kuei-Hsi Intendancy of Kueichou vice Yu Heng promoted to the Judgeship of the said province.

1st October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Liao Shou-heng is appointed President of the Court of Punishments vice Hsieh Yün-sheng degraded for misdemeanours, and Hsiu Shu-min is appointed President of the Court of Censors vice Liao Shou-heng promoted as above.

(2) Hsii Hui-feng is hereby transferred to be Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and T'ang Ching-chung is appointed Junior Vice-President of the same Board.

(3) With reference to the memorial of the Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department recommending the repairing of the various Rest Houses outside the city of Peking, which must be used by us in our tours outside the capital, we hereby command Chi Hsiu and Shih Shu to make a careful examination of the various places and report to us the amount required to put them in a proper condition.

2nd October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hsii Shu-min is commanded to give up at once his post of Literary Chancellor of Chekiang province and come up to Peking to take over his new post of President of the Court of Censors. Lu Pao-chung, Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, is hereby commanded to go to Hangchow to take over the said Hsii Shu-min's post.

(2) As Hsii Shu-min will take a little time in coming up to Peking to take over his new appointment of President of the Court of Censors, we hereby command Hsii Ying-k'uei to act as President of the Court pro tem.

(3) Liao Shou-heng is commanded to continue to act as acting President of the Board of War until further orders.

(4) Hsii Hui-feng is commanded to act as Acting Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites in addition to his other duties.

(5) We have received the memorial of Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, reporting that owing to the peacefulness of the river gods the Yungting River and the Grand Canal have, during the past autumn, been singularly free from overflow and other mishaps, etc. We feel grateful to the gods for their aid and hereby command that ten great Tibetan incense sticks be bestowed upon the Dragon gods of the River and Canal, and that the said Viceroy shall send the said incense sticks to the Taotai of the Yungting Intendancy who shall offer them at the Dragon temple on our behalf in token of our gratitude.

3rd October.

No papers of interest.

4th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chi En (Manchu) is hereby appointed prefect of Shaohsing prefecture, Chekiang province.

(2) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(3) On the 1st instant the official Assembly Room, situated within the third courtyard of the Palace precincts, got on fire resulting in the destruction of over a dozen large and small rooms used as offices. As the high Court officials on duty at the time and the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie managed to extinguish the conflagration before it could destroy any of the Palace buildings, we hereby approve their work by commending their activity, and further order the said Commandant to send us a list of the names of the most active amongst the officers and men of his force who exerted themselves during the fire in order that we may reward them. As for the officers and men on guard at the time of the conflagration the said Commandant shall make an investigation and send the culprits to the Household Department to be dealt with.

5th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the celebration of the birthday anniversary of B.I.M. the Empress-Dowager on the 10th day of the 10th month (4th November), we have received her Majesty's commands that the said celebrations are to be made at Eho Park. On that day we shall personally present to her Majesty our address of congratulation on the felicitous event. Two days before that day (2nd November)
we shall entertain the Princes and Ministers of our Court at a banquet in the Jenahou Palace, and her Majesty, the Empress, will entertain the Ladies of the Court, the Princesses and the wives of Ministers at the same Palace on the day following, or 3rd of November. The ceremonies, etc., to be observed on these occasions are to be settled upon and reported speedily to us.

(2) We hereby command Princes Kung and Ching to consult with the Board of Rites and the Imperial Household Department as to what ceremonies shall be observed at the celebrations at Eho Park on the 4th of November next.

6th October

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We are deeply grieved at hearing of the death of Pa-k'e-tan-pu, ex-Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, who died yesterday, according to the report of the deceased official's family. He had always been employed at the Capital and had risen to the rank of a Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department when he was compelled to resign owing to old age, and through all his service with us he always proved himself capable and energetic in his duties. By extraordinary act of grace we hereby command that his obsequies shall be conducted in accordance with his rank of a Vice-President of a Board and that all black marks against his name be erased from the records. As for his eldest son Chi Min, who at present holds the rank of a Second Class Secretary in the Imperial Household Department, we hereby graciously promote him to the rank of a First Class Secretary in the said Department which he is to assume as soon as he shall have gone through the usual term of mourning (100 days—Translator).

(2) We hereby appoint Taotai of the Su-Sung and Tai Intendancy of Kiangsu province (Shanghai Taotaiship—Translator).

7th October

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Court of Sacrificial Worship having reported that the first month of Autumn falls on the 1st day of the 10th month (sic: 26th October), we hereby announce that we intend to go personally to the Ancestral Temple to sacrifice on that day, while Po-Ching is commanded to worship at the rear altars. We also appoint Ying Chün to worship at the Eastern minor altars, while Huang Yung-an shall worship at the Western altars on this occasion.

(2) On the occasion of the Empress Dowager's birthday anniversary festivities, the 1st of November (7th day 10th month) has been set aside for special sacrifices at the Ancestral Temple. We hereby appoint Prince Ch'eng to supervise the sacrifices at the said Temple on that day.

8th October.

No papers of interest.

9th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Ts'ai Chün is hereby appointed Taotai of the Su-Sung and T'ai Intendancy of Kiangsu province (Shanghai Taotaiship—Translator).

10th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Imperial Clan Court asking that an Assistant Supervisor of Hereditary Titles be appointed, we hereby appoint Hsü Hui-feng, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, to undertake the said duties in addition to his other appointments.

(2) We have received the memorial of the Imperial Household Department asking that officers may be appointed to conduct the sacrificial worship at the temples of the tutelary gods of the Forbidden Precincts and the Outer cities of Peking. We hereby appoint Hsü T'a-pui, President of the Board of Rites, and Li Shan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, to conduct the said services. Shu Ch'un and Chi Lin are appointed to command the escort of the coffin of the late Imperial Concubine of the late Emperor Tung Chih on its way to the Imperial Mausolea to-morrow.

11th October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

H.I.M. the Emperor will go to Eho Park to-morrow after the transaction of State affairs, to visit H.I.M. the Empress Dowager. The Court will attend.

A REFRACTORY NOBLE.

Ch'ung Huan, Gioro or member of the collateral branch of the Imperial Clan, and Imperial Resident at Uliasut'ai, and Chih Jui, Vice-Resident of the same, jointly denounce A Yu-erh, a Mongol Duke
and Djassack or Chief of a Mongol tribe, for defiance of the orders of his superiors and request the punishment of the said Duke in order to serve as an example to other nobles who may desire to disobey orders from Peking. It appears that in the early part of the month of July last the Captain-General of the league of the said refractory Duke reported to memorialists that the latter had failed so far to pay up certain monies which he was indebted to the State and the payment of which had been commanded by a former Imperial edict to be made at once. Further, that the said Duke had sent to the said Captain-General a report that the former had been overtaken with smallpox, in consequence of which he (the said Duke) asked permission to go to Peking to consult physicians and at the same time pray for an Imperial Audience. Upon the said Captain-General finding that the report of smallpox had no foundation at all and was only a pretext to get to Peking to seek some means of altering the edict about the payment of the money, the said Captain-General refused to give his consent to the said Duke's petition. The said Duke, however, ignored his Captain-General's commands and started, immediately after his petition, by the grass-land to Peking. The said Captain-General and the memorialists, therefore, ask his Majesty's decree to permit them to send fleet horsemen to prevent the said Duke from leaving the borders without first obtaining leave from the Throne, and that he be punished for disobedience to special orders of his superiors, and also that he be made to pay the monies previously commanded by his Majesty's decree. As the Captain-General of a Mongol league of tribes is specially appointed by Imperial edict, it will be readily recognised that any disobedience to his orders is a defiance of the Throne itself, and that if once the matter be smoothed and glossed over without making an example of such refractory conduct it will be exceedingly difficult in the future to overawe the other Mongol nobles of the Territory. Even the memorialists rule by the authority and the majesty of the Throne and not by any force and pomp of their own, if then the majesty and authority of the Emperor be permitted to be esteemed in Mongolia, there will be no end of difficulty in ruling these subjects of the Throne in the future. The memorialists, therefore, pray that the said Duke be removed from his post of Djassack and Su-k'ê-su-lun, Duke of Linchih, be appointed in his stead.—Rescript: Granted.

12th October.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'êng Mien, Supervising Censor and also Police Censor of the Middle city, and his colleagues request that, owing to the general distress still observable amongst the people living in the suburbs of the capital, the usual grants of rice for the gruel shops during the coming winter be still carried on this year, and a list of the stations that need grants has been presented with this memorial. We agree with the memorialists that the poor of Peking and suburb will still require subsistence during the coming cold weather and therefore by special act of grace command that 300 piculs of rice be issued by the granaries for distribution amongst the gruel stations in the Middle, East, South, West and Northern cities, and that the gentry therein be given the necessary authority from the Board of Revenue to distribute the said relief to the poor of the said five cities.

(2) Another memorial by the said memorialists asking that, rice be also granted to the Refuge in the various cities for feeding the aged and helpless poor who gather in them during the winter. We hereby command that 300 piculs of rice be given to the three Refugees named Ch'ung Shau-t'ang, Pêh Shau-t'ang, and Kung Shau-t'ang; 300 piculs to the Mohommedan Refuge in the Mosque in Chiaotse Street; 150 piculs to the Refuge in the Nanhaihui Buddhist temple, outside the Ch'ao-yang gate, the Yü't'sing Taoist temple, outside the Ch'ung-wên gate, and the Shang-hui Refuge in the suburbs; 300 piculs to the Hsiyu-yu-tang, outside the Huënwu gate; 150 piculs to the Mahommedan Mosque, outside the Ch'ao-yang gate, and 300 piculs to the Refuge at the Little Market in the suburbs. In this way we trust that our helpless poor may have a little relief during the horrors of the coming winter.

14th October.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Têh Yün is appointed Junior Lieutenant-General of the garrison at the Ch'ung-wên gate.
(2) We received the other day a memorial from the Censor T'ang Shih-fen denouncing the incapacity and avarice of Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, and further that he had been guilty of conspiring with Ho Chao-shan, the former acting Provincial Judge of Kuangsi, in preying upon the inhabitants of the said province. We therefore commanded Ch'en Pao-ch'en, Governor of Hunan, to make secret investigations to see what foundations there were in the said charges and to report truthfully thereon to us. The report of the said Ch'en Pao-ch'en is now before us in which he states that he has discovered that some of the charges had not been proved while in others there were reasons which led to the accused officials being suspected by outsiders of a partial complicity and improper conduct. But the main reason for all this was due to Shih Nien-tsu's confiding in unworthy and dishonest men, who using his name and authority committed depredations upon the people of Kuangsi, in consequence of which many unfavourable comments had reached Peking against the character of the said Governor. In view of this we hereby command that Shih Nien-tsu be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for an adequate penalty. With reference to Ho Chao-shan, Taotai of the Tai ping-en-shun Intendancy of Kuangsi, and former acting Provincial Judge of said province, he had in truth been culpable of giving an unjust sentence in a case of the arrest of certain innocent people belonging to Chaopinghien, in consequence of which there was an insurrection amongst the people of that district. He was also guilty of a hasty judgment in the case of prohibiting the export of rice from the department of Yunganchou. Then as for Shiang Wanyung, the former acting Salt Intendant of Kuilinfu, who as an assistant judge in this important case was guilty of gratifying his private animosities in several instances, the conduct of the two above-named officers is too serious to be condoned and they are hereby cashiered and dismissed from office. As for Chao Lai-yang, then acting prefect of Pingfofu, who, upon finding that the men charged before him in the above case had revoked entirely their previous evidence, failed to use his best energies in trying to get to the bottom of their wrongs but, instead, sent up a report to the acting Judge requesting permission to punish them for not giving the same evidence as had been given in the lower Courts, this officer was truly guilty of incapability and he is therefore handed to the Board for adjudication of an adequate penalty.

As for the petty officials in the said Governor's yamen who also tried the case and failed to see anything unusual in the conflicting evidence, etc., they are hereby cashiered and dismissed from their posts.

15th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Ching-ch'un, the commoner who appealed to us in the streets this morning, is hereby handed to the Board of Punishments, which is commanded to investigate carefully the cause of his appeal to us.

(2) We have received the memorial of E-k'o-t'ang-á, Tartar-General of Fengtien and Military Governor of Moukden, asking that the newly appointed Civil Governor of Moukden be ordered to hasten to take up his post, owing to the accumulation of work and the inability of the memorialist to attend to it all. We hereby command T'ing Chieh, the Civil Governor-designate of Moukden, to come at once to Peking for his audience, after which he is to proceed without delay to his new post to assist the said Tartar General.

(3) Li Ping-hang, Governor of Shantung, sends us a list of deserving officials whose watchfulness and activity enabled them to patch up the breaches in the Yellow River at West Hanchiak'ou last month, in consequence of which the river could not do much damage, and also a list of officers who worked diligently and intelligently at the breach last year at Chaochia Gardens. We hereby grant the rewards and promotions asked for in the case of certain of the officers named in the two lists. (Here follow the names of some seventy officials—Translator.) And the Boards of War and Civil Appointments are hereby commanded to take note thereon.

16th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincal administrations.

(2) We appoint this day Ts'ing Jui to be Chief Examiner of the licentiate competitions in translation work of Chinese into Manchu, and vice versa, to be held next day at the Metropolitan Examination Halls, and Wen Hui is hereby appointed Vice-Examiner.

(3) Ying Shou and Wang Ting-liang are appointed Proctors of the Inner Halls, and Shu T'ai and Chang Chiao-lan are appointed Assistant Examiners.
(4) Wăn Liŭ, Chung Lien, Chêng Shih-ch'üan, and Fêng Hsi-jên are appointed Searchers of Students in the said Examination Halls to prevent secret communications between competitors, “cribbing,” etc.

17th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Prince Mu, (4th Order), Shan Chi, Chung Hsiu, Ch'ang Kuei and Yü Lin, officers of the Imperial Bodyguard, are commanded to act as Inspectors at the Examinations next day, of the Manchu Translators in the Paoho Throne-hall.

(2) P'ing Shou is appointed Searcher of Students at the Middle-Left gate of the Palace.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will return to Peking from Eho Park to-morrow morning after transacting state affairs, and the Court will be held in the Capital until further notice.

18th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Kuo Le-min, Lieutenant General of the Left Division of the Imperial Bodyguard, and Teh K'uei, Lieutenant-General of the Right Division, are hereby commanded to take a battalion each to form the outer guard around the Examination Halls this day.

(2) Sheng Ngeh-lu, Hêng Nien, Yung Kuei, Ai Hsin-er, Lien Chü-an, and En Hui, Manchu Censors, are hereby appointed Receivers of Translation Essays at the Examinations.

(3) Li Hung-K'uei having presented a memorial this morning asking to be excused from the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Examination Halls owing to illness, he is herein given ten days' leave of absence from Court duties, and Hsiü Chêng-yao is now appointed in his stead.

19th October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Grand Secretariat presented this morning to his Majesty, on behalf of the Board of Punishments, the list of criminals now lying in the prisons of the said Board who should suffer the last penalty at the annual executions next week.

Note:—The Emperor's Prerogative may delay, by a stroke of the Imperial Vermilion Pencil, the execution of any one he may wish in the above noted “condemned” list, until the next annual executions, which is usually on the 25th day of the 9th month of each year. In this way the worthies who fled from the Japanese in the late war, viz.:—Yeh Chih-chao, ex-Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli, Kung Chao-yü, ex-Superintendent and Civil Commandant of the naval stronghold of Port Arthur, and several other military officers of the rank of general, have succeeded ever since the winter of 1894 in eluding the executioner's knife, by getting the Imperial pencil to mark the words “Reserve until next time” against their names in the above list. Naturally every time the “Condemned” list is being prepared by the Board of Punishments these men have to “make it all right” not only with the high officials of the said Board but also with some of the members of the Grand Secretariat which presents the list to the Emperor, and members of the Grand Council in whose Chamber the examination of the list takes place. Doubtless, when China finds herself compelled to fight for her rights some time in the near future, these men will manage to leave their prisons by volunteering to lead forlorn hopes against the enemy; but this, again, will mean a heavy disbursement to the men who shall manage to present the offers of the condemned to the Emperor when the—opportune moment arrives.—Translator.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Li Hung-k'uei, Civil Vice-Governor designate of Mukden and Literary Chancellor of Fêngtien province, declaring that although his leave of absence is about to expire his maladies still continue unhealed and asking that some one may be allowed to act pro tem. as Vice-Governor of Shuntienfu (Peking), the memorialist's present post, etc. We hereby give the said Li Hung-k'uei an extended leave of twenty days, after which he is commanded to make no further delay but start at once for his new post at Mukden. As for the acting Vice-Governorship of Peking we hereby command Kuei Hsun (Manchu) to take over the post, pro tem.

(2) Huang Huai-sen, Governor of Yunnan, sends a memorial denouncing certain of his subordinate officials in the said province. We hereby command that Liu Kung, department magistrate of Nanwei, be cashiered for avarice and other conduct incompatible with his rank, and that Li Hsing-jui, district magistrate of Liohiang, be ordered to resign his post and await further appointment, owing to incapability and inexperience in his present post—as recommended in the said Governor's memorial.
100

(3) Teh Yin is hereby appointed Lieutenant-General of the Right Division of the Peking Gendarmerie.

20th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Grand Secretaries Lin Shu and K'un Kang (Manchus), and Assistant Grand Secretary Weng Tung-ho, and the Board President and Vice-President, Chi Hsiu (Manchu), Hsü Hui-feng, Liao Shou-heng, Yang Yi, and T'ang Ching-ch'ung, are hereby appointed Examiners of the Essays of the Competitors for the Master of Arts degree now taking place.

(2) Appointing the monthly Committee to examine provincial officials, commencing from Taotai downwards, who come to Peking for audience.

Note: This Committee is composed of a certain number of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Boards and Censors.—Translator.

(3) We have received the memorial of E Ling-ngeh, Manchu Brigade-General of Liangchou, Kansu province, reporting the escape from confinement of one Teh Teng (Manchu) — ex-Colonel of the Left Battalion of the Manchu garrison of Liangchou who was cashiered, dismissed for ever, and banished to work on the post roads in Kashgaria for alleged guilt in pocketing the pay of his troops and secretly selling government grain, etc. In addition to the said ex-Colonel, a cashiered Manchu chajen, named En Kuang, and a cashiered Lieutenant of the Imperial Guards, named Sheng Pai, have also escaped from confinement, presumingly in company with the first-named Teh Teng. We hereby command that search be made over the whole empire for the runaways and that Tsio Mu, Viceroy of Shen-Kan, and the high officials in Chinese Turkestan be especially commanded to search for the said three refugees and send them back to Liangchou for summary punishment.

21st October.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

(1) Wu Ch'ung-sui, head of the 1st class of new Masters of Arts at the recent chu-jen examinations at the capital, and his thirty-one co-M.A.'s; Chang Yin, head of the 2nd class, and his thirty-nine co-M.A.'s, and Chang Hsun, head of the 3rd class and his nineteen co-M.A.'s are hereby granted the privilege of competing at the Doctor's (chinsih) examinations in Peking next year.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Chang Yin-huan, Special Ambassador to the Diamond Jubilee festivities at London, returned yesterday, and had audience of the Emperor this morning in the Grand Council Chamber.

22nd October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty returned to Peking this morning from Eho Park, and the Court will be held in the capital until further notice.

IMPERIAL DEGREE.

(1) Chen Pang-ju is appointed Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) Princes Pu Ch'uan and Pu Tung are commanded to conduct the sacrifices at the Imperial shrines on the 26th instant.

(3) The Board Presidents Sung Kuei and Kang Yi are commanded to examine the Manchu essays at the examination of Manchu Translators for the M.A. degree.

(4) With reference to the charges made against Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, by a certain Censor and investigated by Ch'en Pao-ch'en, Governor of Hunan, we gave the other day a résumé of the latter Governor's report and commanded the Board of Civil Appointments to deliberate as to the penalty to be awarded the accused Governor in proportion to his culpability. We are now in receipt of the said Board's report which recommends that the accused be cashiered and dismissed from his post. We, therefore, command that his sentence be carried out and Shih Nien-tsu is hereby cashiered and dismissed from his post of Governor of Kuangsi. As for the expectant prefect Chao Hai-yen, who has been implicated in the said charges, he is hereby degraded three steps in rank, which is not allowed to be commuted by the usual setting-off of good marks against the sentence.

23rd October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning to the Ch'ung-ho Throne-hall to inspect the new M.A.'s of the recent examinations in the Capital.

No papers of interest.

24th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Yü K'un, and others, reporting that the Yangchou granary at T'ungchou is so dilapidated that unless repairs are instantly made, the buildings will soon be reduced to general ruin, etc. We hereby command
Wang Wen-shan, Viceroy of Chihli, to instruct the Provincial Treasurer at Paotingfu to grant the funds necessary to repair the said granary at an early date.

(2) The same memorialists send us a list of the various department and district magistracies in Chihli province which have not sent to the said Yungchi granary their annual quota of grain, and complain of the large arrears in this respect. We hereby command the Viceroy of the said province of Chihli to use the list herein sent us and issue special orders to the lag­gard magistrates to send their several quotas in all haste in order that the officers of the said granary may not be handicapped in their distribution of relief to refugees during the coming winter. Further delay in this matter will be visited with punishment upon the delinquent magistrates.

26th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yang Yi-chih is hereby appointed acting Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

Note:—This is the post to which H.E. Sheng Hsii n-buai, Director-General of the Lu-Han Railway, was appointed last year. (Translator.)

(2) We have received the memorial of Shu T’ai, Police Censor of the Eastern city, and his colleagues, reporting the capture of three notorious desperadoes, by the local militia under the command of the gentry of the said Eastern city. The said desperadoes were captured, after a fierce fight, in an attempt by their band to break into a pawnshop in the Eastern city. The prisoners are hereby commanded to be handed to the Board of Punishments to be treated according to law, and the said memorialists are also commanded to send us a list of the names of the deserving officers and men after the result of the trial of the prisoners at the Board of Punishments is known.

(3) A similar memorial by the same Censor reports the capture of one Wang Ch’an-k’uei by the local militia of the said Eastern city, whose arrest had been ordered by a previous edict for the crime of forcibly abducting a woman, at the head of a gang of bandits of which the said prisoner was a leader. The man is to be handed to the Board of Punishments and strict search should be made for the rest of his gang.

26th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Commander of the Peking Gendarmerie reports the capture by his force of four desperadoes implicated in an attempt to abduct a eunuch belonging to the Palace. The prisoners are to be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and search must be made for the rest of the gang still at large. Let no one escape the meshes of the law.

(2) Ts’eng Chi is appointed Inspector of the affairs of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner Corps.

(3) We have received a memorial from the Commander of the Gendarmerie recommending a number of officers and men for promotion for special bravery and energy, etc. The Board of War is commanded to report on the said list of names.

(4) The same official reports the capture by his force of two notorious bandits who were alleged to have been guilty of armed attack upon travellers and shops round about the Capital. The prisoners are to be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial, and strict search is to be made for the rest of their gang.

27th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Huang Huai-sen, Governor of Yunnan, is hereby transferred to the Governorship of Kuangsi vice Shih Nien-tsu, recommended by the Board of Civil Appointments to be degraded three steps of rank and transferred to an adequate post, on account of certain misdemeanours previously noted by us.

(2) Yu Hsiang, Provincial Treasurer of Yunnan, is hereby promoted to be Governor of the same province, vice Huang Huai-sen transferred to Kuangsi.

(3) Chii Hung chi is appointed a sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with the brevet button of a Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

28th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a joint memorial from the Directors-General of the Imperial Granaries of Peking and T’ungchou reporting that it is anticipated that there will still be considerable distress amongst the poorest classes round about the city of T’ungchou, during the approaching winter, and recommending a donation of grain to the Wangshuyuan and other gruel stations in that city. We hereby authorise the said Directors-General to distribute grain
to the various gruel stations mentioned in their memorial to the amount of 1,500 piculs as the limit.

(2) Ch'ên Ch'i is appointed Taotai of the Yen-Tung Intendancy of Yunnan.

29th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The 4th of November being the anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's birthday we hereby command that the interval commencing from the 1st of next month to the 9th idem, should be observed as a national holiday in consequence of which no Court will be held during the time.

(2) T'ang Shu-min, Provincial Judge of Yunnan, is promoted to be Treasurer of the same province vice Yü Hsiang promoted to be Governor of the said province of Yunnan.

(3) Hsing Lu, Taotai of the Yen-Tung Intendancy of Yunnan is promoted to be Provincial Judge of the said province vice T'ang Shu-min promoted to be Treasurer of the same.

30th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES

(1) We have received the usual report from Jen Tao-jung, Director-General of the Yellow River in Honan province, reporting that since the approach of cold weather the embankments and dykes of the said river have been so well attended to during the autumn that there has been no trouble along the whole course guarded by the memorialist this year, etc. This is certainly due to the benevolence of the river god and we feel duly thankful for their protection over the people. We therefore command that ten large-sized Tibetan incense-sticks be sent by the Imperial Household Department to the said Director-General of the Yellow River who is also commanded to offer them at the altars of the gods in the Dragon King's Temple in the vicinity. As for the officers to whose energy and care has been due the peaceful state of the great river this year, we hereby command the Board of Civil Appointments to deliberate and report upon the rewards that ought to be granted to Ngèh-lè-ching-ngeh, Provincial Treasurer of Honan; Mu Ch'ê-hsien, Taotai of the K'ai K'ai K'ai, Ch'en Hsiang Intendancy of the said province; and Ts'en Ch'un-jung, Taotai of the Hopei Intendancy of Honan. With reference to Wên Huan, Prefect of K'ai-fang-fu, he is hereby promoted to be a Taotai in rank with the brevet 2nd rank button, as soon as he shall have completed his term of office as prefect of the said city.

31st October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the military archery competitions amongst the unattached members of the Imperial Clan the other day, we hereby command that Yu P'o and 15 others [names given—Translator] who succeeded in hitting the target with their arrows on horseback five times be given the rank of Imperial Guardians of the 3rd class. Also, that Ch'in Hsiu and 8 others [names given] who succeeded in hitting the target with their arrows on foot four times, and once on horseback, be given the rank of Imperial Guardians of the 4th class. As for the rest who succeeded in hitting the target in foot archery four times they are hereby ordered to be rewarded, each man, one piece of “great” satin and ten taels in money; while those who only hit the target three times are to be rewarded with 5 taels each man.

(2) Yü Têh is commanded to preside over the Ch'êng division of the archery competition for the military Ch'ien-jên degree and Yang Yi is appointed to tally the number of hits; K'uei Pin is appointed to preside over the Hsiu division and Wên Chih is appointed tallist; Chin Hsien will preside over the Liêh division and Hu Yü-fen is appointed tallist; Sung Ku-i is to preside over the Ching division while Kuei Hsien will tally the hits.

(3) The following Protectors are appointed to the military competitions for the Ch'ien-jên degree, viz:—Ying Shou to the Ch'êng division; Chêng Sze-chan to the Hsiu division; Chung Lien to the Liêh division; and Hsi Lin to the Ching division of the examination grounds.

(4) Commencing with to-morrow until the 9th proximo the Court will wear full dress court robes in honour of the birthday anniversary of the Empress Dowager.

1st November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yên Mou, Tartar General of Hailung-chiang, reports that in May last Sheng Liang, a military hereditary noble of the 8th grade, who holds the post of gaol warden in the yamen of the Manchu Brigade-General of Alatsuba, requested permission for a convict on the postroads, named Liu Li-tein, to return for a short time to his family, who were alleged to have followed the said convict to the Amur; but it soon became known that this was false and that the convict had in truth escaped back into China. Orders were, therefore, sent to the various military posts en route
to Mukden and Shanhaikuan to be on the look out for the fugitive. The man was subsequently captured and confessed that he had bribed the said gaolwarden and his subordinates to enable him to return to his home in China proper, etc. This is indeed a grave and serious charge against the said gaolwarden, and we hereby command the said Tartar-General to cashier the said gaolwarden and put him under arrest to await trial with the captured fugitive. The guilty ones must be punished with the utmost severity of the law.

(2) With reference to the vacancy in the prefectship of Paotingfu, as the post is one of great importance we hereby command Wang Wen-shao, the Viceroy of Chihli, to select the prefect best suited for the said post out of all the officials holding substantive prefectural posts in the said province, and we further command that the post vacated by the said Viceroy's choice be given to Pan Chi'ing-choa.

2nd November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Mien Yi, Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency, and Ming Hsiu, Lieutenant-General of the Red Manchu Banner Corps, are given by extra act of grace the privilege of riding on horseback within the Forbidden Precincts.

(2) With reference to the memorial of Lu Ch'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, received to-day, stating the amounts subscribed by the various high officials of the Empire in aid of the Szechuan Famine sufferers, we find that the said Viceroy has been guilty of carelessness in that he has written the wrong characters for Wu Ting-fang, our Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, etc., in his memorial. We hereby command that the said Viceroy be handed to the Board for the determination of an adequate penalty.

3rd November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from E-k'ue-t'ang-a, Tartar General of Fengtien and Military Governor of Mukden, denouncing a Manchu Lieutenant in charge of the likin station in the Northern districts, named Kuan Tsing, who had been found guilty of defrauding the government of a portion of the revenues collected by his subordinates. This conduct is certainly most reprehensible and a disgrace to the service and we hereby command that the accused officer be forthwith cashiered and forced to refund the monies fraudulently kept back by him.

(2) Hsii Kung, Wu Shih-chien, and Chang Heng-chia, Compilers of the Second Class in the Hanlin Academy, are hereby granted the extra privilege of doing duty in the Southern Imperial Library.

4th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tsai Ngo and Chung Hsün are appointed Inspectors of the Senior and Junior Gioro schools, respectively.

(2) Huai T'a-pu and Shih Shuh are hereby respectively commanded to sacrifice at the temples of the Tutelary gods of the Tartar and Chinese cities of Peking.

(3) Chung Kuang is commanded to sacrifice at the temple of the Fire god of the Capital.

(4) Ch'i Hsiu, President of the Mongolian Superintendency, is commanded to sacrifice at the temple of the Horse god.

(5) We have received the memorial of Fu Lé-min (Manchu) Deputy Assistant Military Governor of Kulja, reporting serious illness and praying to be allowed to resign his post and return to Peking, etc. We hereby grant the said Fu Lé-min's prayer and permission is given him to return to his Banner Reservation to recruit his health.

5th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Li Ping-heng, Governor of Shantung, reporting that, through the providence of Heaven, the Yellow River, since the first frosts, has remained quiet and the country round about accordingly left undisturbed, etc. This year has been especially calamitous for Shantung through the repeated breaches made in the Yellow River by floods and freshets or by carelessness on the part of the watchers, causing untold miseries to our unfortunate people of Shantung. It is therefore with a grateful heart to High Heaven that we now learn that the river has at this time of the year remained peaceful and that Heaven has protected and nourished our people at this juncture. We also commend the said Governor's watchfulness and vigilance in keeping clear the said river at the head of his subordinates, and we hereby command that ten sticks of large Tibetan incense be forthwith sent to the said Governor to be offered on our behalf at the temple of the Dragon King in order to show our gratitude to Heaven and the Gods for their protection of our people of Shantung. Apropos of the officers under the said Governor who have shown
extra energy and vigilance in their duties in this matter, namely, Hsi Liang, Taotai of the Yen-yi-ts’ao-chi Intendancy of Shantung and Chief Inspector of the Upper Reaches of the Yellow River, and Lin Chi-chin, expectant Taotai and Chief Inspector of the Middle Reaches, we hereby command that these two officers be haunched to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of special rewards in recognition of their good conduct.

(2) We have received anther memorial from the above-named high officers specially recommending to our notice Shang Chi-hang, prefect of Wutung; Ting Lieh-chun, prefect of Yichoufu; Liu Fén-ying, subprefect-elect of Chinin-hou; Hu Chien-chü, district magistrate of Yangkulsien; Li Chuan, magistrate of Shanhsien; Li Wei-ch'eng, magistrate of Papinghsien; Chin Lin, magistrate of T'angyihsien; and Ou Chung-ch'i, magistrate of T'aszien. The above-named officials are stated by the said Governor to be energetic, diligent and careful in their duties and kind and sympathetic to the people under them, and in every way fit for the responsible posts they hold.

We are extremely pleased to hear this and hereby command that our decree recommending the said officials for their conduct be sent specially to each of them, in which they are further exhorted to keep on in their present course and not be discouraged, so that both the beginning as well as the ending of their official careers shall be the same. In this manner will they deserve the confidence which we have placed in them.

6th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chun Man, Commandant of the Tartar garrison at Chahar, is hereby promoted to be Deputy Assistant Military Governor of Kuldja vice Fu Lé-min, resigned on account of ill health, and En Hsian, an officer of the Imperial Body Guard, is hereby given the brevet rank of a Deputy Military Assistant Governor, and is commanded to go to Chahar and take over the post vacated by Chun Man, as above noted.

(2) With reference to the Princes and nobles who formed the special Guard of Honour to H.I.M. the Dowager-Empress on her Majesty's return from Peking to Eho Park on the 1st instant on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday anniversary festivities, Her Majesty hereby commands that the following rewards be given to the said Escort:—An inlaid jade sceptre (jii-1) and two pieces of gold brocaded satin to I K’uang, Prince of Ch’ing, 1st Order; Princes Tsai Chi, Tsai Lien, Tsai Ying, Tsai Jun, and P'o Ho are each given two pieces of multi-coloured satin; to the Imperial nobles Tsai Lan, Tsai Chen, and P'o Hsüan, a similar present of two pieces of multi-coloured satin each, while to Shih Shuh, Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department a similar present is also granted. As for the officers of the Imperial Guards who performed the special duty of incense swingers, a favourable note shall be marked against their names in the records of the Board of War, while to each of the soldiers of the Imperial Guards who bore her Majesty’s sedan chair on that occasion shall be given a reward of two taels per head. The other Court officers performing minor functions as required during the procession shall be rewarded with silver pieces equal to one tael to each person. The above rewards shall be disbursed by the Board of Revenue.

7th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the report of Wang Wén-shio, Viceroy of Chihli, announcing that all is quiet at Tungminghsien, where the Yellow River flows through Chihli province. Shortly after last autumn, the embankments at Tungminghsien were threatened by a sudden overflowing of the Yellow River, but fortunately, under the directions of the said Viceroy, his subordinates were enabled to arrest widespread inundation through their promptness and diligence. And now although the first frosts have come, through the beneficent Providence of High Heaven the waters have remained quiet and peace reigns over the Tungming region. We feel duly thankful and grateful to Heaven and the gods for their protection and in token thereof command that ten large sticks of Tibetan incense be forthwith sent to the said Viceroy who shall direct the Taotai of the Ta-Shun-Kuang Intendancy of Chihli to take the said incense to the Dragon temples at the villages of Liiienchuang, Kaochun, and Wanchuang, and there present the said offerings on our behalf to their deities. As for the promotions and rewards recommended by the said Viceroy to the deserving officials concerned in the conservation of the said Yellow River, let the Boards of Civil Appointments and of War report on the list of names as presented by the said memorialist.
(2) Li Hung-kuei, Civil Governor-elect of Moukden and Literary Chancellor of Ffingtien province, sends us a memorial reporting serious illness and that although the leave of absence granted him is about to expire, his illness has not been allayed one jot, hence, in order that the duties of the above office may not suffer, through the continued absence of the regular incumbent, the memorialist prays that he may be permitted to resign his post and that some one else be appointed at an early date, etc. The prayer is hereby granted and Li Hung-kuei is permitted to retire and recuperate his health.

8th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Jao Ying-ch'i, Governor of Chinese Turkestan, writing in a postscript memorial, prays that a special tablet written by ourselves be presented to the memorial temple of the late Marquis Tso Tsung-tang at Urumtsi (Tihuafu, capital of the New Dominion—Translator), in order that the people of the province may be impressed with the Imperial beneficence to the country's heroes, etc. Jao Ying-ch'i has been guilty of a serious breach of etiquette and disrespect to us in the manner in which he has presented his request. Is not a special prayer like the one made by the said Governor worthy of a special memorial? Gross disrespect like this must not be allowed to pass by unnoticed, and we hereby command that a special decree be made out strongly rating the culpable Governor for his breach of etiquette and informing him of our grave displeasure at his conduct. We further command that no notice be taken of the said Governor's prayer.

9th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hsü Hui-féng is appointed Chief Examiner of the candidates competing for the military chujên degree to be held shortly in the capital, and Li Tien-lin is appointed Assistant Examiner.

(2) Chung Yin and Li T'iao-ying are appointed Proctors of the said competitions.

(3) Ma Ju-ch'i, Hu Chin-chu, Lin Yi and Wang Chan-lun are appointed Deputy Examiners in the outer halls.

(4) Kuan Hsiang is appointed Commandant of the Guards whose duty it will be to keep the peace within the Examination precincts.

(5) Chang Ku-wei and Shen Yü-chie are appointed receivers of essays of the military candidates competing for the chu jên degree.

10th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The special supervising Censor, Hsiu Lin, reports that Wang Chan-lun, appointed as one of the Deputy Examiners in the outer hall of the Examination precincts in the military chu jên competitions, yesterday, was absent the whole time from his duties to which he had been appointed by special edict. We hereby command the high officers of the Board of Works, where the accused official holds the post of 3rd-class secretary, to investigate the matter and to report to us why the said Wang Chan-lun absented himself from the examinations without putting forward a prior plea of some sort in order that some one else might have been appointed to take his place in time.

(2) By special command of H. I. M. the Empress Dowager the officials who read to her Majesty the congratulatory memorials on the occasion of H. I. M.'s birthday anniversary the other day, together with those who officiated as bell-tappers on that occasion, are to be rewarded with one step in advance of their present respective ranks.

(3) H.I.M. the Empress Dowager has been pleased to express her Majesty's gracious pleasure at the care and diligence which the Chief of Ceremonies at her Majesty's birthday anniversary, namely H.I.H. Prince Kung, has shown throughout the festivities, and therefore her Majesty commands that in recognition of his highness's services the following gifts shall be presented him, viz:—a square and a rectangular tablet written by H.I.M.'s own hand; a tablet containing the characters Chuang-shou (Long Life) also written by her Majesty's own hand; a jade sceptre, a fur robe made of the throat of the sable marten, and four pieces of gold brocaded satin containing the word "Longevity," worked into them. To Prince Chin, the Assistant Chief of Ceremonies, her Majesty has been pleased to graciously grant a tablet containing the words "Long Life" written by her Majesty's own hand, a jade sceptre, a sable-throat fur robe (Tai-su-tiao-p'ao), and two pieces of gold brocaded satin containing the word "Prosperity" (fu) worked into them.
11th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the following commands from H.I.M. the Empress Dowager in connection with the rewards and promotions her Majesty has been graciously pleased to bestow upon the Princes and Nobles of the Imperial House who distinguished themselves by their energy and diligence in their duties while attending upon her Majesty during the recent birthday anniversary celebrations of her Majesty at Eho Park:—Her Imperial Majesty commands that the Chief and Assistant Directors of Festivities, namely, Prince Kung and Prince Ching, be recommended to the Imperial Clan Court for the determination of extraordinary rewards. With reference to the other Princes and Nobles of the Imperial House who acted as colleagues and assistants of the first two Princes, her Majesty directs that Tsaí Feng, Prince of Ch'un, 1st Order (the Emperor's younger brother—Translator), Tsaí Chi, Prince of Tuan, 2nd Order, Prince Tsaí Lien, 3rd Order, Prince Tsaí Ying, 3rd Order, Prince Tsaí Yün, 3rd Order, and Prince P'u Wei, 3rd Order, shall be given an increase upon their annual allowances of Tls. 500 per annum. To Prince Yi Mu, 4th Order, Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, Dukes Tsaí Tsê and Tsaí Haü, and the Imperial Nobles Tsaí Lên, Tsaí T'ao, Tsaí Ying, P'u Huan, Tsaí P'u, Tsaí Po, and Tsaí Ch'ao shall be given each a sceptre, made of valuable wood, jade, and gold, and a full-dress gold-brocaded Court robe, in recognition of their efforts to amuse her Majesty by dancing and posturing in multi-coloured embroidered garments at the feast given to her Majesty in honour of H.I.M.'s birthday.

(2) We have been commanded by H.I.M. the Empress Dowager to grant the following rewards to the various officers (Manchu) of our Household Guards who contributed towards her Majesty's amusement during her Majesty's recent birthday anniversary:—To Tsaí-le-feng-á and Fén Ch'ë shall be granted each a gold-brocaded full-dress Court robe; to the Imperial guardsmen of the 1st class, Tsaí Yüeh, Nê Ch'ing-tai, and Cho Ling-á, shall be granted the privilege of being recommended to the Board of War for the determination of extraordinary rewards; to the 1st-class Imperial guardsmen Y Lü-pù and Wén Pô shall be granted the decoration of the brevet second rank button. As for the 2nd-class Imperial guardsmen P'u Têng, Ch'tuan Fu, Yung Ping, Chih Haüang, Chih Ho, and Fu Hsiang, they are to be rewarded with promotion to the rank of 1st-class guardsmen. Tsaí Kuang, Chung Hsiang, Chiu Liang, Kuei Ch'uan, Ching Lin, Kuei Ho, Wu-la-hi-ch'un, and En Fu, 3rd-class guardsmen, are to be promoted to the rank of 2nd-class Imperial guardsmen, and the 4th-class guardsman Sung Hai shall be promoted to be a 3rd-class guardsman. In addition to the above her Majesty further commands that Ch'tuan Fu, 1st-class Imperial guardsman, and Ying Mou and Fu Shan, 2nd-class Imperial Guardsmen, shall be recommended to the Board of War for the determination of special rewards.

12th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to Yo Pu-shan, an Imperial Academy student by purchase and a native of Fochow, who appealed to us, during our progress to Eho Park this morning, to redress his alleged wrongs, we hereby command that he be sent to the Board of Punishments which is commanded to make a strict investigation into his complaints.

(2) Kuei Hsien (Manchu) is hereby appointed Civil Governor of Mokden and Literary Chancellor of Fungtien province vice Li Hung-k'uei resigned owing to serious illness.

13th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As Ch'ên Hsiao-fen is now absent from Peking and still engaged in his duties of Literary Examiner in the provinces, we hereby command H'ê Yung-yi to act pro tem. as Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue with control over the mints, until the former official's return to the capital.

(2) It has been the custom for Viceroids and Governors of provinces to send us annual secret reports, at the end of each year, concerning the abilities, general conduct, and honesty of their subordinates, commencing from those holding the substantive and expectant ranks of Taotai and prefect down to the petty officials of the last or 9th class. With these reports as data we are enabled to know the value of each official in the provinces to whom has been entrusted the direction of the affairs of our subjects, the common people. The following, however, appears to us inexplicable. On a former occasion we received one of these secret annual reports from T'ao Chung-lin, the Viceroy of the Two K'iang provinces, who eulogised a certain
Chou Tien-lin, prefect of Sz'enfu, in Kuangsi province, declaring that he was "a man to be thoroughly trusted, both as an honest and talented official, who attended to his duties earnestly and diligently, and whom the people under him greatly loved and trusted." Now, however, Shih Nien-tsu, ex-Governor of Kuangsi, sends us an altogether different report of this Chou Tien-lin, stating that "the reputation for ability of the said prefect of Sz'enfu is mediocre, and from his general conduct he is not to be trusted to hold an important post," etc. This is rather strange and calls for an investigation. We, therefore, command Huang Huai-sen, the present Governor of Kuangsi, and Hsü Chen-yi, Governor of Kuangtung, to investigate conjointly the case and report to us as to how the said prefect really stands in the estimation of the people of the prefecture of Sz'enfu. Let there be no private likes or dislikes to stand in the way of a perfectly just report.

14th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Lu Ch'uang-shao is appointed district magistrate of T'ai'anhsien, Shantung province.
(2) Chang Pei-hsi is appointed a sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with the brevet rank of a junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites.
(3) Chêng Sz-hsien is appointed a Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seals of the Board of Rites.
(4) Shu T'ai (Manchu) is appointed Censor of the Yunnan provincial Circuit.

15th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.
(2) Yung Sheng is appointed Police-Censor of the Western City.
(3) Meng Shou and Sung Lin are hereby granted the privilege of doing duty in the Hanlin Academy.
(4) Lu Shu-shun is appointed gaol warden of the metropolitan police magistracy of the city.
(5) Shih K'uei (Manchu) is hereby granted permission to retain his post of Supervising Censor.

16th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing that the 3rd of December next should be observed as the day for the annual sacrifice to the God of Medicine, we hereby appoint K'un Hsin to superintend the worship on that day, and that Chuang Shu-ho and Li Tê-ch'ang should worship at the minor altars on each side of the said temples.
(2) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

17th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Our heart becomes filled with pity and concern for the condition of our troops both Chinese and Manchus in the metropolis when the cold winter winds blow over the city, and so in order to alleviate somewhat their condition during this cold weather we hereby command that both officers and men shall receive in addition to their regular pay and rations a bonus of half-a-month's pay and rations as a mark of our desire for the welfare of our soldiers.
(2) As for the usual additional winter grants graciously bestowed by special edict on the widow and orphan members of the Imperial clan and collateral branches of the Imperial House, we hereby command that a bonus of half-a-month's rations be further granted to the above-named people as a mark of extra grace from the Throne.

18th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the distribution of rewards and bonuses to the members of the Imperial Clan and collateral branches of the Imperial House, we hereby command that the Committee appointed to superintend the said function shall consist of Prince Tsai Ch'i, 3rd-class, Yu Tse, Pu Chen and Ch'ung Kuang, members of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department.
(2) With reference to the case of those troops belonging to our Capital who have received advances of pay from their respective Commanders, who ought by rights to deduct the said advances when paying their wages for the 12th moon of this year and the 1st moon of the next year, we hereby command as an extra act of grace that the advances in question shall not be deducted until the 2nd moon of next year, thus enabling these troops to enjoy their full pay and rations during the festival of the end of the 12th moon and beginning of the 1st moon of next year.

19th and 20th November.

No papers of interest.
21st November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Ch'iu Yin-sheng is this day appointed Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court.

22nd November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing that the 21st of December next being the occasion of the Winter Solstice, special sacrificial worship should be conducted at the temples of Heaven and Earth, and praying that we should appoint some one to perform the said worship. In regard to the above we hereby command it to be made known to the said Court of Sacrificial Worship that we intend to go in person on that day to the said temples and conduct the sacrificial services and that the sacrifices before the four minor altars in the said temples shall be conducted by Chung Hsui, Min Hsü, Tê Shou, and Lih Tuan, members of the Imperial Clan.

23rd November.

No papers of interest.

24th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wang Hui-ying is appointed Taotai of the Ch'ing-Ching-Ku-Hua Intendancy of Kansu province.

(2) Huang Chung-yen is appointed Taotai of the Salt Gabelle of the Kuei-Ping-Wa Intendancy of Kuangsi province.

(3) Wang Chung-yi is appointed district magistrate of Hsuyang, in the province of Kuangsi.

(4) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

25th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ying Shou is appointed Police Censor of the Southern city of the Capital.

(2) We have received a memorial from the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie praying for promotions and rewards for the officers and men of his corps who have distinguished themselves by bravery and energy in the performance of their duties, thereby causing the capture and arrest of a number of the most notorious criminals and bandits that had been infesting the towns belonging to the Imperial metropolitan prefecture of Shuntienfu. We hereby command the Board of War to go over the list of names presented by the said Commandant and report thereon to us before permission be granted in the matter.

26th November.

No papers of interest.

27th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received a memorial from the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie presenting a list of names of the deserving officers and men belonging to the Southern Battalion of his forces whose diligence in their duties and bravery shown in capturing many of the most dangerous bandits and desperadoes in the metropolis had called forth our commendation on the occasion, and in which we gave permission to the said Commandant to send up a special memorial asking for promotions and rewards for the above-noted officers and men as soon as the sentences of the captured bandits shall have been given out by the Board of Punishments. We hereby command the Board of War to go over the said list and report to us as to the promotions and rewards to be given to each person.

28th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie reporting the capture by his forces of thirteen members of a gang of bandits who had been terrorising the vicinity and suburbs of the metropolis. We hereby command that the prisoners be handed to the Board of Punishments for trial and that when the sentences shall have been given out by the said Board, permission is given to the said commandant to send us a list of the names of those officers and men who have distinguished themselves in effecting the said capture in order that we may reward the deserving ones. As for the three other members of the gang whose names are known to the gendarmes but who have succeeded so far in effecting their escape, we command that strict search be made for the criminals in order that not a single member of this notorious gang of desperadoes be permitted to get away from the meshes of the law.

(1) On a former occasion the Censor Sung Peh-lu denounced the officials of the Middle City for having accepted bribes in a case of alleged murder in consequence of which the guilty persons escaped the punishment they deserve, etc. We therefore command the Board of Punishments to investigate the matter. While the trial was going on, the Supervising Censor Ting Chih-shih denounced the officers of the said Board composing the
tried the case for using illegal tortures, etc., in order to force the witnesses to give the evidence desired. We therefore commanded the President of the Court of Censors, Yu Té, and the President of the said Board to make a careful investigation of the whole affair and report to us at once. The said high official now report that it had transpired that after all there had been no foul play but that the dead persons had been asphyxiated with charcoal one cold night while sleeping in their shop, the same having been proved by actual demonstration as well as by the evidence of the relatives of the dead men. Further that the Censor Sung Peh-lu had only done his duty in reporting to the Throne what he had heard amongst the common people, having no enmity at all to the officials he had denounced. Again, the bambooing given to the obstinate witnesses who said one thing one day and something else another day could not be considered illegal, and therefore the memorialists recommend that no further notice be taken of the case, and that all those wrongly imprisoned be forthwith released. The memorial is hereby granted.

29th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, accuses Sieh Kuang-chü, an expectant Taotai of Kuangsi, of being crafty, dishonest and avaricious, and guilty of conduct altogether unbecoming an officer of his rank, etc. We hereby cashier the said expectant Taotai and command that he be forthwith expelled from Kuangsi province.

(2) We have received the memorial of the Police Censor of the Northern city asking for promotions on behalf of the gentlemen and notables of the said city whose trained bands had been instrumental in capturing a number of bandits during the current year. The Board of Civil Appointments is hereby commanded to go over the list of names presented by the said Censor and report to us.

30th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received a memorial from Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kiangsi, denouncing the conduct of Pien Yung-chün, ex-magistrate of Hsinganhsien, Kuangsi province, who having retired from his post was discovered to be considerably in arrears in the payment of the taxes collected by him. When applied to for the repayment of the said taxes by the provincial treasury officials, the ex-magistrate paid no heed to their demands, showing a contempt for the law which should be punished. We hereby command that the said ex-magistrate be cashiered and arrested and placed in prison until he refunds the whole of his indebtedness to the Government. We further command the Governor of Yunnan, the arrive province of the accused, to investigate and confiscate any properties that may stand in the accused official’s name in his native and other towns in Yunnan. Let not the provincial treasury suffer though the dishonesty of the officials.

1st December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing the near approach of the Winter Solstice, and that sacrifices should be made before the altars of the Temples of Heaven and of Earth to pray for bountiful harvests in the coming year, etc. We hereby announce our intention to preside personally at these ceremonies and further command the Prince of Shuh to examine the sacrificial animals on that day, while Hsiü Ying-kuei, President of the Board of Rites, is to superintend their slaughter.

(2) We have received the report of Sung Ch’ün (Manchu), Director-General of the Grand Canal, announcing that all has been well and the waters peaceful and quiet within his jurisdiction since the date fixed for the first frost in the Imperial Almanac, owing to the carefulness and diligence of the said Director-General and his subordinates. As freedom from catastrophe is due more to the protection of the river Gods in this matter, we desire to show our gratitude to the deities for their gracious protection of our subjects and therefore command the Board of Rites to send ten large-sized Tibetan incense-sticks to the said Director-General, who is ordered to burn them reverentially in the temples of the above named Gods.

2nd December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Some time ago there arose some trouble and consequent disturbances amongst the tribute tribes of Chantui in Eastern Tibet, on the borders of Szechuan province, and this being reported to us by the then Governor-General of Szechuan, Lu Ch’uan-lin, we at once commanded him to investigate the nature of the troubles and endeavour to settle in a just and impartial manner the differences amongst the Tibetan tribesmen concerned without
further reference to the Throne. Instead, however, of the Tibetans being grateful for the Imperial desire to restore peace amongst our subjects, the tribesmen had the effrontery to rise up in arms and try to resist the authority of the said Governor-General, who was therefore compelled to dispatch troops who soon over-ran the turbulent districts and took possession of all the villages thereof. Subsequently the said Governor-General memorialised us recommending the absorption of the Chantui districts into Szechuan province, and to divide them into departments and districts (chou and hsien), like those in China Proper, instead of allowing these Tibetans to continue tributaries as heretofore and to be governed by their own chiefs, Lama priests, and elders. This retribution the said chiefs and Lamas had brought down upon themselves and they had only themselves to blame. Eventually, however, it has come to our knowledge that the chiefs and Lamas concerned, whose ancestors down to the present generation had received much bounty and grace from the dynasty, really knew how to be grateful thereto, and were in truth most loyal to the Throne, having no desire to resist the Imperial troops sent into their territory. Further, that they had been led to resist the said Governor-General owing to the latter having paid no consideration to the feelings and prejudices of tribesmen, pressing them so severely concerning the conditions of complete submission that the Tibetans had been compelled to assemble in arms to protect themselves from the injustice of the said Governor-General's agents and their troops. As these charges are serious we hereby command the said Governor-General to vacate his post and allow Kung Shou, the Tartar-General of Chantui, to act pro tem. as Viceroy of Szechuan. The latter is hereby commanded to deal justly with the case of the Tibetans. We have further received a report from the said Tartar-General to the effect that the Tibetan chiefs and Lamas, owing to their having been traduced to the Throne by the said Lu Ch'uan-lin, which was followed by the sanction to absorb the territory of Chantui into Szechuan province, now cry out for justice and the return of their country to themselves as of old, being in fact most loyal to the Throne. As this is vouchèd for by the Dalai Lama (Buddhist Pontiff of Lassa) we hereby grant the Chantui chiefs and Lamas their prayer, and revoke the order to absorb their territory into Szechuan. But we must command the said Pontiff to select other Tibetans, whose ability and discretion have been proved, to take over the government of the said territory of Chantui, and it must also be known to the Tibetans that we have been further led to grant their prayer through the vows of the said Dalai Lama and the Chantui chiefs that from henceforth no more attempts at disturbance or raids into Chinese territory will be made, but that perfect loyalty and due observance of the laws will be observed by the Tibetans on the borders of Szechuan and other provinces of China Proper. We accept the above undertaking of the said Pontiff and his subordinates, and exhort all to pay diligent attention to their duties and to deserve this extra act of bounty on the part of the Imperial Throne.

(2) We have received the annual report of the governor of Kueichou, Wang Yü-tsun, concerning his various subordinates who have shown excessive badness of character and conduct during the year about to close. He denounces Pao Ch'ien, prefect of Szenanfu, Kueichou, of extreme weakness of character and indecision which demonstrates his utter uselessness as a governing officer; the said prefect is ordered to resign his post forthwith. Further denunciations are made against Sze Tê-kuang, an expectant department magistrate of the 6th grade, of conduct unworthy of an official, the penalty for which is degradation to the rank of a deputy magistrate (8th grade); against Li Shiang-chou, department magistrate of Chenauchou, and Wu En-kü-i, department magistrate of Hsiangchou, of encouraging their yamen runners to extort and exercise cruelty upon the inhabitants of the said two departments; and against Wang Shu-wén, deputy magistrate of P'unanhsien, and Liu Shiu-ch'ien, an expectant gowarden of departments, for not being able to preserve discipline among their subordinates when sent into the country districts on government business; against the expectant Colonels Hsia K'uei-yuan and Ma Wei-pang for assisting the above-named last two civil officials with their troops to plunder the people of the country visited by them. We hereby command that the officials above-named be forthwith cashiered and dismissed the service as a warning to others. As for the expectant district magistrates Wu Ho-wen and Ch'en Shan-foo, who have been guilty of being indifferent and reckless as to their good reputation, we hereby cashier them and command that they be expelled from Kueichou province in punishment thereof. The said Governor also charges
Liu Chün, district magistrate of Yüeh'ing-hsien with inordinate avarice, but as the memorialist has not specified the occasions on which such avarice has been shown, we hereby command him to send us detailed accounts of the same in order that steps also may be taken in the said case.

3rd December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Jung Sheng (Manchu) is hereby commanded to go and inspect the annual accounts, etc., of the affairs of the Manchu Red Banner Corps.

4th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, Jung Lu, reports the arrest by his men of certain members of the Imperial Clan and their servants who were found guilty of having broken into a petty officer's yamen inside the said yamen, smashed the said yamen, and finally violently assaulted the official in charge. We hereby command that the said Imperial clanmen Tsai Shan and Tsai Lin, and their followers Lin San-hei and Hsia Tsing-teh, be forthwith handed over by the said Commandant to the Board of Punishments, which is commanded to try the said law-breakers in conjunction with the tribunal of the Imperial Clan Court. As for the others not yet in custody, the said Commandant is commanded to make strict search for them so that none may escape the punishment due to their outrageous conduct.

(2) As for a postscript memorial by the same high officer who states that Duke Pu Tso had sent the former a dispatch claiming that his uncles Tsai Shan and Tsai Lin had been maltreated by the said memorialist's officers and unju-tly spirited away to prison, etc., we hereby command that the Duke in question be also summoned before the joint tribunal above instituted for the occasion to see how far implicated the said Duke is in the said case.

(3) Chung Huan, Tartar-General of Ulisesutai (Western Tartary), has again sent us a memorial praying us to allow him to resign his post owing to continued illness. We hereby grant the memorialist his prayer and he is permitted to return to his Banner Reservation to recruit his health.

5th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) En Ch'ün is appointed Assistant Military Governor of Ch'engtu, capital of Szech'uan province.

(2) Ch'en Ch'ing is appointed prefect of Szântu, province of Kuangsi.

6th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'en Fei-yung is appointed Brigadier-General of the Military Circuit of Hienhsia, province of Chihli.

(2) Chi Shun is appointed Taotai of the Kao-Lien-Ching Intendancy of Kuang-tung.

No papers of interest.

7th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Works having memorialised that the Eastern mausolea of the Imperial family require a thorough course of repairs, we hereby command that Pu Shan, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, and Shou Ch'ang, Vice-President of the Board of War, be sent to the said mausolea to superintend the making of the said repairs.

(2) Chung Sui and his colleagues report that during the months of September and October last while the commercial agents of the Imperial Granaries were engaged in transporting rice bought for the purpose of making up the reserve lent to the rice shops of the capital, they were suddenly pounced upon by two men, named Sun Tseh and Liu Erh, who, representing themselves as the servants of Pao An, Granary Censor, extorted certain monies from the said agents on the ground that they were transporting rice which had not paid the usual octroi. The accused men are now lying in the prison of the city gendarmerie, and a request is made that they be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial. As the above-named Censor Pao An is implicated in the matter by the two extortioners, he is also commanded to hold himself in readiness to appear before the Board of Punishments whenever called upon to do so. The said affair must be sifted to the bottom as already similar complaints have been made since the above arrests.

8th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chung Lin is appointed (Manchu) Censor of the Shantung provincial circuit.
(2) Li Chi-ch’ang, is appointed an expectant Taotai of Honan, and Ch’ang Mu is appointed a Taotai of Kuangtung.

(3) Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

(4) Li Fa-chao is appointed Chief Supervisor of Instruction to the Heir Apparent.

(5) En Shun reports that the altar erected from ancient times on Mount Han in the Mongol territory of Kulun, is about to fall into ruins through want of repair. As the said altar has been used from time immemorial for praying for rain and for fine weather and has uniformly been found to answer these prayers, it should not be allowed to fall into ruin and we therefore authorise the memorialist to procure the money necessary for renewing the said altar.

9th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Censor Chang Chao-Ian denounces the practice now current amongst the department and district magistrates of the various provinces of the Empire of speculating on their own responsibility in the stores of reserve grain which are deposited in the emergency granaries of every walled city of the country, resulting frequently in the bankruptcy of the magistrates in question, who thereby become unable to make good their accounts to the provincial treasury when suddenly superseded or transferred to other posts. This is a most serious defect in the present day administration of local governments and steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such delinquencies. The officials ought to bear in mind that each walled city is bound to retain in the local granaries an amount of grain proportionate to the size of the population, to be used in times of drought, famine, war, or pestilence for the protection of the inhabitants from want and starvation, the officials, however, being allowed to sell at their discretion a certain portion of the old grain when replaced by the addition of new grain received each year. Instead of doing this in accordance with the regulations governing such sales, the said Censor charges the loco-nomines above-named with leaving the old grain to rot in the emergency granaries while the newly received grain is manipulated in the markets, naturally at enhanced prices, to the benefit of the exploiters. The old grain in the said granaries in time becomes utterly useless, and the result may be easily imagined whenever the occasion calls for the distribution of emergency grain to those requiring such aid. We would earnestly exhort the various Viceroyos and Governors of our provinces to commence at once to investigate into such serious charges, and in order to begin anew it is our wish that the various magistrates concerned be commanded to sell out the entire stock of reserve grain in the emergency granaries and to place a certain portion of the monies so obtained at interest. Further that each magistrate shall be compelled to send up annually to his superior officials an exact statement of accounts in this respect and these in turn are to be reported to the Throne at the end of each year by the said Viceroyos and Governors, in order that the Imperial Government may know the exact amount of emergency grain and reserve funds placed at interest in the various cities of the Empire. Let there be no more attempts at defrauding the revenues of the country by the above-noted conduct.

10th December.

No papers of interest.

11th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Ping-heng, recently promoted to the post of Viceroy of Szechuan vicc Lu Chuan-lin, is hereby ordered to resign his appointment, w-h Yu Lu, Tartar-General of Foochow and Imperial Commissioner of the Foochow Arsenal and Naval Dockyard, is hereby appointed to Szechuan in Li Ping-heng’s stead.

(2) Wang Chih-chun, Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, is hereby transferred to a similar post in Szechuan vicc Wang Yii-tsao promoted to be Governor of Kueichou.

(3) Yuan Feng-lin, Provincial Treasurer of Chihli, is transferred to Hupeh in a similar capacity vicc Wang Chih-chun transferred as above, and the post vacated by the said Yuan Feng-lin is hereby given to Yu Ch’ang (Manchou).

12th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

T’ang Hua-hsi, Governor of Anhui, reports that the Brigadier-General of the Chuanpei (North Szechuan) Military circuit of Szechuan, Ho Ch’eng-niao, who is at present at his home in Anhui on leave of absence to repair the graves of his ancestors, has recently requested the memorialist to convey the former’s prayer to the Throne asking that he be permitted
to resign his Brigadier-Generalship owing to his inability to complete the said repairs required within the period of his privilege leave. The said Governor also guarantees the truth of the said General's assertion and we therefore hereby grant his prayer.

13th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Tsong Heng, Governor of Anhui, reports that owing to the many catastrophes befalling many portions of his province caused by rain, hail, floods, droughts, and storms, the people affected will not be able to pay their taxes for a couple of years to come, and further that 32 departments and districts are thus in distress. We hereby authorise the said Governor to investigate the several degrees of distress in the districts enumerated in his list and grant relief to the inhabitants thereof in accordance with their situation, and report to us the result of his work in that connection.

14th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Kuei Heng is appointed Tartar-General of Uliautai (Western Chinese Tartary) vice Chung Huan, retired on account of ill health.

15th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from the Court of Sacrificial Worship announcing a vacancy in the Manchu Junior Directorship of the said Court and praying that an acting Director be appointed in order that the work of the said Court be not delayed, etc. We, therefore, hereby command that Ch'ung Hsiin be appointed acting Manchu Junior Director of the aforesaid Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) Shu Chen, Commissioner of the Imperial Silk looms of Hangchow, sends a memorial praying that two Manchu scribes, or Bikishi, named Hsi Hui and Yen Nien, be permitted to retain their present posts in the memorialist's yamen for another two years, owing to their being men of ability and integrity, etc. Now the regulation as to the aforesaid scribeships limits the term to one year, upon the expiry of which the said scribes are bound to resign in favour of the junior members of the staff. Since the said Hsi Hui and Yen Nien have already held their posts for two years at Hangchow and have exceeded the prescribed limit of service we cannot allow the memorialist's prayer and further command that henceforth the original regulation be rigidly adhered to and that no Bikishi in the Hangchow Imperial Silk looms shall in future be permitted to retain his post over a twelvemonth.

16th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received a memorial from Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Shen-Kan provinces, denouncing some of his subordinates on the ground of rapacious avarice and shameless conduct thereby disgracing the service in the eyes of the people. We hereby command that Wang Yun-yuan, specially-promoted sub-prefect of Kansu and decorated with the peacock's feather, for military service, be cashiered for fraud misconduct and that his peacock's feather decoration be publicly plucked off from his hat, and finally that he be expelled from Kansu and deported under escort to his native city the local authorities of which shall place him under surveillance. Hui Hsi, an expectant gaol-warden of the 9th class, is also ordered to be cashiered for similar misconduct as above, and he is further ordered to be expelled the province and deported to his native town. As for Kao Lou-chang, an expectant gaol-warden of the Provincial Judge's yamen, who has been accused of extorting and obtaining illegal taxes while placed in charge of a small likin station, we hereby command that he be forthwith cashiered and forced to pay back the Treasury the money embezzled by him.

(2) Another memorial by the same high official denounces one Li Mien-heng, a Colonel in command of a regiment of cavalry, for keeping superannuated and feeble men in the ranks, keeping slack discipline and no regular drills, and, finally, putting a number of dummies on the roll in order to pocket the men's pay. We hereby order the said Li Mien-heng to be cashiered and dismissed the service nor shall he be permitted to volunteer in any regiment hereafter for the purpose of trying to regain his former rank by good conduct. Finally, we hereby enjoin on the said Viceroy that, hereafter if he should find other officers guilty of similar misconduct, he shall not fail to mete out condign punishment to such men and denounce them most severely to us. There must be no leniency in the future.

(3) Liu Fa-hsiang is hereby appointed Chief-in-Command of the Imperial troops stationed in North Szechuan (Ch'uanpei).
17th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) T'eng Chi, Assistant Military Governor of Tsitsihar (Heilangchih Province) is hereby promoted to be Tartar General of Foochow, vice Yu Lu transferred to the Viceroyship of Szechuan, vice Li Ping-heng, degraded.

(2) On two former occasions, Chung Huan, then Tartar General of Ulusutai, denounced the Mongol Duke and Captain-General of the Lushantu League of Mongols, named A-yo-se-té-tan-chau-tsa-mu-ta', for extorting money from his subordinate chiefs, also for having left his post without first obtaining leave from the said memorialist. In consequence of the above representations we commanded the said Duke should be removed from his post of Captain-General of the said Mongol League as a warning to others. We are now in receipt of a memorial from the Mongol Superintendent to the effect that the accused Duke had lodged a complaint in the said yamen declaring that he had been unjustly accused by the said Chung Huan and that consequently the penalty meted out by him, erial edict was emerited, etc. As we desire to grant justice to all our subjects we are willing to order a re-investigation into the said Duke's conduct and the charges made against him, and therefore hereby command the newly-appointed Tartar General of Ulusutai, Kuei Heng, the successor of the said Chung Huan, to reopen the matter. As soon as he shall have arrived at his post and taken over his seals of office, the said new Tartar General is to make a truthful report to us thereon.

18th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) We hereby appoint Sha Yao to be Assistant Military Governor of Tsitsihar, vice T'eng Chi, promoted to become Tartar General of Foochow.

(2) Hu Hsiang-lin is hereby appointed prefect of Tungchoufu, province of Shansi.

No other papers of interest.

19th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) We have received the memorial of Chung Sui and Li Tuan-fen, Manchu and Chinese Directors-General, respectively, of the Imperial Granaries of North Tungchou and Peking, to the effect that the Tribute Rice from the South for the year 1897 via the Grand Canal and by steamers by sea has arrived safely at Tungchou and been duly stored in the Imperial Granaries, and praying that recognition be made of the energy, zeal, and honesty of the officers who were specially entrusted with the superintendence of said transportation. The request is granted and the Boards concerned are hereby commanded to report on the list of names presented to us by the said memorialists.

(2) While on the subject of the transportation of the said Tribute Rice, we wish to express our commendation also of the care and ability with which the above-named two memorialists have performed their duty this year, whereby such enormous quantities of rice, beans, wheat, and such-like cereals have been received and stored safely, in our granaries without a single report of loss in weight, quantity, or quality. As a reward for this we hereby command that the said Chung Sui and Li Tuan-fen, as well as the latter officer's immediate predecessor, Liao Shou-heng, now promoted to the Presidency of the Board of Punishments, be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of suitable reward.

20th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.
(1) It is known to our Court that we have verbally commanded our G and C until to promulgate our decree commanding the Princes, Dukes, Nobles, and high Ministers, as well as all such as shall be on duty in the Palaces on the day after to-morrow, to wear full dress our robes during the whole of that day.

(2) We have received a memorial from Prince P'u Lun, First Vice-Commissioner of Octroi in Peking, the effect that the Octroi collected by his staff has come up to the amount demanded by law, but that the surplus limit has not been reached this year, and praying to be excused from being forced to make good the second amount. We hereby command the Board of Revenue to investigate the case and report truthfully thereon to us.

(3) Prince T'ai Ying, Junior Vice-Commissioner of Octroi at Peking, also presents a memorial stating that the Octroi collected by his staff during the past twelve months has fulfilled the requirements demanded by law, but that the surplus taxes have not come up to the limit made by preceding Junior Vice-Commissioners of Octroi, and the memorialist prays to be excused from being required to make good the said amount. The matter is also handed over to the Board of Revenue for investigation and report to us.
21st December.
No papers of interest.

22nd December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of the Court of Sacrificial Worship reporting that on the 20th of January next (28th day of the 12th moon) special sacrificial worship must be paid to the Tablets of our Imperial Ancestors in recognition of the protection granted to us during the year about to close. We hereby command it to be made known that we purpose to go ourselves to the said Altars and worship there in person, and further command that the sacrifices before the minor altars on either side of the Ancestral Hall be performed by Hsi Kuang and Huang Yung-an.

(2) On the same day the usual sacrificial worship must be made before the Inner Shrines of the Ancestral Hall and we hereby command Prince Pu Ching to conduct the worship at the Rear Hall while Prince Tsai Hsuti is to conduct the worship in the Middle Hall.

23rd December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, reports that one Yi Shao-te, lately deceased, upon being removed from his post of district magistrate in memorialist's province was found to be indebted to the treasury for land taxes, etc, to the amount of Tls. 8,300, odd, and that successive demands were accordingly made upon him to make good the amount. Since his death similar demands were made upon the said magistrate's family resident in Kueilin, the provincial capital, but all to no effect. The said memorialist therefore suggests that force be resorted to to compel the delinquent officer's family to make good the said deficit and that the machinery of the law, hitherto withheld, be allowed to take its course, as the provincial treasury can ill spare such a large deficit, etc. This sort of thing must not be allowed to continue any longer, as it is misplaced leniency and may encourage others in defying the law. We therefore hereby command the said Governor to arrest the responsible members of the said deceased magistrate's family, as well as the confidential servants and yamen runners who served during the said magistrate's term of office, and after due investigation force them to make good the said deficit. On the other hand, the said Governor shall confiscate any property that may belong to the deceased magistrate's family in Kuangsi province and, if this be still found insufficient, shall notify the Governor of Hupeh requesting him to confiscate any property standing in the said Yi Shao-te's name in his native city.

(2) The 21st of January next being the last day of the present year (29th day of the 12th month) sacrificial worship should be offered before the altar of the presiding deity of this year. We hereby command Prince Lung Ching to superintend the said ceremonies while Ch'ing Fu and Yang Yichih are commanded to worship before the minor altars on either side, on the said occasion.

24th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

Sheng Hsian-huai, Vice-Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship (and Director-General of Railways), is hereby promoted to the rank of Vice-President of the Court of Revision.

Note.—The Court of Revision is an Adjunct of the Court of Censors, with which and the Board of Punishments, it forms the highest Judiciary and Court of Appeal in the Empire. The usual name given to the combined Court is San-fa-sze.

—Translator.

25th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

We have received a memorial from the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie specially praying for the promised rewards held out by us on a former occasion for the encouragement of the officers and men belonging to the said Gendarmerie who have distinguished themselves by their zeal and courage in the performance of their duty during the year, especially those who deserve promotion for their share in breaking up banditti and capturing the principal rowdies infesting both the city and the suburbs of Peking. We hereby command the Board of War to go through the list of names sent up by the said Commandant (Jung Lu) and report to us the promotion each man should receive.

No papers of interest.

26th December.
IMPERIAL DECREES.

Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces, requests that a certain Captain named Li Yu-sheng, belonging to the territorial regiment of Chingchou, Hunan, be arrested for robbing the military chest confided to his care during the course of his duties. It appears that some years ago when the present Viceroy of the Two
Kuang provinces, Tan Chung-lin, was acting Viceroy of Hukuang and Governor of Hupeh, he gave instructions that the said Captain be ordered to come to Wuchang, there to undergo a preliminary examination and the result was so satisfactory as to justify a special dispatch empowering the said officer to go up to Peking for an Imperial Audience, with recommendation for promotion. As soon, however, as the said Captain received the above instructions he took advantage of the sudden transfer of the said Tan Chung-lin to another province, and absconded. Instead, therefore, of presenting himself for examination before the proper authorities at Wuchang, the said Captain took possession of what funds there were in the regimental chest entrusted to him and has not been seen since. This affair nay coming to the cognisance of the memorialist, he requests that an erasure be forthwith issued, and orders be transmitted to the high provincial authorities of both Hunan and Hup-h to institute a strict search for the defaulting officer; that he be severely punished for his theft and finally be forced to refund the monies thus fraudulently taken possession of by him. The memorial of the said Chang Chih-tung is hereby granted, and be, in conjunction with the Governor of Hunan, is to institute a strict search for the accused officer in order that he may be punished as a solemn warning to others.

27th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Lao Chi-chih is appointed prefect of Szemafu, province of Kueichou.

(2) Tseng Yi is appointed sub-prefect of Sungningchou, province of Yunnan.

(3) The Censor Huang Chun-lung is commanded to prepare himself for appointment as Taotai or prefect in the provinces.

(4) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(5) Su Lu-tai, Manchu Brigade-General of Shantung, sends us a report on the results of his investigation into the conduct of Chung Lin, the Captain in charge of the Manchu outpost at Sauhohsien, who was recently denounced to the Throne by a Censor. The memorialist finds that the accused officer is not guilty of the charge of receiving bribes from such of his soldiers as wished to gain something extra by adopting a civil occupation, but he finds that En Ping, a son of the accused officer, had been reprehensible in borrowing money from tradesmen, etc., and therefore the accused officer was guilty of not exercising a proper supervision over the actions of his son. The accused, however, is found guilty of allowing his soldiers to bribe the confidential servants of the memorialist's predecessor, Chien Kuang, in order to buy exemption from continual military service, so as not to interfere with their civil pursuits, etc. The persons mentioned in the said report as guilty of the above misdemeanours are hereby handed over to the Board of War for the determination of adequate penalties, whilst at the same time we must insist upon strict search being made for the servants of the said Chien Kuang who were guilty of receiving the aforesaid bribes in order that they may be severely punished as a warning to others. The said Chien Kuang who was guilty of not finding out the outrageous conduct of his servants is also to be handed over to the said Board for the determination of penalties commensurate with his misdemeanour.

28th December.

Note:

29th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Prince of Ching, as Commandant of the Imperial Body Guard, presents a memorial praying that Chang Shun, an officer of our Guards, doing duty at the Chientsing-gate of the Palace, be permitted to resign his appointment owing to bodily infirmities, etc. The prayer is granted and Chang Shun is hereby permitted to retire into private life.

Note:—Chang Shun was Tartar General of Kirin in 1893-4, and was dismissed from office partly owing to the murderous attack of Manchu soldiers upon the person of Doctor Greig at that time, and partly to the numerous complaints of Kirin traders who memorialised the Court of Censors denouncing Chang Shun's "avarice and extortion."—Translator.

30th December.

(1) We have received a memorial from Haü Shu-min, Literary Chancellor of Chêkiang province, praying that a decree be issued calling upon the various Viceroy's and Governors of provinces to pay more attention to sericulture and commanding them to exhort the people under them to cultivate the raising of silkworms with proper attention to the mulberry tree so vital to the welfare of these useful worms.
As a matter of fact, agriculture and agriculture stand on a par in importance in relation to the welfare of our subject, inasmuch that we have always tried by precept and by example to encourage our people in cultivating this important industry. Hence, even such provinces as Hupeh and Chihli have also begun to take up the industry and we are glad to say that we have received most encouraging reports from the high authorities of those provinces and elsewhere concerning the enthusiasm of the people in this matter. But in order to show that we are really in earnest in promoting this important branch of industry, we once more call upon all our Viceroy's and Governors to exhort the people under them to be diligent, careful and zealous in cultivating agriculture as a source of continuous wealth to the taking of the industry up and carrying it through in a thorough fashion.

(2) The other day we received memorials from the Censors Chên Chi-ch'ang and Hu Hui, denouncing the local officials of Kuei-anhsien, Chêkiang, on the charge of over-taxing the inhabitants of that district both as to Tribute Rice due as well as land and other taxes. Subsequently we were informed by the Court of Censors that the Hanlin Compiler, Chu Tzu-mu, had also petitioned the said court upon the same subject and praying that a stricter investigation be instituted into the alleged grievances, etc. In consequence of this we secretly commanded Liao Shou-feng, the Governor of the said province of Chêkiang, to make private as well as official inquiries into the matter and then to report truthfully to us. We are now in receipt of the said Governor's report in which he declares that, after careful investigation, he found that either the specified charges had no foundation at all, or, granting a rumour in circulation of such happenings, he could get no one to substantially prove the charges. If such be the case of affairs there is no need of going further into the matter. The afo Governor also reports that as the accused magistrate of Kuei-anhsien, Chu Chien-ch'ao, had been found unsuitable to the post and unconfidential to the people of the district, he (the said Governor) had already transmitted the official back to Hangchow. We thereupon commanded the said Governor and the Provincial Treasurer to keep the said magistrate under surveillance in order to see by his usual conduct the cause of all these charges against him. We furthermore command the successor of the above-named accused official to eradicate for ever the practice of calling upon the wealthy members of villages to provide meals, lodgings and money for the expenses of the gaunlets and runners whose duty is semi-annually to collect land and other taxes and Tribute Rice. As for the head runner and his underlings who were really at the bottom of all these charges and owing to whose clamorous demands upon the head villagers for food, lodging, and expenses, according to local traditions, the matter had come as a rumour to the Censors, we hereby command that the delinquents be summoned to Hangchow for trial so that they may be punished as a warning to other runners. Finally, as for the villagers in Hsin-chin and others who tried to create a riot against the accused magistrate, since they have absconded, knowing that they were in the wrong, strict search must be made for them and the guilty ones punished.

31st December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Hu P'ing-chih, Governor of Shansi, sends us a memorial eulogising the energy, zeal, and integrity of certain sub-prefects and department and district magistrates under him and praying that the Imperial commendation be promulgated in order to distinguish these worthy officials and thereby encourage their brother-officials to emulate the former, etc. We grant with pleasure this petition of the said Governor and hereby command him to inform the various officials mentioned in his list [names given] of our pleasure at receiving such a good account of their conduct during the year now about to close, and further that we earnestly exhort these favoured officials to remain constant to their role, so as to fit themselves for higher and more responsible posts in the future.

(2) The same Governor sends another memorial this time denouncing the conduct of various department and district magistrates under him. We hereby command that the officials complained of [names given] be forthwith cashiered and dismissed the service as a warning to others. A for Ts'ai Tiung-fa, the district magistrate of Yung-linhsien, who although guilty of nothing serious in his conduct has proved himself incapable of properly carrying on the duties of his post, we hereby command that he be ordered to resign and be transferred back to Tai-yuenfu, the provincial capital, there to gain more experience and await some other appointment.