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TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1872.

SHANGHAI:

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

1873.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

1872.

Jan. 1st.—Tsun-chêng and his colleagues report two appeal cases.

Case 1st.—A tailor named Wu Tsung-lien, a native of Hunan, complains that his father was killed on the 13th August, 1869, by Tsou Tai-shan, and that the corpse was thrown into the river whence it has never been recovered. The yamen underlings having been bribed concealed the real facts of the case from the magistrate, and made no efforts to apprehend the murderers. Complainant appealed time after time to the magistrate, and was flogged for so doing. He also appealed to the prefect, criminal judge and viceroy, but the only result was an order to the district magistrate to enquire into the case; but though three years have now elapsed, no inquiry has yet been made.

Case 2nd.—A Shansi farmer called Chang Li-shan states that his brother has been killed by some near kinsmen, and that he can obtain no redress. There was a misunderstanding between his brother and Chang Yü-chêng about some land. And on this account the latter, assisted by his son, seized complainant's brother one day while at work in the fields, and beat him to death. Subsequently the head was severed from the body and thrown into a well. All this was duly reported to the district magistrate, who gave orders for the apprehension of the culprits, but only one was arrested. Complainant has appealed to the Taotai and criminal judge, but they only sent him back to the district magistrate.

2nd.—Brevets, peacock's feathers, buttons, &c., are conferred on several officers serving under Tu-chia-êrh in reward for

their successful operations against the rebels in Shamo (or Kobi.)

[The rest of to-day's *Gazette* is taken up with memorials from General-Ting-an regarding some of his subordinates.]

Jan. 3rd.—Imperial edict. Some time ago the district city of Fêng-tu in Szechuen was flooded by the sudden rising of the Yangtze; the district magistrate escaped with all possible speed from the scene of disaster, leaving the unfortunate people to shift for themselves as best they could, and for this selfish neglect of duty he was dismissed from office. The viceroy has recently sent a detailed account of this disgraceful affair. It appears that in July 1870, the Yangtze suddenly overflowed its banks and inundated Fêng-tu. The event was so unexpected that the people were wholly unprovided with any means of escape. Such boats as were at hand were seized by the Chih sien for the transport of himself and family to a place of safety, and several days elapsed before he provided any means for rescuing the suffering people. Even then the measures adopted were so inadequate that only a "few tens" were saved, the rest being left without any means of escape, and many perished in consequence. For this shameful indifference to the sufferings of the people, he is dismissed for ever from His Majesty's service.

(2) The death of Chiang Chih-chang, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, is announced. He began his official career as a doctor of the Hanlin, he was then appointed a censor and afterwards a Taotai, gradually rising till he became lieutenant-governor of Shen-

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2. In the latter capacity especially he has shown himself a thoroughly earnest and able official. The tidings of his sudden death have caused His Majesty very deep grief. The honours due to a deceased lieutenant-governor are to be given to him, and any entry which may be against him in the official register is to be erased.

(3) Wêng Kao-chio, treasurer of Shensi, is appointed lieutenant-governor of that province in place of Chiang Chih-chang, and Tan Chung-lin is made treasurer.

(4) Prince Kung requests the punishment of Tu-lin, litanist of the Imperial Ancestral Temple. On the 22nd December, the day of the winter solstice, the Prince went to sacrifice in the above temple, and found that the litanist was unable to read the august titles of the imperial ancestors in their proper order. He committed the most egregious blunders.

(5) Kwei-yü, general of the Manchu garrison at Nanking, reports having delivered over his seals of office to his successor Mu-têng-ah on the 21st November. This done he immediately prepared to start for Chêng-tu.

(6) Ho Ching, the new lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, announces having handed over the seals, documents and all else pertaining to the governorship of Shansi, to his successor Pao Yuen-shên. He intended to leave for Kiangsu on the 17th December.

(7) General Kwei-yü reports having taken 1 officer and 8 soldiers to accompany him as an escort to Chêng-tu. He also requests that his nephew Cha-kêh-tan, ex-prefect of Changchow, and now in mourning, may be allowed to go with him.

Jan. 4th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from censor Liu Jui-chi, begging the Throne to confer honours on 17 persons belonging to an official family, who committed suicide when Ning-hsia (in Kansuh), was taken by the Mahometans, in 1863, and asking permission to erect a temple to their memory. The viceroy is directed to inquire into the circumstances of the case and report.

(2) Li Hung-chang and Hsia Tung-shan, literary chancellor of Chihli, request that

the literary examinations in the Ho-chien and Shên departments may be deferred till next autumn. The floods have destroyed the examination halls, and the people are in a most destitute condition.

5th.—An edict is issued conferring brevets, buttons and peacocks' feathers on several military officers for their successful services last year against the insurgents in outer Mongolia.

(2) Li Hung-chang, in a long memorial to the Throne, points out the insufficiency of the sum allowed for the repairs of the Southern Canal. Though this canal is over 700 *li* in length, while the Northern is only 400, yet less money is granted for its repair. The nominal allowance for the annual repairs of the Northern Canal is 19,000 taels, and for incidental repairs 17,000; the allowance for the yearly repairs of the Southern Canal is only 15,000 and for incidental repairs 6,000. In the 4th year of the reign Hsien-fêng, the Board of Works reduced these sums to one-fourth, paying only 250 to the 1,000. Subsequently the Throne was memorialized to allow 50 per cent of the original grant for the Yung-ting river and 40 per cent for the Northern Canal. The memorialist now begs that 40 per cent of the original grant of 21,000 taels may also be allowed for the Southern Canal. Less than this is really not sufficient to keep it in proper repair. Since the Yellow River has flowed in its present northern channel, the canal has suffered from the large body of water flowing into it, much more than the Northern Canal; yet twice as much is allowed for the repairs of the latter. The late floods have done so much damage that it is imperatively necessary that the canals should be put in order, otherwise the transport service will be seriously interfered with and much life and property imperilled. The floods last year were caused by the silting of the canals and the dilapidated state of the embankments. The reason why the canals were in this condition is, that for the last 20 years the grant for repairs has been so small, that no officials have been specially employed

to take care of them, and who is to blame for failing to do what he had not the means of doing? This is a penny wise and pound foolish economy, as the past year's misfortunes show. The memorialist therefore begs that 40 per cent of the original allowance of 21,000 taels may be appropriated annually to the repairs of the Southern Canal.

The Board of Works is directed to report.

6th.—Yang Chung-ya, criminal judge of Kansuh, reports his arrival at his post. He left Peking on the 26th of March, 1871, but suffered so many delays on account of the heavy rains and the consequently flooded state of the roads, that he did not reach his destination till the latter part of October.

(2) Li Hung-chang, when reporting the contribution of cotton-quilted clothing from Kiangsu and Chekiang, for the sufferers by the floods in Chihli, mentioned the munificent gift of 10,000 garments from Hu Kwang-yung. He has now to report a further gift of 5,000 garments from the same person, and also a lot of agricultural implements valued at 10,000 taels. The memorialist has also received a despatch from the Commissioner of Salt transport, inclosing a communication from a salt merchant named Yang Chün-yuen, stating that he erected a shed last August on the city wall at Tientsin for the accommodation of a lot of refugees, whom he daily supplied with food for three months at a cost of more than 5,000 taels. He is now giving two meals a day to over 2,500 persons, which will cost him during the next five months more than 6,000 taels. The hospital and kitchens outside of the west gate will also necessitate an outlay on his part of 3,000 taels over and above what other persons have contributed. Put together these sums will make about 20,000 taels. The memorialist prays that His Majesty will graciously be pleased to send a tablet to each of these generous persons, in honour of their noble liberality. Such individuals are few now-a-days.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

7th.—Prince Kung returns thanks for the sable-skin jacket which the Emperor has presented to him.

(2) Prince Shun thanks the Emperor for acquitting him from all blame *in re* Kwei-hsiang *versus* Wu-shih-ha.

(3) Imperial edict. Some time ago, in consequence of a memorial from Prince Shun complaining that one of his subordinates, named Kwei-hsiang, had been wrongfully accused of fraudulent practices by Wu-shih-ha, a special commission, consisting of certain officers belonging to the Imperial Body-guard and the Grand Council, was appointed to hear the case. The main features of the case have already been reported, and the commissioners now forward their final decision. 1. Wu-shih-ha, though not guilty of embezzling public funds, is guilty of having misapplied them and of having acted in other matters too much on his own responsibility, he is therefore dismissed from the service and deprived of his buttons. 2. Lieutenant Pao-hsiang and his colleagues, for giving the funds in question into the hands of Wu-shih-ha, are handed over to the Board for punishment. 3. Kwei-hsiang, though acquitted of the charge of embezzlement, is found to have confused his accounts by his singular way of book-keeping, and for his blundering and stupidity in this respect he is handed to the Board to be dealt with. 4. The two accountants Lien-hsing and Kwei-chêng, who were degraded a short time back because of their complicity in the supposed frauds of Kwei-hsiang, have their buttons restored to them, but the Board of War is ordered to award them such punishment as they may deserve for allowing Kwei-hsiang's accounts to pass their hands uncorrected, &c., &c.

(2) Tsun-chêng, commandant of the metropolitan gendarmerie, and his colleagues, report the following appeal cases.

Case 1st.—An official by purchase named Liu Hsi-yuen, belonging to Shên-tsê, Chihli, complains that his brother has been murdered and that he can obtain no redress from the local officials. On the 23rd February 1869, his brother was enticed to

go to the house of Tsao Tê-yü to gamble, and it appears he lost 100,000 *copper cash*, for which he gave a promissory note. He never came home after that, and was next seen dead in a well outside of the village. On examination his clothes were found to have been badly torn, and indicated that there had been a struggle. Tsao Tê-yü was arrested on suspicion, but the other gamblers concealed themselves, and through the trickeries of the yamen underlings the hearing of the case was constantly postponed. The prefect was then appealed to, but he was deceived by one of his underlings and looked at the case as simply one of gambling. Application was subsequently made to the criminal judge, but he has taken no notice of it, and thus the case has been shelved and nothing done to punish the guilty.

Case 2nd.—A Shantung farmer called Yang Chêng-chai states that his cousin has been murdered by a neighbour named Yang Chao-lin. There was a bad feeling existing between the parties on account of a piece of land, and one day Yang Chao-lin's mother threw some water before the door of complainant's cousin, the latter remonstrated against this, and during the altercation Yang Chao-lin stabbed him. The wounded man went in person to the district magistrate, but Yang Chao-lin bribed the clerk of the criminal court and through him the magistrate, and the consequence was that complainant's cousin instead of getting redress got a beating. A few days afterwards he died from the wound inflicted on him by Yang Chao-lin, but although several applications have been made to the district magistrate, he has refused to hear the case.

8th.—Tsao-pao and his colleagues report two appeal cases.

(1) In the first case a *chuijen* named Liu Yün-stan, a native of Shensi, states that seven years ago his father was waylaid by some local rowdies and barbarously murdered. He had more than 80 wounds on his body, and when dead his throat was cut from ear to ear. When the case was tried before the prefect the murderers confessed their guilt, but when brought before

the criminal judge denied it. The case was consequently sent back to the prefect and has not been decided yet.

(2) In the second case, some gentry belonging to Yung-chia in Chekiang complain of the extortions of the district magistrate, and beg that he may be degraded.

Both cases are recorded.

9th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting a special case of interposition on the part of the River God, and begging the Throne to bestow a tablet in commemoration of the event. During the summer and autumn of last year there was such a heavy fall of rain that the rivers and canals about Tientsin rose to an unusual height; but through the gracious interposition of the River God the weather cleared up and the waters gradually decreased. This is a mercy which calls for the deepest gratitude, and the Hanlin College must prepare a suitable tablet and send it to Li Hung-chang, to be reverently placed in the Ta-wang temple at Tientsin, in acknowledgment of the divine favour.

[The rest of to-day's Gazette is taken up with memorials from Liu Kwên-yi, lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi, reporting some unimportant changes among the subordinate officials of that province.]

Jan. 10th.—An edict is issued regarding a memorial from Tu-hsing-ah, commander-in-chief of the Manchu forces in Shêng-king, accusing Lt.-General Yuh-chang of neglect of duty. This officer had been sent to operate against the bandits (or rebels) at Ku-shan, but he took no offensive measures whatever against them, they were allowed to roam about at pleasure. For this neglect of duty the commander-in-chief deprived him of his command and ordered him to return to head-quarters, but such was his wilful dilatoriness that more than ten days elapsed before he put in an appearance. He was on a former occasion deprived of his button, but it was afterwards returned to him at the request of the commander-in-chief Tu-hsing-ah; let it be taken from him again, and let him be dismissed from the battalion altogether.

Tu-hsing-ah is ordered to send troops against the large body of rebels at Ku-shan, and told to see that the officers in command do not deceive him with specious reports or delay the execution of the work entrusted to them.

(2) Ho Ting-chien, literary chancellor of Kwang-tung, reports having held examinations at Chao-ching, Lo-ting, Nan-hsiung, Shao-chow and other places. Kwang-tung has always occupied a high literary position but it also enjoys an unenviable notoriety for its literary forgeries. The memorialist took every possible precaution to prevent frauds, but failed. At the Chao-ching B. A. examination five persons were detected writing essays for some of the other candidates; at Shao-chow and Kwang-chow (Canton) two candidates were discovered personating other people, and four more at the Kwangtung civil and military B. A. examinations. They were at once handed over to the magistrate for punishment, and the persons who had given security for them deprived of rank and office, and an entry was made in the official register against the officers of instruction for their connivance at these deceptions, or their neglect of duty, whichever it may have been. There were also five cases in which the style of composition at the different examinations was so unlike, and six cases in which the handwriting was so different, as to show there had been foul play. The names of these candidates were therefore erased. The palm of literary excellence is awarded to the Kwangtung prefecture. In the military examinations also this prefecture stands first. The number of candidates was greater and the archery and horsemanship superior to any other place.

11th. [To-day's Gazette contains nothing of general interest.]

12th. An edict is issued conferring titles on several Mongolian princes and nobles for their able services against the rebels in Cobdo during 1870 and 1871.

(2) Wêng Tung-chio, treasurer of Shensi, reports the sudden death of the lieutenant-governor Chiang Chih-wan, and speaks of him in very eulogistic terms.

(3) Liu Jui-chi, superintending censor for Hukwang, memorializes the Throne against the extravagant way in which officials, who may chance to be recommended for some special service, are promoted over the heads of older and equally deserving men. Take for example the case of Chang Kai-yun, who was introduced at Court the other day. He was made sub-prefect and sent to Hupeh to await a vacancy; as soon as such a vacancy occurred, and he had gone through the formality of filling it, he was to be raised to the rank of prefect, and when he had received an appointment in the latter capacity, be made an intendant. In addition to all this he was raised to the 4th rank. Thus men in whose way chance throws the opportunity of doing something special go to the fore with a bound, while those less fortunate remain all their lives in obscurity.

(4) In a supplementary memorial Lui Jui-chi begs that the usual honours may be conferred on 17 persons belonging to an official family, who were killed by the rebels at the fall of Ning-hsia in 1862, and that their friends may be allowed to erect a temple to their memory.

Both memorials are recorded.

13th. An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wên-lin and Ching-lien (Amban and assistant Amban, respectively, at Hami) reporting the repulse of the Mahometan rebels before Ngansi, and recommending to the notice of the Throne the officers who distinguished themselves in the engagement. The Suh-chow and Shensi Mahometans having united their forces and thus increased their strength, made repeated raids over the border. The memorial in question relates to an attack they made on Ngansi (a *chow* city in Chênsi or Barkoul). The attack was however a complete failure. The provincial commander-in-chief, assisted by the local officials, repulsed them with terrible slaughter and sent them flying in all directions. Ngansi was saved. For this energetic conduct the officers in command deserve some mark of Imperial favour. The commander-in-chief Chang Yü-chun is given the title

of Tu-sang-ah-pa-tu-lu, and is presented with a feather-holder of white jade, (this is a small tube, into which the peacock's feather is inserted), a white jade finger ring, a flint-steel, a pair of large pockets and two small ones (these are worn on the person as ornaments). The other officers are rewarded with Manchu titles or with brevets and peacocks' feathers.

(2) Lieut.-General Ku-kê-chi-tai asks for the appointment of a Committee to examine the accounts of several magistrates in the department of Jehol for the last five years. This department includes 1 *chow* and 5 *hsien* districts. The prefect and 4 of the magistrates have completed their term of office, but their accounts have not been investigated.

14th.—The metropolitan prefect reports a fall of one inch of snow.

(2) There is an edict regarding a memorial from General Tu-hsing-ah and Jui-lien stating that, on account of the lateness of the season, they cannot forward any more grain or beans till the spring. They have already sent to Tientsin 8,590 piculs of millet, but the rivers and canals are frozen, and they cannot therefore send any more at present. The viceroy of Chihli is ordered to send junks to Moukden, as soon as the river opens, to transport to Tientsin whatever grain or pulse is yet due. As the failure to forward the entire quantity is not due to negligence, the officials are acquitted of all blame.

(3.) Tsun-chêng reports the following appeal case.

A Honan farmer, named Tu Shan-tang, complains that his son was killed by a person called Yin Fêng-lai, and that he has failed to obtain redress from the provincial authorities. His son was returning home from school on the 15th September 1862, and while passing Yin Fêng-lai's fields, picked up, in fun, some paddy which was lying by the road side, when Yin Fêng-lai seized him and beat him so brutally that he died on the spot. The occurrence was reported to the district magistrate, and the deputy was sent to hold an inquest on the body, but the inspector of police having been

bribed the inquest was conducted in a very superficial way. Bribery was also employed in other directions. The district magistrate however ordered Yin Fêng-lai and his accomplices to be imprisoned, but afterwards let them out on bail and the matter was allowed to drop. Complainant has appealed repeatedly to the prefect, the intendant, criminal judge and lieutenant-governor, but they only told him to go back to the district magistrate.

15th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Tsêng Pi-kwang, lieutenant-governor of Kwei-chow, and Chow Ta-wu, commander-in-chief of the provincial forces, reporting some important victories over the rebels, and recommending to the notice of the Throne the officers who distinguished themselves by their bravery. After Pa-chai and San-chio had been retaken by the imperial troops, the Miaotz still lingered around these cities, watching for a favourable opportunity to regain possession of them. They were attacked, however, by Major-General Tang Tien-yew, and defeated in a series of engagements. Last July the rebel leader Pao-ta-tu, having attacked Pa-pao-shan, was repulsed. The rebels then moved off to San-chio and formed a cordon around the city, but they were attacked by the imperial troops and their generalissimo having been killed by a cannon ball, they fled in all directions. On the 2nd August General Têng Yew-tê made a vigorous effort to raise the siege of Pa-chai. The rebel host was simply innumerable, and appeared like a swarm of bees, but Têng Yew-tê attacked them with such vigour and bravery that they were completely defeated. He first carried the rebel position at the south gate, and when this opening had been made, the troops in the city sallied out and routed the rebels in all directions. The troops then took, one by one, the whole of the rebel strongholds in the neighbourhood of Pa-chai and San-chio, numbering over 210, and rased them to the ground. The officers who conducted those very successful operations certainly merit some notice. Têng Yew-tê is to be made a commander-in-chief as soon as

a vacancy occurs and is given the title of Ho-lan po-tu-lu. Major-General Tang Tien-yew is raised to the rank of general of division, and will receive an appointment as soon as a vacancy occurs; &c., &c.

16th.—The controller of ceremonies reports to the Throne that it is Prince Shun's turn to worship in the temple of the God of Fire on the 15th of the 12th Moon (24th December).

(2) Tsêng Kwo-fan and Chang Chih-wan unite in a memorial recommending Li En-han as district magistrate for An-tung. This district, from its position on the Yellow River (the *one* bed), is a place of importance and requires the presence of a thoroughly competent official.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

(3) In another memorial Tsêng Kwo-fan and Chang Chih-wan report their action respecting the "Chihli Relief Fund." They received from the Grand Council the following Imperial Rescript dated September 2nd 1871. "Li Hung-chang reports that the distress caused by the floods in Chihli is very great, and, in accordance with precedent, begs that orders may be sent (to the other provinces) to purchase grain for the relief (of the suffering people). Let Tsêng Kwo-fan, Chang Chih-wan and Yang Chang-sün purchase 20,000 piculs of rice (10,000 in Kiangnan and 10,000 in Chekiang), and forward the same to Tientsin via the Grand Canal, before the frost sets in; the necessary funds to be appropriated from the provincial chests. Respect this." While steps were being taken to carry out the foregoing order, a despatch was received from Li Hung-chang, stating that the people in the north do not care much for rice, and that it would be better if the value of the 20,000 piculs of rice were sent in sycee, he could then purchase from Moukden cereals more suited to the taste of the Chihli people. The memorialists compute that 20,000 piculs of rice laid down at Tientsin would cost 50,000 taels, and this sum has accordingly been transmitted to Tientsin through a mercantile house. The sending of the money

instead of the rice has been a convenience to both parties. It is doubtful in fact whether such a large quantity of rice could have been sent north before the closing of the river.

Their Majesties have informed themselves of the foregoing.

Jan. 17th.—Imperial edict. Tso Tsung-tang memorializes the Throne expatiating on the services of the late Chiang Chih-chang, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, and begging the Throne to confer on him some mark of Imperial favour. When the death of this officer was first announced, an edict was issued directing that he was to receive the honours due to a lieutenant-governor. Tso Tsung-tang now calls attention to the valuable services which the deceased has rendered to the Imperial cause. When he was first appointed lieutenant-governor of Shensi, that province was still in a very disturbed state, and he earnestly set himself to the task of restoring it to peace and order; and his rule has in all respects been eminently beneficial to the people. In consideration of these facts, he is to receive a posthumous title, and his son, as soon as the period of mourning is over, is to be introduced at Court and get an appointment.

(2) Wang Wên-shao gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the Imperial mandate appointing him acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan, and announces his assumption of office.

18th.—An edict is issued conferring brevets and peacock's feathers on two officers, in reward for their having captured an insurgent leader who has recently caused much trouble on the borders of Moukden and Kirin.

(2) Tsao-pao, chief of the censorate, and his colleagues report the following appeal case.

A Shantung farmer, named Kwan Ljang, belonging to the Hsia-chin prefecture, complains that his family has been the victim of a most relentless persecution, which has already cost it the lives of three of its members. In his native village there lived a lawless character called Kwan Ta-

pao who, at the time in question, had just committed an infraction of the gabelle laws. This crime, however, one of the local gentry and one of the police tried to father on complainant and his friends, and accordingly three of the latter were taken into custody. A party was also sent to plunder complainant's home, which they did to the last article, and he was told that if he did not buy himself off he too would be arrested. His father offered 50 strings of cash (one string usually contains 1,000 cash) but this sum was declined, and he was told that nothing less than 1,000 strings would do. He then offered 600 strings, and paid an instalment at the time of 100 strings. But even this did not satisfy them. He therefore appealed to the district magistrate, but the above-mentioned constable, by means of bribery, got him reprimanded by the magistrate. Matters then became worse than ever. Complainant's house was broken into and plundered of every article, and all his cattle driven off. His uncle and cousin were also led away in chains, and his grandmother, for venturing to remonstrate, was stabbed in the face. She ran to the office of the district magistrate to implore his interference, but the underlings would not allow her to enter. His father, uncle and brother, were put into a secret prison and tortured so brutally that the two former died. Complainant tried to bring the matter before the district magistrate, but was prevented by the Yamen underlings. His grandmother has also died in consequence of the wound she received. He appealed to the criminal judge, but was simply referred back to the district magistrate; he dared not, however, go to the district yamen any more, and has therefore come to the capital.

The above is recorded.

19th.—Shu-lin, superintendent of the Hwai-an Customs, reports having delivered over the seals of office to his successor Hai-hsi, on the 20th December, 1871.

20th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the Board of War, reporting its awards in the case of Kwei-hsiang versus Wu-shih-ha. Tsun-chêng, com-

mander-in-chief of the metropolitan gendarmerie, and General Yung-lu are deprived of their rank, but, as a special act of grace, retained in office. General Taming-ah is, as the Board requests, degraded and dismissed; Kwei-hsiang is degraded three steps and sent, as already notified, to Ili to serve under Yung-cheuen. The rest of the memorial is approved.

(2) General Te-ying, military governor of Hê-lung-chiang (the Amoor district), and Lieut.-General To-kê-jui, military governor of Tsi-tsihar, beg the release of three officials who were banished to the Amoor for having taken on themselves to give away some withered trees from the Imperial tombs, and for concealing the death of the trees from the proper authorities. They have undergone ten years banishment and are now old and infirm, and having spent whatever money they once had, are now without the means of procuring either food or clothing; their sufferings are consequently very great. One of them too has an aged mother whose last years are saddened by the thought of her banished son. The memorialists were cut to the heart at the sight of these old men as they poured out with many tears their bitter tale of woe. The Throne is wont, in the exercise of its all-embracing compassion, to permit the return of the old and infirm, if not belonging to the class of unpardonables, and therefore the memorialists implore Her Majesty the Empress Dowager to extend this clemency to the individuals in question.

The petition is granted.

(3) Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, reports a remarkable instance of interposition on the part of the River God, and begs the Throne to bestow a tablet in commemoration of the event. The memorialist has received a despatch from the treasurer Chien Ting-ming inclosing a petition from the gentry of Tientsin, headed by Shên Chao-yun, ex-treasurer of Chekiang, stating that, on account of the lowness of the country around Tientsin, and owing to its being the converging point of so many rivers and canals, it has always been sub-

ject to floods in wet seasons. Last year the fall of rain was so great that all the rivers burst their banks and converted the whole country into "one vast ocean," so that the people had no place where to lay their heads. And the water continued to rise till, in October, it was from five to six feet high. On the 24th of that month the River God appeared to some boatmen at Yung-fêng, a village to the west of Tientsin, and was received with suitable ceremony into the old *Tai-wang* temple. The memorialist, accompanied by all the officials, went to the temple and offered devout prayer, and the weather instantly cleared and the water ceased to rise. The memorialist finds that when any of the gods in the calendar display their power to ward off calamity and benefit the people, it is permissible to memorialize the Throne on the subject. He also finds that, in the southern provinces, the Chin-lung *sz-tai-wang*, and all the other *tai-wangs* and *tsiang-keuns*, have frequently been honoured with higher titles and have been placed on the Sacrificial Register, on account of special manifestations which they have vouchsafed. He therefore begs that H. Majesty will be pleased, in consideration of the great deliverance wrought by the River God, to confer a tablet on his temple at Tientsin.

[An edict was issued on the 9th Jan. granting the request.]

(4) Lieut.-General Ku-kê-chi-tai reports having, in accordance with H. Majesty's orders, given 10,000 taels to the Mongol troops at the time of disbandment. Each of the three corps received taels 3,333.3.3.3.3.3.3. The chiefs have requested him to thank the Emperor for his generous gift.

21st.—The whole of to-day's Gazette, and nearly the whole of the next two days, is occupied with a memorial from Prince Po (son of Sêng-ko-lin-sin) reporting the trial of Kwei-hsiang and Wu-shih-ha before the special commission appointed by the Throne. This case, though very trivial in itself, being merely mutual recriminations and charges of petty embezzlements brought

against each other by two Banner officers, has attracted great attention in official circles, on account of its having indirectly involved several high mandarins. For details of the case see the Gazettes of November 9th, 19th and 27th.

The final awards were announced in the Gazettes of January 7th and 20th.

22nd.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, reporting the capture and decapitation of a man who has been giving great trouble in that province. This incorrigible scoundrel deserved to be hacked in pieces long ago, for all the mischief he has done. He dared to collect a band of desperadoes in order to create disturbances, and openly resisted the Imperial troops sent against him. He has been captured at last by General Liu Pao-kwo, and his whole party broken up. For this service Liu Pao-kwo's ancestors for three generations past are raised to the first rank. Prefect Hou Pei-shên is given the title of Commissioner of the Salt transport, &c., &c.

23rd.—An edict is issued punishing three Fukkien magistrates for embezzling public funds. Han Ching-lin has been a defaulter on three different occasions. He was reported to the Throne some time ago, and was deprived of his button; he then ran away to his native place, leaving the deficit unpaid. The metropolitan prefect is ordered to confiscate whatever property he may have at his home, in payment of the above sum, and is instructed to send him under proper escort back to Fukkien to settle his accounts. He is also deprived of rank and office. Liu Kêng and Liu Hsien, when they went into mourning for their parents, started off home before they had settled their official accounts; they are, therefore, temporarily degraded, and orders are given to the lieut.-governors of Chekiang and Kiangsi to send them back to Fukkien immediately, to settle their accounts. All deficits must be made good within two months, on pain of further punishment.

24th.—A further grant of 400 piculs of rice is made to the public soup-kitchens at

Tungchow, Chihli, for distribution among the poor.

An edict is issued giving permission to confer honorary posthumous titles on Shang-no-pu, late district magistrate of Li-yang in Kiangsu, and on Chu Lin-chi, late director in the Board of Punishments, both of whom were killed by the rebels in the reign of Hsien-fêng. They are also to receive sacrificial honours. These distinctions are conferred in consideration of the very painful circumstances under which they met their death.

Tsêng-show returns thanks for his appointment as acting treasurer of Hunan, and announces his assumption of office.

25th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Han-chang, viceroy of Hukwang, drawn up in obedience to His Majesty's orders, reporting on the conduct of the Hunan officials regarding the Secret Societies, which have been causing so much trouble lately in that province. Liu Kwen, the ex-lieut.-governor, though acquitted of having glossed over matters in his reports, is found guilty of having so mixed up different cases as to conceal the real extent of the troubles going on, and is therefore handed over to the Board for punishment. Hwang Ying-kao, district magistrate of Yi-yang, was degraded some time ago on account of his having failed to capture and decapitate the leading men of the Society and thus crush it. He merely arrested a number of the members and locked them up in jail, whence they were rescued by their comrades, and the city itself taken. He is dismissed for ever from His Majesty's service, and is also banished to the frontier to atone for his sins. Colonel Yang Ying is degraded to the rank of Captain, for not maintaining proper discipline among the militia under his command. The rest of the memorial is approved.

Tso Tsung-tang, viceroy of Shensi and Kansuh, petitions the Throne to allow a posthumous title to the late Chiang Chih-chang, lieut.-governor of Shensi, in consideration of the valuable services he has rendered to the State. It is also asked that his son, as soon as the period of mourning

is over, may be introduced at Court and receive an appointment.

[An Imperial Edict in the *Gazette* of the 17th granted this request.]

26th.—The commandant of the metropolitan gendarmerie reports having captured a band of robbers, and begs that they may be handed over to the Board of Punishments.

An edict is issued regarding a memorial from Li Hung-chang, requesting the throne to confer honour on two faithful officials. The late General Wên-tê-lê-kê-hsi, for seventeen years, took an active part against the Taiping and Nienfei rebels, whom he slaughtered in vast numbers. The other official mentioned is the late Hsu Tao-shên. In 1861, when he was general controller of the grain tribute in Kiangnan, and when the supplies for the Imperial army were failing, he threw such energy into his work that the wants of the army were fully met. The Board is ordered to confer on both the honours due to meritorious officers; and Wên-tê-lê-kê-hsi is also to receive a posthumous title, to be placed on the register in the Temple of the Illustrious and Loyal, and his biography is to be recorded by the National Historiographer. These honours are conferred in order to show how highly such loyal and devoted servants are esteemed by the throne.

27th.—In consequence of a memorial from the viceroy and lieut.-governor of Hunan, an edict is issued degrading and dismissing several officials in that province. Prefect Tang Lien and Assistant-sub-prefect Yang En-chih are dismissed from His Majesty's service for ever, on account of their bad reputation and general mismanagement of affairs. Chên Hsuen, district magistrate of Ping-chiang, and Tang Chu-ming, district magistrate of Pao-ching, are deprived of rank and office, on account of their stupidity and incapacity. Chiu Yü-chuen, district magistrate of An-hwa, and Chien Chun-yung, district magistrate of Ning-hsiang, being men of very inferior ability, are degraded to the rank of prefect's secretary, &c., &c.

Hu Chia-yü, a vice-president of the Board of Civil Office, memorializes the Throne against the unequal rates at which rank and office are sold in the capital and in the provinces. The permission given to several provinces to open offices for the sale of titles, was only a temporary measure adopted during the war in order to raise money for the army. It was understood that there should be no great departure from the usual rates charged by the Board of Civil Office. But now the agents of the Kweichow, Anhwei, Shensi and Kansuh Offices have scattered themselves all over the empire, and are vieing with each other as to who shall sell the cheapest, and the result is that the price has been reduced to about one-half of what it properly should be. Such a reduction necessarily follows from the establishment of provincial offices; for, in the South, the value of rice is only half what it is in the North. But loss of money and an inequality of charges, are not the only evils which the existence of these local offices entails; it leads also to a *cooking* of the accounts. The titles being sold, not according to the price of rice in the North, but according to local rates, there is a loss of nearly one-half, and how are the local officials to account to the Board of Civil Office for this huge deficit? It is out of the question for them to make it up themselves, so they enter the whole under the head of expenses? This surely is not the way in which public business ought to be managed; neither is it sound financial policy to have a different scale of charges in different places for the same titles. The memorialist therefore prays that all title-selling offices may be forthwith abolished. The sale of titles should be entrusted to the several provincial treasurers, who would send a monthly report of such sales to the Board of Civil Office; and one scale of charges should be adopted throughout the empire.

The memorial is recorded.

28th.—Yang Chang-sun, lieut.-governor of Chekiang, reports that in consequence of the immense tracts of land still lying waste

in the departments of Hangchow, Huchow and Kiangsing, he has been unable to collect the full amount of tribute rice. To make matters worse, these departments suffered severely during the summer from drought, and the rice is not only short in quantity, but of very inferior quality. The amount sent north is 13,100 piculs less than last year. The payment of arrears is out of the question at present. He has made every effort to induce persons to settle in the waste districts; but very few are willing to do so. The land has been fallow so long and requires the expenditure of so much labour before it will yield a profitable return, that no one cares to undertake the task.

29th.—An edict is issued conferring a brevet and peacock's feather on the district magistrate of Tung-yew in Chekiang, and minor honours on two or three petty officials, in reward for their having captured some members of the Abstinence Society, who had caused disturbances in the Kiangsi and Fukien provinces.

At the request of Li Hung-chang, permission is given to Chia Chih-ên to throw up his appointment as prefect of Chu-hsiung in Yunnan. He is allowed this privilege in consideration of his father's advanced age, who is over seventy. This veteran is a retired Grand Secretary, and has held office under three successive emperors. Chia Chih-ên is his only son; and H. M., out of sympathy for an old servant, permits Chia Chih-ên to give up so distant an appointment for one nearer at hand.

The permission to use a yellow bridle previously granted to Hsi-li-pa-cha-êr-cha-pu, a Mongolian noble of the third rank, is withdrawn, it having been discovered that no such privilege has ever been allowed to nobles of either the third or fourth rank. The officials of the Colonial Office, who at the time advised the Throne that the use of the yellow bridle by a *pei-lê* was legal, are handed over to the Board for punishment.

Tsêng Kwo-fan, viceroy of the Two Kiang, and Chang Chih-wan, viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang, again petition the

Throne to canonize (or deify) two Female Genii or Fairies, who have worked a great number of miracles for the good of the people. In the district of Chiang-tu in the prefecture of Yangchow, there is a place called Hsien-nü-chên (lit. Female Genii Town or Fairy Town), which has long had a temple to the two genii Tu and Kang, and hence its name. This temple was once upon a time the scene of a beneficent miracle, which is duly recorded in the history of the district. After that occurrence, whenever there was a scarcity of water in the canals in consequence of drought, the salt-junk men used to go to the temple and pray, and these prayers were always immediately answered. Moreover in the 8th year of Hsien-fêng (1858), when the Tai-ling rebels were attempting to cross on rafts at Fu-chiao, on the east side of Yangchow, a frightful storm of thunder and rain burst over the place, and drowned countless numbers of them. The refugees from the city all stated that, on the night in question, when the rebels were attempting to cross, they saw the opposite bank lined, as far as the eye could reach, with bright, azure-coloured lamps, and in the midst of the lamps were seen the Fairy Goddesses. Scared by this apparition they abandoned the attempt, and the town and neighbourhood were saved from falling into their hands. Some time ago the memorialist Hsien-kwo-fan and the then Lieut.-Governor Kwo-po-yin, at the request of the local gentry and elders, petitioned the Throne to canonize the two female genii Tu-chiang and Kang-tsz-hsia; but the Board of Rites replied that the local histories only mention Kang-tsz-hsia, and asked what authority there was for ranking Tu-chiang among the genii. The memorialists have therefore re-investigated the whole case and find that Kang-tsz-hsia was a priestess in the temple of Tu-chiang and that she ascended, from the town in question, on a white dragon up to Fairy Land, and that in consequence of this, the inhabitants placed her on a par with Tu-chiang and worshipped them together. This case is not, as formerly represented by the

ex Lieut.-Governor Ting-jêh-chang in this memorial, come under the category of private or unauthorized nunneries, of which there are so many in Kiangsu; neither can these two goddesses be classed under the head of uncanonical gods, similar to those so commonly worshipped in Hunan and Kwangtung. The names of the fairies Tu and Kang are to be found in the official registers or chronicles, and they have long been objects of worship. They have, moreover, worked many miracles, as for instance the one above-recorded, where they saved not one town only but a whole district. Such are the representations of the local gentry and elders, and the memorialists would earnestly repeat their request that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to canonize the two genii (or fairies) Tu and Kang, in acknowledgement of the many deliverances they have wrought and in compliance with the earnest wish of the people.

The Board of Rites is directed to report. Jui-lin, a Grand Secretary of State and viceroy of the two Kwang provinces, petitions the Throne to confer a canonical title on the city god of Fo-kang, Kwangtung. From the building of the city Temple in the 1st year of Chien-lung to the present time, the city God has been most devoutly worshipped by officials and people, and in times of calamity, such as floods or drought, he has repeatedly interposed on behalf of the people. In 1857, when the rebels were besieging Fo-kang and other places in that neighbourhood, and when the provisions of the garrison were exhausted and the aspect of affairs most threatening, the officials went in a body to the city Temple to pray. The effect was instantaneous. Immediately the rebels were seen to withdraw in great disorder. The cause of this strange movement was ascertained from two rebel prisoners. They stated that the rebels saw every night a great light, as of a huge fire, hanging over the city and illuminating the whole heavens, and saw beside such a host of banners floating in the air, that they were utterly blinded. The strange spectacle as a matter of course caused quite a

panic among them. On learning this, the officials attacked them, re-took several places which had fallen into their hands, destroyed all their fortifications and raised the siege. Again in 1858, when the Imperial troops won several important victories over the rebels at Kwan yin-shan, all the rebel prisoners reported that during the fighting, a divine general was seen, holding a white banner in his hand, and leading on the Imperial army, at sight of whom the rebels lost heart; their stronghold was consequently taken, and they themselves utterly annihilated. This success was entirely due to the assistance of the City God. In consideration of the foregoing facts, the memorialist begs the Throne to bestow a canonical title on this god.

The Board of Rites is ordered to report. Jan. 31st and Feb. 1st.—Imperial edict. Some time ago a memorial was received from General Liu Ming-chuen (commander-in-chief of the Chihli forces) stating that he was unable to proceed to Suchow (in Kansu) on account of ill-health; he was therefore allowed to go home on three months' leave of absence, and Tsao Kê-chung was ordered to Shensi to take command of the troops. In order, however, to prevent any misunderstanding which might arise from this change, Liu Ming-chuen was directed to await the arrival of Tsao Kê-chung and to advise with him as to the future disposition etc. of the troops, which done, both generals were to memorialize the Throne reporting the result of their deliberations. But Tsao Kê-chung reports that, when he reached Shan-chow, he met lots of Liu Ming-chuen's soldiers marching eastward. Liu had already disbanded a portion of the army. He also found that nearly all the officers and men of the remaining battalions were asking for furlough! When he arrived at Chien-chow, he received a roll of the army from Liu Ming-chuen, and on the same day the latter drew up a draft of a memorial to the Throne and started homewards that very evening. Tsao Kê-chung further states that the number of invalids and persons on

furlough still drawing pay, is enormous, and he anticipates great difficulty in supplying their places. Liu Ming-chuen, occupying as he did the responsible position of field marshal, should have yielded reverential obedience to the Imperial mandate commanding him to await the arrival of General Tsao Kê-chung and to advise with that officer as to the future disposition of the troops. Instead of that, however, he took it on himself to disband such of the troops as he thought fit, without either waiting to consult his successor or to receive the consent of the Throne; he is therefore handed over to the Board of War, and the Board must pass on him the heaviest sentence which the law permits, and thus make an example of him.

2.—An edict is issued dismissing two Hu-peh officials and degrading a third, the former because of their bad character and the latter on account of his incapacity.

3.—Yang Chang-sün, lieutenant-governor of Chekiang, begs that the tribute of Chu-chow and Ngou-ning oranges for 1871 may be remitted. The fruit trees were nearly all destroyed by the rebels and very few have as yet been replanted, and even those few are in such an uncultivated condition that the fruit is scarcely eatable. There is also another difficulty. All documents relating to the tribute of local produce having been lost during the rebellion, there is no means of ascertaining either the quantity or kind of things required. He has, however, obtained from Shantung an old list of the things which were sent through that province from Chekiang in 1858. This list he sends herewith to the Board for controlling the affairs of the Imperial household, for inspection. As soon as he hears from the Board, he will adopt measures for sending the tribute next autumn.

Feb. 2nd and 3rd.—Tu-hsing-ah, general of the Manchow forces in Shêngking, having asked to be allowed to retire on account of ill health, an edict is issued granting him two months' sick-leave. It is not necessary for him to throw up his command. Jui-lien will act for him meanwhile.

Another edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Ho-nien, lieutenant-governor Honan, reporting several miraculous interpositions by the River and City Gods, and requesting the Throne to bestow an honorary tablet on each. It appears that in 1559 and 1860, when the Nien-fei invaded the Yien-sz district and also when they tempted to cross the Ko river, the River and City Gods repeatedly interposed to avert the threatened districts. This is a matter which calls for the deepest gratitude; the Hanlin College is therefore ordered to prepare two suitable tablets and forward them to Li Ho-nien, to be reverently placed in the temples of the Tai-tang and City God in Yien-sz, in acknowledgment of the divine favour.

4th and 5th.—Juilin, viceroy of the two Kwang provinces, having reported the capture of several notorious Cochin China bandits, an edict is issued promoting the two officials by whom the capture was effected.

Shao Hsiang-yü is appointed acting lieutenant-governor of Shensi in place of Wéng Tung-chio, who has retired from office on account of his mother's death. The character of this lady is spoken of in very eulogistic terms, the manner in which she brought up her children, one of whom is a secretary of the Privy Council and another the acting lieutenant-governor of Shensi, being especially lauded. Her death has caused Their Majesties great grief. In token of the esteem in which she is held, 2,000 taels are given towards the funeral expenses, and also a sacrificial altar.

Sung Chin, a secretary of the Privy Council, calls attention to the dilapidated condition of the banks of the Yung-ting, and asks that the annual grant for repairs may be increased. The allowance used to be often as much as 200,000 taels a year; but after the outbreak of the Taiping rebellion it was gradually reduced to 20,000. It has been since raised to 90,000, but even this sum is not one-half of the old allowance, and is not nearly enough to cover the necessary outlay. He would propose that it be raised to-day to 120,000 taels, the

extra 30,000 to be appropriated from the sum formerly granted for the repairs of the Southern Canal. The experience of the past year sufficiently shows how much wiser and more economical it is to spend a moderate sum annually in keeping the embankments in repair, than let them go to ruin and then have to restore them at an enormous cost—to say nothing of the fearful loss of property which a flood may at any time cause. In proof of this, he says that from 300,000 to 400,000 taels will be required this year for the repair of the Yungting embankment alone.

The memorial is recorded.

Feb. 6th and 7th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wan-ching-li Liang Chao-hwang (prefect of the metropolitan department) regarding the rascalities of some yamen clerks. Some time ago Censor I-chang, in a memorial to the Throne, accused Sung-Peng-show, district magistrate of Chichow, of being entirely led by his domestics and of being inordinately avaricious, and Li Hung-chang was ordered to investigate the charge. The statement, however, of the magistrate himself, as given in this memorial, is, that the clerks of the Revenue Department being in arrears with their accounts, he took sharp measures to make them pay up, and excited their displeasure in consequence. Just at that time it was rumoured that there was to be a change of magistrates, and seizing the opportunity thus offered they avenged themselves by bribing Censor I-chang to accuse him of avarice and so forth, to the Throne. The case is a very grave one and must be thoroughly sifted. The memorialists are ordered to hand over all the parties concerned to the Board of Punishments. The Censor I-chang is temporarily suspended and committed for trial.

(2) Kung Chia-chüing is appointed prefect of Shao-hsing in Chekiang.

(3) Imperial edict. Wéng Tung-chio, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, reports several miraculous interpositions on the part of the Dragon God and requests a tablet in commemoration of the events. It appears that in 1860 Hwa-chow, Hwa-yin, Wei-nan

and other cities on the south banks of the Wei were threatened by the Mahometans, but were saved by the Dragon God, who foiled the rebels in their repeated efforts to cross the river, and thus averted the threatened danger. This gracious act calls for deepest gratitude. The Hanlin College is therefore ordered to prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to the lieutenant-governor of Shensi, to be reverently placed in the temple of the Dragon King of the Wei, in acknowledgment of divine favour. Respect this.

(4) In consequence of a memorial from Li Hung-chang, an edict is issued dismissing and degrading several district magistrates on account of incapacity, bad reputation, neglect of duty and so forth.

(5) Li Hung-chang having been ordered to select from among the prefects of Chihli one suitable for Pao-ting, the head prefecture, recommends Jen Tao-yung, prefect of Shun-tê, for that important post.

The Board of Civil Office is directed to report.

Feb. 9th, 11th. [The 9th of February was the first day of the Chinese New-year.]

(1) Prince Tun and others return thanks for an Imperial present of eight-jewelled pockets, worn on the person as ornaments.

(2) The Imperial astronomer reports that the wind blows from the Northeast, which indicates a healthy and prosperous year. (According to the old arrangement of the Eight Diagrams 艮 means North west.)

(3) Tso Tsung-tang having reported a victory over the rebels at Ping-fan, an edict is issued decorating with Manchow titles three officers who specially distinguished themselves. 10 rebels were killed in the engagement.

(4) Chang Shu-shêng, treasurer of Shan-si, is appointed governor-general of the transport service, and the criminal judge Li Ching-ngao appointed treasurer in his stead.

(5) Chün-ta, criminal judge of Kiangsi, is transferred to Kwangtung, and is succeeded by Li Wên-min.

(6) Brevets etc., are conferred on four Kiangsi officials for capturing some lawless characters who had escaped to that province from Fukien.

(7) Li Hung-chang requests that the district magistrate of Ning-chin, and the inspector of police may be handed over to the Board of Punishments for having allowed the escape of two criminals from the district jail. The guards having taken shelter from a shower of rain, fell asleep, and when they awoke the prisoners had gone.

12th and 13th.—Imperial edict. To show mercy to the prisoner is the first essential of a benevolent government. In the 11th year of the reigns of Chien-lung, Chia-ching, Tao-kwang and Hsien-fêng, special edicts were issued granting an amnesty to prisoners. His Majesty, since his accession to the throne, has been taught by their Majesties the Empresses Dowager, to solemnly ponder day and night how he may best love and cherish his people. He has now just completed the first decade of His reign, and is anxious to copy the merciful example set him by His illustrious ancestors; He therefore requests the Grand Secretaries of State and the Board of Punishments to devise a scheme for commuting the sentence of all prisoners throughout the empire, except those of the very worst character, and lay it before the Throne. All persons suffering for small offences, not punishable by banishment or by flogging with the larger bamboo, are to be liberated without delay. It is hoped that the recipients of this extraordinary grace will be induced to amend their lives, and thus accomplish the aim of His Majesty in granting it.

(2) An edict is issued remitting the payment of the Imperial land-tax and rice tribute in those portions of Chi-ning-chow, in the Shantung province, where the crops have been destroyed by inundations.

(3) Wéng Tung-ho, a secretary of the Privy Council, requests permission to retire from office, in order to attend to his mother, who is 82 years old and very

unwell. (Her death was announced in the Gazette of February 4th.)

The petition is recorded.

14th and 15th.—Imperial edict. Some time ago Yungchuen, chief resident at Uliasutai, memorialized the Throne accusing Wên-sho, amban at Cobdo, of neglecting to properly maintain the efficiency of the military posts; and Wên-sho was consequently re-called and handed over to the Board of War for trial. Subsequently a memorial was received from him reporting his action in regard to the military posts. Orders were then sent to Chang-shun, *tsan-tsan* at Cobdo, to investigate the conduct of Wên-sho and report to the Throne, and it was intended to wait the arrival of that report before passing sentence on him, but to-day a memorial has been received from him (Wên-sho) requesting permission to give up his post, on the plea of ill-health, and advising a change in the Customs' department. His request to be allowed to retire from office is a dodge concocted to screen himself, and under the circumstance a most unseemly one; for although Chang-shun had not arrived to take charge of affairs, yet, forgetful of the vast interests at stake, he suddenly requests permission to throw up his post. The manner also in which he has brought forward his proposals for certain changes in the Customs' department is irregular beyond all precedent; he appended the names of Kwei-chang, Tu-pu-hsin and Cha-mu-chu without having obtained their consent to do so. In short, his conduct in every respect has been most reprehensible; he is therefore stripped of his buttons and dismissed. Respect this.

2.—Li Hung-chang announces his intention of having the history of the Metropolitan Circuit (or Imperial domain) revised and written up to the present time. It is now 140 years since this work was last issued, and it is high time that steps were taken to draw up the history of that period, otherwise there will be unreliable materials for doing so. He proposes to intrust the preparation of the work to a committee of learned officials and gentry, acting under

the direction of Dr. Hwang Pêng-nien, the committee to meet in an office in Paoing to be established for the purpose. Materials for the history will be drawn from official documents, private family records, and from the tales of old people. Nothing will be rejected because it may seem trivial, and every precaution will be taken to insure accuracy. The work will contain a full record of the laws promulgated by successive Emperors, of the changes in the waterways, in the territorial divisions, in the official staff, and in the number, &c., of the army; also of the prosperity which the state may have enjoyed, or the evils it may have suffered from time to time, of the social condition of the people, the progress of learning, &c. A record of such things should at all times be kept for the information of future ages. It is also proposed to correct the errors and supply the deficiencies of the old history, which is defective in many particulars. It contains no account of the sacrifices which should be offered at the Imperial tombs, no statement as to sources of the rivers and streams flowing through the district, neither has it any catalogue of the books published; and although Buddhism and Taoism are heretical religions, yet the history takes cognizance of them and gives notices of the more famous priests &c. These and all other defects will be corrected in the proposed history. It will also contain a full account of the transport service, military affairs, state of the coast defences and the repairs of the embankments of the rivers and canals. Such a history it is believed will be of great value for future reference. The cost of preparation will be borne by the provincial exchequer.

Feb. 16th and 17th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Chang-chih-wan, lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, reporting the capture of some members of a Secret Society, and recommending to the notice of the Throne the officials through whose efforts the capture was effected. It appears that in the winter of 1871, the persons in question, headed by one Chang Chên-ta, plundered and burned the market

town of Chang-chu in the district of Ching-chi, and designed an attack on I-hsing, Ching-chi, and Li-yang, but the leader Chang Chên-ta and others having been taken prisoners and beheaded, the rising was quelled. The officials concerned certainly merit some notice for their prompt and successful action. (A long list of officials follows, all whom are decorated with titles, peacocks' feathers and so forth.)

2.—Li Ho-nien, lieutenant-governor of Honan, reports some miraculous interpositions on the part of the City and River Gods at Yiensz, and requests the Throne to bestow two tablets in commemoration of these events. In 1861 Yiensz was attacked by the Nienfei, but was successfully defended by the people for ten days, when the rebels raised the siege. After their retreat it was ascertained from the country people that, every night during the siege, a bright light was seen on the city walls and in the light a banner with the device "God of the city of Yiensz," in consequence of which the rebels dared not approach the city. Again in 1863, when a company of Nienfei endeavoured to cross the Lo with a view to attack Yiensz, the river suddenly overflowed its banks, flooding the country for 40 or 50 li, and drowned hosts of rebels, men and horses. These gracious interpositions are all owing to the commanding influence which His Majesty has with all the gods. The memorialist, therefore, prays that His Majesty will be pleased to commemorate the foregoing events by bestowing two tablets, to be placed in the temples of the City and River Gods.

[An edict has already been issued granting the above request.]

18th and 19th.—The appointment of Wu Chêng-lu as prefect of Tai-tsang in Kiangsu is confirmed.

(2) The Board of Civil Office having objected to the appointment of Sun I-yien to the intendency of Nanking as being irregular, Tsêng Kwo-fan memorialized the Throne justifying his choice on the ground that this intendency is one of unusual importance and requires a man of exceptional ability. The appointment is confirmed.

(3) Mow-lin, the Hangchow superintendent of manufactures for the Imperial household, reports having handed over his seals of office to his successor Wên-chih, and the latter reports having received the same.

(3) General Liu Ming-chuen (late commander of Li Hung-chang's army in Shensi) memorializes the Throne to confer honours on the late General Tang Shih-shun and three others, who have died of wounds received in battle, and on the late sub-Prefect Hung Shao-hsien and ten others, on account of their meritorious services.

(4) In another memorial General Liu dilates on the exploits of his army and requests honour for the slain. Since the Ming army first followed Li Hung-chang in 1861, it has fought several hundreds of battles in Kiangsu, Anhwei, Honan, Hupeh, Chihli and Shantung; over 700 of its officers have been either slain on the field or have died of their wounds, and more than 5,000 of its more noted privates. These were chiefly Anhwei men, and the memorialist begs that a temple may be erected in that province to their joint memory, in honour of their loyalty; Generals Liu Kê-jên and Liu Shêng-chang to be placed at the head of the roll.

The request is granted.

Feb. 20th, 21st.—In consequence of a memorial from Chêng-lu, an edict is issued decreeing honours to several military officers who distinguished themselves at the battles of Fu-i and Kao-tai (in Kansu). It appears that in the latter part of November 1871, about 5,000 Mahometan rebels invaded the above-mentioned districts, when some sharp fighting took place between them and the imperial troops under Chêng-lu, in which the latter were completely victorious. More than 1,000 rebels fell in one day.

(2) In the 1st year of the present reign (1861) an edict was promulgated ordering the officials throughout the Empire to recommend to the notice of the Throne persons famous for their filial piety, purity and uprightness, with a view to their

being raised at once to the sixth grade and, where practicable, being employed in some official capacity. The disturbed state of Kansu has prevented the carrying out of the order in that province, but now that things are quieter, the viceroy hastens to comply with it. He recommends twelve literary graduates, all of whom he guarantees as being honest, upright, virtuous and intelligent men, worthy of the honour of being specially called to office by the Throne.

22nd, 23rd.—The Hanlin College lays before the Throne the requiem composed in honour of the mother of Wêng Tung-ho, a secretary of the Privy Council.

(2) To-morrow at noon the Emperor will entertain the Court Ministers at a banquet.

(3) Chang Hsü-chieh, assistant prefect of the metropolitan department, recommends certain changes in the present system of official appointment, so as to facilitate the advancement of literary men.

24th and 25th.—The metropolitan prefect reports a fall of over four inches of snow.

(2) In compliance with the recommendation of Liu Yo-chao, viceroy of Yunnan, Tsai Kin-ching, intendant of the I-tung circuit, is transferred to the more important intendency of I-nan, and is succeeded in the former post by Wu Kao.

(3) Liu Yo-chao, viceroy of Yunnan, having reported that General Sung Kwo-yung had not arrived at his post, his appointment is cancelled and General Ma Chung appointed in his stead.

(4) Juilin, viceroy of the two Kwang provinces, reports the death of Hsü Tao-shên, intendant of the Kao-chow and Lien-chow circuit, and requests the immediate appointment of a successor.

26th and 27th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Yunnan, reporting a victory over the *Kung* rebels and requesting honours for the officers who distinguished themselves in the engagement and for those who were slain. These rebels belonged to Wei-ning district on the borders of Kwei-chow, and

had taken up their quarters at Hsiang-lu-shan. Last September a detachment of Yunnan troops under the command of Wu Chi-chung was sent to co-operate with the Kwei-chow troops, and this combined force succeeded in entirely exterminating the rebels. For this very energetic conduct, the officers who took part in the expedition are rewarded with brevets and peacock's feathers. The major and three ensigns killed will be suitably rewarded by the Board of War.

(2) Tan Chung-lin is appointed officiating lieutenant-governor of Shensi until the arrival of the acting lieutenant-governor Shao Hêng-yü.

(3) The acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan recommends Tu Twan-lien, prefect of Changsha, as intendant of the Chêng-yung-yuen-ching circuit. This circuit is considered a very difficult one on account of its being contiguous to the Miaotsz territory.

(4) In 1860, Tso Tsung-tang recommended to the notice of the Throne nine officials belonging to different provinces, whose efforts had materially contributed to the restoration of order in Shensi, but the Board of Civil Office requested to know what these officials had to do with Shensi. In reply the viceroy states that they specially exerted themselves in raising supplies for the army, and he repeats his request that the Board may be ordered to suitably reward them for their services.

The Board of Civil Office is directed to report.

Feb. 28th and 29th.—Imperial edict. Wang Wên-shao, acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan, reports the capture of some members of a secret society who have caused disturbances in that province, and requests that the captain through whose exertions the capture was effected, may be restored to his former status. These insurgents, after their defeat at Yau-hwa chiang, escaped to Ching-chow, but were followed by Captain Shên Tafa, who succeeded in capturing the leader Ho Chun-tai and sent him to the provincial capital, where he was tried and beheaded. For this energetic

conduct Captain Shên Tafa is restored to his former rank and honours.

2.—An edict is issued dismissing the Superintendent of Police of the Tung-an district, Kwangtung, and handing him over to the Viceroy for trial, for allowing the escape of a criminal from the district jail. The district magistrate pleaded that he was absent on public business when the escape took place; he is, however, temporarily degraded for not having taken proper measures beforehand to prevent such an occurrence, and orders are given to inquire into the truth of his statement regarding his absence. If the escaped criminal is not caught within a given time, those concerned must be reported to the Throne for further punishment.

March 1st.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan, reporting the complete destruction of the Miaotsz rebels at Hwang-piao and Pai-pao by the Hunan auxiliary force operating in Kweichow, the consequent re-opening of the government post-road, and begging the Throne to bestow honours on the officers who specially distinguished themselves in connection with these events. The memorial states that the Miaotsz had assembled in great force at the above mentioned places, where, from the nature of the country, their position seemed almost impregnable. But on the 2nd January a combined attack was made by the troops under General Tang Pên-yew and Intendant Têng Shan-hsieh, when several of the rebel fortifications were taken in succession and destroyed. The rebels fled in the direction of Pai-pao and sought refuge in the rebel strongholds there, but were closely followed by the Imperial troops. Pai-pao was captured and upwards of 1,000 rebels killed. Again, on the 11th January, the troops, braving the inclemency of the weather—it was snowing at the time—marched on Hwang-piao, and, under cover of night, crossed the gorge, burst in the rebel stockade, set fire to it, and killed the rebels in countless numbers. This done, the troops destroyed all the fortifications at Pai-kao and other

places in that neighbourhood, by which means the government post-road was re-opened. The troops also under Intendant Ko-chien destroyed more than ten rebel stockades, and induced some 3,000 Miaotsz to submit to the Imperial rule. The foregoing successes show good management. Let Wang Wên-shao direct the Hunan auxiliary to follow up the terror which other victories have inspired, making, in conjunction with the Kwei-chow troops, a clean sweep of every rebel in the country. [Here follows a long list of the honours bestowed on the officers who conducted the campaign. Some are handed over to the Board of War to be rewarded according to their merits; others are given brevets, Manchu titles and peacocks' feathers.]

(2) Yang Chang-sun, lieutenant-governor of Chekiang, proposes some new plans for the better regulation of the salt trade. The places which are supplied from the Chekiang salt-works are divided into two districts, designated east and west, respectively. The former embraces Ningpo, Shaohsing, Chinghwa, Chüchow, Yenchow, Wênchow and Taichow; also Kwanghsin in Kiangsi and Hwuichow in Anhwei, making in all ten prefectures. The western district includes the prefectures of Hangchow, Huchow and Kiahsing in Chekiang, Suchow, Sungkiang, Changchow, Chinking and Taitang in Kiangsu, and Kwangté in Anhwei. According to the old rules formerly in operation, the salt for both districts was divided and sold in 805,397 scrips, (not including 150,000 scrips which were considered extra), each scrip realizing from 30 to 50 tael cents, according to circumstances, and the whole bringing an annual revenue of Tls. 323,020,709, beside which the sum of Tls. 170,000 was realized on account of fees, transport etc. In the 4th year of Tung-chih the old plan of farming the monopoly was abandoned, on account of the disturbed state of the country, and the salt sold to all comers at from 2,300 to 4,300 cash per scrip, (a scrip represents about 400 catties,) which has brought an average revenue of 1,000,000 strings of copper cash per

annum (a string usually contains 1,000 *cash*.) But although this free or competitive system, as will be seen from the foregoing figures, has yielded a larger revenue than the old plan of monopoly, yet it is not so satisfactory as a fiscal scheme. The abuses it has given rise to are simply legion, and there is no security whatever that the present income will continue, for no one is responsible to government; each one buys what quantity he likes, and sells it wherever, however, he can. The Board of Revenue has recently expressed a wish that the old system of farming should be resumed. It will be remembered that, in 1869, the Throne was requested to allow the issue of a monopoly for the supply of salt to Suchow, Sungkiang, Changchow, Chinkiang and Taitsang, the monopolist or monopolists being held responsible to Government for 66,000 scrips. The following year a similar request was made regarding Hangchow, Kiahsing and Huchow, the contracting parties to be responsible for 244,800 scrips. Permission was given in each case to try this plan, with power to increase the number of scrips if found necessary. The plan, however, must, on the whole, be pronounced a failure. The memorialist would therefore recommend the scheme suggested by the Board of Revenue, viz., that a scrip shall represent from 370 to 400 catties (according to the distance of the place for which the salt is intended), and that the old plan of monopoly be resumed for the time being. The monopoly for the supply of salt to Hangchow and the seven other departments mentioned above, will realize Tls. 413,247, and the monopoly for Suchow &c., Tls. 94,000, which combined with extras will yield an annual revenue of Tls. 607,247, or 1,082,000 copper *cash*. This plan is in every respect preferable to the competitive system recently in vogue. It will yield at least an equal revenue, there will be a fixed number of scrip, certain parties will be responsible to government, and the salt will have a fixed market, while the abuses connected with the competitive system will no longer exist.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to consider the scheme and report.

2nd.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the lieut.-governor of Chekiang, reporting that the new scheme for regulating the salt trade in the western part of that province has proved a failure, so far at least as any revival of the trade is concerned. Suchow, Sungkiang, Chengchow, Chenkiang and Taitsang in the Kiangsu province are supplied with salt from Chekiang, and it is now more than two years since the old system of monopoly was resumed, and it appears to have been unsuccessful. Since the relaxation of the rule fixing the salt consumption of each district, the district magistrates have treated the cases of smuggling which have come before them as matters which did not concern them, so that smuggling has become the order of the day, and as a natural consequence the Gabelle has yielded less and less. It is high time that something was done to remedy this state of affairs. Henceforth the five departments mentioned above (Suchow, Sungkiang &c.) will be held responsible for the consumption of the quantity of salt allotted to them by law, and Tséng-kwo-fan and Ho-ching are directed to order their subordinates, both civil and military, to exert themselves to the utmost to put a stop to smuggling, and warn them that any remissness on their part will be reported to the Throne and severely punished. Salt merchants wounding or killing smugglers must be dealt with according to the Chihli and Shantung salt law, according to which they are not responsible for such acts.

3rd.—The Board of Rites reports the arrival of the Korean tribute.

(2) Chéng-fu is appointed commissioner of the salt transport at Chang-lu.

(3) Pao Yuen-shen, lieut.-governor of Shansi, recommends Chéng-Yu, prefect of Ta-tung, for the important post of prefect of Tai-yuen.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

4th.—[To-day's Gazette is occupied with two memorials from the lieut.-governor of

Shansi, and one from the lieut.-governor of Anhwei, reporting some unimportant changes among their subordinates.]

5th.—Liu Kwen-yi, lieut.-governor of Kiangse, reports having purchased some foreign munitions of war. An Imperial edict issued 6th January 1871 ordered the viceroys and lieut.-governors of the several provinces to lay before the Throne, within six months from date, their views as to the best method for raising a supply of able-bodied men for the army, the plan of drill to be followed, and as to the number of strong, able men obtainable in each province. The edict further stated that the troops at Tientsin and Shanghai and also the army of Liu Ming-chuen were drilled in the use of muskets and cannon, and ordered the officials to write for a supply of the drill rules etc., in operation at those places, for use in drilling their own troops. The memorialist has obtained a copy of the rules referred to, giving the method of drill, plan of battle and words of command, and he has had the rules printed and circulated among the troops. But fearing that drill by book would not prove a very satisfactory method, he has sent to Kiangsu to engage the services of five experienced men to act as drill-masters. He also sent to purchase guns etc. There were only 200 foreign muskets in Kiangsi fit for use; the others were without bayonets and could not therefore be employed in drill. An official was consequently despatched to Shanghai to buy 500 muskets, 10 large mortars, 3,000 lbs. of gunpowder, 2,000 boxes of matches and 1,000 bombshells. The memorialist has also engaged the services of several persons acquainted with the manufacture of foreign gunpowder and bombshells, so as to save the expense and inconvenience of constantly sending to a distance for these articles. The cost of the above will be defrayed from the *likin* tax.

6th.—An edict is issued degrading a district magistrate belonging to the Anhwei province and dismissing two petty officials, on account of their bad reputation.

2. The lieut.-governor of Honan is or-

dered to select from among the prefects of that province the one most suitable for the post of prefect of Kai-féng-fu; the vacancy caused by the change to be filled by Ying-jui.

3. Chung-how, a vice-president of the Board of War, and Hsia Chia-hao, assistant minister of the Sacrificial Court and *Chang-ching* of the Tsung-li Yamen, are appointed assistant members of the latter Office. March 7th—Imperial edict. Some time ago Censor Li Té-yuen reported that the officials sent to superintend the ploughing up of the Jehol hunting grounds were appropriating and disposing of the land according to their pleasure. In consequence of this charge two commissioners were sent to investigate the matter. They report that there is no evidence of the officials having sold land already under cultivation instead of the fallow land, nor of their having sold any part of the old original hunting ground, or of their having received large sums of money on account of these supposed sales. But it appears that when the people of the district assembled *en masse* to oppose the breaking up of the waste lands, as they frequently did, the officials in question sent for some troops to maintain order, and thus made themselves exceedingly obnoxious to the people. At Wulatai also they blundered in a somewhat similar way. Instead of waiting till proclamations had been issued giving notice of the proposed changes, they commenced operations at once, and thus occasioned much confusion and uproar. For these errors they are re-called and handed over to the proper Board, to be dealt with according to their deserts. The other persons concerned must also be examined, and punished according to their several degree of guilt.

8th.—A brevet, a button of the 5th grade and a peacock's feather are conferred on a secretary in the Kansu commissaria department, in reward for his many services. When the Mahometan rebels attacked Wumén, Tunhwang and other cities in that neighbourhood, he stirred up the officials and gentry to resist them and the

ities were saved. And again, during the summer and autumn of last year, when the troops were operating against the rebels at Ngansi, he managed to supply an abundant commissariat. Also, on another and subsequent occasion, he managed with equal success.

2.—Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, reports on the character of several officials who have just completed their first year of office. They are all men of ability and have given great satisfaction.

3.—In another memorial, Wu Tang states that the district magistrate of Ya-an has made good the Tls. 385.2.1.9 deficit in the tea tax of his district, and begs that proceedings against him may be stopped.

9th.—An edict is issued regarding a memorial from the Board of Punishments reporting that it finds that Censor Ichang was really bribed by the Chichow Yamên clerks. This is a case in which some clerks bribed Censor Ichang to accuse the district magistrate of Chichow of extortion. It has been clearly proved during the trial that the clerks in question did bribe Ichang, and the latter has acknowledged the fact. For this grave offence he is deprived of rank and office, and committed for trial. As to the several charges brought against the district magistrate, a searching examination must be instituted by Li Hung-chang, as already commanded, with a view to ascertain whether there is any truth in them or not, and report thereon to the Throne. For further particulars of this case, see *Gazette* of February 6th and 7th.]

2.—Ting Pao-chêng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, reports having resumed duty after a short period of sick-leave, and notifies having started for Yunchêng to inspect the repair of the embankments in that neighbourhood.

3.—The Board of Civil Office having objected to the appointment of Sub-prefect Pan Ching-chao to the magistracy of Huen-sha, in the Sungkiang prefecture, Tsêng Kwo-fan and Chang Chih-wan unite in recommending Chên Fang-ying for that post. The Board of Civil Office is order-

ed to consider the recommendation and report.

10th.—In consequence of a memorial from Chang-shan and Kulêmin, an edict is issued forbidding Bannermen leaving their regiments to join the army in the field. Of late years this has been a very common practice, and doubtless not a few have done so from pure patriotism, but it is equally true that it has been done by many simply because it offered a shorter and surer road to promotion. This volunteerism must not be countenanced any longer, and the viceroys and lieutenant-governors are ordered not to recommend such volunteers for promotion without very sufficient reasons.

2. Tê-ên is appointed prefect of Chuhsiung in Yunnan.

3. Shên Hwai is appointed superintending censor of Shensi; Yuen Chêng-yeh superintending censor of Kukiang, and Pien Pao-chuen censor of Chekiang.

4. Tsêng Kwo-fan and Chang Chih-wan unite in recommending the transfer of Wang Tsu-show from Chin-shan to Ching-pu (near Shanghai), the magistracy of the latter place having become vacant through the removal of the late incumbent to Changchow. Should the transfer be approved, there will be no necessity for his going to Peking to be presented at Court, for it is not a case of promotion.

5. Tsêng Kwo-fan begs that the Throne will be pleased to bestow some marks of favour on the officials who managed with such marked ability and care the transport of the rice tribute, last year.

11th.—At the request of Pao Yuen-shên, lieutenant-governor of Shansi, an edict is issued ordering the provincial treasurer Chang Shu-shêng to remain at his present post till the triennial report on the character of the several provincial officials has been drawn up and forwarded to the Throne. The lieutenant-governor requires his assistance in framing that report. Enhsi, treasurer of Kiangsu, will act as governor-general of the Transport Service instead of Chang Shu-shêng *pro tem.*, and Tsêng Kwo-fan must appoint some one to act as treasurer in place of Enhsi.

2. The viceroy of Szechuen recommends Shên Chih-lin as magistrate for the Chêng-tu district. A long pedigree of this official is given.

12th.—To-day's *Gazette* has three edicts by the Empresses Dowager Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi, giving the names of the Empress Elect and of the three principal concubines.

1. Edict of Their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi. His Majesty the Emperor having been called on to occupy the throne, while yet young, has now entered on the eleventh year of his reign, and it becomes our duty to select a virtuous lady to be his consort and empress, that she may aid him in the cultivation of Imperial virtue and assist him in regulating the affairs of the palace. We have chosen Ah-lu-tê, the accomplished and virtuous daughter of Chungchi, a *shih-chiang* (lecturer) in the Hanlin, as Empress.

2. Their Majesties Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi have selected Fu-cha, the daughter of Fêng-hsiu (under-secretary or clerk in the Board of Punishments) to be chief concubine; Ho-shê-li, daughter of Prefect Chung-ling, to be second concubine; and Ah-lu-tê, daughter of ex-Lieut.-General Sai-shang-ah as third concubine.

3. Their Majesties Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi order the Imperial Astronomical Board to select a lucky day in the 9th moon of the present year (October 1872) for the celebration of the Imperial Marriage. They also appoint Prince Kung and Paoyun, president of the Board of Revenue, to make the necessary arrangements.

4. Chung-chi returns thanks for the honour conferred on him in the selection of his daughter as Empress. Sai-shang-ah, Fêng-hsiu and Chung-ling also return thanks for the honour done them in the election of their daughters to be Imperial concubines.

March 13th.—To-day's *Gazette* is occupied by two memorials from the viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi notifying that two district magistrates have temporarily retired from office on account of their

parents' death, and recommending suitable successors.

14th.—Tsun-chêng, commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, reports the two following appeal cases:—

Case 1. A widow belonging to Ho-chiu in Anhwei complains, through her son, a lad of sixteen, that she can obtain no redress for her husband's murder. This lad states that Hsü Chien, Chên Chiung, and others had a grudge against his father, and that on the night of the 18th March, 1868, they came in a large body and killed his father, and afterwards cut off his head. They also killed two workmen, who attempted to assist the deceased. They then seized complainant's stepmother, his cousin, and the wife and daughter of one of the murdered workmen, and after having burned the house and all it contained made off. Then, strange to say, they took complainant's cousin to the Kuchih magistracy and charged him with being a brigand, and in proof of the charge produced complainant's father's head. Of the women carried off, one has been ill-used and the other two have not been heard of. Complainant has appealed to the intendant, criminal judge, lieutenant-governor and viceroy, but has failed to obtain redress, his mother has therefore sent to the capital.

Case 2.—A widow in the Ning-chin district, Chihli, sends a person to complain that her nephew having been beaten to death by Chêng Wu-ma-tsz and others, she has been unable to obtain redress, though she has appealed to the prefect, criminal judge, treasurer and viceroy.

15th.—To-day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials from the viceroy of Szechuen, reporting some trifling matters connected with that province.

16th.—Li Hung-chang reports the death of Hêng-ching, the Chang-lu salt Commissioner. He died suddenly after two days' illness, while on his way to Peking. He was a valuable public servant.

(2) In another memorial Li Hung-chang complains that officials who have acquired military merit are not fairly dealt with. Formerly, all vacancies occasioned by

dismissals, and by retirements on account of parents' death, were filled by officials of this class, but in 1868 the rule was altered, and only vacancies occasioned by special dismissal were reserved exclusively for them. Such vacancies are so very few that the privilege of filling them is very small indeed, and it is to be feared that military merit will come to be regarded as a useless thing. The men who have acquired this distinction have done so in consequence of the valuable services which they have rendered in the field or in the camp. They have won it by toil and suffering, and it is a pledge of their ability and worth. Within the last twenty year, numbers, too numerous to mention, have risen from their class to be governors and viceroys; it cannot, therefore, be said that there is any lack of ability among military-merit men. The memorialist would most earnestly urge the Throne to restore to them the old privilege of filling all vacancies occasioned by dismissals and by retirements on account of parents' death. If this is not done, military merit will soon be at a discount.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

17th.—Imperial edict. Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, reports that in consequence of the bad harvest last year, provisions are very dear, and earnestly begs to be allowed to employ some public money for the relief of the poor. During the summer of last year there was a drought, and during the autumn there were floods, so that the crops were nearly all destroyed, and the suffering throughout the province is consequently very great. The viceroy is authorized to appropriate Tael 200,000 from the *likin* tax. But he must see that this money is properly expended and must report to the Throne any magistrate guilty of embezzlement. Orders are also given to the viceroy of Hukwang and to the lieut.-governors of Hupeh, Shensi and Kweichow to issue proclamations, calling on merchants to transport rice to Szechuen. Rice intended for that province will be duty free.

2.—The Astronomical Board is directed

to select a lucky day in the 3rd or 4th moon for commencing the repairs of the Imperial tomb.

[The rest of to-day's *Gazette* is occupied with the memorial of Prince Kung and the other members of the Foreign Office regarding the position of foreigners, a translation of which appeared in the *Daily News* of 23rd March.]

18th.—In consequence of a memorial from Yueng-cheuen, chief resident at Uliassutai, an edict is issued decorating, with buttons and peacocks' feathers, the officers connected with the Army of the West, in consideration of their past services.

2.—The two Commissioners appointed to investigate the charges brought against the officials deputed to superintend the allotment among the Bannermen of the waste lands connected with the Imperial hunting grounds in Jehol, report the results of their investigation. The charges against the officials were: (1) That they tried to extort money from the people on account of the allotments made, and that if they failed to get their squeeze, they ejected the refractory parties. (2) That they sold the cultivated lands which had reverted to the Crown. (3) That they, unauthorizedly and for their own private benefit, sold several thousand *mows* of the land known as *Lo-to-tow*. (4) That, to parties who paid them well, they gave portions even of the Hunting Ground itself, and that those who would not pay them handsomely were imprisoned and beaten, and compelled to give up even the title deeds which they already possessed. (5) That those who refused to return their title deeds were barbarously treated; their wells being filled up and their houses destroyed, and if they still refused to quit, their premises set on fire.

The Commissioners, after very careful examination, pronounce all the above charges false. Though persistently asserted by the people, they have been disproved by the accused. But although the officials are not guilty of these particular misdemeanours, it is evident that they have blundered in their business. Their appointment was exceedingly offensive to the Bannermen,

and the latter repeatedly assembled *en masse* to oppose them. They then committed the mistake of sending for a company of troops to overawe the populace. They blundered also in commencing operations before they had issued proclamations apprising the people of the proposed changes. For these errors the Commissioners recommend that they be recalled and handed over to the Board to be dealt with.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already appeared. (See *Gazette* of March 7th.)

March 19th.—The officials of the Board of War who compiled the Army List are censured and handed over to the Board, for having carelessly omitted the name of Prince Jui.

(2) Yang Chang-sün, lieut.-governor of Chekiang, reports the main particulars regarding the cleaning out of the Shwangtang canal near Hangchow. This canal had become so silted up as to be quite unnavigable; but as the stoppage of so important a water-way very seriously affected both agriculture and commerce, it was resolved to have it cleaned out. The work was commenced Tungchih 6th year, 11th moon, 11th day, and completed Tungchih 9th year, 4th moon, 24th day. From 70 to 80 *li* has been widened and deepened. The cost of the whole amounts to about 907,000,000 copper cash. The money was advanced from the *likin* tax, on the understanding that it was to be repaid by local subscription. But these districts having suffered so severely during the rebellion, it was thought better not to levy a general rate, but rather to impose a small additional tax on all merchandise passing the barriers. This plan was gladly acquiesced in by traders, and the whole amount has already been collected. The expense of the work having been borne by public subscription, there is no necessity for sending a detailed account of the expenditure to the Board of Works.

20th.—Chu Fêng-piao, a grand secretary of the Inner Council, having requested permission to temporarily retire from office on account of ill-health, an edict is issued

granting him two month's sick leave and declaring his retirement unnecessary.

(2) Jui-chang, president of the Board of Punishments, reports the trial of the Chechow yamên clerks, charged with having bribed a censor to falsely accuse the local magistrate of extortion. Some time ago Censor Ichang forwarded a memorial to the Throne, charging Sung Pêng-show, magistrate of Chi-chow in the metropolitan prefecture, with extortion, &c. The case was handed over to Li Hung-chang for investigation. Meanwhile, however, a memorial was received from the metropolitan prefect giving the magistrate's side of the story. His statement was that the clerks of the Revenue Department, being in arrears with their accounts, he had taken sharp measures to make them pay up, and had thereby aroused their animosity. Just at that time, it was rumoured that there was to be a change of magistrates, and, seizing the opportunity thus offered, they bribed Censor Ichang to accuse him of avarice and so forth, to the Throne. The Board of Punishments finds the magistrate's statement substantially correct. One of the clerks has confessed the whole. He says that in order to avoid the payment of arrears, they got up this tale about the magistrate's extortion. Two of their number were deputed to go to Peking to arrange matters. There they sought out an old acquaintance named Wang Yang-chung, who said that the plot could be carried out if they were willing to pay about Tls. 300. The accusation against the magistrate was drawn up and a tax levied on carts, horses, &c., in order to raise the necessary funds. Wang Yang-chun then got Chen Chi-tang to bribe Censor Ichang to lay the accusation before the Throne. Chen Chi-tang made the proposal to Ichang through Cheuen Wei-hsi, a clerk in the Censorate, the agreement being that Chen Chi-tang should have Tls. 50, Wang Yang-chun and Liu San-yuen Tls. 50 each, and the remaining Tls. 150 be divided between the Censorate clerk and Ichang. When first examined Ichang stoutly denied the charge of bribery, maintaining that he

and merely done what it was his duty as censor to do, viz., reported to the Throne an alleged case of official extortion. But after the Censorate clerk turned King's evidence, Ichang confessed having received ls. 78. The Board recommends that he be severely punished, as a check on official corruption. The yamen clerks and others concerned, some of whom are in concealment, should be sought out and rigorously dealt with.

21st.—To-day's *Gazette* contains the edict issued in reference to the death of Tsêng-wo-fan. A full translation of this edict is given in the *Herald* of April 11th.

(2) Imperial edict. The Board of War, as requested by the Throne, reports its ward in the case of Liu Ming-chuen, late commander-in-chief of the Chihli forces, who was guilty of very tricky behaviour when delivering up command (to his successor Tsao Kê-chung). The judgment of the Board is that he be deprived of rank and office, and also stripped of his baronetcy. He fully deserves this punishment, but, in consideration of his past services against the rebels, we graciously commute his sentence and allow him to retain his baronetcy. Respect this.

(3) The viceroys and lieut.-governors of Szechuan, Hunan, Yunnan and Kweichow, are ordered to make the usual triennial tour of inspection through their respective provinces. They must not fail to report to the Throne all indolent and incompetent officers. Considering the disturbed state of Yunnan and Kweichow, it is very essential that the inspection of those provinces should be very thoroughly performed.

22nd.—Chien Ting-ming, the newly-appointed lieut.-governor of Honan, had an audience of His Majesty.

(2) Tsun-chêng and his colleagues report the following appeal cases.

Case 1. A Honan farmer named Hu hen-hsing states that, last July, his father was set upon by Li Yü-hsin and others, and severely beaten. He then carried his father to the district yamen, but his enemies prevented his father's wounds being ex-

amined; and, moreover, had him and his father locked up in a private house, where his father died on the 3rd August. Complainant then managed to effect his escape, and laid his case before the district magistrate. The magistrate ordered the parties concerned to be beaten and imprisoned; but by means of some knavery or other they were bailed out. Complainant then appealed to the prefect four times in succession, and orders were sent to the district magistrate to investigate the case, but he never did so. Complainant afterwards appealed both to the criminal judge and to the lieut.-governor; but they only sent him back to the district magistrate. He has come therefore in despair to the capital for redress.

Case 2. The complainant in the case placed himself in front of Prince Tun's carriage and presented his appeal to the memorialists. He is a farmer belonging to Lan chow in Chihli, named Chang Ting-yew. He states that, in Oct. 1867, a party of robbers, who were putting up at the village of Shih-fo-kow, seeing his brother pass with sixteen strings of copper cash on his shoulder, immediately laid hands on him. He remonstrated and tried to recover his money, but they said that he himself had stolen it and without more ado speared him. An inquest was held on the body of the deceased, but the second son of the actual murderer having falsely put himself forth as the murderer, the guilty parties were allowed to escape. In 1868, complainant appealed to the prefect and intendant, but they merely ordered him back to the district magistrate. Parties were then bribed to deceive the magistrate as to the real facts of the case, and an attempt was made to get complainant to come to some agreement and thus hush up the case. He then appealed again to the intendant of circuit, and orders were sent to the prefect to try the case. But although he has applied for a hearing times without number, the case has never been called on. The reply to his last appeal, made on the 3rd January, was an order to strike the case off the books. Having thus failed to

obtain any redress for his brother's murder, he has come to the capital.

Case 3. A Shantung farmer, called Hsi Tsz-tai, complains that his uncle having been shot by Liu Pên-li, he cannot obtain redress from the local magistrates, though he has appealed to the prefect, intendant and criminal judge.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above cases has already appeared.

23rd.—Ho Ching, acting-vice-roy of the Two Kiang, is appointed acting-superintendent of trade.

(2) Wu Yuen-ping, acting-treasurer of Hunan, reports his arrival in that province and his assumption of office.

(3) Li Hung-chang requests that Sub-prefect Sung Pao-hwa may be detained in Tientsin, for the time being, to assist in the management of foreign affairs. This official has had command of a company of Shantung foreign-drilled troops, in charge of which he came to Tientsin in the autumn of 1870. He is said to be well versed in foreign affairs and to be thoroughly acquainted with all foreign languages. He will, therefore, be a most valuable person to have at Tientsin. Last winter, on account of the lateness of the season, the steamers, which brought the clothes and rice subscribed by the people of Kiangsu and Chekiang for the relief of the sufferers around Tientsin, could not enter the river, and the things were, therefore, deposited in the foreign godowns at Taku, but Sung Pao-hwa managed to bring them to Tientsin without delay or loss. He is a most indefatigable official. He served in the Ming Army (the army lately commanded by Liu Ming-chuen) against the Nienfei, and was recommended to the notice of the Throne on account of his bravery.

The request is granted.

24th.—Edict of their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi. The Astronomical Board having, as directed, selected lucky days for the celebration of the Imperial marriage and the preliminary ceremonies called *na-tsai* (納采) and *ta-chêng* (大徵), the 16th October is appointed

as the day for the Imperial marriage; August 29th for the performance of *na-tsai*, and the 19th September for the performance of *ta-chêng*. The several Yaméns concerned must make the necessary arrangements. [*Na-tsai* is the ceremony of betrothal; *ta-chêng* that of fixing the wedding day and making the wedding presents.]

(2) Imperial edict. On the 10th instant, we received the decree of their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi appointing October as the month for the celebration of the Imperial marriage. To-day, Prince Kung and Pao-yun memorialize the Throne stating that on the consummation of the Imperial marriage, it will be necessary, in accordance with ancient custom, to confer some august title on their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi. Their Majesties, however, in their modesty declined at first to receive such honour. But impressed with the importance of carrying out the ceremonies fixed by previous Emperors, we again and again besought them to assent to the proposed course, and, in answer to our repeated intreaties, they at last assented. Let this matter therefore be attended to by the proper Boards. Respect this.

(3) Tieh-shan is appointed prefect of Ning-hsia fu, Kansu.

25th.—In consequence of a memorial from the lieut.-governor of Shantung, an edict is issued punishing four officials for supposed embezzlement of public funds. Lin Tsan-tu was deficient in his accounts some 9,595 taels; (hü Shih-hsün 3,650 taels; Têng Kai-yün 6,270 taels, and Chin Tsung-yung 9,641 taels. The first two are cashiered and committed for trial and their private property confiscated; the two last (both are dead) are stripped of their rank, and their property is seized. The lieut.-governor is ordered to summon the clerks of the two deceased officials before him, with a view to ascertain whether the money in question was really embezzled or merely diverted from its proper channel to some other public object.

26th and 27th.—Li Hung-chang requests the degradation of four majors belonging

to the Chihli troops, on account of their indolence and incapacity.

(2) In another memorial Li Hung-chang asks that a transfer may be effected between the district magistrates of Hwai-an and Wu-chi. Hwai-an is a difficult post and the present incumbent is not up to the mark.

28th.—Li Hung-chang asks permission to appropriate (or rather loan) 16,427 taels from the public chest for the repair of certain roads and bridges in the Jên-chiuand Hsiung districts, which were more or less destroyed by the floods last year. The two districts will be required to repay this sum in ten annual instalments, and for this purpose a rate will be levied on the basis of the land tax.

The proper Board is directed to take note of the above.

29th.—The commandant of Peking reports the burning of six government houses outside the Chih gate. The fire originated in a neighbouring flour mill.

(2) Jui-lien and Yi-ching give a minute estimate of the repairs required for the imperial tombs. It is reckoned that Tls. 6,386.26 will cover the whole.

(3) Chu Fêng-pial one of the four grand secretaries) requests permission to retire from office on account of ill-health. [On the 20th March an edict was issued granting him two months' sick-leave and declaring his retirement unnecessary.]

30th.—To-day, the Board of Rites presented the programme to be observed in the celebration of the Imperial marriage.

2.—The Viceroy of Szechuen reports the existence of great distress in that province in consequence of the failure of the crops last year, and asks permission to appropriate Tls. 200,000 from the *likin* tax, for the relief of the poor. Between a dry summer and a wet autumn, the harvest last year was a miserably poor one, but as the price of provisions remained moderate during the winter, there was no occasion for applying to the Throne for special help. Unfortunately, however, there has been one continued

down-pour of rain during the spring, and the early crops threaten to be a comparative failure also, and in consequence food has become so dear that a *tow* of rice sells for 1,500 to 1,600 copper *cash*. (A *tow* is the one-tenth of a picul; rice is therefore from 15,000 to 16,000 *cash* a picul.) The condition of the people, therefore, can be better imagined than described. No one could witness their misery unmoved. The memorialist has done what he could to relieve the distress, but of course it was not in his power to do much; he therefore entreats the Throne to allow him to appropriate Tls. 200,000 from the *likin* tax. If granted, he will take every precaution to prevent embezzlement and to insure the proper distribution of the money. Chêng-tu the provincial capital will first be relieved and then the other towns and cities. He would also ask that orders be sent to Hupeh, Shensi, and Kwei-chow to encourage the export of rice from those provinces, where the last year's harvest was abundant, to Szechuen, and that the rice so exported be free from all taxation whatever. [An edict granting the above was issued in the *Gazette* of 17th March.]

3.—The Lieut-Governor of Chekiang begs the Throne to bestow honours on the officials who managed the transport of the rice-tribute last year. They performed their work so well and so expeditiously that they deserve some recognition.

31st.—Mei Chi-chao, treasurer of Nanking, reports the death of Tseng Kwo-fan. The latter after his re-appointment to the vice-royalty of the Two Kiang gave his earnest and unwearied attention to all matters affecting the welfare of those provinces. Last autumn, while performing the triennial tour of inspection, he became troubled with dizziness in the head and swelling in the lower extremities. But he persistently refused to allow himself even temporary rest. On the 5th March, his hands suddenly began to shake and his tongue became so enlarged that he could not articulate, and there were all the symptoms of paralysis. Medical aid was immediately called in, and the following day he

had so far recovered as to be able to hold the official levee and to discharge his other public duties. With these he was engaged without cessation from morning to night. On the 8th, he held the ordinary levee and examined an unusual number of despatches; the pen was never out of his hand and his mind was incessantly occupied devising this plan and that; and, in consequence of this excessive fatigue, the old trembling of the hands came on again. His medical adviser then informed him that only long rest and nutritive medicines could possibly restore him; but, notwithstanding this, he attended to his duties as usual the following day. On the 10th, observing how feeble he was, the memorialist earnestly entreated him to request a month's sick-leave, but he replied, "I have received much favour and have been entrusted with such important duties that, while I have breath left, I dare not think of my own ease or comfort, &c., &c." The whole of the following day, until late in the evening, he spent attending to public business. About 8 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, the memorialist went to see him and found him engaged with his ordinary duties. That afternoon, about 4 o'clock, while looking over the drafts of some despatches, with which work he had already been occupied for several hours, there were symptoms of his being about to have another stroke. His two eldest sons observing this, entreated him to lay down his pen and rest for a little while. He listened to their advice. But he still felt sufficiently strong to be able to walk alone; he had not walked, however, many steps when both legs suddenly became dead and powerless. He was at once assisted to his bed, from which he knew he should never rise again. He then dictated to his eldest son a memorial for transmission to the Throne after his death. He never uttered a single word about his domestic affairs. His last thoughts and words were alike occupied with the concerns of the Empire. That night at eight o'clock he breathed his last. The tidings of his death will be received with universal lamentations throughout the Two Kiang.

The memorialist observed, when looking through his wardrobe, that it did not contain a single new article, which is a sufficient proof of the severe economy which he practised in his home.

April 1st.—Chi-yuen is appointed chief minister of the Banqueting Court.

2.—Li-Hung-chang reports having appropriated an additional sum of Tls. 35,000 towards the repairs of the embankments of the Yungting. It was at first estimated that the entire cost of the repairs would amount to Tls. 370,000, but this sum was subsequently reduced to Tls. 260,000, it being understood that, if this were not sufficient, it should be supplemented. It is now manifest that a supplement of Tls. 35,000 will be necessary. He proposes to appropriate this amount from the Kiangsu Military Auxiliary Fund. The Kiangsu Maritime Customs (i.e. the Shanghai Customs) send monthly Tls. 30,000 towards the support of the Chihli troops and the repairs of the water-ways. As the latter is just now the more pressing, he would employ the fund for that purpose.

The Board of Works is directed to take note of the above.

April 2nd.—The Viceroy and the Lieut.-Governor of Hupeh report the trial of the district magistrate of Hanchuen, charged with having inflicted corporal punishment on a person having an official title. The prefect of Wuchang was appointed to hear the case. The written statement of the magistrate is that the plaintiff, Ma Fêng-jui, rushed into the Yamen in such an unceremonious way and conducted himself in such an unseemly manner that he (the magistrate) ordered him to be flogged, not knowing that he was a person of title. The plaintiff's statement is, that when he went to report a case of robbery at the Yamen, the magistrate allowed the underlings to abuse and insult him, and then, maliciously treating him as a member of the Society of Brothers, tortured and imprisoned him. This charge has not been confirmed by the evidence elicited during the trial. He has exaggerated a petty theft into a case of robbery. The Yamen un-

Merlings have also been examined in his presence, and all deny his statements; but he refuses to recant a sentence. His assertions, in the petitions which he forwarded to Peking, that he had appealed to all the local courts is also false; he did not do so till afterwards. He also talked so abusively in court about the officials screening each other and so forth, that the prefect of Wuchang sent to request that some one else should be appointed to conduct the trial; he could not do so. The plaintiff is evidently a low blackguard and deserves severe handling. Still, the magistrate, for having inflicted on him corporal punishment, even under extreme provocation, is certainly blameworthy. The memorialist therefore requests that he be deprived of rank and office and called into court to confront the plaintiff.

The memorial is approved.

3rd.—The commandant of Peking reported the burning of 29 Government houses. The fire originated in a ginger shop called Tien-ho.

(2) To-morrow, the Emperor will worship at the Fêng-hsien and Show-hwang temples. He will go through the Chien-ning Gate, &c., and will return by the same route. Everything must be readiness by 6.30 a.m.

(3) Ying-han, lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, requests permission to build a temple at Mêng-chêng in memory of the late Su I-chung, once magistrate of that district. When he was appointed magistrate of that district in 1859, the Miaotz were planning general rising. They had distributed themselves in companies in all directions, and had assembled a strong force in the neighbourhood of the district city, which they were particularly anxious to seize. They pretended to be in the Imperial service and were careful to conceal their real intentions. The magistrate, however, saw through their schemes, assembled the people and enkindled so much enthusiasm that they solemnly vowed to die rather than surrender. In 1861, when the Miaotz were besieging Show-chow, he pounced on a party of them in Mêng-chêng and decapita-

ted them. When this news reached the ears of the Miaotz, they vowed vengeance on Mêng-chêng and repeatedly tried to take the city; but Su Fu-chung was too many for them. Again, in 1863, when his term of office expired, he refused to leave the city till it was free from danger, and was always in the thickest of the fight. Afterwards, when provisions began to fail, he was deputed to Ying-chow and Show-chow to procure some. Unfortunately, the Miaotz heard of his intended journey and waylaid and killed him. The news of his death caused bitter lamentations in Mêng-chêng. Even to this day, the people point to his grave and say "Ah! but for him we should not be here." In consideration of his loyalty and heroism, the Throne is intreated to yield to the general desire, and allow the erection of a temple to his memory in Mêng-chêng, the scene of his devotion and bravery.

The request is granted.

(4) In another memorial, Ying-han begs the Throne to confer honours (i.e. allow the erection of a Triumphal Arch or something of that kind) on a young lady, who, when her betrothed husband died, went to his father's house, and, clasping his tablet in her arms, performed the marriage ceremony, wedding it as if it had been her betrothed himself, and solemnly declaring she would never marry any other.

The request is granted.

4th.—Prince Kung and his colleague Pao-yun, in view of the approaching Imperial marriage, report that it has been the custom to bestow some august title on the Empress or Empresses Dowager in October next.

(2) The Astronomical Board report that it has, as directed by Their Majesties, the Empresses Dowager, selected lucky days for the performance of the preliminary marriage ceremonies. *Na-tsai* or the ceremony of betrothal should take place on the 29th August, between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m., and the betrothal feast between 9 and 11 on the same morning. *Ta-chêng* (the ceremony of asking the bride to fix the wedding day and of making the wed-

ding presents) should be performed on the 19th September between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m. The Board has been guided in its selection by the Hsieh Chi pien fang **協紀辨方** and similar works. [The Hsieh chi pien fang is the authorized guide in divination.]

April 5th.—Liu Yo-chao, viceroy of Yunnan, begs that the honour of a memorial arch may be conferred on the mother of Wu chi-hsien, a district magistrate in Yunnan, in consideration of her brave and painful death. At the commencement of the Taiping rebellion in 1851, Wu chi-hsien's father, Wu Kiang, was magistrate of Yung-an in Kwangsi. That city, after a gallant defence, was taken by the rebels, but Wu Kiang disputed every inch of the way and fell fighting at the head of the officials, clerks and others whom he had gathered around him to make one final effort. The Throne has already ordered the erection of a memorial temple at Yung-an and at his native place, &c., &c., &c. It appears, however, that no particular mention was made of his wife, whose death was very sad and heroic. When the rebels broke into the Yamên she was on the point of committing suicide, but when she saw them, she assailed them with bitter invectives and urged her niece and female attendants to do the same. Exasperated by her conduct the rebels hacked her in pieces. The Yunnan office for searching out cases of loyalty and patriotism has reported the above, and the memorialist thinks that such an instance of womanly heroism should not be allowed to pass unnoticed and unrewarded. Will the Throne graciously permit the erection of a memorial and thus soothe the manes of the dead?

The request is granted.

(2) Chiao Sung-nien, Inspector-general of Rivers and Canals, recommends to the notice of the Throne the officials who inspected the repairs of the embankments of the Yellow river last year.

6th and 7th.—An edict is issued giving permission to bestow a posthumous title

on Wên-chêng, late prefect of Hwei-chow in Kwangtung, who was killed in a very barbarous manner at Chia-ying in the year 1859.

(2)—Kwo Po-yin, lieutenant-governor of Hupeh, reports that a district magistrate named Ting Chêng-wên, holding the literary degree of *Chiu-shih* (L.L.D.), believing himself incompetent for the duties of a magistrate, begs to be allowed to become an officer of instruction. The law provides that a district magistrate holding the degree of *Chai-jên* or *Chin-shih*, who may feel himself unfit for governing, may give notice of the same to the Board of Civil Office through the viceroy or lieutenant-governor of his province, when he will receive an appointment as an officer of instruction. The magistrate in question is a native of Kiangse; is 43 years of age, and took his M.A. degree in 1855 and his L.L.D. in 1865.

(3)—Ying-kwei, acting lieutenant-governor of Shensi, states that Sub-prefect Chao Lü-hsiang, who was deprived of his button and peacock's feather for having misappropriated (or embezzled) Tls. 921, has repaid the full amount, and begs that his button etc., may be returned to him.

The request is granted.

8th.—The Board for Controlling the Household reported the arrival of sables from Kirin for the Imperial wardrobe.

(2) Chiao Sung-nien, the inspector-general of rivers and canals, begs the Throne to confer honours on the officials who managed the rice transport last year. They had unusual difficulties to contend with on account of the shallowness of the canals, and had to work early and late.

9th.—Chien Ting-ming, the newly-appointed lieutenant-governor of Honan, had an audience of H. Majesty.

(2) The Chief Resident and Amban at Kurun (Urga) petition the Throne to confer honours on those officers who distinguished themselves in the campaign against the Mahometan insurgents last Autumn. It is to their exertions and bravery that Urga owes its safety.

10th.—Imperial Edict. Ting Pao-chêng, lieut.-governor of Shantung, reports that the slip in the embankment of the Yellow River at How-chia-lin has been repaired, and begs some recognition of the services of the officials concerned in the work. It is with very great delight that H. Majesty learns the completion of this most important work, and great credit is due to Ting Pao-chêng for the zeal and ability he has displayed. The whole job has been accomplished in the wonderfully short space of less than two months. The Board is therefore directed to consider his important services and liberally reward them, also the services of the treasurer, the criminal judge, intendant &c., &c. [The list contains the names of about 30 officials, civil and military].

(2) The city of Jui-tê (Shensi) having been several times captured by the rebels, the Walls are in a very dilapidated condition and need immediate repair. A subscription list has been started for that purpose, and has been headed by the district magistrate with a subscription of Tls. 2,000. For this liberal and timely help, the acting lieut.-governor begs he may be suitably rewarded by-and-by, when the repairs are completed. Meanwhile let this act of liberality be recorded in his favour.

The Board of Words is ordered to take note of it.

(3) All the official seals of the Ninghsia prefecture (Kansu) having been destroyed by the Mahometan rebels, the viceroy requests that the Board may be directed to send new sets. As a temporary shift wooden ones are being used.

11th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the lieut.-governor of Kwangsi reporting the destruction of a band of Yüeh-nan (Cochin China) brigands, and recommending to the notice of the Throne the officers who distinguished themselves in the engagement. After the destruction of the Pai-ah-san bandits, the troops were ordered to commence operations against those at Sz-li-su-chieh in the Tai-ping department. The attack was made in two columns, and the brigands'

stronghold was taken. They then fled to Tso-lan, where the precipitous character of the country greatly favoured them; but they were attacked by the troops and defeated with great slaughter; in fact, utterly annihilated. These successful operations certainly entitle those concerned to some consideration. [Here follows a long list of officials, who are decorated with brevets, peacocks' feathers &c. An ensign who was killed will be suitably honoured by the Board of War.]

(2) Chang Ting-yo and Ah-erh-ta-shi-ha, the Residents at Kurun or Urga, urge the Throne to confer honours on the leading military officers who distinguished themselves in the defence of Kurun last autumn, when it was threatened by the Mahometan rebels.

12th.—Imperial edict. Tsêng Pi-kwang, lieut.-governor of Kweichow, and Chow Ta-wu, commander-in-chief of the provincial forces, report the extermination of the Mahometan rebels in the An-nan district and the retaking of Chêng-fêng chow. Between the rebels occupying Hsing-i fu and those occupying Chêng-fêng chow, there has always existed a close defensive and offensive alliance, and as the An-nan district is situated between these places it was completely over-run with rebels. In the latter part of November, General Ho Shih-hwa attacked one of their stockades with such vigour that the rebel leader, terror-stricken, implored permission to swear allegiance to the Throne, promising in return for such favour, to act as guide to the Imperial troops. Under his guidance lots of fortifications were taken, and among a host of others of less note the rebel generalissimo—so-called—was made prisoner and beheaded. In short, not a rebel was left in the district. On the 29th December, taking advantage of his recent victories, General Ho Shih-hwa marched on Chêng-fêng. Having killed every rebel outside of the walls, a simultaneous attack was made at night on different parts of the city, which was taken and every rebel in it killed. Not one escaped. The troops, as may be seen from the

foregoing, have fought bravely. The memorialists must use every possible means to re-capture Hsing-i-fu and thus tranquillize the border. All the officers who took part in the campaign are decorated with titles, peacocks' feathers &c. The two rebel leaders who gave in their allegiance are made brevet-captains with a lieutenant's appointment. Their names, which savoured strongly of their revolutionary proclivities, are changed into more loyal ones.

(2)—An additional grant of 200 piculs of grain and 400 taels is made to the Pu-chi Charity, for distribution among the poor. As the spring crops cannot be gathered for some time yet, the soup-kitchens connected with this Charity must be kept open for two months longer.

(3)—Yew Chih-kai is appointed prefect of Yung-ping, Chihli.

13th.—An edict is issued degrading the superintendent of police of the So district, Shansi, for having allowed the escape of a prisoner from the jail. The lieut.-governor is also ordered to have him arrested and tried, in order to ascertain whether the escape was due to bribery or not. The Chih-hsien states that he was absent on public duty at the time in question; but this is at least doubtful. The lieutenant-governor must ascertain whether it is true or not. If the criminal is not caught within a given time, all concerned must be reported to the Throne for punishment.

(2)—Ho Ching, lieut.-governor of Kiangsu, reports having despatched the first instalment of last Autumn's tribute rice. On account of the small number of sea-going junks in Kiangsu and Chekiang as compared with former years, it is now impossible to send the rice in one batch. The same junks have to make two or more trips. The flotilla, consisting of 190 junks and carrying 342,720 piculs of rice, started from Shanghai on the 10th March. The steamer (or steamers) belonging to the "Shanghai office for the prevention of piracy," being only suitable for cruising on the inner waters, orders were sent to the superintendent of the Arsenal to despatch one of its steamers to act as convoy

to the flotilla from Chung-ming to Tientsin. This memorial has been sent by courier travelling 500 li per diem.

(3)—Some time ago the Viceroy of the Two Kwang reported that Sung Hsi-kêng, when giving over charge of the Chin-ning magistracy, was defaulter to the amount of Tls. 6,200. His button was in consequence taken from him, and orders were given that he must pay the deficit within a certain time. This order he has not yet complied with, but on the contrary has put forward all sorts of excuses. The Throne is requested to temporarily suspend him from office and order payment within two weeks, on pain of severe punishment. The magistrate of Tien-pai, who was also a defaulter, is still owing Tls. 1,200. The memorialist asks that he may be stripped of his button and given two months to pay the debt, failing which, to be arrested and committed for trial.

The memorial is entirely approved of.

4th.—Permission is given to keep open the 15 soup-kitchens now existing in Peking, for two months beyond the usual period. Until the spring crops have been gathered, the distress among the poor will be very great.

(2)—Mutushan, military governor of the Amoor, begs the Throne to confer a red button (the highest rank) on Lt.-General Changming, in reward for his many services. He is the terror of the insurgents in that quarter, whom he has slaughtered in great numbers. He has more claim to H. Majesty's notice than perhaps any other officer.

The request is granted.

15th.—Tso Tsung-tang, viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, asks permission to change the residence of the intendant of the Pingliang Chingyang and Chingchow circuit from Kuyuen to Pingliang. The tranquillity of this circuit is of the very first importance, should any outbreak occur in the interior of Kansu; for being situated on the east side of the province and contiguous with the Shensi border, it would be a barrier between the rebels and the latter province, and at the same time serve as a commis-

ariat depot. It is equally important in a commercial point of view. The great caravan roads to Lanchow in the west and Tupan in the north, both pass through Pingliang-fu. This city is, therefore, the proper place for the intendant's residence. It used to be so long years ago, but was subsequently, no one knows when, removed to Kuyuen. This is also a place of great importance, but as it is the official residence of the commander-in-chief of the Shensi forces, there is no need of a Taotai there also. Pingliang is more central and far more conveniently situated, being 200 li from Kuyuen and 200 from the Shensi border. This is a favorable time for making the proposed change. Every yamên in Kuyuen and Pingliang has been burned by the rebels, and it will be necessary to rebuild them without delay. The Taotai's yamên had therefore better be built at the latter place.

The proposed change is approved, and the Board of Civil Office ordered to take note of it.

(2)—In another memorial, Tso Tsung-tang reports the erection of an examination Hall at Chingchow. The building contains in all seventy-four rooms and cost \$4,000. Hitherto Chingchow has had no Examination Hall, the literary examinations having been held at Pingliang. The expense of the present structure having been defrayed by the people, there is no occasion for a detailed statement of accounts. It is now twelve years since the last examination was held, and it is proposed that the number of successful candidates at the next examination shall be equal to that allowed for three examinations, and a similar plan will be followed at subsequent examinations until the number of literary graduates has been filled up.

16th.—General Tê-ying having requested the Throne to confer a flowered peacock's feather on two of his subordinates, in consideration of their valuable services in connection with the Commissariat, the Board of War advised the Throne to refuse the request, on the ground that the ser-

vices which these officers had rendered were of a very ordinary kind, and that they were not entitled to such distinction. They had fought no battle and slain no foe. The request was therefore refused, and the memorialist was ordered to ask some other honours for the officers in question. Subsequently, however, one of them was promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General. In view of this, the memorialist would ask that the other may receive a similar appointment as soon as a vacancy occurs.

(2)—The lieut.-governor of Shansi begs the Throne to confer honors on three officials who were specially deputed some two years ago to put a stop to the private manufacture and sale of salt at Putan in the prefecture of Chao-pu. The soil in that locality is so impregnated with salt, that thin layers are formed by evaporation on the surface. This salt the people were in the habit of gathering and disposing of for their own benefit. They also collected the brine, which oozed out in different places, and manufactured it into salt by exposing it to the sun. The result was a very serious loss to the Government, and officials were consequently sent to reside in that neighbourhood with a view to prevent these abuses; and in order to incite them to greater diligence, they were told that if they discharge their duties satisfactorily they would be suitably rewarded.

The memorial is approved.

17th.—[To-day's *Gazette* is entirely occupied with memorials from Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, regarding some trivial matters connected with that province.]

18th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the viceroy of Kansu, requesting the dismissal and arrest of a Taotai named Tow Hsing. This official, while acting intendant of the Ansi and Su circuit, was wholly guided in the administration of affairs by a Mahometan rebel called Ma-sz. He also allowed a set of local rowdies to compel him to disband the Militia corps, the members of which then joined the Mahometans. He also distributed public money among the rebels. Such

conduct as this is perverse and wicked in the extreme. Let him be dismissed instantly and committed for trial. Tso Tsung-tang must subject him to a most searching examination, and pass sentence on him according to law; which done, a report thereon must be forwarded to the Throne. The rest of the memorial is approved.

(2) The viceroy and lieut.-governor of Hupeh report the arrest of five persons of official rank, charged with having fabricated false reports and otherwise misconducted themselves, and requests that they may be stripped of their buttons in order to facilitate their examination (*i.e.*, to allow of their appearing in court as ordinary criminals and of their being examined by torture, if necessary.) A short time ago, one of the party, a petty official named Ma Fêng-jui, charged the magistrate of Han-chuen (see *Gazette* of 2nd April) with having inflicted corporal punishment on him. But, before the case had been tried in the Civil Courts, he sent an appeal to the capital containing all sorts of outrageous falsehoods, and, it appears from letters which have been seized, and from the evidence which has been elicited, that a second appeal has been despatched. These appeals have been intrusted to a director in the Board of Revenue, named Ma Pei-tung, who has managed to get them forwarded to the proper quarter. Now, however, it has been discovered that this Ma Fêng-jui and three others have been giving themselves out as empowered to sell vacancies on behalf of the provincial treasurer. He and one of his accomplices, an expectant chih-hsien called Pao-Fêng-wên, have confessed their guilt. It has also been discovered that three other persons, having official rank, are in league with them, one of whom is a retail tea dealer in Wuchang. But all attempts to elicit from them who originated the scheme, how much money they have obtained, and who their other accomplices are, have failed. As a preliminary step, therefore, they should all be stripped of their rank in order to facilitate their examination. A reward has

been offered for the apprehension of one of the party who has made his escape.

19th.—Imperial edict. Sometime ago, Chang Ting-yo amban at Kurun (Urga,) and his colleague Ah-êrh-ta-shi-ta accused General Ta-êrh-chi of having allowed the escape of certain rebels who had been surrounded by the Imperial troops, and accused Beg Wa-chi-êrh of having stooped to solicit their submission. In consequence of these charges, Ta-êrh-chi was dismissed and placed under arrest and ordered to be tried before Kwei-chang and three other officials. Beg Wa-chi-êrh was deprived of his command and ordered to appear before the above-mentioned officers for examination. The report of Kwei-chang and his colleagues, stating the results of their investigation, has been laid before the Throne. It appears that, last October, General Ta-êrh-chi drove the rebels to Pi-liu-tu where he completely hemmed them in; but instead of immediately attacking and exterminating them, as he should have done, he lent an easy ear to their proposals for submission, and the result was that one night they made their escape. For this piece of blundering, he certainly deserves to be punished; but in consideration of his past services against the rebels, punishment is remitted. His button, of which he was stripped sometime ago as stated above, will not be restored to him for the present; but in order to give him an opportunity of redeeming the past, he is placed in command of the Chahar cavalry and sent to operate against the rebels. The conduct of Earl Chimotôtoêrchi and Beg Wachîêrh is simply abominable. Having through carelessness, allowed the rebels to escape through their lines, they fabricated a specious story in order to screen themselves and hush matters up. In consideration, however, of their services against the rebels at Kurun, their sentence is commuted to loss of rank and detention in the camp till they have made some atonement for the past. The amban at Kurun, Chang Ting-yo, and his colleague Aherhtashihta also acted very improperly in reporting to the Throne the one-sided representations

of their subordinates, without having previously ascertained their correctness. They are therefore handed over to the Board to be dealt with according to their deserts. The rebel prisoners mentioned in the memorial must be dealt with by Kweichang and his colleagues.

20th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the acting Lieut-Governor of Shensi, requesting the degradation and permanent dismissal of a district magistrate on account of his fraudulent practices. This official, while magistrate of Ching-tien, having control of the militia corps of the district, consisting of 500 men, reduced the number just as he liked. When the intendant sent an official to call for the muster-roll, he (the magistrate) had a lot of persons to act militia-men for the occasion, but even then the whole corps only numbered 180. The pay of the corps the magistrate himself had appropriated. But this is not his only offence. He has also invited prostitutes to the place, employed illegal tortures, and established a mint on his own account. He is therefore degraded and dismissed for ever from the Imperial service. The Lieut-Governor is also ordered to have him brought to the provincial capital, and compel him to refund the money he has embezzled, and also to punish him with the utmost severity as a warning against official corruption.

—The Censorate lays before the Throne a petition from Li Hsio-hsüan and other sons of title, belonging to Chiaying in Szechuan, praying that a posthumous title may be conferred on Wên-chêng, late magistrate of that department. In 1853 he crushed every attempted rebellion of local malcontents and saved other places the three districts of Ningning, Changlo and Lungchuen. In 1854 he was made prefect of Hweichow, the people of Chiaying entreated that he might be allowed to remain at the latter place. Also in 1859, when the Taipings attacked Chiaying he defended it with such success that several hundreds of the rebels were killed. After having been besieged

for ten days, a portion of the wall was blown up, and the rebels entered the city. Wên-chêng continued the fight in the streets, and slew with his sword numbers of rebels, and he himself was literally covered with wounds, but he could not maintain such an unequal contest long. He was killed, and the rebels in revenge threw his body into the river. Four days afterwards he was fished out, and he looked just as if he were alive. His concubines and slaves died at the same time. The Throne has already been pleased to deify him the honours due to a Taotai who dies in battle, and to order the erection of a Temple to his memory in Chiaying. The petitioners pray that a posthumous title may also be conferred on him, as has already been done in several similar cases.

21st.—The Lieut-Governor of Chekiang reports having despatched the first instalments of last year's tribute-rice from Hangchow, Huchow and Chiahsing. The total amount due is 420,000 piculs which will be sent north in three lots. The rice, which is of the very best quality, was forwarded to Shanghai for trans-shipment to the sea-junks. The first instalment of 188,000 piculs, just filling 87 junks, will leave Shanghai on the 10th March. [The memorial was written before the departure of junks.]

22nd and 23rd.—Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, reports the completion of the embankment of the Yellow River at How-chia-lin. The memorialist has superintended the work in person, and in accordance with H. Majesty's wish, every effort has been made to hasten its completion. The workmen have been kept hard at their tasks, night and day. On account of a bend in the river which greatly interrupted its flow, it was found necessary to cut a channel through the bend to carry off a portion of the water in a direct course and thus break the force of the current. The whole has been completed in the incredibly short period of 25 days. The memorialist is amazed at the rapidity with which the work has been carried on; such speed would have seemed

impossible to him even in his dreams. The success is all due to H. Majesty's wise instructions, trusting to whom is like trusting to Heaven and the Gods. The memorialist would specially recommend to the notice of the Throne the provincial treasurer and criminal judge who have provided the necessary funds, amounting to many myriads of taels, for carrying out the above work. Honours are also requested for over thirty other officials who in some way or another rendered assistance.

[The Imperial edict regarding the above appeared in the *Gazette* of the 10th April.]

24th.—In a supplementary memorial, Ting Pao-chêng requests the Throne to reward Captain Liu Ching for his services in connection with the cutting of a new channel through a bend in the Yellow River. In order to break the force of the current and to carry off the waters of the Paili, it was found necessary to cut a new channel about 2½ li in length, through the above bend. But the cost of such an undertaking appeared so enormous, that the memorialist was sorely perplexed to know what to do. The several officials he consulted, estimated that it would take over Tls. 120,000, and if required to be finished within a month, need more than 20,000 men. In his perplexity he sent for Captain Liu Ching, an experienced engineer, who undertook that the whole should not cost more than about Tls. 40,000; and that, if allowed 6,000 men, he would finish it in 20 days. The difference between this estimate and the others was so great, that the memorialist thought Captain Liu must have made some mistake in his calculations, and therefore requested him to make another survey. He did so and re-affirmed the correctness of his estimate. Still the memorialist felt doubtful, and was apprehensive lest the work would not be properly done; but Captain Liu expressed himself perfectly willing to be responsible for any failure or any mishap which might occur. Though an old man upwards of seventy, he superintended the work in person night and day, and has executed it most satisfactorily; it could not have been

better. Although he had retired from active service on account of his advanced age, he willingly came forward to assist when called on. By his superior management he has saved the public exchequer Tls. 80,000 and the work of over 10,000 men. Too much cannot be said in his praise. The Throne is therefore requested to confer on him a flowered peacock's feather, and make him a present of Tls. 500 to render him a little more comfortable in his old age.

25th.—Imperial edict. The late grand secretary Juichang was a man of unblemished character, great experience and matured wisdom. Under previous Emperors he gradually rose in office, having started as a doctor of the Hanlin, and reaching the rank of president of one of the Boards. He also held several high civil appointments. Under the present reign he was made a grand secretary and head of the "Board for controlling the affairs of the household." He also held the office of president of the Board of Punishments, and captain general of the Manchu Blue Banner. In each of these capacities he acted for years, and always discharged his duties with untiring zeal. A short time ago, feeling a little indisposed, he was allowed leave of absence, and it was H. Majesty's hope and expectation that he would soon be well again, and that he would long live to be a support to the Throne. The tidings of his death have caused the most profound grief. A *tolu* pall is decreed, which will be borne to his residence by Prince Fow and ten men of the Imperial body guard, who will also at the same time pour out a libation before him. The deceased is appointed guardian to the Emperor, and the honours due to a grand secretary are to be paid to him. His tablet is to be placed in the "Temple of the Wise and Good," and any entry which may stand against him in the official register is to be erased. His son, who is an under secretary or clerk in the Board of Rites, will be raised to the rank of *lang-chung* in the same Board, as soon as his period of mourning is over. These rewards

are granted that all may know how tenderly an old servant is remembered by the Throne.

2.—The lieut.-governor of Shansi reports the escape of a condemned criminal from the So-chow district prison. The extraordinary carelessness displayed by the inspector of police suggests the suspicion that he was bribed to allow the escape; orders have therefore been sent to the criminal judge to have him and his subordinates brought to the provincial capital to await their trial. The memorialist requests an Imperial Mandate depriving the inspector of his rank, and ordering his arrest and trial. The district magistrate reports that he was absent on public business when the escape took place; but there is one circumstance which throws discredit on this statement. It was not till ten days after the escape, that he reported it to his superiors or took any steps to investigate the matter, and this certainly looks as if his absence was subsequent to the escape, not prior to it.

[The edict regarding the above appeared in the *Gazette* of the 13th April.]

26th.—Kwai Ho-sun, the new criminal judge of Chekiang, reports his arrival at his post and his assumption of office.

2.—Fukwan, inspector of the central division of Peking, and his colleagues, petition the Throne to permit the public soup kitchens to be kept open two months beyond the usual time, and to order the Board of Revenue to continue for that period the usual allowance of rice, fuel and money. In consequence of the floods last year, food is so dear that poor people cannot purchase it; the distress prevailing among them is something terrible. In the five divisions of the city there are in all 5 kitchens, at each of which from 700 to 1,000 persons are daily fed. No material diminution of the distress can take place till after the gathering of the early wheat crop.

[An edict was issued on the 14th April granting the above request.]

27th.—The master of the ceremonies requests the Throne to appoint certain officials to sacrifice to the City God on the

30th April, and to appoint others to sacrifice to the wind, clouds, lightning and rain.

2.—On the 29th and 30th, a theatrical entertainment will be given in the Ningshow Palace. The Princes and Ministers invited have their places allotted them.

3.—The lieut.-governor of Yunnan begs that the triennial report on the character of the various officials may be deferred until the province has been restored to greater order. This is the sixth time a similar request has been made. In 1856, 1859, 1862, 1865 and 1868 the disturbed state of the province rendered it necessary to postpone the great report. At present, although the eastern part of the province has been tranquillized, the west and south are still in a state of anarchy, and it is impossible for the officials of these districts to be at their posts. Such cities as are under Imperial sway have, for the most part, been only recently retaken, and the granaries and treasuries are consequently empty, the people few, and the taxes uncollected. Under these circumstances a report on the character of each official is impossible; the memorialist therefore begs that it may be deferred until peace and order have been restored throughout the province. Meanwhile he will not be slack to note the conduct of the officials, or to report such as are incapable or unworthy. The request is granted.

28th.—The theatricals in the Ningshow Palace will commence to-morrow at 8 a.m. The Emperor will take his seat at that hour.

(2) The lieut.-governor of Shansi, in reply to the Board of Revenue, points out that the Board is mistaken as to the amount annually payable to the government on account of the land and capital tax. The gross annual receipts from this source are Taels 3,025,676.10, but of this sum Taels 378,514 are retained by the several district magistrates for local purposes, leaving Taels 2,647,161.90 for the government. The receipts for the latter half of 1870, the period now in question, were reported as Taels 1,429,269.40, which is over, not under the proper amount. He, therefore, requests the Throne to order

the Board to correct its mistake, and repeats the request of the former governor, that honours be conferred on the officials mentioned in the previous memorial.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to consider the above, and report.

29th.—To-morrow, at 5 a.m., the Emperor will worship at the Takao Temple, and subsequently at the Show Hwang Temple.

(2) At 7 a.m. His Majesty will receive the congratulations of the Court in the Chen-ching Palace (on the occasion of the anniversary of his birth-day. He was born on the 23rd day of the 3rd moon of the reign Hsien-fêng, or 27th April 1856; he is therefore 16 years of age).

(3) At 8.30 a.m., His Majesty will go to the Ningshow Palace to see the play.

(4) The lieut.-governor of Shansi reports that the district magistrate of Pinglee has discovered that his paternal home is within the proscribed distance of 500 *li*, and requests that he may be allowed to exchange posts with the magistrate of Wuhsiang. The distance from his native place, Chaoyi in Shensi, to Pinglee in Shansi, is only 370 *li*, whereas the law provides that no magistrate shall hold office within 500 *li* of his paternal home.

30th.—Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chih-li, begs the Throne to confer honours on the officials who distributed the relief fund during the drought of 1869. The drought was severest in the Takwang prefecture, and at the request of the late viceroy Tsêng Kwo-fan, permission was given to appropriate Taels 115,000 for distribution among the sufferers. The officials concerned discharged their important duties with fidelity and zeal. Every farthing reached the parties for whom it was intended; a fact which is known to every woman and child in the prefecture. The request is granted.

(2) The literary chancellor of Shantung reports having completed the literary and military examinations of that province. In literary excellence Ichow stands first, and Chi-nan, Tai-an and Chi-ning come next in order. In a military point of view,

Tao chow carries off the palm, and Tui-chow and Tung chang stand next.

May 1st.—The lieut. governor of Hunan reports that the newly appointed acting treasurer has discovered that he has a brother and a cousin among the officials of that province. The law provides that if a treasurer or criminal judge have relations among his subordinates, such relations must be transferred to another province. It is further provided that, if these officials are serving in one of two provinces governed by the same viceroy, they shall be transferred from one province to the other; or in case such officials may have purchased the privilege of choosing in which province they will serve, they shall be allowed to exercise such privilege. In the present instance the treasurer's brother comes under the former head and should therefore be transferred to Hupeh, his cousin under the latter head, and he has chosen Szechuen.

The Board of Civil Office is directed to take note of the above.

2nd.—Tuhsingah, military governor of Shêng-king, begs to be allowed to retire, at least temporarily, from office, on account of ill-health. A short time ago when he preferred a similar request, His Majesty was graciously pleased to grant him two months' sick-leave. Rest and the physician's skill have done him a great deal of good, but he is still far from well. In the 4th moon of the present year he will have completed his six years term of office, and will be required to present himself before the Throne. He intreats to be allowed a temporary rest, and that his visit to the capital may be deferred for the present. It is not indolence which prompts him to make this request. He has received so many favours that, while one breath remains, he shall feel constrained to serve his Imperial master. But he is in such feeble health just now that he cannot possibly discharge his onerous duties, and any attempt to remain at his post must end in disaster.

He is granted two months' leave, and

allowed to postpone his visit to Peking for the present.

3rd.—Wang Wên-shao, acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan, advises the amalgamation of the different Boards for the sale of office and titles, now existing in that province, in order to save expense and establish a uniform scale of charges. On the 23rd January the Grand Council received the following edict: "Li Han-chang states that the existence of so many office-selling Boards in the provincial capital of Hunan, each having its own rules and scale of charges, is a political blunder, destructive of the fundamental principles of government, and urges that some scheme be devised for combining them. Let Wang Wên-shao, after having thoroughly investigated all the circumstances of the case, draw up some plan and report to the Throne." The memorialist has consulted the officials in charge of these offices, on the subject, and from them he learns that the first office was established in 1852, when purchasers were required to make their payments in silver. The following year, the Throne was requested to allow payments to be made either in sycee or in cash. In 1855 permission was asked and obtained to fix the value of the tael at 1600 copper cash, which was subsequently, in 1861, reduced to 1,200. Then again in 1866 in order to raise supplies for the Hunan troops fighting in Kweichow, payment in rice was accepted. But the income from this source proving insufficient, office-sellers were sent to Fukien to see what they could do there. This is a brief history of office-selling in Hunan. The receipts have dwindled away to almost nothing, and the support of the Hunan auxiliary force is mainly derived from sales effected in Fukien, Shanghai and Canton. The Hunan troops in Kweichow are fighting very successfully, but both they and the local militia wholly depend for their supplies on the proceeds of these sales. However desirable therefore it may be to stop this drain on the resources of a province so miserably poor and exhausted as Hunan, it cannot be done at present.

What he would recommend is the amalgamation of all the offices in one, and thus save the enormous outlay now going on. And further let no pressure whatever be brought to bear on the people, but let it be left entirely to themselves whether they will invest or not.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to report.

(2). In a supplementary memorial Wang Wên-shao refers to a memorial from Tsêng Pi-kwang, a copy of which has been forwarded to him by the Privy Council. In that memorial Tsêng Pi-kwang begs that the Hunan office-sellers established in Kwangtung may be recalled, and that the province may be left entirely in the hands of the Kweichow office-sellers. By way of compensating Hunan for this loss, he proposes to divide the profits of the Kweichow office now existing in Hunan, between the two provinces. The maintenance of a Kweichow and a Hunan office in Kwangtung for the same purpose, is not only unnecessary but occasions mutual rivalry with its concomitant abuses. These latter remarks, the memorialist fully endorses; and he has already sent orders to the Hunan office-sellers in Kwangtung to stop operations. But he does not see the good of dividing the profits of the Hunan-Kweichow Office in the way proposed; they are so small that, if divided, neither province would derive any appreciable benefit. He would therefore suggest that the existing Kweichow Office be closed, and that Hunan be left to control its own office. This he is persuaded would be a mutual benefit. Hunan will give up whatever offices it may have established in Kwangtung, Fukien and Shanghai, and leave those provinces to Kweichow, if the latter will withdraw from Hunan.

4th.—Tsêng Pi-kwang, Lieut.-Governor of Kweichow requests that, in view of the enormous outlay required in order to resuscitate those places which have been recovered from the rebels, he may be allowed to send office-sellers to Kwangsi to try to raise money.

(2). Liu Chang-yew, lieut.-governor of

Kwangsi reports seven district Magistrates as having either embezzled or misapplied public funds, and requests that they may be stripped of their buttons and ordered to repay within two months, on pain of further proceedings being taken against them.

The lieut. governor is directed to do as he requests.

5th.—Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, reports the suicide of Assistant sub-prefect Ting-chao-yuen. Deceased was a native of Wuchin in Kiangsu. Having commenced his career as a *chien shêng*, bachelor by grace or purchase, he bought the rank of assistant sub-prefect with privilege to choose the province in which he would serve. On the 1st March, 1872, he commenced his duties at Yang-tsun, and one of the first things which required his attention was the rice transports. It was his duty to send these to Tientsin, to be overhauled and put in order for transshipping the tribute rice as it arrived by the junks. But the boats having been scattered hither and thither by the floods last year, and many being frozen in, the deceased feared they would not reach Tientsin in time, in which case he would have been severely reprimanded. The subject so preyed on his mind that he committed suicide. On the morning of the 16th March he was found hanging in his room dead.

(2). The viceroy of Kansu reports the capture of one of the two men who headed the rising in Liangchow in 1870. It will be remembered that the officer in charge of the garrison fled at the first alarm of insurrection, and then cut his throat in order to escape the punishment which his cowardice would have brought on him. It will also be remembered that an edict was issued, directing that every possible effort should be made to capture the two leaders. Hitherto they have completely baffled pursuit, but recently information was received that one of them, called Chiao Tê-lu, with two of his companions, were in a certain lodging house; and a body of troops was sent to capture them. The place was surrounded and, after a severe fight, during

which one officer was killed and two badly wounded, they were overpowered and killed. The viceroy begs that the Board be ordered to reward handsomely the several officers concerned.

The request is granted.

6th.—Imperial edict. Sometime ago, Censor Ichang having brought a charge of extortion &c., against Sung Pêng-show, district magistrate of Chi-chow in Chihli, Li Hung-chang was ordered to investigate the several charges and report to the throne. The viceroy's report has been received. He can find no proof of Sung Pêng-chow having practised extortion, allowed his underlings too much influence, received bribes, caused disturbances, or concealed from his superiors the failure of the crops in that district. But he finds that the magistrate was urged on by one of his underlings to demand from the tax-collectors a statement of their accounts, and that he carelessly allowed one of the underlings who had been dismissed, to get back into the Yamên again. It is also true that he did not report, as it was his duty to do, that the failure of the harvest at Pan-pi-chieh and other places was not such as to require a remission of the usual taxes. He is therefore handed over to the Board (of civil office) to be dealt with. All the others concerned in this case must be dealt with by the Board of punishments. Respect this. [For further details of this case see *Gazettes* of 9th and 20th March.]

(2) The acting viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang recommends Li Tung-shêng as Major-general of the central division of the viceroy's troops. This is one of the most important and difficult posts in the two provinces, and should be held by a thoroughly competent man. The officer recommended, though not entitled to the post by seniority &c., is undoubtedly the best qualified for it. Those having priority of claim are all more or less unsuitable, and should therefore be set aside. Li Tung-shêng, the officer recommended, is a native of Chang-sha in Hunan, and is 35 years of age. He took a prominent part against the rebels (Taipings) in Kwangsi, Kiangsi and

several other provinces, was foremost at the taking of many cities, and won for himself great renown. He is at present acting major-general of the viceroy's troops, and the Throne is earnestly requested to confirm him in that appointment.

The Board of War is ordered to consider the recommendation and report.

7th.—Li Hung-chang having reported the escape of a criminal from the Ansu district prison, an edict is issued cashiering the inspector of police and ordering his arrest. The viceroy, Li Hung-chang, is directed to subject him and his subordinates to a searching examination, with a view to discover whether he was bribed to facilitate the escape, or not, and to pronounce sentence on him accordingly. Li Hung-chang must also order the district magistrate to recapture the escaped criminal within a given time, on pain of being impeached to the Throne in case of failure. The rest of the memorial is approved, and may be put in operation.

(2) The Kwangtung salt commissioner reports having taken over the seals of the criminal judge, in which capacity he has been appointed to act *pro tem*. He gives a brief sketch of the several steps by which he has risen in office, and thanks the Emperor for his many favours.

(3) The lieut.-governor of Shantung reports the death of the prefect of Lin-ching, and notifies that the magistrate of Lanshan has been appointed acting prefect.

8th.—Chiao Sung-nien, inspector-general of rivers and canals, and Li Ho-nien, lieut.-governor of Honan (recently appointed viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang), unite in a memorial recommending Liu Kwan-kwang, magistrate of Hsiang-fu, as sub-prefect for Hwangchin in the Hwai-ching prefecture.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

(2) Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, reports having handed over the seals of office to Kwei-yü, the new general of the Manchu garrison at Chêngtu, who arrived at the provincial capital on the twelfth of last month.

(3) In a supplementary memorial, Wu Tang states that he cannot make the triennial tour of inspection through the province just now, but hopes to be able to do so very shortly. Last year, having to act as general of the Manchu garrison, in addition to his duties as viceroy, he asked permission to postpone the tour until after the arrival of the Manchu general. That officer has now arrived and taken over the seals of office; the memorialist ought therefore to commence the tour immediately, but he is busily engaged just now, distributing relief among those whom the failure of the crops last year has left destitute. Distress has made the people turbulent, and in order to provide against any possible disturbance, he has had the ten battalions well drilled and put in trim. Such grain as is in the public granaries is being distributed, and officials have been sent to Kwei-chow to buy more. As soon as he has put things in a satisfactory state, he will start on his tour of inspection.

9th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Hung-chang, reporting the completion of the repairs of the Yung-ting embankment, and requesting honours for those officials who specially distinguished themselves in connection with that work. Last year the Yung-ting broke its embankments in two different places, and Li Hung-chang ordered the river officials to devise the ways and means, and set about the work of the repair at once. By working night and day, they have succeeded in completing the repairs within the period formerly fixed, and their exertions certainly merit some recognition. Chu-kai, intendant of the Taming, Shuntê and Kwang-ping circuit is handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be rewarded in the most liberal manner which the law will allow; Expectant Prefect Hsü Pên-hêng, as soon as he has received an appointment as prefect, will have effective rank as Tao-tai, he is also given a flowered peacock's feather. Seven other officials are similarly rewarded, and five, who had been degraded, are restored to their former rank.

(2) Yang Chang-sun, lieut.-governor of

Chekiang, contends that the estimate which he sent of the probable cost of repairing the sea-wall was not, as represented by the Board of Works, an incorrect and extravagant one. The depth of the water and the strength of the current in several places, as well as other circumstances, greatly enhance the cost of the work. The estimate is not an excessive one, and he begs the Throne to direct the Board to accept it and allow the work to be proceeded with. The memorial is approved, and the Board of Works is ordered to take note of it.

(3) In another memorial, Yang Chang-sun reports having received a despatch from the general of the Manchu garrison at Hangchow, stating that the wall surrounding the Tartar quarters, being built of mud, will soon be in ruins unless plastered over and whitewashed. The wells containing drinkable water are also so few that the chief supply has always been got from the river (or canal), but the creek supplying the city has silted up and the bankshave fallen in, so that it is necessary to have it cleaned out and put in order. The bridge also over the canal having been destroyed by the rebels, should be restored. It is also proposed to build five additional compartments to the yamen of the Lt.-general. The cost of the whole is estimated at 156,310,486 *cash* (about Tls. 9,769.56). The memorialist finds that expenses incurred by such works as the foregoing have hitherto been defrayed from the surplus fund of the rice exchange, and he has ordered the provincial treasurer to pay the amount required in the present instance, from the same source.

10th.—[To-day's *Gazette* is occupied with two memorials from the officiating lieut.-governor of Shensi, regarding the appointment of two district magistrates.]

May 11th.—The Viceroy and Lieut.-Governor of Fokien report the arrival at Foochow of the crews of two Liuchiu vessels wrecked off the coast of Formosa during a typhoon. The greater part of one of the crews having been murdered by the Formosan savages, they have sent

orders to the Chinese authorities on that island to institute an enquiry and chastise the offenders. On the 25th February a despatch was received from the district magistrate of Taiwan (Formosa) stating that he had sent therewith 57 distressed Liuchiuan. They were at once lodged in the Government post-house and properly provided for. They were then examined by the Linchiuan interpreter stationed at Foochow, and the following facts regarding their misfortune elicited. One of these distressed barbarians (難夷), named Sung Ta-cho, stated that both he and Ma I-tê were persons of official rank. They and their attendants, together with the crew, numbered 46. They left Pa-chung-shan (八重山), their native place, for Chung-shan-fu (中山府) in a small vessel laden with local produce. Having completed their business they started on their homeward journey on the 11th December, 1871. That night they were caught in a typhoon, were driven out to sea, and completely dismayed. Thus helpless, they drifted about at the mercy of the wind until, on the 23rd December, they reached the coast of Formosa, where they fortunately fell in with a Chinese junk which received them and put them on shore; their own vessel being dashed against the rocks and broken to pieces. The people of the place at which they landed sent them to the Fêng-shan district yamen, whence they were forwarded to Taiwan, where they were comfortably lodged and supplied with food, clothes and money. While there one of their number died of small pox, but the magistrate kindly provided a coffin and buried him. Officials were also sent to look out for a suitable vessel to convey them to Foochow. Another distressed barbarian, named Tao-tai, stated that he was a native of Tai-bing-shan (太平山) Liuchiu, and was captain of one of the wrecked vessels. There were 69 persons on board, more or less. They had been to Chung-shan-fu with local produce, and having completed their busi-

ness left on the 11th December. That night they were caught in a typhoon and driven out to sea. Their junk was upset and three of the crew drowned, but the remaining 66 succeeded in swimming to shore. There they wandered about until, on the 18th December, they discovered that they had travelled in the wrong direction, and entered the territory of the Mowtan savages (牡丹生番). The following day, the savages seized them and stripped them of their clothes and whatever else they had. They then escaped to a village called Tiao-li, but the savages having discovered their hiding place, came in force, surrounded the place and killed 54 of them. The remaining twelve secreted themselves in the house of a native named Yang Yew-wang, and were saved. On the 1st January, they were sent to the district Yamen of Fêng-shan and from there to Taiwan, where they were comfortably lodged and provided with clothes and food. They were subsequently forwarded to Foochow, and are now quartered in the government post-house.

The above particulars were reported to the memorialist by the provincial treasurer, or transmission to the Throne. He also points out that it is the duty of the civil and military authorities of Formosa to proceed to the district indicated, and investigate the circumstances of the murder of these Liuchiu barbarians (夷) by the Mowtan savages (生番) * and punish the offenders. The memorialists find that the kingdom of Liuchiu is an outer dependency of China, and always yields most reverential obedience (to the Emperor). It is therefore matter for very deep regret that so many of these barbarians (夷人) should have been murdered by the (Formosan) savages. From the date of their arrival in Foochow they have been given a pint of rice each per diem, and also six

* 番 Fan appears to be applied to tribes within the Empire, and 夷 I to those outside.

li (about 10 cash) to buy salted vegetables. When they start on their homeward journey, each will receive a month's allowance of rice and the value in cash of the articles which the law provides in such circumstances. The money will be drawn from the fund specially set aside to meet incidental expenses, and an account of the same will be duly rendered. As the vessels of these distressed barbarians have been destroyed, they will have to wait till an opportunity occurs for sending them back to their own country. The Mowtan savages appear to delight in murdering every one they see; a most barbarous propensity which must be put a stop to. Orders have already been sent to the Formosan authorities, to institute a strict inquiry into the murder of the Liuchiuans narrated above, and to punish the guilty parties, with a view to prevent such deeds of violence for the future, and to teach (the duty) of cherishing tenderness (towards strangers).

Edict.—The Throne has acquainted itself with the foregoing. Let everything be done (for the Liuchiuans) as the law provides, and let orders be sent to the Formosan authorities to investigate the case and punish the offenders, in order to teach the duty of showing kindness (to strangers). Respect this.

12th.—Kwo Po-yin, lieut.-governor of Hupeh, reports that the government post road between Siang-yang and Ichêng, a distance of 90 li, having been destroyed by the inundations of the Siang river (the Han), the couriers have to take such a zig-zag, circuitous route that the journey is actually 120 li, and it is therefore impossible for them to accomplish it within regulation time. The route has been officially inspected and the foregoing statement found correct; the memorialist therefore requests that the regulation time may be extended so as to allow for the increased distance.

The Board of War is directed to take note of the above.

13th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Hung-chang request-

ing a posthumous title and other honours for the late General Wang Wan-chao, in consideration of his many valuable services. The deceased, at the time of his death, was general of the Nanyang division in Honan, and his name had been entered for early promotion to the post of commander-in-chief. In the reign Hsien-fêng he took part in the campaign against the Chang-mao and Nien-fei in Kwangsi, and subsequently in Kiangsu, Chekiang, Fukien, Hunan, Honan, Chihli and Shantung, and distinguished himself in each. In the seventh year of the present reign (1868) he was appointed general of the Nan-yang division, and has discharged his duties with exemplary diligence. Worn out by hard work, he has passed away, and the tidings of his death have caused H. Majesty deep sorrow. The honours due to a meritorious commander-in-chief are to be paid to him, and, as a special favour, he is allowed a posthumous title. Permission is also given to place his tablet in the temples dedicated to the late commander-in-chief of the Hunan forces, Yang Ting-hsün, in the provinces of Szechuen, Anhwei, Kiangsu &c., and to associate him in (the Spring and Autumn) sacrifices with that general. To his nephew, Colonel Wang Kwo-an, who fought in the Imperial cause in Hunan, Hupeh, Anhwei and Kiangsu, and was eventually killed at Tai-tsang in the last named province, the honours due to an adjutant-general who falls in battle, are decreed. These honours are given that the *manes* of these faithful servants may be soothed and comforted.

(2) The lieut.-governor of Yunnan memorializes the Throne regarding the appointment of two district magistrates and gives a long pedigree of the two men he recommends. In a supplementary memorial, he reports having recalled the acting magistrate of Lung-ling, on account of bad behaviour, and notifies having appointed another person in his place.

14th.—Imperial edict. Censor Mu-chi-hsiang-ah, warden of the western division of Peking, reports that the robbers who broke into the house of Pai Tsêng-yü, an

official in one of the Boards, have not been captured within the specified time, and requests the punishment of the inspector of police for that district. That official was stripped of his buttons some months ago, and ordered to catch the burglars, but he has neither caught them, nor recovered their booty. For this want of energy, he is handed over to the Board to be dealt with, in order that his punishment may serve as a warning to others.

(2) Ma Tê-chao, commander-in-chief of the Kansu forces, having requested permission to throw up his present appointment in order to go home (to Szechuen) to bury his parents, an edict is issued granting the request.

15th.—An edict is issued conferring titles and peacock's feathers on several civil and military officers, in reward for their brave and successful defence of Nien-po, in Kansu, against the rebels in February 1871.

(2) Ho Ching, acting viceroy of the Two Kiang, reports having appointed Ying Pao-shih as acting treasurer at Soochow, in place of Enhsi, who has been appointed acting inspector-general of the transport service. The post of treasurer, at all times onerous and requiring long experience, is doubly so in this case, for the memorialist, having been in the province only a very short time, cannot be expected to know much either of local affairs or local officials. It is therefore of the utmost importance that he should be assisted by at least one official thoroughly acquainted with local matters. He finds that the criminal judge, Ying Pao-shih, is in all respects just the person required. He is pure and intelligent, and knows how to govern men. He has on two previous occasions acted as treasurer, with complete satisfaction. Expectant Intendant Tu Wen-lan has been appointed acting criminal judge. He has formerly acted in that capacity.

(3) At the great triennial examination for the degree of M. A. (Chü-jên) held at Nanking in 1870, there were among the unsuccessful candidates some very old Bachelors of Arts. The literary chancellor sent a list of these venerable but unlucky

competitors to the Throne, and His Majesty was pleased to confer on them either the degree of *Chü-jen* or *Fu-pang*. It now appears that the name of Hsiang Yueh-fu was omitted from that list, on account of his having mistaken his age on his examination papers. At the 1862 examination he gave his age as 82, in 1870 he must therefore have been 90. That this is his correct age is guaranteed by the head literary men of his district; the Throne is therefore asked to allow him to share in the favour bestowed on the others.

The Board of Rites is ordered to take note of the foregoing.

(4) In another memorial, Ho Ching requests the Throne to allow a wranglership to each of the three districts included in the Taitsang prefecture, Kiangsu; to be competed for, according to rule, once in twelve years by all the Bachelors of Arts in each district respectively. Taitsang was constituted an independent department in the third year of the reign Yung-cheng (1725), and was subdivided into two districts, viz. Chen-yang and Kiating. In the same year, Kiating was divided into two districts, viz. Kiating and Paoshan. To Taitsang itself 13 *suitsaiships* are allowed annually; to Chenyang 12, Kiating 13, and to Paoshan 12. Hitherto, however, only 2 wranglerships, every twelve years, have been allowed for the whole prefecture. This is quite inadequate to its claims. Each district has from 150 to 200 Bachelors, among whom there are not a few worthy of a wranglership. The population of these districts is daily increasing, and education is spreading and becoming more thorough. In view of this, the Throne is requested to allow the establishment of one wranglership in each district. This privilege has already been granted to certain newly constituted districts (all old districts already possess this privilege) in Szechuen, and also to some new districts in the prefectures of Sung-kiang and Changchow, in the Kiangsu province. These wranglerships, wherever they exist, create a most beneficial rivalry among the literati.

The Board of Rites is ordered to consider the above and report.

May 16th.—Imperial edict. Duke Puchwang was appointed an assistant minister of the presence in the reign Hsien-fêng, and was afterwards raised to the rank of 郡王 *chün-wang* (lit. prince of a principedom. A prince of the 2nd order). He always discharged every duty intrusted to him with ability, diligence and care, and the news of his death has caused the Emperor very deep sorrow. As a special token of regard, a present of Tls. 400 is given towards funeral expenses, and any entry which may stand against him in the official register must be erased. The yamen is also authorized to bestow on him the customary honours. Respect this.

(2) Tingan, military governor of the Toumet Mongols, resident at Sui-yuen-chêng in the north-west of Shansi, beyond the Great Wall, reports having resumed his duties after one month's sick-leave. On December 12th, 1872, he had a stroke of paralysis in the left side, rendering his left arm and leg nearly useless. In his anxiety to get better, he took so much medicine that, as might be expected, he has injured his constitution, and is suffering from giddiness in consequence. His arm, however, is a little better and he can move it about; but his leg is still weak and he is unable to walk alone. His spirits too, though not so jaded and prostrate as they were a short time ago, have not recovered their old buoyancy. Still, having been intrusted with the important duty of guarding the frontier, he dares not think, especially at such an important time as the present, of his own ease and comfort. While he can work he will.

17th.—Wên-siang is appointed examiner of Imperial edicts.

(2) Li Hwui-wu is appointed commander-in-chief of the Kansu forces, and Tien Tsung-yang appointed general of the Hanchung division, Shensi, in his place.

(3) Tso Tsung-tang, viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, begs the Throne to stop further proceedings against Adjutant-General

Tan-chin-cha-pu. The charge against him is that, in 1870, he allowed a band of rebels, headed by one Hwang Wang-fa, to enter the district city of Chungwei and loot and burn the Yaméns. For this piece of negligence he was at once deprived of his command and committed for trial. The officials appointed to investigate the case, report that when Ta-chin-cha-pu heard of the rebels having entered the city, he immediately led his men against them, killed 20 of them and took 20 prisoners. The leader Hwang Wang-fa, however, made his escape, but was afterwards caught and beheaded. In defence of Ta-chin-cha-pu, it is also stated that Hwang Wang-fa was the adopted son of Hwang Chin-shan, and had been accustomed to go in and out of the city at the head of his troops, at pleasure. This fact is an important one, and materially alters the case so far as Ta-chin-cha-pu is concerned. In view of this and of his subsequent energetic conduct, the memorialist begs the Throne to stop further proceedings against him.

The request is granted and the Board of War is ordered to take a note of it.

18th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wang Wên-shao, acting lieutenant-governor of Hunan, reporting that the Hunan troops fighting in Kweichow have gained some important victories over the rebels, and begging the Throne to confer honours on the officers in command. Last winter, after taking Hwang-ya-ling, the Hunan troops under General Kung Ki-chang, captured and destroyed in succession thirty stockades belonging to the enemy, and killed a lot of their leaders, including their chief, who had styled himself King Liu. During the second moon of this year the troops advanced on Kai-hwai; the rebels immediately showed fight, but our big guns soon breached their wooden walls; the place was taken and its four redoubts levelled with the ground. Availing themselves of the success thus gained, the troops attacked Mieh-hsi-li, &c., and drove the rebels helter-skelter to Wu-ya-po and other places in that direction.

General Tang Pên-yew then divided his troops and attacked Hsiang-lu-shan. The rebel hosts literally covered the mountain, but Tang Pên-yew inspired his men with such enthusiasm that they rushed forward, regardless of danger. At the same time the Kweichow troops attacked the enemy on the Lungpo side; the victory was complete. The rebels fled in all directions, leaving their quarters on fire, and countless heaps of dead behind them. This place taken, the whole neighbourhood was cleared of rebels. The foregoing shows that the troops fought well, and the officers in command deserve some recognition. Let the Board of War handsomely reward the services of General Kung Ki-chang and Intendant Kochien. Adjutant-General Kung Tien-yuen is given the title of Chi-chê-po pa-tu-lu, &c., &c.

(2) Imperial edict. Chu Fêng-piao (one of the grand secretaries) reports that his leave of absence has expired but that his health has not improved, and again begs permission to retire from office. He is allowed leave of absence for two months longer, to see what rest and proper attention will do. There is no necessity for his retiring from office at present.

19th.—An edict is issued degrading the inspector of police of the northern division of Peking, on account of a robbery having taken place in his district. On the night of the 11th May the house of Liu Yew-ko, an official in the Board of Punishments, was broken into, a large quantity of clothes stolen, and Liu Yew-ko himself wounded in the arm. The occurrence of such a daring burglary in the neighbourhood of the Court betrays great remissness on the part of the police. Inspector Hwang Hsi-chi is therefore stripped of his buttons and ordered to catch the thieves within a given time, failing which, he will be severely punished.

(2) The Board of Rites is directed to report on the petition of a Kiangsu gentleman, presented to the Throne by the Censorate, regarding the erection of two temples in Chang-shu and Chao-wên, for

the reception of the tablets of loyal and patriotic persons.

(3) Yiyung (a member of the Imperial class), military governor of Kirin, recommends to the notice of the Throne thirty-six officers belonging to the Kirin troops, on account of the vigour with which they have ferreted out the brigands who infest that province. They have caught and killed no less than 480 bandits within the last two years. The governor himself will reward the more distinguished petty officers and privates, with titles of the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades, according to their respective merits.

The memorial is approved and forwarded to the Board of War.

20th.—[To-day's *Gazette* is entirely occupied with memorials from Li Han-chang, viceroy of Hupeh and Hunan, regarding the appointment of some military officers to certain vacant posts.]

May 21st.—Li Hung-chang gives a detailed account of the trial of Sung Pêng-show, magistrate of Chichow. [A full account of this case appeared in the *Gazette* of the 20th March, and a summary in the *Gazette* of the 6th instant; notices of the case may also be found in the *Gazette* of the 6th February and 9th March.]

22nd.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Shao Heng-yü, acting lieut.-governor of Shensi, reporting a wonderful manifestation of the God of War, and requesting a tablet in commemoration of the event. In the spring of 1868, the Mahometan rebels attacked the prefectural city of Yülin, and the aspect of affairs was gloomy in the extreme; but just at the critical moment *Kwanti* interposed and averted the threatened danger. Such a gracious and timely interposition calls for the profoundest gratitude. Let the Han-lin College reverently prepare a suitable tablet and send it to Shao Ting-yü, to be placed, with due solemnity, in the temple of Kwan-ti in the city of Yülin, in acknowledgment of divine favour.

23rd.—The commandant of Peking reported the capture of Sung Tsang-erh and other robbers, and requested that they be

handed over to the Board of Punishments. He also reported the burning of two government houses in the rear of the Banqueting House.

(2) At the request of Tu-ka-êrh, an edict is issued ordering the arrest of a deserter named Hai-chun. This person held the rank of *tsanling* in the Kirin cavalry. His company was under orders for the west; but while on the way he deserted. For this daring and defiant act, he is stripped of his rank, and the military governor of Kirin, the viceroy of Chihli &c., &c., are directed to order their subordinates to do their very utmost to catch him, and the three soldiers who deserted along with him.

(3) The Censorate reports the following appeal cases.

Case 1st.—A Shantung undergraduate, named Wang Shih-shên, unable to obtain redress from the local officials for various outrages committed on him, appeals to the Throne. Complainant lives in a village on the banks of the Grand Canal adjoining the eastern boundary of En-hsien. On the south-east side of the village, there is the dry bed of a river called the Sha-ho. At the annual overflow of the canal its superabundant waters used to find their way into this bed, and after passing through the Wucheng district, again fall into the canal, without doing much damage. Subsequently the En-hsien people stopped up this old bed, with a view to prevent the water entering that district. This led to frequent disputes and litigations between the two districts. Appellant's native village, however, did not suffer much by the change, and therefore took no part in these litigations. During the sixth month of last year, at the overflow of the canal, a lot of rowdies from the En district, under pretext of getting timber to construct dikes, cut down and carried off all the trees in the village. On the second day of the following month, it was rumoured that the canal had burst its banks in the neighbouring district of Linching, the same parties, under pretence of stopping the inundation, collected a great crowd of people,

numbering some thousands, all carrying flags and spears, and their first act was to loot two villages, which they did to the last article. In due course they arrived at complainant's village, and began their work of plunder. The villagers resisted, and in the affray eight were killed and twenty wounded; among the former were complainant's uncle and two brothers. The case was immediately brought before the magistrates of En-hsien and Wuchêng, and a conjoint inquest was held by the two districts; but the case was set down as a mere brawl about a dam. Complainant then appealed to the criminal judge, and lieut.-governor, who ordered the case to be brought on for hearing. He accordingly went to Chinan-fu, but not one of the defendants appeared. He again appealed to the governor and orders were again given to have the case tried, but although a year has elapsed, no trial has taken place. There must evidently be some trickery somewhere; he therefore appeals to the Throne for redress.

Case 2nd.—Chi Ho-sung, late recorder of Moukden, complains that Censor Têng Ching-lin having, in revenge for an old grudge, accused him to the Throne of certain misdemeanours, now pleads censor's privilege and thus escapes punishment. There was an old quarrel between complainant and Têng Ching-lin's uncle, and after eight years litigation complainant gained the case. Shortly afterwards, Têng Ching-lin returned home to mourn for his parents. He and his uncle then brought an action against complainant before the military governor of Kirin, but the governor pronounced the case to have been one prompted by private revenge, and passed sentence on Têng Ching-lin according. The latter, however, made his escape, and has since been watching an opportunity for revenge. He did not wait long. Complainant having been appointed recorder of Moukden, found after taking office that there was a legal objection to his holding that post, and asked to be removed elsewhere. But his enemy tried to make capital out of this, and sent a memorial to the Throne stating

that complainant knew of his being legally disqualified for the post when he was first appointed, and that he knowingly concealed the fact. The Throne referred the case to the Board of Punishments. Complainant sent a full statement of his case to the Board, but Têng Ching-lin pleads privilege as a censor, and will not acknowledge his guilt. Complainant thus failing to obtain redress for the wrong done him, sends a person to lay this appeal before the Throne. The censorate having received the above, dares not withhold any part of it from the knowledge of His Majesty, affecting as it does the character of a censor. A copy of complainant's statement is enclosed, and the censorate awaits His Majesty's instructions.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing cases has already been transcribed or recorded.

24th.—Imperial edict. Let this case be handed over to Chien Ting-Ming, lieut.-governor of Honan, and let him, assisted by the criminal judge, have brought before him all the witnesses and papers concerned, and having equitably and strictly investigated the case, let him make an award in accordance with the statute, and report to the Throne. Let the Board of War, as the law requires, have the appellant conveyed to the provincial capital, to be confronted by the accused. Respect this.

(2) Ho Ching, lieut.-governor of Kiang-su, reports having taken over the seals &c. of the viceroyalty of the Two Kiang, rendered vacant by the death of Tseng Kwo-fan. In his conduct of internal affairs he shall follow implicitly the principles laid down by Tseng Kwo-fan. In deciding questions affecting foreign relations, he shall also imitate the example of that great statesman, and be neither too dogged nor too yielding, but hold the happy medium between these extremes. By thus following in the footsteps of his renowned predecessor, and also by availing himself of the advice of his colleagues, he hopes to be able to discharge the important duties temporarily devolving upon him, to His Majesty's satisfaction.

25th.—Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, memorializes the Throne regarding the reduction of the army. On the 9th February he received from the Grand Council an Imperial edict, issued in reply to a memorial from Hu Chia-yü, a vice-president of the Board of Civil Office, calling attention to the distresses of the times and the necessity of making provision for them. The following is a brief sketch of the military affairs of that province for the last ten years. In 1862 the late viceroy, Lo Ping-chang, after the Hunan troops had quelled the rebellion in that province (Szechuen), raised a large militia force. In 1868, although order had been restored throughout the province, more than 100 battalions of militia, numbering 54,500 men, were still retained. This was duly reported to the Throne by the acting viceroy, Chungshih. That year the memorialist was appointed viceroy, and gave very special attention to army matters. He saw at once that the support of such a huge army was a terrible drain on the resources of the province, and he conceived the idea of dismissing the militia and retaining only the better disciplined troops. But just at that time the rebellion in Yunnan, Kweichow, Shensi, &c., was assuming alarming proportions, and each province was required to send reinforcements to those provinces. Reduction therefore was out of the question. But subsequently, when the Chao-lu reinforcement returned, a portion of the militia was disbanded. A beginning having thus been made, the way was opened for effecting a gradual reduction. Again in 1870, it having been decided that Szechuen should send money to Kweichow instead of men, 20 battalions were disbanded. In short, from first to last, a reduction of 30,000 men has been effected. Having been raised to the important post of viceroy, the Throne may rely on his doing everything in his power to prevent unnecessary expenditure. But Szechuen requires a large standing army. The province covers an immense area, and is singularly unfortunate in its neighbours, being

adjacent to Shensi, Kansu, Yunnan and Kweichow and also to the territories occupied by nomadic shepherd tribes (Kokonor). At no time therefore can Szechuen be compared with other provinces, and at present, when disaffection exists in neighbouring districts, it is doubly important that the efficiency of the army should be maintained. At the close of last year the army did not number 30,000, and of these 3,000 are specially employed to look after the barbarians (夷). With this number it is impossible to properly garrison the whole province as used to be the case. The utmost that can be done is to occupy the more important places, and to retain near at hand a body of picked men ready for an emergency. But the distress prevailing throughout that province rendering it very difficult to support even the existing force, the memorialist, after the receipt of the Imperial edict referred to above, dismissed 2,000 more of the militia, earnestly desiring to economize as far as possible. He has also ordered the head military mandarins to select their best men and subject them to a thorough course of drilling, so that by increasing the efficiency of the regular troops, the militia may be gradually dispensed with. The misfortune, however, is that Szechuen is being drained by the four neighbouring provinces. For example, Kweichow takes annually over Tls. 700,000, and where this sum is to come from for the future, he does not know, to say nothing of the large sums required for Kansu and Yunnan. He is fairly at his wits' end to know what to do. It is clear, however, that if the people are to be relieved of their present load, not only must the provincial army be reduced, but the supplies sent to other provinces curtailed.

26th.—Chinglin, superintendent of the Imperial manufactory at Nanking, memorialises the Throne stating that he shall be unable to complete the last order for satin gauze, silk and crape, by the fifth moon, as directed. There is a previous order for thirty-nine court and dragon

robes, two hundred dragon and serpent robes for presents, and also for embroidered carpets, satin and gauze door-blinds, mosquito curtains, &c., required for the Imperial marriage. His men are working at these night and day, and he expects to have them ready by the fourth or fifth moon. But the second order is a very large one, and he has as much on his hands as he can attend to at present. He is fully aware, however, of the importance of the occasion for which the things are required, and will do his best to finish them. He has made an estimate of the cost, and is in communication with the acting viceroy, Ho-ching, on the subject. As soon as he receives the necessary funds, he will hire some additional looms and put on extra hands, so as to get as much as possible done within the specified time for shipment to the capital. He has received so much Imperial favour that he cannot but exert himself to the utmost, in order, if possible, to make some small return for the ten thousand favours of which he has been the recipient.

(2) In a supplementary memorial Chinglin acknowledges the receipt of orders to make 5,950 pieces of different coloured silks and satins. As soon as he receives the necessary funds from Hukwang and the other provinces concerned, he will push forward the work with all possible speed.

May 27th.—(1) Chu Feng-piao, one of the Grand Secretaries, reports that his leave of absence has expired but that his health has not improved much, and renews his request to be allowed to retire from office. Although the numbness in his limbs has slightly abated, he is still unable to walk. This is not to be wondered at, for at his time of life recovery from such an illness can scarcely be expected in so short a time. He has received so many favours from the Throne that he is deeply anxious to make some slight return; but though the spirit is willing the flesh is weak. It is a source of profound grief to him that he has done so little; the thought haunts him night and day. Yet he is

compelled to renew his request to be allowed to retire from office.

[An edict was issued, May 18th, granting him two months' sick-leave and declaring his retirement unnecessary.]

(2) Li Hung-chang reports the transshipment at Tientsin of 148,919 piculs of tribute rice, just arrived from Kiangsu and Chekiang, and its dispatch to Tungchow.

(3) Prince Kung reports the death of Juilien, Manchu *changching* to the Grand Council, and states that the post falls by right to the acting *changching* Wênshow, an official in the Board of Punishments.

28th.—(1-2) The acting treasurer and criminal judge of Kiangsu report having taken over their seals of office. Both are overwhelmed with gratitude for this fresh token of Imperial favour, and are covered with shame in that they so little deserve it.

The Censorate lays before the Throne a copy of a petition from Chao Lin, an official in the Board of Civil Office, and others, requesting permission to erect by public subscription a temple to "The Loyal and Patriotic" in Changshuh and Chaowen (near Soochow). The petition states that, in 1860, when the rebels took Soochow and the neighbouring cities, Changshuh and Chaowen maintained a fierce and bloody struggle with them for more than a hundred days, and that at last when the rebels took these cities, the inhabitants either carried on a hand to hand fight with them in the streets and alleys, bravely sacrificing their lives in their country's cause, or cursed them to their face, preferring to die rather than do their obeisance and thus acknowledge their authority. These facts have already been brought to the notice of the Throne, and the customary honours have been already conferred on one thousand of those who thus perished. But the petitioners find that in the seventh year of the reign Kia-king, permission was given to erect a temple in each prefectural city throughout the Empire where the tablets of those who died in defence of their country or their chastity, might be placed,

and where they might be sacrificed to every spring and autumn; the idea being that each should be honoured at the place where he was bred and born. This plan was eminently adapted to soothe the *manes* of the departed, in that it gave them their honours on the spot which gave them birth, while at the same time it afforded neighbours and friends an opportunity of seeing the distinction which their late companions or relatives enjoyed. It is true that a temple of this kind now exists in Soochow; but to crowd into that one temple the tablets of the myriads who have perished in the nine surrounding districts, would be very inconvenient. It is therefore the wish of the literati and people of Changshuh and Chaowen to have temples of their own, and they are prepared to erect these at their own expense. They would be conducted in the same way as other temples of the kind; the local officials being invited to offer the spring and autumn sacrifices in the usual manner, but all expenses whatever will be defrayed by the local gentry.

The edict regarding the above has already appeared. [The Board of Rites was ordered to report. See *Gazette* of the 19th May.]

29th.—The metropolitan prefect reports a fall of more than two inches of rain.

(2) Li Hung-chang repeats his request that Wei Cheng-yueh, an expectant intendant belonging to the Anhwei mandarin, may be allowed to remain in Chihli for a while, to superintend the repairs &c. of the rivers and canals. He is an experienced engineer and his services are of the utmost importance at present. It would be very difficult to supply his place. The memorialist has already obtained the consent of the Throne to his detention; but the Board of Civil Office objects to it, on the ground that it is contrary to rule, and has ordered Wei Cheng-yueh to return to Anhwei. Seeing, however, that his services are of so much importance at the present time, the Throne is asked to overrule the decision of the Board and allow him to remain in Chihli for the time being.

The request is granted, and the Board of Civil Office ordered to take note of it.

(3) Supplementary memorial by Li Hung-chang. There has no doubt been some improvement of late years in the administration of the affairs of the Chihli province, except in the River and Canal Department, which has been utterly neglected. The Yungting is in fact a very difficult river to manage and keep in proper condition. Yet, since the outbreak of the Taiping rebellion the annual allowance for repairs has been so reduced that it has been impossible to carry out the necessary works. Even such repairs as were imperatively necessary, were executed in the most slipshod manner, and with the poorest materials, and the river itself has been left to silt up, so that a little extra water fills it to overflowing. The river officials have gone about their duties in a routine, perfunctory way; abuses have daily got worse. Last year it burst its embankments twice, and the memorialist ordered Li Chao-i, the inspector of rivers and canals, to appoint some officials having the rank of Intendant or Prefect, and having practical knowledge of engineering, to assist him in carrying out the necessary repairs. These officials have discharged their duties most faithfully. The bed of the river has been deepened, a new channel cut thirty-four miles long, and stone embankments erected on either side of the river over a hundred miles in length. The greatest economy too has been observed. The whole has been done for several myriads of taels less than the same work cost in the reigns Kia-king and Tao-kwang. The merit of these officials is quite as great as if they had rendered some special service in the field, or the camp. The memorialist has already asked that they may be retained in Chihli; the request may be a little at variance with established rules, but the reward asked is certainly not too great. If the three officials in question were kept in Chihli there would be some hope that the many abuses now existing in the Public Works' Department would be gradually rooted out, and that an able class of men

would be brought into the Department. He therefore begs the Throne to order the Board to adopt his proposal without further dispute, in accordance with the precedent established by Tseng Kwo-fan in 1869.

The request is granted, and the Board of Civil Office directed to take note of it.

30th.—An edict is issued degrading and dismissing several military officers connected with stations along the Yangtze, on account of bad character, insolence, allowing their men to levy *squeezes* on the people &c.

(2) Ichen reports the completion of ten rice transports, and begs that some high official may be appointed to examine them and formally take them over on behalf of the government. They are guaranteed to last ten years.

(3) Sun Kwan, the new treasurer of Chihli, reports his arrival at Paoting and his assumption of office.

31st.—An edict is issued decorating with buttons, brevets and Manchu titles the officers who distinguished themselves in the campaign against the Kansu Mahometans who invaded the territory occupied by the Orats, last year. More than 300 of the enemy were killed on the field, their leader Ma Shêng-fu slain, and the entire band ultimately exterminated.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports an extraordinary instance of filial piety. Chien Ting-kwei, a native of Tsao-chiang in Chihli, when a lad was fond of reading the Book of Poetry, and from it imbibed a spirit of deep filial piety. In all his affairs he observed the greatest economy, and cheerfully nourished his parents. His filial piety was perfect. In 1863 his mother died and his grief was inconsolable. He took up his abode by the side of her tomb, exposed to all weathers, until the neighbours erected a reed shed, and in that shed he has lived uninterruptedly for the last eight years. He has been in the habit also of distributing medicine to the sick and of reading the Book of Filial Piety for the benefit of his neighbours. He is universally respected. The magistrate of the district has made

inquiries into the foregoing and found the statements correct. The viceroy and the literary chancellor therefore unite in begging that the Throne will be pleased to confer a Memorial Arch on this most dutiful son, that others may be incited to imitate his filial example.

The Board of Rites is ordered to report.

June 1st.—To-day the Astronomical Board laid before the Throne a drawing of the eclipse.

(2) Imperial edict. Sun I-ching, lecturer in the Han-lin, has sent a memorial calling attention to the portentous omen about to appear (the eclipse) and exhorting His Majesty, in times of public calamity, to cultivate virtue in his own person and subject himself to continual self-examination. Since Our accession to the throne, We have night and day solemnly and tremblingly pondered the responsibility of our position, and have endeavoured, with the assistance of Our ministers (court and provincial) to perfect the government of the Empire. But unfortunately peace has not yet been fully restored, nor do the people enjoy the ease and prosperity (of former days.) It is indeed a time for prince and ministers to tremble, and not a season for either high or low to take their ease and be merry. Especially is this the case in view of the solar eclipse to take place on the 6th June, when Supreme Heaven will utter its solemn warning. What the memorialist says regarding the necessity of magnifying to the utmost the duty of filial piety, of diligent attention to the right principles of government, of associating only with the noble and good and eschewing all low, bad men, and what he says regarding the duty of making frugality honourable and extravagance ignoble, We highly approve of, and have read his remarks with much pleasure. Let all the court and provincial mandarins, both high and low, bestir themselves to greater diligence in the discharge of their duties, and thus by the Emperor and his officers mutually warning and stimulating each other, reforming and perfecting the government of the empire, we shall meet, by anticipation, the felicitous omens, and escape (or

remove) the threatened calamity. Respect this.

(3) Another edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the lieutenant-governor of Chekiang requesting a posthumous title for the late Taotai Miu Tsz, who was killed at the fall of Hangchow, in 1861. He has already received the customary honours and permission has been given to erect a temple to his memory, but in consideration of his fame and valuable services as an official, and of the painful and heroic character of his death, he is granted the additional honour of a posthumous title. His memoir must be handed to the Historiographer, for insertion in the national annals.

(4) Shao Heng-yü, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, reports a miracle by the God of War (Kwanti.) In the prefectural city of Yülin there is a temple of Kwanti, which has been the scene of repeated miracles. In February 1863 a body of Mahometan rebels, numbering several myriads, after taking Polo, attacked Yülin, and although the city was occupied by soldiers and volunteers, yet the walls were in such a dilapidated condition and covered such an immense area that, in the absence of help from without, the aspect of affairs was threatening in the extreme. The soldiers and people in their distress silently prayed to Heaven to protect them, and suddenly the rebels ran away in the direction by which they had come. It was then ascertained that on the night of the 7th February, after the rebels had placed their scaling-ladders in order and just as the drum was beating an advance, a light bright as the noonday sun shone upon them, and at the same time they saw large red and green flags pitched in the port-holes along the top of the city wall. The garrison too, at the same moment, fired their muskets and big guns, the roar of which was as the roar of thunder. The rebels were scared out of their wits and fled in confusion. The soldiers and people then repaired, in a body, to the temple of Kwanti, to burn incense and offer thanks. All at once it was observed that more than

half the various implements of war deposited in the temple were red and green, and thus it was apparent that it was by the miraculous interposition of Kwanti that the city had been saved. The memorialist received the above account from Cheng Ting-kang, intendant of circuit, and Liu How-chi, general of division, with a request to beg the Throne to confer a tablet on the temple in commemoration of the event. He hopes the Throne will be pleased to do so.

[An edict was issued May 22nd granting the request.]

2nd.—Imperial edict. We have received from Their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi (the following) edict regarding a memorial by Wang Wei-chên, deputy-commissioner of the Court of Representation, urging (on the Emperor) a greater display of filial piety, in order that harmony and obedience may be more complete. This memorial has astonished Their Majesties beyond measure. H. M. the Emperor ascended the Throne when yet young, and has now reigned eleven years. He has ever yielded the most implicit obedience (to his Imperial parents) and has dutifully nourished them uninterruptedly to the present time—a fact which ought to be as well known to every minister at Court as it is to Their Majesties. What Wang Wei-chên says about the duty of the Emperor's submitting to the will of his parents and of gently remonstrating with them when they are in error, but never opposing them; and about filial piety having its foundation in the Palace, is quite unintelligible. It is impossible even to conjecture what he is driving at. Such reckless insinuations and random incoherent verbiage are most immoral and wicked. Let him therefore be handed over to the proper Board, to be dealt with in the severest manner (which the law will allow), and let his memorial be returned to him. Respect this.

3rd.—Imperial edict. Tseng Kwo-fan, a grand secretary and viceroy of the Two Kiang, died in the second month of this year, and an edict has already been issued showering on him all the usual honours,

and ordering the erection of a memorial temple at his native place in Hunan and also in Nanking. And it was further directed that a faithful record of his life and labours should be handed to the Imperial Historiographer for insertion in the national annals. It was further decreed that the marquisate should devolve on his (eldest) son Tsêng Chi-tsê, and orders were given to Ho Ching, (the acting viceroy of the Two Kiang) to ascertain the number, age, position &c. of his other descendants and report to the Throne, that the Imperial pleasure regarding them might be made known. Ho Ching, Yinghan (lt.-governor of Anhwei) and Li Han-chang (viceroys of Hukwang) have each sent memorials expatiating on Tseng Kwo-fan's great and meritorious services extending over many years. Yinghan and Li Han-chang also request the erection of memorial temples to him in the provincial capitals of Anhwei and Hupeh. Ho Ching has, as directed, forwarded a detailed account of the late viceroy's children and grand-children. The perusal of these several documents has caused us the deepest sorrow. Tseng Kwo-fan was endowed with powers surpassing those of other men and he consecrated them all to the service of his country. In Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangnan and Anhwei, at a most difficult and critical time, he started the men-of-war system, and resolutely set himself to the task of exterminating the rebels. And although he was often beleaguered by the enemy and reduced to great extremities, he never for a moment wavered, but adhered to his purpose with more than human tenacity, prepared to endure whatever came. As a leader he was able to unite the hearts of the myriad as the heart of one man. After he had suppressed the rebellion, he still gave the most careful attention to everything within his jurisdiction; he was never idle or indifferent regarding anything. He ever sought to raise to office men of virtue and talent, and was always fearful lest he should overlook some deserving person. Thus he displayed the principle of seeking out suitable persons to serve his prince.

Loyal and upright in serving the Throne, he at the same time conferred blessings on the people. It was but right and proper, therefore, that the Throne should, from time to time, shower on him its favours, and thus show how highly a faithful and devoted servant is esteemed. It is hereby ordered that temples be erected to his memory in the provincial capitals of Anhwei and Hupeh, and in all other provinces where he rendered any special service. His second son, Tseng Chi-hung, a *Fukwang-sheng*, and his grandson Tseng Kwang-chün, are both given the degree of *Chü-jen* (M. A.) and are allowed to present themselves at the examination for *Chin-shih* (L. L. D.) His grandson Tseng Kwang-yung is made a *Yuen-wai-lang* (a comparatively low rank in one of the Six Boards), and Tseng Kwang-chuen a *Chu-shih*. They must wait till they come of age, when they will be appointed to their respective Boards to learn their duties. The memorials of Ho Ching, Yinghan and Li Han-chang must be handed over to the Imperial Historiographer, for insertion in the national annals, in order to show how tenderly the memory of an old and faithful servant is ever cherished by the Throne. Respect this.

4th.—Prince Shun and others return thanks for an Imperial present of grass-cloth; and Prince Li and his colleagues, having completed their inspection of the armoury, report thereon to the Throne.

(2) An edict is issued shortening the term of banishment of several officials now undergoing penal servitude on the frontier.

5th.—Li Ho-nien, lieutenant-governor of Honan, (recently appointed viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang) requests the Throne to confer a higher canonical title on the City God of Hsintsai, on account of his having preserved that city from falling into the hands of the Nienfei. During the third and fifth moons of 1861 the Nienfei, under the command of Chen Ta-hsi, attacked Hsintsai in great force. There were very few soldiers in the city at the time, and while they were deliberating how best to defend it, the rebels had already reached the

gates; but to the astonishment of all they suddenly retreated in great confusion. The cause of this extraordinary movement was afterwards ascertained from rebel prisoners to be, that as they were about to commence the attack, they saw an innumerable host of Imperial troops issuing from the city in battle array, and were so scared that they beat a speedy retreat. Again, in 1862, the Kwangsi rebels (the Taipings) numbering several myriads, besieged the city for nearly a month, openly assaulting it and secretly trying all sorts of schemes to take it, but the besieged made frequent supplication to the City God, and he protected them. On the 24th of the 1st moon the rebels blew up about a hundred feet of the wall, but the troops piled up a lot of fuel in the breach and set fire to it with a view to oppose the entrance of the rebels, and just at the proper moment a strong south-east wind sprang up driving the flames in the direction of the rebels. The troops, taking advantage of this, rushed on their assailants, slaughtered them in countless numbers, and raised the siege. No doubt all this success was due to the silent help of the City God. The above account was sent by the prefect and district magistrate to the provincial treasurer, who forwarded it to the memorialist, with the request to petition the Throne to confer a higher canonical title on the City God. The memorialist finds that if any of the Gods in the calendar ward off calamities and thus benefit the people, it is permissible to request the Throne to confer a higher title on them. The above is a case of that kind, and he therefore prays His Majesty will be pleased to accede to the popular wish and confer a title on the God of Hsin-tsai.

The Board of Rites is directed to consider and report.

6th.—To-day's *Gazette* is entirely occupied with memorials from the viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang regarding some unimportant changes in the military department.

7th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the viceroy and lieutenant-

governor of Fukien, charging an adjutant-general with having embezzled public money. When he was acting general of the Taiwan division, he pocketed 3,600 taels of his men's pay, put his own creatures into office, and secretly received money from the soldiers. He is at present absent in Hunan on sick-leave, the lieutenant-governor of that province is therefore directed to order him to return to Fukien without delay, to take his trial on the above charges brought. Should he prove refractory he must be sent there by force, and that without loss of time.

8th.—Three military mandarins are deprived of their buttons on account of some disturbances at the Imperial hunting grounds at Jehol. Last year a portion of these grounds was cleared for cultivation, and divided among the peasants, instead of the Banner land which had been temporarily taken from them. But not many days afterwards some unknown persons, having collected a crowd, destroyed the railings at Taipuka and took forcible possession of the hunting ground in that quarter. That the commandant and his colleagues should have been unable to prevent this, shows gross mismanagement on their part. They are therefore deprived of their buttons, and ordered to expel the intruders and to take care they do not get in again. The ringleaders must be sought out and severely punished, as a warning to others. Should the commandant and his colleagues fail to carry out these instructions, they will be severely punished. In accordance with the request of the lieutenant-general, Kukechitai, rent on the above-mentioned lands will be remitted for three years. The Proclamations must be posted in all directions notifying this to the people, and care must be taken that the yamen underlings do not turn it to their own account.

(2) Imperial edict. Yesterday Censor Li Hung-mo presented a memorial begging the Throne to give more attention to public business. We read the document with utter amazement. Since Our accession to the throne Their Imperial Majesties, the two

Empresses, have been most indefatigable in their attention to State affairs. From their seats behind the screen they have instructed the various officials as to their respective duties, and have earnestly sought to make the government as perfect as possible; and have daily given audience to the cabinet ministers for deliberation on public matters. Even during the spring, while Her Majesty Tszhsi was suffering from ill-health, she attended as usual to State affairs, and regularly held the morning levee. But during the early part of the third moon, finding her health did not improve, she resolved to take a short rest, and did not appear at the levee for more than a month. On the 26th of the 4th moon (3rd May), however, Her Majesty, by dint of great exertion, gave audience to the Grand Council, but Her Majesty still feeling unwell gave no audience during the next few days. Li Hung-mo has been at Peking for some time, and it may be appropriately asked whether he alone of all the people in the capital is not acquainted with these facts, that he should take on himself to read the Throne an impertinent and insulting lecture on the duty of holding a daily levee? It was our intention to punish him severely for his rashness, but their Imperial Majesties the Empresses, being desirous of allowing the greatest possible freedom to Censors at the present time, have issued a special mandate commanding that he should not be dismissed from office or stripped of his rank, but that he should receive a severe reprimand. Respect this.

9th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Censor Yuen Cheng-yeh reporting that he has been informed that the eunuchs of the Imperial palace have a great number of shops in Peking and its suburbs, and that they keep a company of play-actors to perform theatricals in the gardens and villages, &c., &c. The laws of the present dynasty strictly forbid all improper proceedings on the part of eunuchs, and if they are guilty of the foregoing charges, they have committed a serious infraction of the laws. The chief officer of the Board for controlling the

affairs of the Household, the commandant of the Peking gendarmerie, the metropolitan prefect, and the city officials must institute a searching inquiry into the matter, and put a stop to it. They must be on the alert for the future, and should they discover similar abuses report them at once to the Throne. Should it again come to light that the eunuchs are misbehaving themselves outside, not only will the eunuchs themselves be punished, but also the above-named officers, and that rigorously.

(2) Another edict is issued, in reply to a memorial from the viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, dismissing four district magistrates and degrading a fifth, on account of their general bad conduct.

10th.—Permission is given to bestow the usual honours on 4060 persons, male and female, belonging to Canton and the neighbouring prefectures, who were killed by the Taipings or who committed suicide in order to escape their hands. Permission is also given to erect memorial temples by public subscription. The Board of Rites is ordered to confer special honours on six of the persons mentioned, on account of the very painful character of their death.

(2) The lieutenant-governor of Chekiang begs the Throne to confer a posthumous title on the late Taotai Min Tsz, and requests that a record of his official career may be inserted in the national annals. He was a most valuable public servant. He especially distinguished himself while Acting Commissioner of the rice transport. When the rebels stopped the road in one direction, he always found out another. He also took a most prominent part in the operations against the rebels, voluntarily undergoing all sorts of hardships and always throwing himself into the thick of the fight. He was afterwards hacked to pieces by the rebels at the fall of Hangchow, where he had of his own freewill remained to assist in defending the city.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already appeared. [An edict was issued 1st June, granting both requests.]

11th.—The district jail of Yungchi, Shansi, having been destroyed by fire and the prisoners burnt to death, the governor of the jail is cashiered and placed under arrest. The lieutenant-governor of the province is ordered to institute a searching inquiry, with a view to ascertain whether the jail was purposely set on fire or not, and to report to the Throne. The statement of the district magistrate, that he was absent on public business at the time, must also be inquired into.

(2) Enhsi, treasurer of Kiangsu, reports the despatch of the last lot of tribute rice from Soochow and four neighbouring prefectures. The first instalment of 342,720 piculs and second instalment of 220,926 piculs have already been reported. The third and last lot, amounting to 101,440 piculs, and 19,178 piculs allowance for waste, food &c., left Shanghai on the 5th April, under convoy of a steamer from the Arsenal. Some difficulty was experienced in getting a sufficient number of junks.

(3) In another memorial, Enhsi, in his capacity of acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, requests the Throne to confer a wranglership on Yuenho, Sinyang, Chentseh and Chaowen, in the prefecture of Soochow. These four districts were formerly included in Changchow, Kwenshan, Wukiang and Changshuh, but were created independent districts in the second year of the reign Yung-cheng (1724). They have their own literary examinations, and possess all the usual privileges, except the wranglership. To this privilege also they are now fairly entitled. Each district has from 150 to 200 *Sintsais*, among whom there are not a few worthy of the honour of a wranglership. The Throne is therefore requested to confer the same privilege on these new districts as is enjoyed by the older ones. The wranglership creates a wholesome rivalry among the literati and tends to promote learning. [The examination for the wranglership is held every twelve years and is open to all the *sintsais* (Bachelors of Arts) of the district. The wranglership is very highly prized.]

The Board of Rites is ordered to report.

12th-16th.—These *Gazettes* are occupied with memorials from Li Hanchang, viceroy of Hukwang; Yinghan, lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, and Ho Ching, acting viceroy of the Two Kiang, expatiating on the services of the late Tseng Kwo-fan, and requesting that memorial temples may be erected to him in Wu-chang, Anking, Nanking and elsewhere. Combined, these memorials form a complete biographical sketch of the late Viceroy, from his first efforts to oppose the rebels at Changsha in 1852, to his death at Nanking on the 12th March 1872. Li Han-chang sketches his career from 1852 to 1860 and Ho Ching continues the narrative down to the time of his death. Both speak of his defects as well as his victories, and graphically portray the almost hopeless condition to which he was often reduced. Surrounded on all sides by an enemy whom a long series of victories had rendered all but invincible, without supplies and without money, he held on with iron determination, resolute either to conquer or to die. Twice only did he falter in his purpose, viz., after his defeat at Chin-hsiang in Hunan in the early part of 1854, and after the burning of his camp opposite Kiukiang in the twelfth month of the same year, when in disgust at his own inability and momentary despair of his cause, he attempted suicide.

Yinghan's memorial is a panegyric, not a history. Since Tang-pin and Yü Cheng-lung (two famous men of the present dynasty—the former was lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu and the latter viceroy of the Two Kiang under Kanghi) there has not been such a man as Tseng Kwo-fan. When the news of his death reached; Kiangsi there was universal lamentation literati and officials, women and children came in crowds to the lieutenant-governor, beseeching him with many tears to petition the Throne to allow the erection of a memorial temple, where they might worship their great benefactor and express their gratitude.

17th.—An edict is issued regarding the suicide of Feng Chih-i, late district magis-

trate of Tien-chang in Anhwei. The circumstances of the case being of an usually grave nature, orders were sent to the acting viceroy, Ho Ching, to examine the parties concerned and report to the Throne. The viceroy's report has been received, and states that the friends of the deceased charge Lu Yü-chieh, magistrate of Hsü-i, with having advised the literary chancellor to detain Feng Chih-i at Hsü-i in order to assist at the literary examinations and with having made statements damaging to his character &c., which preyed on his mind and caused him to commit the fatal act. Lu Yü-chieh stoutly denies these charges. Orders, however, were sent to him to forward a person named Yang-yü who, from his position, it might be supposed, could give valuable information concerning the matter in dispute, but he has on one pretext and another put off doing so. This is manifestly an attempt on his part to baffle inquiry. He is therefore temporarily suspended from office, and ordered to see that Yang-yü appears in court without delay.

(2) The viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Hupeh report a wonderful miracle by the City God of Puchi, and request the Throne to confer a higher canonical title on him in acknowledgment of his gracious interposition. During the reign of Hung Wu, of the Ming dynasty, he was deified with the title of Hsien-yew Po (顯佑伯), and tradition says he is a descendant of Chi-hsin (紀信), a faithful minister of the Han dynasty. Ever since the people of Pu-i worshipped him as their tutelary deity, he has guarded them from famine and pestilence, and vouchsafed immediate answers to their prayers both for rain and for fine weather. In 1855 the city was taken by the Taipings; the surrounding districts being also in their hands. The lieutenant-governor, Hu Lin-yi, with his troops, took up his quarters outside of the west gate and commenced an attack on the city. That night the rebels saw a great army enter by the west gate, cutting down everything which opposed them, and around them shone a light so bright that the whole

heavens were illuminated, and in the light was a banner with the words Hsien-yew-po Chi. So terrified were the rebels at this vision that a complete panic ensued, and they rushed out through the north gate in such confusion that they cut and trampled each other to death. The Imperial troops pursued them for several miles, causing great havoc among them. The victory was complete. From the rebel prisoners the story of the apparition of Hsien-yew Po was ascertained, and thus it became known that it was to him the city owed its deliverance. The foregoing account was sent to the district magistrate of Puchi by several of the local gentry, and by him forwarded to the provincial treasurer, who transmitted it to the memorialists. They have made strict inquiry into the case, and find the statements correct. The law provides that if any of the gods recognized by the State show themselves able to ward off calamities and benefit the people, the viceroy or the lieutenant-governor may request the Throne to confer a higher title on such. The foregoing certainly comes within the scope of this statute, and the memorialists therefore beg that a higher title may be conferred on the God of Puchi.

The Board of Rites is ordered to consider and report.

18th.—Memorial of Censor Li Hung-mo. In view of the alarming portent about to appear (the solar eclipse of the 6th June), it is the duty of the Throne to give its earnest attention to political affairs; the memorialist therefore begs that the Imperial levee may be (more) regularly held (than it has been of late). It has been the practice of the sovereigns of the present dynasty to give daily audience to their ministers, for deliberation on public affairs, a custom which has been productive of the happiest results, and which has done much to improve the administration of the empire. In this respect the reigning dynasty has surpassed any dynasty which has existed from the remotest antiquity down to the present time. Since the present Emperor ascended the throne, more than ten years ago, the Empress, from her seat

behind the screen, has diligently followed the custom of her House, and given daily audience to the cabinet ministers, and by so doing rebellion has been quelled and tranquillity gradually restored to the empire. Lately, however, Her Majesty the Empress Tszhsi, (the Empress-mother), being unwell, no levee was held for over forty days. But on 1st June it was reported that Her Majesty had so far recovered as to be able to give audience to the Grand Council, and the news gave profound joy alike to officials and people. Since that, however, there has been no levee. Their Majesties the Empress and Emperor are too earnestly intent on seeking the public good, to think even for a moment of their own ease and comfort. To them the whole empire, officials and people, look up as to the sun in the heavens, depending on them alone for direction and guidance, and the degree of attention devoted by the Court to public matters must determine whether the empire shall be well or ill governed. War is still going on and the country is still suffering from floods and drought; to-day, moreover, the sun will be eclipsed more than nine digits, and in face of this ill-omened portent it behoves the Throne to tremble with solemn awe. The memorialist would earnestly intreat Their Majesties, in consideration of the very difficult aspect of affairs, to resume the daily levee as soon as ever Her Majesty's health will admit. By so doing it may be hoped that the government will be properly administered and that calamities will be avoided. Whether what the memorialist in his rashness and ignorance has said, be right and proper, he humbly submits to the sacred glance of Their Majesties the Empress and Emperor.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already been recorded. [See *Gazette* of the 8th June.]

19th.—(1) An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Shao Heng-yü, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, regarding a wonderful answer to prayer vouchsafed by one of the gods, and begging that a tablet may be conferred in commemoration of the event &c.

In 1862, the Mahomedan rebels attacked Pinchow and there was imminent danger that the city would fall into their hands; but the people trusted in the city god, and he interposed to save them from the peril to which they were exposed—a fact which calls for profoundest gratitude. The Han-lin College is ordered to respectfully prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to Shao Heng-yü, to be reverently placed in the temple of the city god of Pinchow, in acknowledgment of divine favour.

(2) Censor Hwang Hwai-sen memorializes the Throne requesting honours for the gentry and people, both male and female, belonging to the Kaochow and Hweichow prefectures in the Canton province, who were killed in battle by the Taipings or who committed suicide rather than fall into their hands. Every similar request yet preferred, has at once been granted, thus showing how scrupulously careful his sacred Majesty is to extol loyalty and patriotism wherever found. The memorialist is a native of the Canton province, and wherever the rebels appeared, its gentry and literati showed that they could die like patriots in defence of their country, and it may be truly said they never disgraced the "three relations and five constant virtues." Even its rustic village girls would not seek life at the expense of their virtue. They (the gentry, &c.) either died on the battle-field, fighting with the foe, or unhesitatingly committed suicide, and thus by example exerted a most powerful and salutary influence. The memorialist forwards herewith two lists, one containing the names of 2,336 men and women belonging to the Kaochow prefecture, and the other containing the names of 1,724 persons belonging to Hweichow prefecture, and begs that the Throne will be graciously pleased to allow their friends to erect memorial temples and arches to them. Six of the persons mentioned specially distinguished themselves and met death in a very painful manner; he therefore requests that the Board of Rites may be directed to confer special honours on them.

[An edict was issued on the 10th June, granting the above request.]

(3) Pao Yuen-shen, lieutenant-governor of Shansi, reports the following domestic tragedy. In a village in the Wenchia district, a man named Li Chun-ko, his mother, sister and wife threw themselves into a well. The mother was rescued before life was extinct, but the other three were drowned. A paper was found on the body of Li Chun-ko, stating that he had been badly treated by his uncle, who had not given him a fair share of the patrimony, had beaten and abused him and day after day insulted him, in consequence of which they had all resolved to commit suicide. The district magistrate himself held an inquest on the bodies, and from the evidence then elicited, is satisfied that the parties in question did really drown themselves in the way described. The woman who was rescued from the well tells exactly the same tale as the document found on her son. When she was brought forward to confront the uncle Li Tien-hsi, the latter, presuming on his position as a military *Chü-jen* (M.A.), gave himself airs and would not state the real facts of the case. The memorialist therefore requests that he may be temporarily stripped of his button in order to facilitate his examination. When settled, a report of the whole will be sent to the Throne.

Li Tien-hsi is ordered to be deprived of his button and subjected to a rigid examination, and if guilty, to be punished in the way the law provides.

(4) In another memorial, the lieutenant-governor of Shansi reports the destruction by fire of the district prison of Yungchi, and requests that the inspector of police (who is also chief jailor) may be stripped of his rank and subjected to a rigorous examination, with a view to ascertain whether there has been any foul play. Two prisoners under sentence of death by strangulation were so badly burned that they died shortly afterwards; the other prisoners suffered no injury. The district magistrate reports that he was absent on public business at the time; the truth of this statement will be inquired into.

20th.—An edict is issued regarding a

memorial from Liu Kwen-yi, lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi, requesting honours for the gentry and militia who distinguished themselves in the fight with the insurgents last year. When the latter attacked the district city of Chingan last year, Adjutant-General Pu Cheng-chung and the district magistrate Wang I-cheng, led the troops and volunteers against them, captured and beheaded their leaders and exterminated the whole band. Those who took part in this campaign certainly merit some notice. Adjutant-General Pu Cheng-chung is therefore handed over to the Board of War, to be liberally rewarded &c., &c. The Board will confer such honours on those who were killed as their respective merits demand.

21st.—Li Hung-chang reports that the autumn assizes are near at hand, while his duties as superintendent of trade and commissioner to overlook the receipt of the tribute rice, detain him at Tientsin. As he cannot be in two places at once, he proposes to follow the plan adopted last year under similar circumstances, viz., appoint the provincial treasurer, criminal judge and an intendant to represent him. He will receive their reports and revise them before forwarding them to the capital.

(2) In a supplementary memorial, Li Hung-chang begs that General Tan Sheng-ta may be exempted from the duties of horse riding and archery. The severe wounds which he received in the Taiping war still trouble him, and disqualify him for such exercises.

22nd.—Li Han-chang, viceroy of Hukwang, reports the death of General Teng Tsz-wu, and requests the Throne to confer on him the usual honours and a posthumous title. He served under Tseng Kwo-fan in 1852, and took a prominent part against the Taipings in Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, Anhwei and other provinces, and was conspicuous at the retaking of several cities. In 1857 he served under Li Hung-chang against the Nienfei, and in that campaign he received several severe wounds. The following year he was appointed general of the Yun-yang division

in Hupeh, which position he continued to hold up to the time of his death. He died on the 1st March 1872. His death was caused by the sloughing of his old wounds. The Board is ordered to report.

(2) In a supplementary memorial, Li-Hung-chang requests honours and a posthumous title for the late General Chang-Ting-kwei, another of Tseng-Kwo-fan's veterans. He commanded a battalion under Tseng and took an active part against the Taipings in several provinces, and subsequently against the Nienfei. He was the hero of a hundred battles, the marks of which he bore on his person in the form of severe wounds. He passed away on the 11th January.

The Board of War is ordered to report.

(3) The Lieut-Governor of Chekiang reports that an assistant district magistrate named Wang-Cheng, who was supposed to have committed suicide during the Taiping rebellion, has turned up. He was living in Shaohsing at the time of the rebellion but at the approach of the rebels made his escape with his wife and daughter. A friend, however, was informed that all three had committed suicide by drowning, at the village of Tao-hsü, when that place was taken by the rebels in 1861, and he reported the event to the "Inquiry Office" and it was duly entered in the records. The then lieut.-governor, Li-Han-chang, also sent a report of it along with other cases to the Throne, and it was decreed that one of his sons should be received in the National Institute (Kwo-tsz-chien), and that after having been there six months he should be made an expectant township magistrate. But all this time Wang-Cheng was alive and well, and has at last returned home with his family. On hearing that he had been reported dead &c., he presented himself at once before the district magistrate and requested that the whole story might be contradicted. When the memorialist first heard of this affair, he suspected that the tale of suicide &c. had been concocted for a purpose, but after strict inquiry, he is satisfied that is not the case. He has therefore only to request that the Board

may be ordered to erase the case from its records.

23rd. — (1) Li Ho-nien, the new viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang, (now in the capital), is, as a special favour, allowed to ride on horseback in the Purple Forbidden City (the Imperial City).

(2) Li Hung-chang is appointed a Grand Secretary (大學士), but will continue in his post of viceroy of Chihli.

(3) Two cases having been appealed to the Throne, one from Honan and the other from Shantung, the lieut. governor of these respective provinces is ordered to summon the parties concerned before him, make an award in accordance with the statute, and report to the Throne.

24th. — The viceroy and lieut.-governor of Fukien memorialize the Throne requesting increased literary privileges for the Tanshwui and Kohmalan districts in the prefecture of Taiwan, Formosa. Tanshwui was created a *ting* district in the first year of the reign Yungcheng (1722), but it had no literary examinations of its own; these were held at the adjacent district of Changhwa. In the 21st year of Kiaching (1816), however, a literary instructor of the second grade was appointed to the district, and permission was given for it to hold its own examinations. It was allowed to confer six B. A., four *ling-sheng* and four *tseng-sheng* degrees, annually, one wranglership every four years, and two military *siutsaiships* every year. Kohmalan was first included in the empire in the 15th year of Kiaching (1810). It enjoyed no military privileges except being allowed one of the six B. A. degrees allotted to Tanshwui. Subsequently it was given three such degrees, and in 1858, on account of the large contributions it paid on behalf of the war, it was allowed, in perpetuity, an additional literary and military degree every year, and Tanshwui for the same reason was allowed two additional degrees. The population of these districts has greatly increased within the last fifty years. The census taken by the magistrate of Tanshwui gives the population of the district

as 420,000, which shows an increase within the period under review, of 140,000. The population of Kohmalan is 103,000, which shows an increase of 20,000. Education has made equally rapid strides. The annual examination in the former district is attended by 600 candidates, and 200 new candidates present themselves every year. The latter district has 400 candidates for literary honours and 240 students preparing themselves for presentation. In consideration of these facts, the Throne is requested to allow Tanshwui the same literary privileges as are now enjoyed by the adjacent district of Changhwa, viz., a literary instructor of the first grade, 15 *siutsaiships*, (to which should be added the 2 degrees specially conferred in 1858, making in all 17), 15 *lingsheng* and 15 *tsengsheng* degrees, annually, and one wranglership every two years, and 10 military *siutsai-ships* every year. It is further requested that Kohmalan be granted the privileges now enjoyed by Tanshwui, viz., a literary instructor of the second grade, 8 *siutsaiships* (to which should be added the 1 degree specially conferred in 1858, making in all 9), 6 *lingsheng* and 6 *tsengsheng* degrees, annually, and 1 wranglership every four years, and 3 military *siutsaiships* every year.

The Board of Rites is ordered to report.

25th. — The censorate lays the following appeal case before the Throne.

A Chihli peasant complains that his grandfather, father and brother having been murdered by his uncle Wu Pao and others, he can obtain no redress from the local magistrates. This uncle has always been a lawless character and the companion of a set of scoundrels, who were the pest and terror of the neighbourhood. Appellant's grandfather being head clan's man, and fearing that this uncle's conduct would involve the whole clan in trouble, remonstrated with him over and over, but instead of listening to the old man's good advice he conceived a deadly dislike to him, and came one day armed with a big knife to pick a quarrel with him. The knife was taken from him and a complaint laid before

the district magistrate, but the latter took no notice of it. Thus emboldened, he resolved to kill the old man. Accordingly on the night of the 27th August 1870, he and a lot of others came, armed to the teeth, broke into the house and killed the old man, and with him appellant's father and brother, and besides inflicted such serious injuries on an uncle that he will be a cripple for life. The matter was at once brought before the district magistrate, but Wu Pao and his principal accomplice, Wu Yaoming, made their escape. The former, however, was subsequently caught, and confessed to having committed the murder, and stated moreover that ten others were concerned in the affair. But by bribing the Yamen underlings he was allowed to make his escape, and by a free use of the same potent agency, means were found to hoodwink the magistrate and to keep the case out of Court. Complainant appealed successively to the prefect, intendant and viceroy, by whom he was referred back to the district magistrate. But in that quarter bribery has effectually barred the door of justice against him; for although it is now going on for three years since the murder was committed, it is still unavenged. He has therefore come to the capital (to lay his complaint at the foot of the Throne).

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already been recorded.

26th. — Yinghan, lieut.-governor of Anhwei, reports that the officers and men of the *Cho-sheng* regiment are willing to forego their pay arrears, provided the Throne will, in accordance with precedent, confer on their native districts additional literary and military degrees. This regiment, commanded by Kwo Pao-chang, returned from fighting the Taipings in 1865, and immediately took the field against the Nien-fei in Shensi, Shansi, Chihli and other provinces. In these wars it distinguished itself perhaps more than any other regiment, although very badly paid. The arrears from September 1865 to October 1866 amount to no less than Tls. 67,000, and on account of the exhausted state of the military chest, this sum has

never yet been paid. That the officers and men should now voluntarily relinquish their claim out of consideration for their country's present distresses, shows an enthusiastic patriotism worthy of all commendation, and the memorialist hopes that their petition for extra degrees will be listened to. The new regulations framed by the Board state that for every subscription of Tls. 10,000, the subscribing district will be allowed one additional military *sintsaiship* (B. A. degree) for one year. According to this rule Feng-yang and Linhwei, the two districts to which the officers and men of the *Cho-sheng* regiment mainly belong, are each entitled to 3 extra literary and 3 extra military degrees for one year, and as an incentive to others it is hoped the Throne will be pleased to grant the favour asked.

The Board is ordered to consider the matter and report.

(2) In a supplementary memorial, Ying-han reports having received a communication from General Kwo Pao-chang regarding his late father, who was drowned while leading an attack on the rebels, and begging the memorialist to petition the Throne to confer posthumous honours on him. Though a literary man, he headed a militia corps when Taiping and Nienfei rebels approached his native place Linhwa, and successfully defended it against them. He was afterwards given command of a corps, and in concert with General Teng Chia-sheng fought and won several pitched battles. But in the latter part of 1859, being left alone to defend Wan-chwang against an enormous rebel force, he was overpowered, and falling into the river was drowned. On account of the absence of General Teng Chia-sheng in the north at the time, his death was not notified to the Throne, and consequently he has gone unhonoured. His son, General Kwo Pao-chang, therefore feels it his duty to call attention to his father's services and to beg the usual posthumous honours for him. The memorialist would only remark that General Kwo Pao-chang himself took a foremost part against the Taiping

Nienfei and Mahometan rebels in nearly every province, and is the hero of a hundred battles. The memorialist also remembers having heard him several times recite in the camp the tale of his father's bravery and death, and with burning tears rolling down his cheeks, vow he would exterminate every rebel, in order to requite his country and avenge his father. That vow has been redeemed, and the Throne has liberally rewarded him for his services, and has conferred on him among other things a hereditary emolument (or pension.) As a dutiful son he is naturally anxious that his father should also share the Imperial favour, though he shrinks from troubling His Majesty with these family affairs. The memorialist hopes that, in consideration of the son's many and important services and the father's loyal death, the Throne will be pleased to raise the latter to the first official grade, and order his tablet to be placed in the "Temples of the Loyal and Patriotic" belonging to his native place.

The request is granted.

27th.—Enhsi, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, begs the Throne to confer higher titles on the gods, in consideration of their having brought the tribute rice safely on its way to Tientsin. The tribute rice from the Soochow and four neighbouring prefectures for the year 1870, consisting of 700,000 piculs, was despatched from Shanghai in the Spring of 1871, in 426 junks. The latter, though leaving at different times, were favoured all the way with "gentle zephyrs and a placid sea," so that not a single grain of rice was damaged. The same may be said regarding the tribute rice from Chekiang. This is altogether quite unprecedented. It was doubtless due to His Sacred Majesty's good fortune and to the protection of the gods. The Shanghai and Tientsin Tribute Offices have therefore requested the memorialist to petition the Throne to confer higher titles or epithets on the Queen of Heaven, the God of the Wind, the God of the Sea, and the God of the City of Shanghai. The communication states that the Queen of Heaven

(天后), in the 6th and 28th years of Taokwang and 2nd year of Hsienfeng (1852), received the titles *An-lan li-yun* (Calmer of the turbid waters and Benefiter of the transport); *Tren-po hsiuen-hwei* (Tranquillizer of the billows and Dispenser of grace), and *Pao-liu yien-ching* (Opener up of the streams of abounding blessing.) The God of the Wind, in the 28th year of Taokwang and 2nd of Hsienfeng, received the titles *Hsuen-té-tsan-hwa* (Diffuser of Virtue and Assistant Transformer), and *Yang-jen tso-chih* (Spreader of Benevolence and Protector (or Helper) of Government). The God of the Sea at the same time received the titles *Ling-chao chen-ching* (Divinely resplendent Tranquillizer), and *Chai-shun an-lan*. Twenty years have elapsed since the foregoing titles were conferred, and during that time 'thousands of myriads of piculs of rice' have been shipped to Tientsin. Properly the matter should have been represented to the Throne before this, but the troubled state of the province has caused delay. The memorialist has also received a communication on the subject from the provincial treasurer, grain collector and intendant of circuit. He finds that whenever any of the gods in the calendar ward off calamities and benefit the people, it is permissible to petition the Throne to bestow a higher title on them. He hopes the Throne will be pleased to do so in the present instance, and thus gratify the popular wish and extol the divine favour. The acting viceroy Ho Ching joins with him in this memorial.

The Board of Rites is ordered to consider the matter and report.

28th. Permission is given to Lt.-General Paochuen to retire from office. He will retain his ducal rank and privileges.

(2) Shao-Heng-yü, lieutenant-governor of Shensi, reports a wonderful miracle wrought by the patron god of Pinchow on behalf of that city, and requests the Throne to confer a tablet in commemoration of the event. At the commencement of the Mahometan rebellion in 1862, the rebels

laid siege to Pinchow with an overwhelming force. It was a terribly critical time; the fate of the city was trembling in the balance; it might have been taken at any moment. Completely surrounded by rebels and without any hope of succour from without, the inhabitants were in a dreadful state of alarm. But the ex-magistrate relates that every night the sentinels saw a host of bright lanterns issue from the temple of the city god and arrange themselves in order all round the walls, having the appearance of being near and distant at the same time. This continued until the Imperial troops reached Pinchow, when the rebels at once decamped. The prisoners who escaped from the rebels all reported having heard the latter narrate, how, that night after night when they went to assault the city, they saw the walls completely environed with bright lamps, and beheld a god clad in golden armour leading out his troops to repel their attack. This so unnerved them that they could not act with their usual vigour, and the result was that Pinchow was able to hold out for more than a year, although all the neighbouring cities had been taken. The foregoing was reported to the memorialist by the officials belonging to the commissaria department, who received it from the gentry and people. He hopes the Throne will be pleased to commemorate this most wonderful and providential event by conferring a tablet on the temple of the patron god of Pinchow.

[An edict was issued 19th June granting the request.]

29th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial recently received from Ho Ching (acting viceroy of the Two Kiang) regarding the suicide of Feng Chih-i, magistrate of Tienchang, Anhwei. As the literary chancellor's name has come up in connection with the affair, he is ordered to return to the capital as soon as the trial is over. Chi Shih-chang is appointed literary chancellor in his place.

(2) Li Twan-fên is appointed literary chancellor of Yunnan instead of Wan

Isū-chow, who is ordered to return to Peking.

(3) Wang Wen-shao is appointed lieutenant-governor of Hunan, and Wu Yuen-ping treasurer of the same province.

(4) Kwo Po-yin, lieutenant-governor of Hupeh reports the death of Chen Sun, Taotai of Vuchang, and states that Tang Chai-té as been appointed acting Taotai.

30th. Tu Tsung-ying, criminal judge of Hunan (late Taotai of Shanghai) has arrived in Peking and requests His Majesty's instructions.

(2) Imperial edict. To-day a memorial as been received from Censor Chang Ching-ching stating that Wenhsi, a *lang-tung* connected with the "Board for controlling the affairs of the Household," is cleverly manipulating all the public business which passes through his hands much to his own private advantage, and that, relying on his father's position as a president of the Board he cheats right and left with the most barefaced effrontery, and as censor therefore requests that he be dismissed. The expenditure of the State is fixed, and orders have been sent repeatedly to the "Board controlling the affairs of the Household" inculcating economy and directing that care should be taken that the funds were not eaten up by agents and go-betweens. But the statements of Censor Chang Ching-ching plainly show that Wenhsi has so grossly mismanaged the affairs as to give rise to much public scandal, he cannot therefore be tolerated any longer. The high officials of the Board must dismiss him, and engage instead a man of honour and probity. They must so institute a searching inquiry into the charges of malversation and fraud brought against Wenhsi, and report him to the Throne if guilty. They are also ordered to keep a closer look-out after the expenditure of the Board, and see that there is neither waste nor fraud. Should they any time discover any dishonesty on the part of their agents, they must report them to the Throne, when the guilty party will be punished without mercy. Respect this.

(3) An edict is issued ordering the dismissal and arrest of the governor of Potuna (or Petuné) jail, Kirin, on account of the escape of two prisoners. The military governor of the province is directed to closely examine him and his subordinates, with a view to ascertain whether there has been any bribery at work, and to pass sentence on him accordingly. He must catch the two criminals within a given time, on pain of further punishment.

(4) Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, reports having sacrificed to the *Tai Shan* (泰山), inspected the Confucian Temple at Chüfow (the native place of Confucius), which has just undergone a thorough repair, and examined the dykes erected to protect the low lands, in the neighbourhood of Yuncheng, from the inundations of the Yellow River.

July 1st.—Li Hung-chang reports that he has been informed by the Tientsin Relief Office that a letter has been received from a Chekiang gentleman named Hu Kwang-yung, announcing that, in obedience to his mother's instructions, he has sent another donation of one myriad strings of cash (10,000,000 cash, about Taels 6,666) to be employed in draining and planting the flooded districts to the southwest of Tientsin. Last year the same gentleman gave on one occasion 10,000 and on another 5,000 cotton-quilted garments for distribution among the poor, and at his mother's request subsequently sent Taels 10,000 to enable them to purchase implements and seed to till and plant their land. The memorialist then requested the Throne to present him with an Imperial tablet, but the Board of Rites ruled that the case came under the law which provides that, on behalf of any person contributing more than Taels 1,000 towards a charitable object, a request may be made to the Throne for permission to erect a memorial arch,—and permission was accordingly given to Hu Kwang-yung to erect an arch with the inscription *Lo-shan-hao-shih* (Delighting in well-doing and taking pleasure in alms-

giving.) But seeing that he has added to all his previous contributions the magnificent sum of 10,000,000 cash, such a reward is an inadequate acknowledgment of his generosity. He and his mother have acted with a patriotism and benevolence which rebuke the selfishness of this degenerate age, and which may help to inaugurate a better time. The Throne has already conferred on him the rank and title of provincial treasurer, and in answer to a request from the viceroy of Shensi and Kansu (on account of some contributions given on behalf of those provinces) raised his parents (and ancestors?) to the first grade, so that there is nothing more to confer in the way of titles. The memorialist therefore requests that he be presented with an Imperial tablet, in accordance with the statute which provides that special honours may be asked for a person who contributes over Taels 10,000 for charitable purposes. The Throne was pleased last year to confer a tablet on Kwo Sung-lin, a native of Hunan, who gave up his estate for the common benefit of his clan. The same honour had previously been conferred on Chang Hsiang-ho for a similar act. But their conduct cannot be compared for a moment with that of Hu Kwang-yung. They gave for the benefit of their own clan, he for the benefit of strangers. Though neither a native of Chihli nor a Chihli official, yet as soon as he heard of the calamity which had befallen the province, he came forward at his mother's bidding with princely liberality to relieve its distress, and from first to last has contributed over Taels 20,000. Such lofty patriotism has seldom been witnessed in recent times, and if his only reward be a higher title and a memorial arch, it will be a poor inducement to others to follow his example. His mother has already been raised to the first grade; she is 70 years of age and is never weary of well-doing, would the Throne graciously be pleased to present her and her family with an Imperial tablet, in order to mark their Majesties high appreciation of her worth? If this request is granted, the permission formerly

given to erect a memorial arch will be considered as cancelled.

The Board of Rites is ordered to consider the request and report.

2nd.—An edict is issued regarding a memorial from Tso Tsung-tang reporting that the Imperial Commissioners sent to Kokonor find their way blocked up by rebels, and wanting to know what is to be done. Some time ago two high officials were despatched to Kokonor to offer sacrifice. But the memorial states that when they reached Lanchow, they ascertained that the road further on was blocked (by rebels) and deemed it prudent to wait a while at Lanchow. They are ordered to return forthwith to Peking. Changhsü, assistant minister of the Supreme Court of Judicature, who was subsequently despatched on the same errand, must return along with them. When order has been restored in the direction of Sining and the roads re-opened, another commission will be sent. For the future, whenever there may be an occasion for sending a commission to the west, the *yamen* must wait till the particular district for which the commission is intended has been thoroughly tranquillized, before asking for its despatch.

3rd.—Li Hung-chang and Ying-yuen having reported the receipt of the tribute rice from Kiangsu and Chekiang and asked honours for the officials who overlooked the work, an edict is issued directing the Board of Civil Office to confer suitable honours on Li Hung-chang and Ying-yuen, and also on the other officials whose names are mentioned.

(2) Yinghan, lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, lauds the conduct of a young lady who committed suicide on hearing of the death of her betrothed, and asks permission to erect a memorial arch to her, &c. She was the second daughter of Liu Ching-tai, a native of Wutsin in the Changehow prefecture, Kiangsu, now assistant magistrate of Hsuncheng, Anhwei. She was betrothed while a child to an undergraduate called Yien Wen-tsao, belonging to a literary and official family residing at Huchow in Che-

kiang. When that city was taken by rebels, Wen-tsoo and all the other members of the Yien family, both young and old, committed suicide by drowning. This fact was reported to the Throne in 1865 by Li Hung-chang, then lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, and permission was given to erect a temple to their memory. But the young lady being way with her father at Hwaining in Anhwei, knew nothing of the fate of her betrothed, until the early part of 1866, when her father received a letter informing him of his son-in-law's death &c. On the 15th of the same moon the young lady poisoned herself. She was just 17 at the time of her death. The foregoing is corroborated by eyewitnesses and other persons well acquainted with the whole story. Such a virtuous act of self-sacrifice on the part of one so young deserves to be commemorated. The memorialist finds that the Throne was pleased to allow the customary honours (a memorial arch &c.) to a young lady belonging to Yangchow who poisoned herself in 1870 on hearing of the death of her betrothed, and is therefore led to hope they will be granted in the present case. Besides the erection of an arch, he would ask that her tablet should be placed in the ancestral temple of the Yien family along with that of her betrothed, that she may enjoy with him the honours of sacrifice and worship.

The Board of Rites is directed to report.

4th.—Tsuncheng and his colleagues report the following appeal cases.

(1) A Shantung peasant complains that his father and eight other members of his family have been murdered out of revenge, by a person named Li Yung, and that he can obtain no redress from the local officials. The quarrel arose in this way. A neighbour's cow (or buffalo) having been stolen by some one, complainant's father was asked to try and find out the thief. He discovered the missing cow on Li Yung's premises, and an action was entered against the latter at the district magistracy. In revenge for this, Li Yung and his party, on the evening of the 28th February 1871, came armed with guns and murdered com-

plainant's grandmother, his father and mother, his three sisters, a brother and a nephew, and then set fire to the house, which he burned to ashes and with it the bodies of his unhappy victims. Complainant immediately brought the case before the district magistrate; but only one of the guilty party was arrested, while complainant himself was imprisoned by the magistrate for forty days. He then appealed in succession to the prefect, the criminal judge, and lieutenant-governor, all of whom sent orders to the district magistrate to investigate the case. But the magistrate only had one of the accomplices in the murder apprehended. Complainant therefore appealed again to the lieutenant-governor, who sent orders both to the prefect and district magistrate to hear the case. But up to the present nothing whatever has been done; thus driven to desperation, he has come to the capital.

(2) A Honan farmer charges a person belonging to the same clan, named Niu Shan-lin, with having stabbed his father. This man Niu Shan-lin was always a black-guard, and wishing to get a hand in the control of certain local affairs, he asked complainant's father to stand security for him, and because he would not, conceived a violent dislike to him, and one day when he was away in the melon field, attacked him with a knife and killed him. The first intimation which appellant received of the occurrence was from one Niu Yü, who told him that his father had been taken seriously ill in the melon field. He hastened to the spot and saw his father in a pool of blood, quite dead, and on unfastening his clothes found a great gash in his side; he also picked up a paper fan near the spot which he recognized as belonging to Niu Shan-lin and which pointed to him as the murderer. Complainant immediately reported the matter to the district magistrate, who held an inquest on the body, and gave orders to arrest the suspected murderer. But the latter bribed the police and set them on to extort money from the whole neighbourhood, so that he was allowed to remain at large. Seeing that the magistrate made no endeavour to

apprehend him, complainant appealed to the prefect, who ordered the magistrate to investigate the case. But somehow or other the underlings managed to hoodwink the magistrate and get the murderer set at liberty. Complainant then appealed to the criminal judge and lieutenant-governor, who directed the prefect to hear the case, but through the carelessness of the district magistrate, the case has not been heard yet, though the murder was committed nearly two years ago.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already appeared. [The lieutenant-governors of the respective provinces were ordered to try the cases and report to the Throne. See *Gazette* of the 23rd June].

5th.—Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli reports having received the following statement from Chen Ching-fan regarding his father Chen Fow-en, late president of the Board of Civil Office, who was banished to Ili. "My father was banished to Ili in 1861, and took with him into exile my mother and myself, and one of my brothers, with his wife and child. We arrived in Ili in September 1862. In 1864 the Mahometan insurrection took place, and the military governor memorialized the Throne, lauding my father for his energetic conduct in the commissariat department and begging that the sentence of banishment against him might be cancelled. The Throne was pleased to grant the request, but ordered my father to remain in Ili for the time being, to assist the commissariat, promising to reward his services, if he continued as he had begun. In February 1866, the Mahometan rebels laid siege to Hwui-yuen (Kuldsha) the capital of Ili, and the aspect of affairs was threatening in the extreme. My father and brother mounted guard on the walls; and although I was only 13 and my nephew only 10, he took us with him to do duty on the walls also. On the 5th March, the rebels having cut a mine underground, blew up a large portion of the wall along the northern part of the city, and then stormed through the breach, but were re-

pulsed by the troops under my father and brother, and the breach was repaired. On the 22nd, however, the whole rebel force attacked the city. The battle raged from 7 in the morning till 5 in the evening, the rebels keeping up a furious storm all the time. It then became evident that the city was doomed, and my father and brother, already covered with wounds, stabbed themselves and died. On hearing of their death, my mother, my brother's wife and her little boy, threw themselves in the fire and perished. I and my nephew, Lien-kwan, were taken prisoners by the rebels. I was kept in such close custody that I could not go to search for the bodies of my father and brother, and bury them; neither did I know what afterwards became of my nephew Lien-kwan. In June 1871, when the Russians entered the city, the Mahometans having been routed, I went to the Russian camp, and there fortunately met my old Shensi teacher, Liu Jui-han, who told me that he had buried my father and brother and had been everywhere searching for me. He then went to the quarters of the Russian general and requested my liberty and a passport for me to return home by way of Kiakhta and Kalgan. The necessaries for the journey were obtained from different parties *en route*, by Liu Jui-han, and we reached Peking on the 4th June ult. I there learned that my father's principal wife, having waited in the capital so long without receiving any news from Ili, had just gone with her family by boat to the south. I started at once post-hast after her, and overtook her at Tientsin. When I first met her and told her the fate of my father and brother, her grief was so overwhelming that she did not wish to live any longer. Being here at Tientsin, I bring the foregoing before the local authorities and request them to transmit it to the Throne."

In consideration of Chen Fow-en's long term of service, and the painful and heroic character of his death and that of four of his kindred, as detailed above, Li Hung-chang begs the Throne to restore him to his former rank and order th-

Board to confer on him the usual honours. He also requests that the Board may be ordered to confer suitable honours on Chen Fow-en's concubine, son, son-in-law and nephew, who shared his exile and at last heroically perished with him, that their faithful *manes* may be soothed and comforted. In reference to the above, the Grand Council received the following Imperial rescript. "On Chen Fow-en there is no need to bestow any honours; but on his concubine, son &c., let the Board of Rites confer such honours as their respective cases merit."

6th.—The people of the Hsing-tang district, Chihli, having repaired their city walls at an expense of Taels 24,300, Li Hung-chang requests that the district be allowed 2 additional literary and military *shitsaiships* for one year. A new statute provides that a contribution of Taels 20,000 shall entitle a district to this privilege. He also asks honours for the district magistrate and for the gentry, through whose efforts the money was raised. The Pao-an district has also expended Taels 8,593, in repairing its walls, and for the leading men of this district he requests suitable honours.

7th.—Censor Chang Ching-ching accuses an official belonging to the "Board controlling the affairs of the Household," of fraud. The memorialist saw an edict from their Majesties the Empresses Tszan and Tszhsi (in reply to a memorial from Wöjen) in the *Gazette* of the 9th May, 1869, ordering the greatest economy in everything pertaining to the Emperor's marriage, and enjoining that care should be taken that the funds were not eaten up by agents and go-betweens, &c. Having received such instructions, it was the duty of the officials to make every possible effort to economize. The memorialist, however, hears that Wenhsi, an official belonging to the "Board controlling the Household," and son of Ming-shan, one of the presidents of the Board, is cleverly manipulating all the business which passes through his hands, so as to contribute to his private advantage. Trusting to his father's position on

the Board, he cheats in the most barefaced way. Whenever required to purchase anything, he puts down most exorbitant prices, and if the Board officials make any objection, he delays purchasing until the things are urgently needed for use, and then the officials are afraid to say any more, lest the things be not forthcoming when required. Thus fraud increases day by day, and half the funds are swallowed up by agents. The scandal which is just now in everybody's mouth is not without foundation. But seeing what a low state the funds of the Board are in, ought such a rascal as this to be kept there? The memorialist would urge the Throne to order his immediate dismissal and the appointment of a man of honour and probity in his place. The Board should also be directed to keep a sharp lookout after its agents, and report to the Throne any found guilty of fraud.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already appeared. [See *Gazette* of June 30th.]

(2) The military governor of Kirin reports the escape of eight prisoners from the Potuna (or Petuné) jail while the guards were asleep. The "hue and cry" was at once raised, and after two day's search, six were captured. Two, however, still remain at large. One of these was waiting his trial on the charge of being a member of a robber gang, and the other on the charge of having murdered his wife. The superintendent of the prison is guilty of extraordinary carelessness in allowing the escape of so many prisoners, and the memorialist would request that he be stripped of his rank forthwith, in order that he and the guards may be brought to Kirin to undergo their trial and punishment. He has been ordered to catch the two criminals within four months, on pain of being again reported to the Throne.

[An edict degrading the jailor, &c., was published in the *Gazette* of June 30th.]

8th.—Juilin, viceroy of the Two Kwang, reports that one of the candidates at the examination for *Chüjen* (M.A.) held at Canton in 1870, has been convicted of

having employed another person to write his essays, and that sentence has been pronounced on him in accordance with the statute. The fraud was reported to the Throne shortly after its occurrence. Since then, the parties concerned have been subjected to a rigorous examination, and the facts elicited may be briefly stated thus: Chen Lang and Lu Yun-chiu are both natives of Hsin-hwei, had known each other from children and had been fellow-students. In 27th year of Taokwang, Chen Lang took his B. A. degree at Canton, and subsequently purchased the degree of *kung-sheng*. He presented himself at the M. A. examination held in Canton in 1870. The other man, Lu Yun-chiu, had tried over and over again to take his B. A., but had always failed, and being wretchedly poor, he took the post of *hao-chün* (attendant on the candidates) during the examinations, hoping to turn a penny by writing essays for some of the candidates. This, however, was not known to Chen Lang till afterwards. But it happened that Chen Lang, when he had only finished two of the three essays required, was suddenly taken ill, and that Lu Yun-chiu came to his assistance. Thus it was that they first met. Now this Lu Yun-chiu had taken the post of *hao-chün* simply and solely with a view to make a little money by writing essays for some one or other, but up to that time no one had engaged his services; Chen Lang, being unwell, and feeling very dissatisfied with the two essays he had already written, asked him to correct these, and to write for him the third essay, promising Lu Yun-chiu \$600 should he succeed in getting his M. A. Fascinated by the hope of gaining so much money, Lu Yun-chiu accepted the offer and wrote the essays, which were copied by Chen Lang and handed in to the examiners. Chen Lang then left the hall. But the examiners having observed something very suspicious in the bearing of Lu Yun-chiu, examined him and found on him certain essays, which on examination proved to be the original drafts of the essays given in by Chen Lang. Both were at once taken into custody

and handed over to the prefect. When examined, both confessed their guilt and stated the circumstances of the case as narrated above. There was no previous agreement or collusion between them. Now the law provides that persons who combine, whether by previous agreement or by word of mouth at the time, to commit fraud (at the examinations), and who actually commit such fraud, shall, if discovered, be condemned to 3 months' cangue and be banished to some pestilential district on the frontier, at least 4,000 *li* from their homes; the principal and his abettor to suffer the same penalty. This is accordingly the sentence which should be passed on Chen Lang and Lu Yun-chiu. The memorialist begs that the negligence of the officials in allowing such proceedings to escape their notice may be condoned.

The Board of Punishment is ordered to report.

9th.—To-day, Saishangah sent a special memorial to the Throne returning thanks for the honor conferred on his son Chung-chi, who has been created a Duke.

(2) An edict is issued creating Chung-chi (father of the Empress-elect), a duke of the third rank, and his three wives, two of whom are Princesses, duchesses, with the style 一品夫人 *yi pin fu jen*, ladies of the first rank.

10th.—In reply to a memorial from the lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, an edict is issued giving permission to confer a posthumous title on General Ho Chao-liang, who was killed by the rebels in 1865. He has already received the usual honours, and permission has been given to his friends to erect a memorial temple to him. This additional distinction is conferred in consideration of his brave but painful death.

(2) The literary Chancellor of Anhwei reports having held examinations at Hweichow, Ningkwo and Kwangtê. Of the three prefectures, Hweichow stands first in a literary point of view and Ningkwo second. In riding and archery all three are very common place. These departments suffered so terribly during the

rebellion that there are very few people left. The memorialist has travelled a whole day without seeing a single person. The villages and hamlets are wildernesses, and the public roads are all overgrown with thorns and briars. Learning is at such a low ebb compared to what it used to be, that there is not a sufficient number of candidates to take the degrees allowed to the several districts. He is doing what he can, with the assistance of the local officials, to induce literary men to return to their deserted homes.

(3) Tso Tsung-tang, viceroy of Kansu, memorializes the Throne regarding four little boys now in custody, whose fathers headed the late Mahometan insurrection in that province. In 1863, the Mahometans at Ninghsia, under the leadership of Ma Wan-hsuen and Na Wan-yuen, rose in arms, took the city, butchered the officials and killed over 300,000 of the Chinese population. They acted with similar ferocity wherever they went. But they have all met with their reward. It seems, however, that Ma Wan-hsuen has a son and two grandsons, all three just a year old, still alive. Na Wan-lin (yuen ?) has also two sons living, one six years old and the other one. The memorialist proposes to deal with them in accordance with the statute relating to the descendants of rebels, who are too young to participate in their parents' crime, viz., keep them in custody till they come of age, and then hand them over to the Board controlling the affairs of the Household, to be dealt with, so that the last vestige of the rebel race may be destroyed and thus future trouble prevented.

The proper Yamen is ordered to take up the above.

11th.—Two prefects and two district magistrates belonging to Moukden having left their posts without having balanced their official accounts, an edict is issued ordering them to do so forthwith.

12th.—Li Hung-chang reports having transhipped and despatched to Tungchow all the tribute rice received from Kiangsu and Chekiang. The former province has

sent 686,496 piculs and the latter 686,496 piculs, (the latter amount is the tribute from three prefectures only, viz., Hangchow, Kiahsing and Huchow.)

13th.—Li Hung-chang and Ying-yuen, assistant director of the Imperial granaries, unite in a memorial recommending to the notice of the Throne the officials who superintended the transshipment of the Kiangsu and Chekiang tribute rice at Tientsin. Although there were over 1,000,000 piculs, the whole was transhipped to Tungchow within two months, a fact which sufficiently shows how hard these officials worked. They also took every possible precaution to prevent the repetition of old abuses, and exerted themselves to the utmost to curtail expenses.

(2) In a supplementary memorial, Li Hung-chang begs the Throne to raise Enfu, acting salt commissioner, to the 2nd rank, in consideration of his exertions in connection with the transshipment of the tribute rice.

(3) In another memorial, Li Hung-chang petitions the Throne to raise the ancestors of Ting Show-chang (Taotai of Tientsin) and Ying-po, (grain commissioner of Kiangsu), for three generations to the 1st rank. A similar request was made on their behalf last year, but no reply has as yet been received from the Board of Civil Office. Both these officials have rendered most important aid to the tribute service for a number of years, and deserve the distinction asked. Their ancestors have been already raised to the 2nd rank, and the memorialist would earnestly beg that they may be now raised to the 1st.

He also calls attention to the efficient measures adopted this year by Chen Chin, Customs' Taotai at Tientsin, in regard to the moving and mooring of the grain junks in the Peiho, owing to which no collisions have occurred between them and foreign steamers, and asks that he may be raised to the 2nd rank. In former years there has always been a number of collisions between the junks and foreign steamers, by which the former have been sunk. But last year Chen Chin, assisted by some

foreign captains, surveyed the river and marked off the junk anchorages, leaving a clear way for steamers. A chart was then drawn up, giving the results of the survey, and copies were distributed among the shipping. He made another survey this spring, in conjunction with the foreign consuls and commissioner of customs, and the result of his labours is that there has not been a single collision during the whole season.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing memorials has already appeared. [The Board of Civil Office was ordered to report. See *Gazette* of July 8th.]

14th.—The viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Fukien report that the commander-in-chief of the provincial forces has gone to Formosa on a tour of inspection. In the 53rd year of the reign Kien-lung (1788) the following edict was received by the Fukien authorities. Formosa, from its isolated position and the turbulent character of its inhabitants, is a convenient spot for plotting and sedition; we therefore direct that the Manchu general, the viceroy, lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief make, in routine, periodic visits to the island, and forward a report thereon to the Throne. A similar edict was received in the 11th year of Kiaching, and again in the 15th year of the same reign. The latter edict ordered that the visit should be biennial. But since 1847 the only visit to the island was made by the admiral of Fukien, in 1867. The authorities have therefore felt it their duty to depute one of their number to visit it this year, and have accordingly sent the commander-in-chief. He started from Amoy in a steamer, and has already arrived at Formosa. As soon as he has completed his tour, a report will be forwarded to the Throne.

15th.—The lieutenant-governor of Yunnan requests the dismissal of Lieut.-Colonel Pi Yew-jen, for colluding with a freebooter named Wang Cheng-yun. The latter was formerly an ensign under Pi Yew-jen, but has lately turned brigand, and has been plundering the Shih-ping district. Orders were sent to Pi Yew-jen to arrest him, but

instead of that he had several interviews with him and allowed him to escape, which shows plainly enough that they are playing into each other's hands. The memorialist therefore requests that Pi Yew-jen be dismissed for ever from the Imperial service, and be required to apprehend Wang Cheng-yun within a given time. The latter, when caught, will be dealt with according to martial law and decapitated.

16th.—To-day's *Gazette* contains nothing of general interest.

17th.—Imperial edict. Chu Feng-piao has already twice asked permission to retire from office on account of ill-health, and on each occasion he was allowed leave of absence in order to see what rest and medicine would do. He now reports that his leave has expired, but that his health has not improved, and renews his request for permission to retire. Although over 70 years of age, his mental vigour is unimpaired, and as grand secretary, he has been of great assistance to us and we have always placed the utmost confidence in him. Seeing, however, that his health does not improve, and that he has again begged in most earnest language permission to retire, we are reluctantly compelled to grant his request. He will be allowed his full salary, in order that his old age may be rendered as comfortable as possible, and that it may be seen with what tender affection an old and faithful servant is regarded by the Throne.

(2) Wen-siang is appointed a grand secretary, and Cheuen-ching, president of the Board of Punishments, is made an assistant grand secretary.

(3) Juilin, (viceroy of the Two Kwang) is appointed grand secretary of the Wen hwa tien, and Li Hung-chang grand secretary of the Wu-ying tien.

(4) Ying-kwei (late viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang) is appointed a president of the Board of War.

18th.—Imperial edict. Elehopu report that officials travelling on public business are in the habit of carrying goods with them for sale, and that they make the most extortionate demands for camels and horse

at the different post-houses *en route*, and that if their demands are not promptly met they do not hesitate to use their whips to enforce them. He therefore requests the promulgation of an edict forbidding such abuses. These post-houses are established for the convenience of public travellers, but if these persons act as they are represented, such abominable proceedings must be put a stop to without delay. Henceforth high officials despatching persons to a distance on public business, must furnish them with a passport, stating their names, destination, number of camels and horses required, &c. This pass they must produce at each post-house, when the official in charge will see their wants supplied. Any attempt at extortion must be reported at once to the proper authorities, and severely punished.

19th.—Chinglin, inspector of the Imperial silk factory at Nanking, reports that he has not a sufficient number of looms to complete the orders sent him within the specified time, and proposes to purchase a few more. On the 5th June ult., he received a despatch from the Board controlling the affairs of the Household, in reference to a previous order for 19,850 pieces of silk, satin, gauze and crape, large size, or equal to 28,900 pieces ordinary size, and informing him that a grant of 1,000,000 taels had been made to the Nanking and Soochow factories to enable them to complete their respective orders, the money to be furnished by the viceroy of the Two Kiang and others.

The Nanking factory used to have 668 looms, but these were completely destroyed during the rebellion. In 1865, when the factory was rebuilt, only 230 looms were made, and with this small number, it is impossible to complete the orders in the time required. He has therefore hired several looms, and intends to purchase 60 more. Knowing that the things are intended for the Imperial marriage, he will do his utmost to finish them in good time.

July 20th.—Tan Mow-chien, a president of the Board of Civil Office, is appointed

an assistant grand secretary, a chancellor of the Hanlin and examiner of Imperial edicts.

(2) Wensiang and Li Hung-tso are appointed *Tsung-tsais* of the *Wu-ying-tien*, and Shen Kwei-fen *Tsung-tsai* of the Office of Historiographers.

(3) Wenhwei, provincial treasurer of Kiangsi, is ordered to return to Peking to await an appointment, and Liu Ping-chang is appointed treasurer in his stead.

(4) The prefect of Anluh in Hupeh and the prefect of Tungchow in Yunnan, are ordered to deliver up their seals of office and repair to Peking for presentation at Court.

(5) Li Hung-chang reports having dispensed additional relief to the Wen-an and Ta-cheng districts in the metropolitan prefecture, where the distress caused by the floods last year is unusually severe. When going from Paoting to Tientsin the memorialist observed that the situation of these two districts was lower than that of the surrounding country. They have therefore been subjected to frequent inundations and consequent loss of crops. Last year they suffered worse than any other district, and the water has not even yet drained off, so that the people are in a state of abject wretchedness. The relief distributed in the Spring was quite insufficient to meet the needs of the case, and officials have been sent to distribute Relief-tickets among the poorest and most needy families; and the Relief Office have had orders to dispense the following: 6,722 piculs of rice and wheat sent from Kiangsu; 2,060 piculs of rice and 1,400 piculs of millet from Haichow; 6,934 piculs of rice from Fukien, and 2,075,000 *cash* from the Volunteer Office, being the interest on certain funds out on loan. Should this help prove inadequate, measures will be adopted for affording further relief, so that every one may have food and shelter. Plans will also be devised for draining the land, so that it may be planted.

(6) Lt.-General Kukechitai reports that the Jehol troops are now quite familiar with the use of foreign muskets &c., and

that the drill-sergeants sent up from Peking in 1870, may return to the capital. Of the latter he speaks in very high terms of commendation, and begs the Throne to reward their services in some suitable way.

21st.—Mieni, an under-secretary in the Board of War in Shengking, begs two or three months leave, in order to visit his aged father. The memorialist was transferred from Peking to Shengking in 1869. He has done nothing whatever in return for the many favours the Throne has conferred on him, and it behoves him, especially at the present time, to exert the little ability he has, in the Imperial cause, that he may not receive his rice wholly for nothing. In ordinary circumstances he certainly would not dare to think of self or indulge his own private feelings, but his father is nearly 70 years of age and is suffering from asthma, so that he cannot be expected to live much longer. In his letters he constantly exhorts the memorialist to think of the country, not of him, but such words are prompted by a desire to allay the memorialist's anxiety, and really make him more anxious. He feels that his aged parent cannot be with him much longer, and he would be inexpressibly grateful for two or three months' leave of absence, that he might visit him before he is no more.

He is allowed two months' leave.

(2) Lt.-General Kukechitai reports two prefects and two district magistrates as defaulters in several small sums, and requests that orders may be issued for their immediate appearance at Jehol to settle their accounts. As one of the magistrates has since died, his friends must appear in his stead.

22nd.—Hü Cheng-hsin, a Yunnan prefect, having memorialized the Throne through the Censorate, recommending the Government to purchase Yunnan copper, as a means of raising funds for the army, an edict is issued ordering the Board of Revenue to consider the scheme and report.

(2) The lieutenant-governor of Anhwei reports the particulars of the death of General Ho Chao-liang, who was killed by the

rebels at Luchow in 1866, and asks the Throne to confer a posthumous title on him.

[An edict was issued July 10th, granting the request.]

23rd.—Pao Yuen-shen, lieutenant-governor of Shansi, reports that the friends of the late district magistrate Pao Chiang have paid over to the treasurer Tls. 10,000, being the balance of the sum in which deceased was defaulter and for which he was reported to the Throne and degraded. Now that the whole has been paid up, the memorialist begs that the deceased may be restored to his former rank and honours.

The request is granted.

(2) In another memorial Pao Yuen-shen reports a case of highway robbery, and requests the degradation of the magistrate in whose district it occurred. A man named Chow Chao-kwei, a native of I-chow, was travelling homewards with a troop of camels and mules laden with money belonging to a calico firm in Fengchen. On the 27th April, in the early part of the afternoon he arrived at Chi-to-pu, a village in the Hweng-yuen district, and was met just outside of the village by three mounted brigands, one of whom stopped the mules and camels, while the other two, having first terrified the poor muleteer out of his wits by letting off firearms at him, made off with 1,950 taels of sycee. He immediately reported the robbery to the district magistrate, but no trace of the robbers could be discovered. The occurrence of such a daring robbery on the highway is a very grave affair, and seriously implicates the district magistrate. He is to blame for not having taken measures to prevent such acts of violence within his jurisdiction, and for his inability to catch the bandits after the act had been done, and he should be severely punished as a warning to others. The memorialist therefore requests that he be deprived of his buttons and given two months to catch the robbers and recover the booty, failing which, to be reported to the Throne for further punishment.

The magistrate is stripped of his button &c., as requested.

24th.—The Censorate lays before the Throne the following appeal case.

A person named Kung Tsung-kao, a native of Chung-ching, Szechuen, states that on the night of Jan. 18th 1866, two of his uncles had their houses broken into by a band of robbers, and over 400 taels of silver and 80,000 *cash*, besides raw silk, clothes, etc., carried off. His uncle Chengho shouted for help, and for doing so was badly wounded by the robbers on both arms, and on the right hand; one of the servants also received a severe cut on the head. The affair was at once reported to the district magistrate, who issued warrants for the apprehension of the robbers, but the police went shares with the robbers in their booty, so of course did not arrest them. Consequently, on the 16th Feb. 1866, the gang came again, and burned four rooms of his uncle Chengho's house. On the 22nd of the same month they broke into his uncle Cheng-yang's house and carried away about 500 taels. The local militia was called out to seize them, and it was then discovered that the two policemen above referred to, were taking a leading part with the robbers. One of them was seen to throw away some of the plunder and run, and the other fought on the side of the robbers against the militia. These facts were again reported to the magistrate, but nothing was done. On the 12th March the robbers and the yamen police, making in all more than a hundred men, came once more, armed with guns and knives. First they entered his uncle Chengho's bedroom and wounded two of his sons, one on the head and the other on the breast, and carried away 200 taels of silver and 130 *strings of cash*. They then entered another room, and inflicted such severe wounds on complainant's grandfather, that he will be a cripple for life. From this room, they took 60,000 *cash*. They next visited complainant's apartments, and wounded his wife so severely that she died of her wounds, and complainant himself

received a sword cut on his left hand. From his rooms they took 470 taels and 20,000 *cash*. The sufferers made a joint representation to the magistrate on the subject, but he sent the same policemen as before! Subsequently one of the gang when being examined on charge of another robbery committed in the city, confessed the names of the ringleaders in complainant's case; but although two or three were apprehended, nothing was done to them. Afterwards a fresh lot of police were set on the track of the gang, who apprehended one of the party and recovered a portion of the spoil. When caught, this person stated that the police-runner Chengan and his assistants, were parties to the robbery; he was therefore waylaid by these runners and murdered. Complainant appealed on several occasions to the criminal judge and viceroy, and orders were sent to the magistrate to investigate the case. When first examined the police-runners confessed to having taken part in the robbery, but having bribed the Yamen clerks, they were allowed to retract this confession and were let off. Complainant has therefore come to the capital for redress.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already appeared.

(2) Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, reports wonderful miracles wrought by the river gods, and begs the Throne to confer higher titles on them in acknowledgment of their gracious interposition. While the embankment (of the new Yellow River) at How-chia-lin was being constructed, the warm weather unfortunately set in, and the rise in the river consequent on the thawing of the ice was so great that the current became furious. When the memorialist arrived and saw that the river continued to rise day after day, he made devout prayer to the river gods, and as soon as the ceremony was over, the water was observed suddenly to fall. On the north side of the river, it fell so as to leave 200 feet of dry shore sufficient to allow the workmen to commence work. During the progress of the work also, the gods over and over again inter-

posed to help it on. This was notably the case with the three gods Chin-lung-sz-tai-wang, Hwang-tai-wang and Chu-tai-wang, who were constantly on hand and did not disappear till after the embankment was finished. The other gods such as Chen-chiu-lung-chiang-chün, Tsao-chiang-chün and Pai-lao-jeu also came now and then and wrought miracles. Again when an attempt was made to construct a small side dam as a support to the main embankment, the water was found to be so deep and the current so strong as to render the job exceedingly difficult; and to make matters worse, that night the water suddenly rose eight feet and the embankments themselves were in danger of being destroyed. The whole night was spent in trying to protect them. The next day, March 31st, at 7 o'clock there was another sudden rise, and the safety of the southern embankment was threatened, but just at the critical moment the water suddenly fell over 10 feet, and the embankments were saved. In another day the work was completed, and the people were filled with reverent amazement at this wonderful interposition of the gods, and it behoves the Throne to confer some honours on them in acknowledgment of their services. The memorialist therefore begs that orders may be given to erect a temple to Chin-lung-sz-tai-wang at How-chia-lin, and that a higher title may be conferred on him. He also requests that the other gods mentioned, viz., Hwang-tai-wang, Chu-tai-wang, Chen-chiu-lung-chiang-chün, Tsao-chiang-chün and Pai-lao-jeu may receive higher titles, and be placed in the new temple, to be sacrificed to and worshipped. By granting these requests the Throne will be carrying out the popular wish, and at the same time acknowledging the favour of the gods.

The Board of Rites is ordered to consider the above and report.

July 25th.—Chu Feng-piao (president of the Board of Civil Office and one of the grand secretaries), again memorializes the Throne requesting permission to retire from office on account of ill-health.

[An edict was issued August 17th granting the request.]

26th.—The *Tsung-li-yamen* memorializes the Throne regarding a pupil in *Tung-wen-kwan* (the so-called "Peking University.") On the 28th January the yamen reported the examination of the pupils in the above college, and requested the Throne to bestow honours on them according to their respective merits. Among those recommended was one Yang Chao-yün, a Huchow *fu-sheng* (B. A.), and the yamen requested that he should be made a *fu-kung-sheng* and an officer of instruction, with the title of secretary (or clerk) to the Privy Council. This request the Throne was pleased to grant. But on the 6th May the Board of Civil Office notified the Throne that the bye-laws provide that a Bachelor of Arts, whatever may be his particular merit, shall only be recommended for the position of assistant magistrate, not for an officer of instruction, and that therefore the request of the *Tsung-li-yamen* should be disallowed, &c. This memorial was approved of by the Throne. Their former recommendations in behalf of Yang Chao-yün not being in accordance with the rules of the Board of Civil Office, it is the memorialist's duty to ask other honours for him, and they would request that he be made a prefect's secretary with the title of deputy sub-prefect.

(2) In another memorial the *Tsung-li-yamen*, in accordance with the regulations of the *Tung-wen-kwan* (Peking University), requests that Ting Ju-mei, who has served four years as Chinese teacher in the French department, be made an expectant *Chihhsien* and sent to one of the provinces to await an appointment. He will be detained, however, another year in the college, in order to initiate his successor. The yamen begs that Wang Chung-lin, who has been Chinese teacher in the Russian department for two years, be made an expectant *Chihhsien*; but in accordance with the regulations of the college, he must remain in his present post for two years more, before he will be sent to the provinces to await an appointment.

27th.—The lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi forwards a memorial from the gentry and people of that province, expatiating on the services of Tseng Kwo-fan, and asking permission to erect a memorial temple to him in Nauchang. The memorial was drawn up by Liu Yi, a retired member of the Hanlin College, and others. It states that: "Kiangsi was the scene of war for over 10 years. It was one of the first provinces attacked by the rebels and the last from which they retired; and during the whole time Tseng Kwo-fan was its great protector. In 1853 the rebels laid siege to the provincial capital. The garrison was miserably small, and knowing this the local malcontents joined the rebels, so that Nauchang was placed in a most critical position. On hearing of this, Tseng Kwo-fan sent a large force, under the command of Lo Tseh-nan, and the siege was raised. In 1854, Tseng Kwo-fan, having retaken Wuchang, despatched his victorious troops to operate at Kiukiang and other places along the Yangtze; but the expedition was a failure, and Tseng Kwo-fan himself was on more than one occasion placed in imminent peril. During 1855 he gradually fought his way to Nankang and Nanchang, and sent his generals to retake Kwangsin, Yiyang, &c., which they did. But shortly afterwards he had to face the combined forces of Shih Ta-kai, Lai Yu-sin and other rebel leaders, while his own ablest generals, Lo Tseh-nan &c., were away in Hupeh, and with the handful of troops under his command it was impossible for him to contend successfully with such overwhelming numbers. He was defeated, and the defeat cost Kiangsi the loss of eight prefectures and more than fifty districts. He was also cut off from his supplies, and his men lost heart. But in the midst of all these disasters he remained firm and unmoved, devising new means for raising supplies and seeking help from the neighbouring provinces. His patient heroism under these most trying circumstances was known to soldiers and people, and the thought of it brings tears even at this distance of time. In 1856 help arrived from Hupeh and Hunan; one

detachment under the command of his brother Tseng Kwo-hwa and another under his brother Tseng Kwo-chuen. The other generals were also men whose worth his keen eye had perceived, and whom he had placed in command. The plan of operations was sketched by himself, and proved a success in every respect. The rebels were driven from the province and peace was restored. In 1859 he went to the help of Chekiang, having first sent a detachment of his troops to retake Fow-liang and Ching-te-chen on the border, and subsequently Nganking and Nanking. During 1864, the rebels, under Li Shih-hsien, Chen Ping-wen and others, numbering "scores of myriads," again invaded Kiangsi, and were joined by the remnants of the rebel forces from Soochow and Changchow. Fuchien and the neighbouring prefectures were completely overrun by them, and people feared that the horrors of 1855 were about to be repeated. Tseng Kwo-fan and his army were in Anhwei at the time, but he immediately despatched Pao Chao with a whole regiment to meet them, ordering him to make all possible speed and travel by forced marches. A great and bloody battle was fought at Huwan, lasting over six hours; myriads of the enemy were slain, and the rest driven back precipitately on Kwangtung. The victory was complete and final. But it was a critical moment. The fate of the province was trembling in the balance, and a hair might have turned it either way. During 1865 the last remnants of the rebellion were completely stamped out, and the province rescued from the danger which had threatened it. The foregoing is a brief statement of what Tseng Kwo-fan did for Kiangsi in a military point of view. The memorialists will not attempt to narrate all he did in other respects. The Throne has already lavished on him its highest honours, and it now remains for the people to express to him their love and gratitude in worship and sacrifice. They therefore unite in a memorial earnestly begging permission to erect a temple to him in Nanchang." The lieutenant-governor

hopes the Throne will be pleased to grant the favour asked. Similar honours have been conferred on former officials. There are no less than eight such memorial temples in Nanchang now.

The request is granted.

28th.—To-day's Gazette contains nothing of general interest.

29th.—Liu Kwen-yi, lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi, complains of the trouble caused by disbanded braves, and suggests a remedy. Each province has its disbanded soldiers, for they are not all Hunan men, and every province has suffered at their hands; Hunan is not singular in this respect. But confining his remarks to Kiangsi, he finds that the different bands of wandering soldiers who have been apprehended for brigandage and robbery have been for the most part Kiangsi and Hunan men, though there are also Honan, Anhwei, Kwangtung, Fukien and Chekiang men among them. Their plans are so cleverly laid and so daringly executed that it is simply impossible to checkmate them. They go from place to place under the guise of merchants, pay customs and *likin* dues, and produce properly stamped passes whenever required. But having disposed of their goods, they select the wealthiest shop in the place and watch an opportunity for plundering it. This done, they make off with such speed that they get into the next district or even the next province before those sent in pursuit can overtake them. When overtaken they draw out foreign pistols from about their persons and attack their pursuers, many of whom are killed, while they themselves often escape. On examining those who are apprehended, it is invariably found that their leaders are military officers, who have even held the rank of colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, captain and so forth in the Imperial army! If this is the case in Kiangsi, we may reasonably suppose that it is so in other provinces. The more prominent and dangerous members of the Society of Brothers (a secret society) are also mainly composed of persons of this class. The possession of those convenient but murderous weapons, for-

eign pistols, also shows that they are soldiers, for with the exception of soldiers, few if any have such weapons. It is also very easy for those who have been officers to raise a band of desperadoes, though, no doubt, they are driven to do so by want, and therefore have claims on our pity. A mandate was issued in 1869 directing that troops when disbanded should give up their arms; but it appears that when such arms are the private property of the soldiers, the order has not been enforced. The memorialist would therefore suggest that an edict be issued directing that, when troops are paid off, their arms should be taken from them, whether their own property or the property of the government; the rule to apply equally to officers and men. No doubt disbanded officers are often hard pressed to know what to do to get a living, and are driven to free-booting for the sake of maintaining themselves. In order to obviate this, the memorialist proposes that when a regiment is disbanded, the officers shall receive appointments in one or other of the provincial armies; and should they decline such appointments, that they be allowed to retire on half pay or a monthly allowance, notice of the same to be sent to the magistrate of their respective districts. The expense entailed by such a scheme would be but trifling, while it would supply the persons in question with the means of supporting themselves, give them the hope of rising to higher positions, and keep them under control, &c.

The Board of War is ordered to report.

30th.—The censorate lays before the Throne a memorial from Hsü Cheng-hsün, a Yunnan expectant prefect, recommending the reopening of the Yunnan copper mines. The most pressing question for Yunnan at present is, how to raise an efficient army, and this involves the all-important question how such an army is to be supported. Order has been restored in the eastern and southern parts of the province, but the western departments, including Tali, Shun-ning, Meng-hwa, Yunchow &c., are still in the hands of the rebels, and an earnest effort should be made to expel

them. The gigantic outlay which such a campaign would involve presents an almost insurmountable difficulty; for the only means of raising supplies at present are three, viz. special taxes, *likin*, and the help received from other provinces. But ten years' war has so devastated the country that the receipts from the special tax are miserably small. Trade can scarcely be said to exist at all; the roads are overgrown with thorns, and merchants find it impossible to do any business whatever, so that the *likin* brings but a trifling sum. Really, therefore, help from other provinces is the only real dependence. But Yunnan being situated on the outskirts of the Empire, it is not easy to transport supplies from other places. Although edict after edict has been issued ordering the several provinces to forward the annual impost without delay, only some 200,000 or 300,000 taels have been received up to the present time. The consequence is that the viceroy and lieutenant-governor are at their wits' end, how to carry on such a long struggle with the means at their command. So the war drags along, year after year, interminably. Would it not be better for the government to avail itself of the ample means which the working of these mines would place at its disposal, and by one grand effort crush the rebellion? The memorialist has lived in Yunnan many years, and is tolerably well acquainted with its affairs. Its chief sources of revenue are copper and salt. The salt-pits have been retaken from the enemy, but the consumption is so small that salt yields but a paltry revenue. The copper trade was ruined by the (Taiping) rebellion and has been at a standstill for the last ten years. But now that order is gradually being restored in the eastern and southern parts of Yunnan, the mines in those districts might be reopened; and as the rebellion in the other provinces has been suppressed, the canals and water-ways are free from obstruction, so that the copper might be transported to all parts of the empire. The memorialist therefore begs that the Board of Revenue be ordered to

supply the necessary funds for commencing the work. If carried out, not only will an important source of revenue to the central government be resuscitated, but there will be also ample supplies for the provincial army. There are three other advantages. Firstly, the numerous miners throughout the province will find employment. The people of Yunnan are chiefly dependent on the mines for a livelihood, so that when these were closed one-half the miners were driven by want to join the rebels. If the mines were reopened, the miners would return to their work, and the enemy would be unable to stir up disaffection among them. Secondly, the resuscitation of the copper trade would give such an impulse to business generally that merchants and settlers would be induced to emigrate from other parts. Yunnan is so thinly populated that an influx of settlers is greatly needed. Thirdly, the government would have an abundant supply of copper for the mint. The supply has been so inadequate of late that the currency has become both debased and insufficient.

The money expended annually by the Board of Revenue on the purchase of copper is enormous; but as the funds of the Board are at a low ebb at present, it would be well to appropriate a portion of the "auxiliary money" due to Yunnan from other provinces, to the opening of the mines. Kwangtung alone owes not less than 500,000 taels; and if half that sum were applied to mining purposes, there would be sufficient funds to commence operations. The memorialist has been led to propose the foregoing scheme in the interests of Yunnan and of the Empire generally.

[An edict was issued July 22nd ordering the Board of Revenue to consider the project and report thereon to the Throne.]

31st.—The services of Hsia Hsien-lun, the newly appointed Taotai of Taiwan, (Formosa), being required for the present in Fukien, the viceroy reports that it has been arranged that Pan Tseun-chang, acting Taotai of the Hsing-chuen-yuen circuit, shall act as Taotai of Taiwan *pro tem.*; the

now acting Taotai, Ting Pao, to return to his former post of Taotai of the Hsing-chuen-yung circuit.

Aug. 1st.—Yüchio and his colleagues report that the soldiers' quarters at Tungling (Eastern Tombs) are in such a dilapidated state as to be quite uninhabitable, and request an advance on the soldiers' pay of Taels 32,332.80, to enable them to execute the necessary repairs; the loan to be repaid in instalments divided over eight years.

The Board of Works is ordered to report.

(2) Enhsi, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, reports that two gentlemen belonging to the Chang-chow district have given over, for the common benefit of their clan, 1,450 *mow* of land and 3 houses; the whole being worth 17,736 taels.

Aug. 1st.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the Lieut.-Governor of Anhwei, reporting the destruction of a band of insurgents by the Imperial troops, and requesting honours for the officers who led the expedition. A party of insurgents under one Li Sz-lung-tsz, gave a good deal of trouble on the borders of Anhwei and Honan, and having been joined by the remnants of the old *Nienfei*, under Chang Chin-ko, erected stockades and commenced open hostilities. A company of Anhwei troops was immediately despatched to co-operate with the Honan troops against the insurgents. The stockades were surrounded and taken, the leaders captured and the whole band entirely annihilated, and peace restored throughout the disturbed districts. This was certainly prompt and energetic conduct, but the troops should scour the country around with a view to cut off any stragglers that may have escaped, so that not a vestige of them may be left. The commander-in-chief, Niu Sz-han, is presented with a button of the first rank, and Adjutant-General Hsü Sz-chung is to be promoted to the rank of General of Division as soon as a vacancy occurs, in acknowledgment of their services. The names of the more deserving of the other officers who took part in the expedition, may also be sent to the

Throne, so that they may be suitably rewarded, but there must be no imposition.

(2) Yüchio and his colleagues report that the soldiers' quarters at Tungling (Eastern Tombs) are in such a dilapidated state as to be quite uninhabitable, and request an advance on the soldiers' pay of Tls. 32,332.80, to enable them to execute the necessary repairs; the loan to be repaid in instalments spreading over eight years.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to report.

(3) Enhsi, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, reports that two gentlemen belonging to the Chang-chow, have given over for the common benefit of their clan—1,450 *mow* of land and 3 houses; the whole being worth 17,736 taels.

2nd.—To-morrow, His Majesty will pass through the Chienching, Taiho, Wu and Twan gates on his way to the *Tai-miao* (great temple) and will return by the same route. Everything must be in readiness by 6.30 A.M.

(2) Tsuncheng (first president of the Board of Rites, commandant of the Peking gendarmerie, &c., &c.) having memorialized the Throne requesting permission to throw up his appointments on account of ill-health, an edict is issued granting him a month's sick-leave and declaring his retirement unnecessary. Different persons are appointed to act for him *pro tem.*

(3) The Viceroy and Lieut.-Governor of Hupeh report the results of their investigation of a case which had been appealed to the Throne and sent back to them to be tried. The case is one of murder. A man named Tsao Tien-show charges a person called Chen Chen-hsiu with having killed his father. A minute report of the trial is given; it occupies nearly the whole of to-day's and to-morrow's *Gazettes*.

The Board of Punishments is directed to consider the above and report.

3rd.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Censor Kwo-hsiu, inspector of the central division of Peking, pointing out the urgent need of a police reform. The capital ought to be the

quietest and most secure place in the empire; of late, however, cases of theft and robbery have been of constant occurrence; even arms have been used and persons attacked and wounded in the most daring way, while the police do nothing whatever to catch the perpetrators. Such an abominable state of things calls for immediate reform. The censors of the five divisions must order the heads of the police to appoint competent and trustworthy detectives in different parts of the city, and must report to the Throne the slightest neglect of duty on their part. The commandant of the gendarmerie must also order his subordinates to render all possible assistance in catching offenders whenever a theft or robbery occurs, and hand them over to the Board of Punishments, to be punished with the utmost rigour of the law, &c. This edict must not be treated as a mere formality.

4th.—Imperial edict. Yü Shih, governor of Kokonor, forwards a memorial stating that the special tax levied from the different provinces for the support of the army operating at Sining has fallen in arrears to the extent of Taels 410,000. During the present year, in fact, only Taels 6,000 have been received from all the provinces. He therefore requests that the several provincial treasurers to whose carelessness this state of things is due, be punished in accordance with the regulations of the Board, and that orders be issued for the immediate payment of arrears &c. As Honan has not paid even one-fifth of its share, the provincial treasurer Liu Chi-hsien is handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be dealt with. The Viceroy of the Two Kiang and the lieutenant-governors of Kiangsu, Shantung and Honan, must order the treasurers and salt commissioners to pay one-half of the arrears in question within one month, and forward the same with all speed to the Sining commissariat for transmission to head quarters. For the future, the impost must be paid in full as it falls due. The importance of the object forbids delay. Respect this.

(2) Another edict is issued ordering the lieutenant-governor of Honan to investigate a case which has been appealed to the capital, make an award, and report to the Throne.

(3) The Viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Hupeh memorialize the Throne, reporting the results of their investigation of a case which had been appealed to the Throne and sent back to them for trial. A quarrel arose between a family named Wang and a family named Li, regarding some land, which led to open war between the parties, in which some of the Wangs lost their lives. The Lis being the aggressors and the stronger party, the Wangs appealed to the local authorities, but being unable to obtain redress, went to Peking. The case was laid before the Throne and orders were sent to the viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Hupeh to thoroughly investigate it, make an award in accordance with the statute and report. The case, though a very ordinary one, is stated with such minuteness, that it occupies nearly the whole of two days' *Gazettes*.

5th.—To-day's *Gazette* has an edict in reply to a memorial reporting that a large sum of public money, belonging to the Manchu garrison at Ninghsia, which had been placed out on interest, is irreclaimable, and begging the Throne to allow it to be wiped off the books. The original sum was Taels 55,000, but was subsequently reduced to Taels 37,830. The money was lent to a pawnbroker, who has since been completely ruined, and who has perished, together with his family, so that there is no hope of its ever being recovered. This being the case, permission is given to write it off the books.

6th.—An edict is issued decorating with buttons, peacocks' feathers and Manchu titles 114 officers who took part in the campaign against the insurgents in the neighbourhood of Urgan, last autumn.

(2) General Tëying, military governor of the Amoor, and Lieutenant-General Tokejui report an officer for neglect of duty &c., and request that he may be handed over to the Board, for punishment. During the 7th moon of last year, an officer of the rank

of *tsou ling*, named Keng-yin-pu, was sent to look after the Government forests; two months after his departure, a report reached the memorialist that the forests were being plundered, so they despatched another officer to co-operate with him. They sent back a report, guaranteed in the usual way, that the forests were not being plundered of their wood etc. Not feeling satisfied, however, another officer was sent, who reported that when he arrived at the Anpang river he found it covered with trees which had been taken from the forests, but the river being frozen he would not be sure as to the exact number. On receipt of this, orders were sent to seize the depredators and forward them for trial. One person named Wang was apprehended, and confessed to having cut down trees in the forests. The officer who was first sent to assist Keng-yin-pu is so seriously ill as to be unable to appear in Court, and his trial must therefore be postponed. Keng-yin-pu's excuse is that when he reached the Anpang he could not go any further on account of the ice. But having been sent on such an errand, he should have exerted himself to the utmost to fulfil it, instead of which he stopped on reaching the Anpang, and then concocted a lying despatch to the effect that he had examined and found the forest all right. The memorialists therefore request that he may be delivered over to the Board, to be severely punished, as a warning to others.

(3) Chenglu reports that a *Chihhsien* who was sent in 1868 to Hupeh, Honan and other provinces to press for the payment of arrears due on the military impost, has not yet returned to give an account of himself. He has been taking things easy, and stopping awhile wherever he thought fit, and is at present enjoying himself in Kwei-hwa cheng. The memorialist has sent to him to return, but he takes no notice of such orders. The memorialist therefore requests that he be deprived of rank and office, and that the Manchu general at Suiyuen cheng be ordered to hand him over to the intendant of circuit, to be kept under surveillance till such time as an

official arrives to conduct him back to the camp, where he will have to give a strict account of himself, and if found guilty of embezzlement, will be severely punished.

7th.—Imperial edict.—Li Hung-chang memorializes the Throne requesting honours for the officials of the Canton province who contributed so liberally towards the relief of the sufferers by the late floods on Chihli. The officials, from the viceroy, downwards, subscribed among themselves the munificent sum of 42,000 taels. Such generosity and patriotism are worthy of all praise. The Board of Civil Office must confer, without stint, suitable honours on the viceroy and the commissioner of Maritime Customs. The salt commissioner, Chung Chien-Chün, is raised to the 2nd rank; the other officials, from the treasurer downwards, must be included in the general list of contributors to the Chihli Relief Fund, and when that list is laid before the Throne, a request for honours be made on behalf of each.

(2) Wang Wen-shao, lieutenant-governor of Hunan, reports on a case of murder by a military mandarin, which had been appealed to the Throne and sent down to him for investigation. The defendant, Tsui Ta-cheng, a native of Chen-chow in Hunan, joined the army in 1860. He was recommended to the Throne during the war on account of his bravery, and was given a peacock's feather and made an adjutant-general. He married a lady named Kung, with whose family he continued to be on amicable terms. On the 30th August 1871, his wife died, and her brother and nephew came to consult about the funeral arrangements. They wished a grand funeral, and proposed that the defendant should mortgage his houses in order to raise the necessary funds. This he refused to do; words ran high, and from words they came to blows. In the excitement of the moment the defendant, Tsui Ta-cheng, seized a chopper which was lying close by, and wounded his brother-in-law in the left side and on the fingers of the right hand. His wife's nephew tried to wrest the chopper from him, but failing to do so, picked

up a stone to strike him, and while stooping received a thrust in the side. He then closed with defendant, and the latter being very excited, dealt him a sharp blow in the right side which brought him to the ground and he expired in a little while afterwards. The murder was purely accidental—the unfortunate result of a mixed fight. The sentence of the law in such cases is death by strangling, and that sentence has been passed on Tsui Ta-cheng. But as he comes within the General Amnesty granted this year by the Throne, he has been set at liberty. A detailed account of the trial has been sent to the Board of Punishments.

The Board of Punishments is directed to consider the foregoing and report.

8th.—(1) In consequence of a memorial from Liu Yo-chao, viceroy of Yunnan, an edict is issued degrading five officials belonging to that province and degrading three others, on account of cupidity and general bad conduct.

(2) Chang Shu-sheng (governor-general of the rice-transport) is appointed Acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu; Enhsi to resume his post of Treasurer, and Wenpin to act as governor-general of the rice-transport.

(3) Yiyung, a member of the Imperial clan, and military governor of Kirin, reports an officer named Fuching and holding the rank of *hsieh-ling*, for having presumed on his own authority to alter the boundary marks of the Imperial hunting grounds, and requests that he may be suspended from office and committed for trial. When the memorialist was at the hunt last winter he availed himself of the opportunity to examine the boundary marks, and observed that they were much too few. He therefore sent two officers to survey the ground and see how many boundary mounds there were, and what was the distance between each. They reported that there were 185 mounds, and that they were about one *li* apart. But while the memorialist was considering what he should do, Fuching announced that having observed that the mounds were too few, he

had added 300 others. The announcement astonished the memorialist beyond measure; it was a piece of daring presumption on Fuching's part. Moreover, feeling very doubtful about the truth of the report, the memorialist sent Lieut.-General Pochingé and others to inspect the grounds. They reported that Fuching had really added several mounds, had removed the Customs' barrier and that there were good reasons for suspecting that he had disposed of some of the ground to the neighbouring farmers. The memorialist therefore requests that he may be suspended from office and committed for trial.

The request is granted.

9th.—(1) At the request of Liu Yo-chao, viceroy of Yunnan, an edict is issued degrading two military officers belonging to that province and dismissing two others, on account of arrogance, cupidity and general rascality.

(2) Julin, Viceroy of the Two Kwang, reports a series of miracles wrought by one of the local deities, and begs the Throne to bestow a higher honorific title on the god in acknowledgment of his many favours. In the district of Fokang there is a temple called *Tien-kung-miao*, which was built in the reign of Yunglo, (1401—1423 A.D.) of the Ming dynasty. It is dedicated to a person (lit. a god) named Tien San-lang 田三郎 who, together with his wife, was so distinguished for filial piety and charity that, when he died, the villagers erected a temple to him and worshipped him. In times of public calamity, such as floods and drought, he has always vouchsafed immediate answers to the prayers of the people. During the reign of the Ming emperor Kia-ting (1520-1565 A.D.), he received the title (or epithet) *Wei-ling hsien-ying*. In the year 1796 the local troops were ordered to Szechuen to take part against the *Chiao-fei* (lit. religious or sectarian rebels). Before starting they repaired to the temple of Tien-kung and implored his protection, and the result was that when they joined battle with the rebels, they saw a person clad in

a red toga driving back their enemies, and they recognized him as their tutelary deity Tien-kung. Again in the 30th year of Tao-kwang, when several thousand insurgents (or brigands), under Hu-kwang and Mao-wu, attempted to levy black-mail on the neighbourhood, the gentry and people cried to Tien-kung and the brigands dared not give any further trouble. In 1854 and 1855 also, when the Taipings had possession of the district city, he again graciously interposed. The Imperial troops having besieged the city for several months without being able to make any head-way against the rebels, who fought with the desperation of men who are fighting for their lives, the mandarins and gentry went to the temple of Tien-kung and implored his aid. That evening the troops stormed the city, and suddenly an old man, dressed in a long red robe, with a sword in his hand, was seen to mount the walls, surrounded by innumerable banners. The terrified rebels were utterly discomfited and refused to fight; the city was retaken and the enemy slain in large numbers. Again, during the 9th moon of the same year, the Changning rebels made an attempt on the city, but the magistrate having first offered prayer in the temple of Tien-kung, led the troops against them and completely defeated them. The rebel prisoners all stated that when the battle commenced they saw a large flag in the heavens with

the character 田 on it, and in the rear of the flag a host of ghostly soldiers flying through the air, smiting the rebels as they passed, and scaring them out of their wits. Thus the city was saved. The several successes narrated above were all due to divine interposition, and are gratefully recounted by the people up to the present time. The foregoing was drawn up by the local gentry, and presented to the district magistrate with the request that the Throne should be petitioned to confer a higher title on Tien-kung. Such a request is in accordance with law, and the memorialist hopes it will be granted.

The Board of Rites is directed to consider the above and report.

10th.—Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, begs the Throne to bestow honours on eight officials who died on account of overwork in connection with the public Almontries, or on account of disease caught from the hundreds of sick and destitute people who daily crowd those places. Last year the summer in Szechuen was so dry and the autumn so wet, that the harvest was miserably poor. On being informed of this, the Throne was graciously pleased to order the appropriation of Tls. 200,000 from the *likin* tax, for distribution among the more destitute of the population. Almontries were therefore established at different places, under the supervision of officials or local gentry. So great was the number of applicants that the officers in charge were kept hard at work both night and day, so that they often had neither time to sleep nor eat. And having in this weakened state to mix during the hot weather with a heated dirty crowd, no less than eight of them have suddenly died. Their death has called forth expressions of deep sympathy from the poor, on whose behalf they have sacrificed their lives, and it is hoped the Throne will mark its appreciation of their fidelity by bestowing appropriate rewards. The law provides that persons whose death is occasioned by exertions in the public service shall receive suitable honours. Some of the officials in question had not been in Szechuen long, were in fact only just commencing their official career, when they were thus suddenly cut off; others, were old and tried servants. Several of them leave aged parents, who had accompanied them to Szechuen, without the means of supporting themselves or of returning to their homes. On behalf of these the memorialist has circulated a subscription list among the provincial officials. He earnestly hopes the Throne will be pleased to order the Board to handsomely reward these faithful servants.

The Board (of Rites) is ordered to report.

11th.—(1) Wensiang is appointed Grand Secretary of the Li-jen-ko.

(2) Tsucheng, first president of the Board of Rites &c. &c., requests permission to throw up his appointments on account of ill-health.

[An edict was issued on the 2nd August granting him one month's sick-leave and declaring his retirement unnecessary.]

(3) Liu Chang-yew, lieutenant-governor of Kwangsi, reports that four district magistrates who were degraded some time ago on account of their being defaulters in sums varying from 916 taels to 10,657 taels, have made good the deficits, and he begs that their buttons may be restored to them.

The request is granted.

12th.—(1) Li Hung-chang reports the completion of the embankments of the Yung-ting, and requests honours for the officials who have superintended the work.

(2) In a supplementary memorial Li Hung-chang states that he has received despatches from the district magistrate of Ching-yuen and the prefect of Kwang-ping fu, informing him that some stalks of double-eared wheat had been discovered in those districts, and inclosing specimens or drawings of them. The memorialist finds that in the reign of the Emperor Yao drawings of double-eared grain were laid before the Throne, and that the appearance of such grain was considered among the ten happy omens. The plentiful years in the reign of Wen Wang were also marked by the appearance of double-eared corn. But the virtues of those ancient rulers were so great that the occurrence of such a remarkable phenomenon was quite natural, for the earth spontaneously yielded her increase. Its appearance, however, at this time in the metropolitan province is doubtless prognostic of a plentiful harvest, and is calculated to relieve all His Majesty's anxieties on that score. Therefore, like the old man who long ago presented his bit of parsley, the memorialist lays before the Throne a specimen of the double-eared wheat.

13th.—Censor Kwo-hsiu, inspector of the central division of Peking, and his colleagues, call attention to the wretched condition of the metropolitan police and

urge the necessity of immediate reform. Peking ought to be the safest and best guarded place in the empire, but of late thefts and robberies have been of common occurrence, and persons have been attacked and wounded in the most daring way, while the police have been helpless to catch the culprits. The fact is the police system is rotten to the core, and the memorialists would respectfully point out its several defects. 1.—One-half of the police, who by the way are not many at best, are decrepid and useless; the rest who are physically well qualified for their work, often collude with the thieves and share their booty. This is an old, old practice, dating much further back than yesterday. The memorialists have ordered the heads of the police to reform such abuses and severely punish offenders, &c., &c. 2.—The police magistrates have been too lenient towards criminals. The law provides that persons apprehended on suspicion shall not be examined by torture; this mode of examination can only be employed when the stolen goods have been found in their possession, and knowing this, criminals obstinately refuse to confess their guilt. When such cases are brought before the Board of Punishments, the magistrates inform the Board that there is no real evidence on which to convict, and the Board, fearing lest it should be guilty of torturing the innocent, does not employ torture. Doubtless the magistrates are actuated by pure motives in all this, but wily thieves take advantage of this disposition to deny their guilt and thus escape punishment. The police, too, who apprehended the suspected parties are so badgered in Court that they do not care to make more arrests than they can possibly help. The Board should therefore be ordered to conduct its examinations of police cases with greater strictness, and to convict in every case where there are not good grounds for doubting the prisoner's guilt. 3.—Another cause of the increase of crime is the daily increasing number of escaped convicts in the capital. Persons sentenced to be deported to their native places, (to

be under the surveillance of the local officials), or to be banished to distant places should be branded on the face or elsewhere, and if allowed to escape by the way, their guard, both officers and men, and all concerned, be severely punished, &c. By remedying the foregoing evils and adopting some such plans as those suggested, the memorialists believe the efficiency of the police will be greatly increased.

14th.—To-day's *Gazette* is entirely occupied by a memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the results of his investigation of a case which had been appealed to the capital and sent back to him for trial. A person of official rank, and possessing a little local authority, named Chia Yün-tu, charges the district magistrate with injustice in regard to the land tax, and accuses the yamen runners of having deceived the magistrate and of having imprisoned persons in order to extort money from them &c.

15th.—Yinghan, lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, reports the complete destruction of a body of *Nienfei* and other rebels by the Imperial troops on the borders of Anhwei and Honan, and requests the Throne to bestow honours on the officers who conducted the expedition. [A summary of this memorial was given in the Imperial edict published in the *Gazette* of August 1st, and translated in the *N.-C. Herald* of August 31st.]

August 17th.—The acting viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang reports that Li Wei-shih, third lineal descendant of the late Earl Li Chang-keng, former commander-in-chief of the Chekiang forces, has accomplished the days of mourning and being of age will assume the earldom. According to custom, he has been furnished with a despatch to the Board of Civil Office and is about to start for Peking to be introduced at Court, and await His Majesty's pleasure. The late commander-in-chief of the Chekiang forces Li Chang-keng, having been killed by a cannon ball while fighting against the *Tsai* rebels (蔡逆), the Throne was pleased to

create him an earl of the third grade, the title to be hereditary for sixteen generations, after which his descendants were to have the title of *En-chi-wei* 恩騎尉 for ever. The earldom fell to his son Li Ting-yü, who was subsequently made admiral of Fukien, and died at Amoy from over-exertion in connection with the volunteers. He was succeeded in the earldom by his eldest son (by a concubine) Feng-shih, who died while transacting some public business at Chinchiang. But his eldest son not then being of age could not assume the title; he is now, however, 25, and is well skilled in archery and riding. He has therefore been furnished with a despatch to the Board of Civil Office, that he might be introduced at Court and await the Imperial pleasure.

The Board (of Civil Office) is ordered to take note of the above.

18th.—Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, begs the Throne to confer honours on the officials of the Canton province who contributed so liberally towards the relief of the sufferers by the floods in the North last year. In addition to the tribute rice and public funds which were appropriated for the relief of the sufferers, contributions of clothes, rice and money were also solicited from Kiangsu, Chekiang and other provinces. Canton being a wealthy commercial province, it was the intention of the viceroy, Juilin, to set on foot a general subscription for the relief of the people in the North, but it unfortunately happened that Canton itself was also suffering from floods and consequent failure of crops, so that no help could be expected from either the agricultural or mercantile classes. Anxious, however, to do something for the starving multitudes of Chihli, the viceroy started a subscription list among the mandarins, and altogether the munificent sum of Taels 420,000 was subscribed. The viceroy headed the list with a subscription of Taels 6,000; the commissioner of Maritime Customs and the salt commissioner followed with a subscription of Tael 10,000 each; the provincial treasurer gav

Tael 2,000, &c., &c. The action of Juilin in this matter is most praiseworthy; but as he holds the high office of viceroy, and as the commissioner of Customs, Chung-li, is also an official of the 2nd rank, the memorialist will not presume to say what honours should be conferred on them; but on the salt commissioner he would beg the Throne to bestow a button of the 2nd rank. Although all the officials from the treasurer downwards have sent to say that they will not accept any honours, yet the memorialist would suggest that they be included in the general list of subscribers when that list is laid before the Throne, and that they be allowed to transfer their honours to some member of their respective families.

(2) In another memorial Li Hung-chang reports the case of an old lady 94 years of age who has seen seven generations, viz., her grand-parents, parents, and her own children and grand-children to the 4th generation. Five generations are now living together in the same home, namely, mother, son, grandsons, great-grandsons and great-great-grandsons. Her son is a *Chin-shih*, (L.L.D.); of her five grandsons one is a *Chü-jen*, (M.A.), and another a *Pa-kung*, (a *Wrangler*); of her eleven great-grandsons one is a *Yew-kung*, (B. A. with honours), of great-great-grandchildren there are two. The memorialist begs that this auspicious event may be commemorated in the usual way, by erecting a stone arch.

The Board of Rites is ordered to report.

19th.—Imperial edict. Tseng Pi-kwang, lieut.-governor of Kwei-chow, and Chow Ta-wu, commander-in-chief of the provincial forces, report the complete destruction of the Miaotz rebels and the restoration of peace and order throughout the southern parts of the province. The Kwei-chow troops, in conjunction with the Hunan Auxiliaries, having destroyed the rebel strongholds at Niu-chio-po, Hsiang-lu-shan and other places, killed, one after another, the rebel leaders Li Tsai-fu, &c. They also captured that powerful and dangerous rebel Kao-ho and his comrade Ow Pao-

hsiang, and decapitated them. Thus peace was restored to the whole district. The campaign has been most expeditiously and satisfactorily managed, and it behoves the Throne to reward the services of the officers who have distinguished themselves in connection with it. [Here follows a list of names which occupies about ten ordinary pages of the *Gazette*. Titles, brevets, buttons and peacocks' feathers are liberally conferred.]

(2) Yinghan, lieut.-governor of Anhwei, reports the capture of eight, out of a party of twelve robbers, who broke into a wealthy oil store in the Taiping district, plundered it of all its valuables, and killed six of the inmates who ventured to offer resistance. They have been decapitated and their heads stuck upon poles near the scene of their crime.

20th.—Imperial edict. Some time ago Tétai reported to the Throne that Enlin, *ta-chen* (great minister) resident in Tibet, had taken on himself to give away peacocks' feathers, and that without having made the (annual) tour of inspection of the garrisons, he sent a report thereon to the Throne calculated to impose on His Majesty. On receipt of this memorial, orders were sent to Enlin to defend himself against these charges and explain his conduct. His reply has been received, and is to the effect that the peacock's feather was bestowed on account of special military service, and notice was given of it at the time to the Dalai-Lama. As to the tour of inspection, after he had visited three garrisons, all the native officials (番官 lit. barbarian officials) in consideration of the extreme poverty of the people, sent to request him not to come. In his former memorial this fact was, through an oversight, omitted. As regards the policemen, Koshiha and others on whom he had thought of conferring peacocks' feathers, he states he has not given them the usual officially stamped certificate, &c. This is Enlin's defence. But although his conduct is not altogether without excuse, yet he has evidently acted very improperly. He is therefore handed

over to the Civil Board to be dealt with, and ordered to return to Peking to await some other appointment. Respect this.

(2) Another edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Ting Pao-cheng, lieut.-governor of Shantung, reporting the miraculous interposition of Kwanti (the God of War) and requesting the Throne to grant an Imperial tablet for his temple. During the spring of last year the Chiahsiang district suffered from drought; but the people having prayed for rain, Kwanti miraculously interposed, and the rain fell in copious and refreshing showers. Again, in the autumn, when the Yellow River, at How-chia-lin, burst its banks and rushed in torrents towards Chiahsiang, the god interposed a second time and saved it from the threatened danger. These facts excite His Majesty's gratitude, and the Hanlin College is ordered to prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to Ting Pao-cheng, to be reverently placed in the temple of Kwanti at Chiahsiang, in acknowledgment of his divine favour.

(3) The lieut.-governor of Chekiang reports the capture of the head of the gang of pirates who killed General Chen Shao, and the general suppression of piracy along the coast. In April 1870 Chen Shao, general of the Hwang-yien division, was killed at sea while pursuing a gang of pirates. When the news of his murder was received, orders were sent to the officials all along the coast to be on the alert and endeavour if possible to catch the gang. Hearing of this, the pirates separated and remained quiet. But large rewards were offered for any information as to their whereabouts, and from first to last, forty were taken, including one of the leaders called Chang Kwo-kow-san, who were tried and beheaded. Subsequently a steamer and some war-junks were sent to scour the coast, and succeeded in capturing ten more pirates. Towards the end of last year the prefect of Tai-chow heard that one of the leaders of the gang, named Wang Kê-ho, had escaped to Anhwei and was living at a country place in the Ning-kwo prefecture.

A party of soldiers was sent under the guidance of the informant to apprehend him. He was taken and handed over to the prefect, who after examining him sent him on to Tai-chow. He has confessed his guilt and given the following account of his career. He is a native of Lin-hai in Chekiang. He served many years as a soldier in other provinces, along with several of the gang who have already been taken and beheaded. In 1860 he and the others just alluded to, deserted from the army and returned home. They then collected a band of sworn companions and took to brigandage; they robbed, burned, killed, and, in short, committed every possible atrocity. But several of the gang having been captured and beheaded, they felt things were getting too hot for them, so they left the land and took the sea. They joined Chang Kwo-kow-san's gang, and having equipped some junks, united their forces with a Canton pirate named Hwang Sheng, and ravaged the coast. The number of times they landed and plundered places along the seaboard, it would be impossible to say. It was on 26th April 1870 that prisoner and Chang Kwo-kow-san decided to attack and kill General Chen Shao and his party. Two months afterwards they also killed Colonel Chiang Chiu-hwa and others at Hsiao-chu-men. These desperate proceedings, however, roused the authorities to such diligence that the gang was soon scattered and the greater part of them captured. He then concealed himself on shore, and gradually made his way to Anhwei, changed his name and opened an opium shop in a country place in the Ning-kwa prefecture. The opium shop, however, was only a blind, his object was to get together another band of brigands or pirates, &c. This desperate character has been beheaded, though beheading seemed too good for him. From the close of the rebellion to the present, probably not less than 1,000 pirates have been captured, so that both the coast and the interior are now free from them. The memorialist would request the Throne to confer suitable honours on the

officials who have taken a distinguished part in ferreting out these pests.

21st.—Imperial edict. The late Tsuncheng, president of the Board of Rites, was an experienced and intelligent officer, most careful and diligent in the discharge of his public duties. He commenced his official career as *li-shih-kwan* of the Board controlling the affairs of the Household, whence he gradually ascended the ladder of office till he reached the rank of president of one of the Boards. He was also commandant of the Peking gendarmerie, head of the Board controlling the affairs of the Household. In each capacity he has been a faithful servant. A short time ago, being unwell, he requested permission to throw up his appointments, and was allowed a month's sick-leave. It was hoped that he would soon be better, and that he would long live to enjoy the Imperial favour. How great therefore was the grief which the news of his death caused! A *tolo* pall is decreed to him, which is to be borne to his house by Prince Taichih and ten of the Imperial bodyguard, who will also pour out a libation to the deceased. He is to receive all the honours due to a president of one of the Six Boards, and a present of Taels 500 is made towards the funeral expenses. Any entries which may stand against him in the official register must be erased. His son Minghow is made a *yuên-wai-lang*, (a sort of under-secretary in one of the Boards), and will receive an appointment as soon as he comes of age. These rewards are granted that it may be seen how affectionately the memory of an old and faithful servant is cherished by the Throne.

(2) Yingkwei, (late viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang), is appointed controller of the affairs of the Colonial Office; Ling-kwei is made president of the Board of Rites; Tsaopao president of the Colonial Office, and Yingyuen, head censor of the censorate. Yingyuen is also appointed commandant of the Peking gendarmerie in the place of Tsuncheng. Chunglun is made bearer of the seals and keys of the Board controlling the affairs of the House-

hold, and Kweiching is appointed head of the same Board. Chengchi is made a brevet lieut.-general and appointed chief minister or resident in Tibet. He must, as usual, proceed to his station by the government post-stage.

22nd.—Imperial edict. Censor Pien Pao-chuen memorializes the Throne regarding Li Hung-chang's report on the appearance of doubled-eared corn in parts of Chihli, and expresses fears lest the practice thus initiated should lead to abuses. He also requests that Li Hung-chang's memorial requesting honours for the officials who superintend the repairs of the embankments of the Yungting may be set aside. The Government, in its loving concern for the welfare of the people, is naturally anxious for a good harvest, but by no means cares to hear extravagant talk about "felicitous omens" and such like. A little while ago, Li Hung-chang having received reports from the district magistrate of Ching-yuen and the prefect of Kwang-ping of the appearance of double-eared corn in those localities, reported the fact to the Throne and also sent a specimen of the corn. Now, although in his case there was no attempt to deceive, yet it is to be feared that sycophant officials may make a handle of it to besiege the Throne with adulation and flattery—a consequence much to be dreaded as fraught with mischief politically and morally. Let viceroys and governors therefore exert themselves for the general good, and in times of drought and flood do their utmost to mitigate the sufferings of the people. They must refrain from blazing abroad every auspicious omen which may appear, and reporting it at once to the Throne, on pretence of allaying His Majesty's fears.

The Throne has just been informed that the northern embankment of the Yungting has again given way, and that the prefectures of Paoting and Tientsin and the southern part of Shuntien have been flooded. It is further reported that these prefectures are suffering from the ravages of locusts. Li Hung-chang must with all possible speed inquire into the alleged

bursting of the embankments of the Yungting, and must ascertain the amount of damage done to the surrounding districts, and send a detailed statement of the facts to the Throne. Li Hung-chang, in a recent memorial requesting honours for the officials who superintended the repairs of the embankments of the Yungting, stated that the embankments on both sides were most substantially built, and how comes it therefore that they have burst already? Li Hung-chang must report the officials who had charge of the work, and the Board must set aside his former memorial asking honours for them.

(2) Enlin and Tétai, *tachen* or chief residents in Tibet, send a memorial incorporating the substance of a despatch which they have received from the Dalai-Lama, reporting the death of his father and requesting that his father's dukedom and titles may fall to his (the Dalai-Lama's) eldest brother. Several cases are cited to show that it has been the usual practice to allow the eldest son or some near relation to inherit the titles of the Lama's father, on decease of the latter.

The Colonial Office is ordered to consider and report.

23rd.—Imperial edict. Yesterday (or recently) Censor Pien Pao-chuen memorialized the Throne regarding the bursting of the embankments of the Yungting, and a mandate was in consequence issued ordering Li Hung-chang to inquire into the facts of the case and report to the Throne, &c. His report, just received, states that the heavy rains last month caused such a rise in the river that the embankments were damaged in a great many places. Every effort was made from time to time to repair the breaches, but the water in the 17th division rose higher than the embankments, and poured out in torrents on the surrounding country. All attempts to stop it were in vain, and at last the embankment itself gave way. He reports the officials in charge and also requests his own punishment, &c. Li Hung-chang, in a recent memorial to the Throne requesting honours for the officials

who superintended the repairs of the embankments, stated that the embankments were most substantially constructed, how comes it therefore that they have burst in such a comparatively short time? The officials who superintended the work are clearly to blame and are without excuse. Sub-prefect Wang Mow-hsiin; acting assistant Magistrate, Tang-chao, and Li-chao-i, inspector of the Yung-ting, are therefore stripped of their buttons, but retained in office. Li Hung-chang is handed over to the Board of Civil Office, for not having better directed his subordinates regarding their work. He must order the officials concerned to repair the breach with all possible speed, and to see that the work is done well. Great care must also be taken from time to time to keep the embankments in proper repair; there must be no negligence in this respect. Let the proper Board take note of the above.

24th.—An edict is issued degrading or dismissing thirty-three officers connected with the various military stations along the *Chang-chiang* or Yangtze, on account of immoral conduct, neglect of duty and so forth. A few are let off with almost nominal punishment in consideration of their past services.

(2) Tingan, military governor of the Toumet Mongols, reports the measures he has taken to repress the alleged depredations of certain disbanded braves and refugees, in the neighbourhood of Taching shan. During last June he was informed that blackmail was being levied from the district by braves and refugees, who were going about in gangs, begging and compelling all the hamlets and small villages to supply them with money and food. On hearing of this, he sent some trustworthy officers in different directions to make inquiries. They report that refugees are perambulating the country in bands of 1 and 60; but that half of this number consists of women and children. There are also begging parties of disbanded braves and camp labourers roaming about; but they are simply beggars, not robbers or brigands. On receipt of this report he fe

it was imperatively necessary that steps should be taken to remove these braves and refugees from the districts mentioned, in order to prevent future trouble. He therefore despatched several companies of troops to scour the country in that quarter, with orders to forward to Sui-yuen all the well-behaved braves and refugees they could find, so that they might be sent back to their homes, but to seize and behead all guilty of brigandage. Proclamations to this effect were posted in all directions. Thus far, 200 refugees, men and women, old and young, have arrived. They say they belong to Ping-liang-fu Hwating-hsien &c. in Kansu, and that they were driven from their homes by the Mahometan rebels. After wandering hither and thither in search of food, they passed the Great Wall, at a place where it had fallen down, name unknown, and came to Taching-shan. They have been supplied with food and money daily, and steps are being taken to send them home. As yet, however, the troops have not fallen in with any of the braves. The country thereabouts is so thinly populated and so covered with dense forests that they may have concealed themselves on hearing of the approach of the troops, or perhaps, being for the most part deserters, they dare not show their face. But strict search will be made for them, so as to insure the tranquility of the country.

25th.—Ting Pao-cheng, lieut.-governor of Shantung, reports two miracles wrought by Kwanti the God of War, and begs the Throne to bestow an Imperial tablet on his temple, in acknowledgment of his favour. The memorialist has received a communication from the provincial treasurer, inclosing a despatch from the district magistrate of Chiahsiang, stating that, during the spring of last year, no rain having fallen for two months, fears were entertained regarding the crops, so the magistrate, together with all the officials and gentry of the district, went to the temple of Kwanti and offered solemn prayer. Before three days had elapsed, rain fell in copious and refreshing showers, to the joy of all

classes of the people, who recognized in it the miraculous interposition of Kwanti. The magistrate of the district then, out of gratitude for such a timely favour, contributed funds from his own salary to repair Kwanti's temple, which had long been in a dilapidated condition. Again, during the 8th moon of last year, when the Yellow River burst its banks at How-chia-lin in the Yuncheng district, the city of Chiahsiang was in imminent danger of being carried away by the torrent. The plain around was several feet under water, and though every effort was made to protect the city, the aspect of affairs was most alarming. To make bad worse, on the 16th of the month it began to rain and blow furiously, and continued to do so night and day, and in consequence the water rose still higher and was lashed by the wind into huge billows, which swept away the dams thrown up to protect the city, and the walls were washed down in several places. The city was literally crowded with refugees, even the streets and alleys being blocked up by them, and was the scene of confusion and terror. The magistrate, accompanied by the officials and people, then went to the temple of Kwanti to implore his interposition, and instantly both the wind and the rain ceased, and the water gradually subsided. Thus through the help of Kwanti the city was saved, and so astounding was the miracle that even women and children united in reverencing him. Now that the temple has been thoroughly repaired, the Throne is earnestly entreated to bestow an Imperial tablet on it, in acknowledgment of the favour of the god.

[An edict was issued August 20th granting the request.]

26th.—Wenyuh, general of the Manchur garrison at Fuchow, and acting viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang, having requested the honour of an audience of His Majesty, an edict is issued ordering him to await the arrival of the new viceroy Li Ho-nien before starting for Peking. Li Ho-nien is appointed acting general of the garrison during his absence.

27th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wenpin, acting governor-general of the rice transport, reporting the capture and decapitation of the leader of the *Fu-fei* (幅匪, the *Fu* rebels or brigands,) and recommending to the notice of the Throne the officials through whose efforts this success was achieved. These brigands, headed by Chu Fang-mow, have given great trouble in Chiang-pei (north of the Yangtze,) and for many years have been perpetrating all manner of villainies. Wenpin therefore ordered the intendant of the Hwai-yang-chen circuit to unite his forces with those at Ichow and make a strenuous effort to seize these marauders. The expedition was successful. The party was discovered in the Suchien district (Kiangsu), and the leader taken and beheaded, and his followers dispersed. The officers who conducted the expedition are certainly entitled to some notice. General Liu Ho-nien is made a titular commander-in-chief, and will be made a general of division whenever a vacancy occurs.

[Here follows a long list of officials, all of whom are either promoted or decorated with titles and peacocks' feathers.]

28th.—Liu Chang-yue, lieut.-governor of Kwangsi, memorializes the Throne exculpating Adjt.-General Hwang Cheng-kwei from the charge of embezzlement formerly preferred against him. This officer was accused of allowing vacancies which occurred in his company to remain unfilled, in order that he might get the pay for his own use, and of appropriating the funds allowed for medical and burial purposes. The Throne was requested to degrade him and commit him for trial, and an edict was issued to that effect on the 7th January 1870. An inquiry has been held and he has been acquitted on both charges. During the campaign he only lost in killed and wounded about 30 men, and being on barbarian soil [apparently in Coch in China] he could not of course supply their places, but the surplus funds thus arising, as well as the medical and burial fees, he duly deposited in the military chest. This being the case, the

Throne is requested to restore him, his button and other honours.

The request is granted.

29th.—The lieut.-governor of Kwangsi reports a case of burglary in the provincial capital, and requests the punishment of the city officials, both civil and military. On the night of June 29th a gang of thieves broke into a bank in Kulow Street, and plundered it of several thousand taels. As soon as the city authorities heard of the occurrence, they called out the troops and surrounded the place; but the thieves had already escaped with their booty over the walls. The troops were at once sent in pursuit, but although three days have elapsed, the burglars have not been caught. It is true that a few persons have been apprehended on suspicion, but no proof of their connection with the burglary has been produced. Such a state of things is disgraceful in the extreme, and shows that the police arrangements of the city are quite neglected by the officials. The memorialist therefore requests that the district magistrate and all the officers of the guard be stripped of their buttons and given one month within which to catch the burglars and recover the plunder, and failing this to be reported for further punishment.

The memorial is approved and the officials degraded as requested.

30th.—Pien Pao-chuen, superintending censor of Chekiang, memorializes the Throne condemning the presentation of a specimen of "auspicious" or double-eared grain by Li Hung-chang, as an act fraught with danger, and begs the Throne to issue instructions on the subject in order to prevent the evils to which that act may give rise. The adulation and flattery with which sycophants attempt to impose on the Throne, must necessarily have some basis from which to start, and it is best to crush the thing in its beginning, just as one would stop a stream while it was shallow or arrest an evil while it was yet small. In times of prosperity "felicitous omens" are not spoken of, and as to the saying that "a plentiful year is a happy omen," it sim-

ply means that the harvest is good and the people peacefully following their several avocations. The memorialist has never yet heard of anyone in times of repeated flood and drought reporting felicitous omens! From the Han to the Tang dynasties, court ministers vied with each other in talking about the prosperity of the State as indicated by this and that auspicious augury. At first only one or two persons indulged in such extravagant flattery, but the evil grew till every bush and bit of grass was converted into an auspicious omen, and eager was the race as to who should present it to the Emperor first! Nothing is more calculated to make the Sovereign vain and extravagant or to deceive the people, than such a practice. The memorialist has been led to make the foregoing remarks in consequence of having seen in the *Peking Gazette* a memorial from Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, reporting the appearance of double-eared corn in Ching-yuen-hsien and Kwang-ping-fu. Specimens of the corn were also presented for His Majesty's inspection, and the occurrence treated as something unusually wonderful. Now this memorial will be read and discussed all over the empire. But far from there being anything so very marvellous in this event, it is really a very ordinary occurrence, as an appeal to history will at once prove. In the 4th year of Taisu of the Sung dynasty (954 A. D.) there was wheat in Chan-chow (Kai-chow in Chihli) and Puyang-hsien, having from two to six ears on one stalk. During the reign of Shentsung also there were 40 *mows* of double-eared wheat in Shenchow in the Chihli province. And again, during the time of Hwaitsung there was corn in Tsai-chow having from two to eight ears on a stalk. Now all these instances occurred during one dynasty, and it would be simply impossible to enumerate all the cases which occurred during the other dynasties. The memorialist was brought up in the country and knows from observation that, except during very bad years, the existence of double-eared wheat is a common phenomenon. The cause of such fecundity may

be either the richness of the soil or the undue share of nutriment which those particular stalks obtained. Either of these causes would be quite sufficient to account for the phenomenon. How therefore can such a very common feature be considered a prodigy? But while speaking of auspicious omens, he would mention an event which occurred during the Han dynasty. Two court ministers suggested to Changti that he should change the style of his reign to *Changho*, on account of the host of happy auguries then occurring; but Ho Chang (also a minister), basing his arguments on the classics, rebuked them there and then, and they were so confounded that they could not answer him. Ma Twan-lin devotes a section of his work, the *Wen-hsien-tung-kao*, written in the time of Chih-yuen (Kublai Khan 1281-1296), to the consideration of the various auspicious omens of past ages, and he defines such omens as "extraordinary or unusual phenomena." An omen is therefore something uncommon. How then can (Li Hung-chang) put down as a felicitous omen such a commonplace thing as a stalk of double-eared wheat. Last year Chihli was the scene of floods such as had not been witnessed for many tens of years. The southeast of the province was a vast sea, and there was nothing left but to appeal to other provinces for help, issue maize from the Imperial granaries, appropriate public funds and remit the taxes, in order to relieve the distress; His Majesty too was troubled and made anxious by the occurrence. Even up to the present time many places are still under water. Supposing that both the spring and autumn crops were abundant this year, they could not make up for the loss of last year. But the fact is that the harvest is not good, except in about half of the province. Moreover it is now rumoured that the Yungting, though only just repaired, has burst its banks, and that Paoting, Tientsin and the south of Shuntien are flooded by the overflowing of the various rivers and canals, which intersect them. And in addition to all this, the crops are being destroyed by locusts.

Where then shall we look for the plenty prognosticated by this double-eared wheat? Such fulsome flattery as that now in question is the work of idle, useless magistrates, who whenever they can hit upon anything, make a handle of it to ingratiate themselves with their superiors. So too with a certain set of low gentry, who make a pretext of the least trifle to flatter. It is in this way that the evil now complained of begins. Seeing that peace has not yet been restored in some of the neighbouring provinces, or the people yet rescued from their misery; considering also the high position which Li Hung-chang occupies and the great reputation he enjoys, it was surely his duty to sympathize with Their Majesties the Empress and Emperor in their sorrow, and imitate the fidelity of Ho Chang, when he rebuked the unseemly adulation of Sung Yeu and Yuen An. If the harvest really had been plentiful he might have reported the fact to the Throne, as being news which would be grateful to Their Majesties. As for the good-for-nothing officials and gentry who reported these "auspicious omens" to him, he should have informed them that such a common phenomenon could not be considered a prodigy, and thus have put a stop to their little schemes. It is monstrous that, on the strength of such reports, he should send a memorial to the Throne with extravagant talk about felicitous omens. In his own memorial he himself asks: "How can such a phenomenon be considered a propitious augury?" Yet he goes on to do what he thus condemns. What shall we say of such conduct? As to his reference to an old tale about the appearance of double-eared corn in Yü Yang (ancient designation of Chi-chow in Chihli) during the rule of its famous magistrate Chang Kan, it must be remembered that that was a time of plenty, and that the people were so rejoicing in the good government of Chang Kan that they sang songs in his honour, while Chihli on the other hand is suffering from the effects of repeated calamities, and its people wandering hither and thither in a most pitiable condition.

Yet Li Hung-chang insults the Throne with talk about "happy omens," and compares himself to the ancients! *Ostensibly* he sent the report for the gratification of the Throne, but *really* in order to praise his own government. Such a practice once begun will soon have plenty of imitators, and will give rise to an innumerable host of evils. In 1862 a Doctor of the Hanlin, named Yien Chen, indulged in excessive adulation, and was rebuked so severely by the Throne, that all the officials of the empire were filled with reverence. Now although Yien Chen was but a poor rustic, fresh from the country, yet the Throne saw fit to issue an edict with a view to prevent such abuses for the future; how much more should this be done when a viceroy or a lieutenant-governor is the transgressor; for in the latter case the consequences, politically and morally, are far more serious. The memorialist would therefore request the Throne to issue its instructions, in order that the officials throughout the empire may be warned against indulging in such vain adulation while they neglect their official duties, &c.

An edict regarding the above was issued on the 22nd August.

(2) Supplementary memorial by Pien Pao-chuen. Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, has reported the completion of the repairs of the embankments of the Yungting and has asked honours for the officials who superintended the work. He further states that the work has been executed with the utmost care, that the embankments have been most substantially built, that every farthing of the money expended has been properly employed, and that the work done may be relied on as being of the very best and strongest kind, &c.; and the Throne was pleased to order the Board to consider and report. But almost as soon as the repairs were completed, the banks burst again, and the districts flooded; second time are not a few. Under such circumstances, if the officials in question receive any very great honours, it will create dissatisfaction in the public mind

He would therefore beg that the memorial be set aside.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the above has already been transcribed. Vide Gazette of 22nd.

Aug. 31st to Sept. 3rd.—These *Gazettes*, with the exception of two or three pages, are entirely occupied by a long memorial from the lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief of Kweichow, reporting the termination of the Miaotz war in that province and giving a sketch of its history.

Sketch of the Rebel Leaders.

The capture of the famous Li Tsai-fu was announced in a former memorial. His proper name was Li Wen-tsai. He was the sworn comrade of the well-known Taiping leader Shih Ta-kai, and held the high office of cabinet minister under those rebels. When Shih Ta-kai invaded Kweichow in 1862, Li accompanied him, and having united his forces with those of Li Kao-chio and other leaders, and thus formed a huge army numbering several myriads, he took up his headquarters at Pinglang in the Tuyun prefecture, from whence he made raids on every part of the province. The other leaders were Pao Ta-tu, Chin Kan-kan &c., all of whom were men of great mark among the Miaotz, and their names have often appeared in the memorials sent to the Throne. They were commonly styled "the great ten;" but famous though they were, they were overshadowed by the two Lis—Li Tsai-fu and Li Kao-chio. After the defeat of the two latter at Niu-chio-po, they escaped to Liu-chia-chwang, where they collected the remnants of their forces to the number of 20,000; and when again driven from this place, they directed their march for Szchuen. It was matter of notoriety that Li knew better than any other man how to execute a retreat; it was an old trick of his to pretend flight. It was remembered also how he had brought together all the scattered remnants of the *Changmao* and welded them into one formidable army. It was of the utmost importance that his retreat to Szchuen should be cut off, or the "flame of rebellion"

would burst out afresh there. The troops therefore hotly pursued him, and expresses were sent ordering all the troops in that direction to close on his line of march and take possession beforehand of the more important points, so as to oppose his advance, and at the same time prevent the possibility of his escape. This was done, and on the 9th May he was overtaken at Ching-peng and a battle fought. The rebels were defeated with the loss of 6,000 killed and 400 prisoners, among whom were many of their most famous generals. There were also three so-called "royal" seals taken. The rebels then escaped to Sha-kwan, but were driven from there next day by the Imperial troops under Yu Wen-hsiu with considerable loss. They then sought refuge in a forest, but were completely surrounded by the troops, and seeing this they lost heart; 3,000 laid down their arms and surrendered; 5,000 were cut down by the troops, 20 "kings" and "generals" taken prisoners, besides some 700 stragglers who were killed by the volunteers stationed at the passes. Only about 2,000 were now left of the whole party, but among them were the famous Li Tsai-fu and Li Kao-chio, who had escaped under disguise. They next sought refuge in their fortress at Niu-tang, having first removed their women and children. The fortress was stormed and taken, "King" Li Tsai-fu was struck from his horse by a spear, Li Kao-chio killed, his brother, styled the "Third King," taken prisoner, and the whole party exterminated. On the same day a detachment of troops attacked the rebels under Yang Chiu-mao, and defeated them after two days fighting, with the loss of 700 killed, among whom were King Yang and two generals. About 1,000 only of this party were now left, and they were so hotly pursued, that they were all either cut down by the troops or perished by accident. Li Tsai-fu was so badly wounded that it was feared he would die before he could be executed; Yu Wen-hsiu therefore had him put to death in the presence of the troops, in the most painful manner possible. His body and that of Li Kao-chio were

afterwards cut in pieces and their heads sent to the camp of the commander-in-chief Chow Ta-wu. The troops then scoured the country thereabouts and captured several hundred rebels at different places. The foregoing is a truthful statement of the extermination of the great rebel army, under the famous Li Tsai-fu.

Account of the Capture of Hsiang-lu-shan.

This mountain is situated in the Ching-ping district, and distant from that city about 30 li. It is lofty and very precipitous, and is surrounded by three natural terraces, one above the other. The middle terrace overhangs like an umbrella and is about 3 or 4 li broad. Along the edge of this terrace the rebels had erected a stone rampart varying in height from 50 to 100 feet. To this rampart there were only two entrances, one on either side of the mountain, and the road leading to them was a mere goat path, very precipitous and exceedingly difficult of ascent. The upper terrace was 100 feet above the middle one and formed the top of the mountain. It used to be unoccupied; subsequently about 10,000 Miaotz held it, but since their recent defeats, it has been crowded with refugees from all parts. The troops at first operated on this great stronghold from the neighbouring heights, gradually creeping nearer and nearer to it, and at some points approached it within 200 or 300 paces, so that the rebel quarters could be distinctly seen. But the height of the mountain and the ruggedness of the country prevented anything effective being done. It was not in the power of man to do it. General Chung Yew-sz attacked it repeatedly, but effected nothing, while his own losses in killed and wounded were very great. The commander-in-chief, Chow Ta-wu, after having destroyed the rebel army under Li Tsai-fu, advanced on Hsiang-lu-shan with all his forces. The place was shelled on all sides with foreign mortars, but the rebels, protected by their stone rampart, suffered very little. The commander-in-chief then ordered the immediate construction of a wooden battery which might be moved into the rebel posi-

tion. The battery was manned by picked men, and the assault commenced; but the rebels had prepared for the assault, and poured down such a shower of balls on their assailants that they fled pell-mell, lots of them being either crushed to death or killed by falling. Still the siege was kept up more vigorously than ever, and the cordon around the mountain drawn more closely, so that the rebels could not come out of their fortifications to get either fuel or water. They then repeatedly offered to surrender, but their offers were rejected. They were soon reduced to great extremities, and on the 7th June it was rumoured that the rebels intended to abandon the old and infirm, and cut their way out. To defeat this move, general Chung Yew-sz bribed one of the rebel leaders, named Wu Ah-sa, to act the part of spy and traitor in the enemy's camp. The movements of the rebels being thus known beforehand, troops were placed in ambush to await the intended sortie. At the 3rd watch the fortress gates were opened and the rebels poured down the mountain. The troops lying in ambush rushed from their hiding places and cut down over a hundred of them, and took possession of the gates. A detachment of troops was stationed at each gate to cut down any of the rebels who might attempt to escape, while the main body cleared the fortress. One of the rebel generals named Ah-ma being still inside, rallied his men and offered a stout resistance, killing over 20 of the troops; but Generals Chung Yew-sz, Chang Hsi-ching &c., on one side, and Chow Chen-cheung &c., on the other, cut their way in, while the Miaotz chief Wu Ah-sa (the traitor above mentioned) with his band of white turbaned Miaotz fired the enemy's quarters in all directions. The cries and confusion which followed were terrible, and the troops made the best of the opportunity, 2,000 rebels were taken prisoners and 5,000 begged for mercy on condition of surrender, but no quarter was given, except to the old and infirm (probably women and children are included under

the latter terms), who were all spared. But unfortunately the rebel chief Tien with a band of desperadoes, escaped to the top of the mountain, and Ma, with the remaining Miaotsz, got away amid the confusion. The next step therefore was to besiege Tien in his mountain fastness and send troops in pursuit of Ma. With the exception of one cave there was no shelter of any kind on the upper terrace where Tien had taken refuge; but the road leading to it was so small and steep as almost to defy ascent. To storm it without the aid of artificial means, was out of the question. On the 10th and 11th of June, 200 of the rebels rushed down the hill and tried to cut their way out, but were met by the troops and exterminated to a man. General Chung Yew-sz, knowing there could not be many of the Miaotsz left, decided to storm the place by means of scaling ladders, which was accordingly done on the 14th June. 70 of the rebels were killed and the rest retired into the cave, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. An attempt was made to burn them out, but failed. It was then decided to build up the mouth of the cave so as to prevent egress, and thus starve or stifle them inside. This was done, and after a few days the cave was reopened, and Tien Ah-sung and his comrades were all found dead on the floor. By means of spies, the rebel Ma was also traced to his lair and taken prisoner. Thus fell the great rebel stronghold, Hsiang-lu-shan.

*The defeat and capture of the rebel chiefs
Chang Chow-mi, Yang Ta-lu, &c.*

These rebels were marching towards Kwangsi evidently with the intention of invading that province, but despatches were sent apprising General Teng Yew-te of their movements, who met and defeated them; and last advices from the Hunan camp state that both the leaders and their army have been exterminated. The Hunan authorities will send particulars of the several engagements.

History of the Arch-rebel Kao-ho.

This wretch originated the rebellion and was prime mover throughout. When the

late lieut.-governor of Hupeh, Hu Lin-yi, was acting Taotai of the Kwei-tung circuit in Kwei-chow, he exterminated all the rebels there, except this Kao-ho, Chiu-sung and thirty others, who managed to escape elsewhere and carry on their depredations. They subsequently, however, gave in their allegiance to the Throne and were appointed officers of the Miaotsz train-bands, but while on service in Hupeh, were dismissed for breach of discipline. They then returned to Kwei-chow and began to foment sedition among the Miaotsz, and the Miaotsz war was the result. Both Kao-ho and Chiu-sung were styled *Ta Wang* or "Great Kings," but Kao-ho was by far the more formidable of the two, and was in fact the arch-rebel. The Throne issued repeated orders for their apprehension, and Chiu-sung was taken and beheaded some time ago; but Kao-ho lived at the Miaotsz head quarters and was considered their sovereign. Nothing, however trivial, was done without his consent; of late years he has not taken the field in person, his name therefore has not appeared in recent despatches, though, in fact, he has been, throughout, the life and soul of the whole movement. He was more deeply implicated than Chang Chow-mi or an of "the famous ten." When it was therefore known that he was at Lui Kung-shan, every possible effort was made to take him. General Teng Yew-tê was ordered to offer a handsome reward for his capture and to commence operations at once. The first attack was repulsed with loss, Kao-ho and his cabinet minister, Ow Pao-hsiang, leading their troops in person; but the attack was renewed simultaneously at two different points and the stockade taken. More than 1000 rebels were killed and 600 made prisoners. Kao-ho, however, made his escape, but was pursued and captured, together with his cabinet minister, Ow Pao-hsiang. 76 rebel generals and 580 veterans were also taken and beheaded, beside some 2000 of the common rank and file. Two seals and fifteen yellow (Imperial) robes and hats were also found. The country was then scoured in all directions

by the troops and cleared of every rebel. On receiving intelligence of the capture of Kao-ho, an express was sent ordering General Teng Yew-tê to forward him and Ow Pao-hsiang to the provincial capital, but to decapitate the other prisoners in the presence of the army, and to take measures for the proper settlement of the friendly Miaotsz.

*Sketch of the War from its commencement
to its close.*

After the Taiping rebellion came the Miaotsz, and then the Mahometan rebellion, till the whole province was overrun by rebels and was everywhere the scene of anarchy and confusion. Its position was most critical. The officials both civil and military did their best to stem the torrent. They fought many pitched battles and won them, attacked cities and took them; but the force at their command was so small compared with the enemy, and so ill-fed and ill-paid, that what they gained to-day they often lost to-morrow. Afterwards, when troops arrived from Szechuen, under Intendant Tang Hsing and General Liu Ho-lin, the Mahometans were soon swept away, and such great progress made against the Miaotsz as to give hope of an early termination of the war. These bright visions however were all blasted by the disastrous defeat of the Hunan auxiliaries at Wengkulung, and subsequently of the Kweichow troops, in consequence of which all the ground previously gained was completely lost. But the lieut.-governor and his subordinates struggled on, despite these misfortunes, and after the taking of Tung-kwei and other cities in that direction, the horizon cleared a little. By the time the commander-in-chief Chow Ta-wu arrived, Tuyun had been recaptured, and on the whole the aspect of affairs was much more hopeful. In the southeast of the province, however, in consequence of the defeat of the Hunan troops, the rebellion raged as fiercely as ever. The rebels even invaded Ting-fan and Kwang-shun, places quite near to the capital. The Kwei-chow troops were without supplies, and disease had broken out among them. Without pay

and without food, it was impossible to do much. But the officials rose with the occasion. Nothing daunted by the number or bravery of the foe, or by the pestilence raging among their own troops, their cry was "forward," and gradually they gained ground. The troops, too, behaved nobly. Bound together by a strong patriotic bond, they presented an unbroken front to the enemy. Often while sick and hungry they marched against the enemy, and journeyed through water and snow almost naked, vying with each other who should be first on the field. Step by step the rebels were driven from Ting-fan, Kwang-shun, and Tuyun. No less than 100 stockades were taken in those districts, while the rebels were killed in myriads. The surrender of Pachai, Tanchiang, Hsiachiang &c., &c., followed, and several hundred *li* of country were thus cleared of rebels. One happy consequence of this was the re-opening of the Government post road to Hunan. The rebels perished in multitudes; at the taking of Nui-chiopo alone, 200,000 of them were killed. Those who escaped to Hsianglushan have also been exterminated. This Hsianglushan, by the way, is a place famous in history. During the Ming dynasty it was besieged twice, each siege lasting 3 or 4 years. With the taking of this great stronghold, and the destruction of all the rebel leaders, great and small, the war must be considered closed. Not a rebel now exists within a radius of 1,000 and more *li*. The memorialists consider themselves thrice-happy in having been instrumental in bringing about so great a result within so short a time. When they were appointed to their present important position, they scarcely hoped to be able to crush the rebellion in less than 3 or 4 years, but it has been done in little more than one, at a cost of only 3,000,000 taels. [This sum apparently includes only the money expended on the Kwei-chow troops.] In this brief period, and for this small outlay, an eighteen years' war has been brought to a close, and over 1,000 *li* of Miaotsz territory subjugated.

Disbandment of the Army.

At present there are 27,000 troops in the southern parts of this province, and it is proposed to retain 15,000, in order that all the important posts throughout the reclaimed districts may be efficiently garrisoned; for the country is so mountainous and so covered with dense forests that it is quite possible that rebels may still be lurking here and there. The taking of the prefectural city of Hsing-i in the southwest has already been reported to the Throne (see *Gazette* of April 12th). One Mahometan stronghold only remains, and that is so surrounded by the troops that its surrender may be looked for any day. When that takes place 12,000 of the army operating in that direction will also be disbanded.

Death of the rebel leaders Kaoho, Ow Pao-hsiang and Ah-ma.

These rebels were sent to the provincial capital according to instructions. They were all leading rebels and guilty of an enormous crime; but Kaoho was considered the chief, a sort of King. It was he who fomented the rebellion at first, and on him lies the guilt of this eighteen-years' war, with all its attendant horrors. Decapitation therefore seemed too light a punishment for this arch-rebel, and it was the duty of the memorialist to have him imprisoned and leave the Throne to fix his doom. But reference to the capital necessary involved such a long delay, that there was danger of his escaping justice by committing suicide. Knowing how deep his guilt was and what his fate would probably be, he had already refused to eat, in order to starve himself. The memorialist therefore ordered that he and Ah-ma should be hacked to pieces, and Ow Pao-hsiang decapitated. The corpse of Kaoho was afterwards cut up into bits, as a special punishment, and the heads of all three were sent round the country, that they might serve as a warning to others. They were greeted with universal rejoicing.

The memorial concludes by recommending to the notice of the Throne the officers who conducted the operations of the war.

Sept. 4th.—Tseng Pi-kwang, lieutenant-governor of Kwei-chow, begs the throne to raise Ching-fu, Taotai of Kiukiang and Commissioner of Customs at that port, to the rank of provincial treasurer, in reward for the punctuality with which he has transmitted funds to Kwei-chow. On the 21st March, 1870, he received an Imperial mandate directing him to send Tls. 10,000 annually to that province for military purposes. That order he has faithfully obeyed; as regularly as the month came round, he forwarded his instalment, which is more than can be said of other provinces, some of which have only paid four or five tenths and others not one-tenth of what was due. In fact he stands almost alone. Now that the rebellion has been crushed and the Miaotsz territory restored to peace and order, it is but fair that his services should receive some recognition.

"The Imperial pleasure has already been transcribed."

(2) In three supplementary memorials, Tseng Pi-kwang requests the Throne to bestow honours on the treasurer and criminal judge of Szchuen, and other officials, in consideration of the aid which they rendered to Kwei-chow during the war in that province.

5th. Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, reports that the Yung-ting has burst its banks, and requests the punishment of himself and some of the river officials. During the heavy rains which occurred towards the end of the summer, it was observed that the river rose and fell alternately, and orders were repeatedly sent to Li Chao-i, the inspector of the river, to be on the alert. He now reports that in consequence of the heavy rain which set in on the 1st August, and which continued to pour incessantly for several days, the plains in the neighbourhood of the Great Wall were several *chang* (a *chang* is about 10 feet) under water, the only outlet for which was the Yung-ting. The result was that the officer in charge at Shih-ching-shan had to report a sudden rise of 16 feet in the river at 9 a.m. on the 4th August; and at 5 p.m. on the same day, a further rise of 3 feet 6

inches. Next day it had risen 23 feet 5 inches, a height which it never attained even last year, the torrent also being proportionately stronger. The rush and pressure of the water against the banks were so great that it was evident they must give way. Every imaginable plan was tried by the officials to prevent such a catastrophe; but the violence of the current defied their efforts. The locks were opened and about 2 ft. 5 in. of water let off; but the bulk of water was too great to effect any appreciable diminution, the banks consequently burst in several places. Similar tidings were received from the sub-prefect of Shih-ching-shan. There the river had so swollen that the water overflowed the banks; the latter being eventually swept away, leaving a free channel for the water to pour out on the surrounding country. The soldiers and country people were called out to repair the breach; but to no purpose. The water continued to rise, and rushed along with such fury that human effort was vain. On hearing of this, the river inspector Li Chao-i immediately repaired to the spot to see what he could do; but, alas! he found the breach was already from 600 to 700 feet long, and that nothing could be done.

After the bursting of the banks last year, the memorialist had locks (or sluices) erected, and the Yingho cleaned out, hoping thereby to prevent such calamities in the future. He also ordered that a large supply of material should be kept always on hand in case of emergency. The banks, however, were so saturated last year that they are still moist and loose. The rise in the river too was something extraordinary, being over 20 feet, while the rain was pouring down in torrents and the wind blowing a perfect gale. Human strength contended in vain against such difficulties. Still, the officials having failed to save the embankments, must be held culpable, and it is his duty to request their punishment. He would beg that sub-prefect Wang Mowshün and Assistant-Magistrate Tang Chao be stripped of their rank, but retained in office; and that the river inspector (or intendant), Li Chao-i, receive the same punish-

ment. The memorialist himself having failed to properly direct his subordinates, requests that he may be handed over to the Board (of Civil Office) to be punished according to his deserts. He is making every possible effort to remedy the disaster.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already been made known. Vide *Gazette* of 23rd August.

6th.—To-day's *Gazette* contains nothing of general interest.

7th.—The Censorate lays the following appeal case before the Throne.

A widow lady, belonging to Showchow in the Anhwei province, complains that she can obtain no redress for the murder of her late husband, Adjutant-General Hwang Chi-ming. He joined the army in 1855 and took an active part in the war then raging, and gained great distinction by his bravery. He next served under Lieutenant-Governor Chiao, in the west and in 1864 was transferred to the *Chao sheng* regiment. In 1869 he returned home on furlough, and in the early part of the following year, just as he was about to rejoin his regiment, Colonel Wang Chir pao and three others, belonging to the *Shen* cavalry, called on him at his home, and stated that they had been sent by Li Hung-chang to raise a troop of cavalry in Showchow and other places, but that the journey being a long one, they had found it inconvenient to take with them the requisite funds and must therefore call on him to supply them with whatever money they might require. This he did willingly, believing their statement was made in good faith, and that he was acting for the public good. He advanced Taels 200 at 420,000 *cash*. He also bought 103 horses and provided men and provisions. Colonel Wang then gave him a properly stamped certificate for the whole. Shortly afterwards he set out to rejoin his regiment. When at Ping-yang in Shansi, he asked for repayment of his money, but to his astonishment Colonel Wang sought to evade the claim and cheat him out of the whole, and did not scruple what means he employed in order to accomplish it.

end. Appellant's husband and his servant were inveigled off to an out-of-the-way place, and the former killed and robbed of all he possessed. The servant, however, escaped and reported the affair to the appellant. She at once laid the case before H. E. Tseng Kwo-fan, and orders were given to have the matter investigated. But Generals Chow and Chang so manipulated matters on behalf of their protégé Colonel Wang, that justice was thwarted and a verdict given that deceased had been beheaded according to military law, for colluding with others to defraud the commissariat, there being no necessity under the circumstances to await the order of General Chow or Li Hung-chang. Complainant appealed against this decision, and then it was said that the execution had been carried out under instructions from Li Hung-chang. What a glaring contradiction! She then went to the Yamen of the *Changhsieh*, to lay her case before that officer, but there she was abused and insulted by the soldiers. Finally, it was decided to petition Tseng-kwo-fan to give her 100 taels. Again and again, however, she appealed for redress, and at last was told that it being a military affair which occurred beyond the border, the local official had no jurisdiction. She has therefore come to the capital.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already been published.

(2) Chiao Sung-nien, governor-general of rivers and canals, reports that the banks of the Yellow River, are, on the whole, in a satisfactory condition. The river rose considerably during the latter part of July, and the banks were considerably damaged in several places. Still, unless something unforeseen occurs, there is no occasion for apprehension. He has given orders to have the banks everywhere repaired and put in a satisfactory condition, and has gone in person to inspect the work.

8th.—The Board of Rites having requested instructions as to when warm hats shall be worn, the Throne appoints the 26th September as the day on which they shall come into use.

(2) Wenpin, acting governor-general of the rice transport, reports the capture of a band of bandits known as the *Fuwei*, who had given great trouble in Chang-pei and along the borders of Shantung, for several years past. He recommends to the notice of the Throne the officials through whose exertions the capture was effected. [An abstract of the memorial was given in the *Gazette* of the 27th August.

9th.—Wenpin, treasurer of Shantung, having acted for some time as governor-general of the rice transport in place of Chang Shu-sheng, announces having given over the seals of office to the latter, and Chang Shu-sheng reports having assumed office. But since these memorials were written, an edict has been issued ordering Wenpin to continue in charge of the rice transport, and appointing Chang Shu-sheng acting lieut.-governor of Kiang-su.

10th—11th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Tso Tsung-tang, viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, requesting the banishment, to the frontier, of a district magistrate guilty of embezzling public funds. This official, who belongs to the Hunan mandarin, having appropriated no less than 7,000 taels from funds set apart for the manufacture of arms, absconded to Shensi; but was apprehended, brought back and made to refund all he had stolen. His guilt has been established beyond denial. He is therefore banished to the frontier, to atone for his misdeeds, and is never to be employed in the Imperial service again. Let this serve as a warning to others.

(2) Tan Mow-chien is made a grand Secretary and controller of the affairs of the Board of War. Mao Yung-hsi is appointed a president of the Board of Civil Office, Li Hung-tso, a president of the Board of Works, and Sang chun-yung, a member of the censorate. Shao Heng-yu is appointed lieut.-governor of Shensi.

(3) The lieut.-governor of Hunan requests posthumous honours for the late Taotai Ko Chien, in consideration of his

long and valuable services, and also begs that his parents may be raised to the first rank.

12th.—Ho Ching, acting viceroy of the Twō Kiang, reports that the district magistrate of Wuning in Kiangsi, is a distant relation of his, beyond the degrees of mourning, and requests that he be removed elsewhere. The law provides that provincial officials having relations holding official posts within their jurisdiction, whether the degree of relationship be near or distant, shall request their removal. Where the superior official is only acting, as in the present case, the law makes no provision. In regard to the Boards in the capital, however, it is stated that the relations of a superior official, even though the latter be only acting, shall withdraw. The memorialist has already acted in his present capacity for three months, and it is therefore his duty to ask that his kinsman Ho Ching-chao, district magistrate of Wuning, be removed to some other province.

He is ordered to remove.

13th.—Sang Chun-yung is appointed a president of the Board of Punishments, and Hu Chia-yü takes his place in the Censorate.

14th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the viceroy and lieut.-governor of Fukien regarding certain frauds by a yamen clerk. Formerly the Fukien authorities issued stamped notes in payment of the troops. Subsequently these notes were bought in; but it was afterwards discovered that the clerk of the Exchequer had abstracted a lot of these notes and handed them in a second time, stating that they had been intrusted to him by outside parties for redemption. In this way he defrauded the Government of about 29,000 taels. Such monstrous rascality should be visited with immediate and condign punishment. The case must also be strictly investigated with a view to ascertain whether he has any accomplices, and whether he has been guilty of any other villany. He must be made to reimburse the whole to the last farthing,

and be punished according to the statute. The former head clerk of the Exchequer Chu Pao-shan, now district magistrate of Changtai, and the present head-clerk, Yang Po, are guilty of the most extraordinary neglect of duty in allowing such a fraud to escape their notice. They are, therefore, as a preliminary step, suspended from office and committed for trial. If found guilty of collusion with their clerk, or of having in any way connived at his frauds, they must be severely punished. The rest of the memorial is proved, and may be carried into effect.

(2) Hsichen is appointed grain commissioner of Kiangsi.

15th.—To-day's *Gazette* has an edict regarding a memorial from the military governor of Shengking, reporting the robbery of a lot of government treasure, and requesting the punishment of the officials in whose jurisdiction it occurred. In August last, treasure was being conveyed from Kirin and other places (to Peking,) and while passing Hsing-lung-tien in the Fengtien prefecture, (Moukden) was seized and carried off by mounted robbers. No less than 14,500 taels were thus lost. The local officials are greatly to blame for not having sent the treasure under a sufficiently strong escort, and are therefore stripped of their honours, but retained in office. They must catch the robbers and recover the booty within a given time, on pain of further punishment.

(2) The Censorate reports an appeal case in which a Kiangsi man named Hsü Chun-fu and others complain that 500 houses belonging to their native village have been burned and 51 persons killed, by the inhabitants of a neighbouring village, headed by a family called Hu, and that they have been driven from pillar to post without being able to get any satisfaction. The quarrel arose regarding some water, and eventually there was open war between the two villages. The Hu family and their fellow villagers attacked the village of Hsü Chun-fu, burned a lot of houses and killed 51 of the villagers, besides wounding several others. The matter

was then reported to the local authorities. Soldiers were sent to suppress the quarrel, and maintain order. But bribery and deception were practised right and left, and the official sent to investigate the case, finally decided that it was a mere quarrel about water, and that (where so many were to blame) he could punish no one in particular. The case was then carried before the high officials, but the real offenders, Hu Hsü-tê &c., were never brought forward for trial, &c.

(3) In another memorial, the Censorate reports an appeal case, in which a Honan man complains that his nephew having been murdered, he cannot obtain proper satisfaction. The district magistrate having been bribed, merely beat and imprisoned the murderer, leaving his accomplices to go scot-free. Complainant then appealed to the prefect and criminal judge, but they only ordered the district magistrate to try the case. He then appealed to the lieutenant-governor, who directed the prefect to hear the case; but complainant fearing the prefect would merely order him, as he had done before, to go to the district magistrate, has come to the capital (to lay his case at the foot of the Throne.) The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing cases has already been published.

16th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Tso Tsung-tang and Mutushan, reporting important victories over the Mohametans in the neighbourhood of Su chow in Kansu, and the tightening of the cordon around that city. After the Su chow rebels lost Tarhwan, Hwang-tsao-chü, &c., they had only Chuchia-pao and other places in that direction to trust to. These have all now been swept away, and every rebel stockade in the neighbourhood of Su chow razed to the ground. The city is thus isolated and shut off from all outside help. The officers through whose bravery these successes were achieved deserve some notice. [Here follows a long list of officers, all of whom are given brevets, Manchu titles, peacocks' feathers, &c.]

(2) Kang Kwo-chi, provincial treasurer

of Kwangsi, is ordered to repair to Peking to await some other appointment, and Wenkê is appointed treasurer in his stead.

17th.—Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, having reported a deficit in the accounts of a district magistrate lately deceased, an edict is issued stripping the magistrate of his rank and honours and ordering his property to be distrained. He is defaulter in the sum of 6,000 taels. All the property at his official residence, must be seized, and his relatives and clerks subjected to a searching examination with a view to discover whether he embezzled the money, or merely appropriated it to some other public purpose; sentence to be pronounced according to the finding of the Court.

[The rest of to-day's *Gazette* is entirely occupied with memorials from the lieutenant-governor of Kweichow regarding some unimportant changes among the inferior officials of that province.]

18th.—In consequence of a memorial from the lieutenant-governor of Shantung, an edict is issued degrading several military officers belonging to that province, on account of incapacity to maintain proper discipline among their men, and other offences.

(2) H. E. Yung-yü reports the destruction of several trees surrounding the Imperial tombs, by a storm on the 13th September, and requests that a commission be appointed to examine the same and have new trees planted.

19th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from the lieutenant-governor of Honan, reporting the capture of the brigand (or rebel) Li-lu and the entire destruction of his band, and requesting honours for the officials through whose exertions these successes were achieved. After Li-lu's former defeat, he retreated with the remnant of his forces to the borders of Honan and Anhwei. Troops were sent in pursuit, and lots of his men were overtaken and cut down by the way. On the 4th September the main body was overtaken in the Kuchih district and attacked; Li-lu was made prisoner and his

whole band completely exterminated. The officers who conducted the expedition deserve some notice in acknowledgment of the service thus rendered. [Here follows a list of officials, civil and military, all of whom are promoted.]

(2) Liu Kwen-yi, lieutenant-governor of Kiangsi, complains that in consequence of a change in the great trade route, the Customs officials find it quite impossible to make up the amount hitherto assessed on the Kan barrier (贛關) and begs they be not required to make good the deficit. This barrier is at present rated at 84,000 taels per annum. But the intendant of circuit and the Commissioner of Customs report that from the 5th moon of last year to the 5th of this, only Tls. 30,264 9.0.8 were collected at the barrier itself. In addition to this, however, the sum of Tls. 34,888 9.3.1 was collected on its account by the *Kiang Hai Kwan* (江海關), making a total for the year of Tls. 65,153 8.3.9. From this have to be deducted Board fees, wages of employés &c., to the amount of Tls. 6,682 0.9.2, leaving a net income of Tls. 58,471 7.4.7. This falling off in the annual receipts is owing to the unfavourable situation of the barrier, the great waterways leading to it being difficult of navigation. Formerly, when Canton was the only Treaty Port, there was no other route to and from the interior; but since the opening of the five ports on the coast, and the ports along the Yangtze, trade has flowed off into other channels. Hoochow silk goes to Shanghai, and tea to Kiu-kiang. Foreign imports and Canton goods now travel in all directions, having no fixed route as of old; and goods that have already paid the half duty or transit dues are allowed to pass the barriers duty-free. From these several causes the Kan Customs have nothing left to tax but such local produce as sugar, rice and so forth. The Customs officials therefore earnestly beg, and the memorialist seconds their appeal, that the deficit of Tls. 25,900 in last year's account may be written off the books; or

that, as was done in 1868, they be only called on to make good one-tenth, in annual instalments.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to report.

20th and 21st.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Hung-chang regarding the distress caused by the recent floods, and requesting a grant of tribute rice. The heavy rains which fell in the metropolitan and neighbouring prefectures during the latter part of summer and the early part of autumn, so swelled the rivers that they burst their banks and flooded the surrounding country. The districts lying along the course of the Yungting and the Huto are inundated, the crops destroyed and the people driven from their homes. The Throne deeply commiserates the distress of the people, and orders the appropriation of 105,000 piculs of rice for distribution among them. Trustworthy officials must be appointed to assist the local authorities in dispensing this bounty; according to the needs of each place, and the utmost care must be taken to secure just distribution, so that every sufferer may obtain relief.

22nd.—Imperial edict. A short time ago Peng Yü-lin, a vice-president of the Board of War, was sent to inspect the Yangtsze fleet, with powers to make such reforms as he might deem necessary. He has already reported several officers on various charges. He finds that the indolence, and general neglect of duty which characterize the officers of the fleet, are vices of long standing, which have become gradually worse and worse. The fleet has also copied from the army, the mischievous habit of giving feasts and entertainments, the expenses of which are defrayed by a rate levied on the pay (of officers and men.) The high officials must exert themselves to put down such abuses wherever they exist, and effect reform in their respective forces.

23rd.—An edict is issued granting permission to Hwang Yi-sheng, admiral of the Yangtsze Fleet, to retire from office on account of ill-health, occasioned by 17 wounds. He is severely censured for t

negligent way in which he has discharged his duties, but is pardoned in consideration of his former services against the rebels, and allowed to retire.

24th.—Imperial edict. Chinshun on being appointed military governor of Uliasutai started with his troops from Ninghsia in Kansu to assume charge of his new post; but instead of continuing his journey, stopped at Paotow in Shansi. Edict after edict was issued urging him to press forward without delay. Having failed to obey these orders he requested to be handed over to the Board for punishment; he also requested permission to proceed with his regiment to Kanliang in Kansu, to operate against the rebels in that place. The Throne in its clemency overlooked his shortcomings and granted his request to go to Kanliang, he having proffered it with a view to make some amends for past failings. But although several months have elapsed, he is still quietly esconced at Ninghsia, where he evidently intends to enjoy himself for a time, and says nothing about going to Kanliang. He is therefore deprived of the governorship of Uliasutai and handed over to the Board to be dealt with. He is also ordered to proceed westward (to Kanliang) without delay, and warned that further dilatoriness will leave the Government no resource but to proceed against him with all the severity of the law. He cannot say he was not cautioned beforehand.

(2) Chang-shun is appointed acting Military governor of Uliasutai, and Toyunpu *tsan-tsan* of Cobdo, in his place. They are ordered to proceed to their respective posts without delay.

25th—30th.—At the request of the Metropolitan prefect, an edict is issued granting 800 piculs of millet to the Puchintang Charity (in Peking) for distribution among the poor, whose sufferings are very great in consequence of the recent floods.

(2) Another edict is issued granting 20,000 piculs of rice (in addition to the 60,000 piculs already distributed) and 60,000 taels for distribution among the

sufferers by the floods in the Metropolitan prefecture.

(3) Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chihli, is ordered to select from among the prefects of that province the one best fitted to occupy the important post of prefect of Paoting.

Oct. 1st.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Prince Kung presenting to the Throne copies of two works just completed: "The History of the Suppression of the Yueh-fei (Taipings)," in 420 sections, and "The History of the Suppression of the Nien-fei," in 320 sections. The Taiping rebellion broke out in the 30th year of Taukwang (1850) and continued up to the re-taking of Nanking in 4th year of Tungchih (1865), when it was virtually crushed, though it was more than a year after that event before the rebels were entirely exterminated. The Nien-fei rebellion commenced in the 1st year of Hienfeng (1851), and was brought to a close in the 7th year of Tungchih (1868) by the victories of the Imperial troops in Chihli. The number of memorials sent to the Throne by the civil and military officials during this nineteen-years' struggle was enormous. But his late illustrious Majesty, Hienfeng, directed affairs with so much wisdom and foresight, that both the army and the people were inspired with gratitude and confidence. Since the ascension of His present Majesty, the direction of affairs has devolved on their Majesties, the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi, who have ably carried out the work begun by His late Majesty, and have put an end to these troubles and given peace to the Empire. It is highly desirable that a history of the war, and an account of the tactics pursued, should be handed down for the instruction of posterity. Prince Kung and his colleagues who have superintended the compilation of these works, and the officials who executed the compilation, deserve great praise for the careful manner in which they have performed their task; and although the Prince and his colleagues disclaim all merit on their part, he is, as a special mark of Imperial favour, raised two grades, and

Her Majesty Tsz-hsi (the Empress-mother) presents him with a scroll having the following characters written by the Imperial hand: 訂謨辰告. His colleagues Wensiang, Paoyün, Shen Kwei-fen and Li Hung-tsao are also raised two grades.

[Here follows a long list of other officials.]

3rd.—To-day's *Gazette* has an edict regarding a memorial from Tso Tsung-tang requesting the Throne to bestow an honorific tablet on the God of Thunder. During the 6th moon of the present year, the Imperial troops attacked Suchow (in the northwest of Kansu), and by the miraculous aid of the God of Thunder won a great victory over the rebels. Such an event calls for profound gratitude; and the Hanlin is ordered to prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to Tso Tsung-tang to be placed in the temple of the God of Thunder in the provincial capital of Kansu, in acknowledgment of divine favour.

7th.—An edict is issued appointing Peng Yü-lin a vice-president of the Board of War. He had requested that he might be allowed to retire from office on account of ill-health, after receiving an Imperial audience. He also, while in the Imperial presence, entreated over and over again, permission to retire. But he is such an able and indefatigable official, that he cannot be lightly dispensed with. Moreover his wounds having healed, he is now strong again. He is therefore retained in the capital in order to show the confidence the Throne reposes in him; he must not too persistently decline office. Another edict is issued allowing him, in consideration of his wounds, received while fighting in the Imperial cause, to ride on horseback in the Imperial city.

8th.—Li Hung-chang reports that up to the 6th moon of this year the contributions in clothes, rice and money, towards the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Chihli last year, amounted to Taels 813,566.94.

11th.—In reply to a memorial from the viceroy of Canton, an edict is issued ordering the new treasurer of that province to proceed to his post without delay.

15th.—The lieutenant-governor of Hunan memorializes the Throne requesting the erection of a memorial temple in the capital of that province to the late lieutenant-governor Chang Liang-chi, who rendered such signal services to the Imperial cause during the rebellion. The memorialist has received a numerously-signed petition, headed by Earl Tseng Kwo-chuen (Tseng Kwo-fan's brother), praying him to lay the above request before the Throne. [An edict was issued October 3rd granting the petition.]

16th.—Duke Chungchi (the young Empress's father) is made an expectant Secretary or member of the Privy Council.

18th.—Chang Shu-sheng, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, reports having assumed his duties.

20th.—To-day's *Gazette* has an edict in reference to a memorial from the Lieutenant-Governor of Honan, requesting the Throne to confer an honorific tablet and a higher title on the tutelary god of Cheng-yang. In the 3rd year of Hien-feng (1853) the Nienfei attacked the district city of Cheng-yang, but through the secret interposition of the tutelary diety, the place was saved. Such an event calls for deep gratitude, and the Hanlin college is therefore ordered to prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to the Lieutenant-Governor, to be reverently placed in the temple of the city god of Cheng-yang. The request to confer a higher title must be taken into consideration by the Board of Rites, and a report thereon forwarded to the Throne.

(2) The Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi issue an edict ordering that all the Princes and Ministers of State, who took part in the celebration of the Imperial Marriage on the 16th inst., be raised one grade; that the minor officials be honorably recorded once; that two silver ingots, one ounce in weight, be given to each of the chair attendants, and one ingot to each of the lamp-bearers and other followers.

21st.—Edict of Their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi:—

The Emperor has now reigned for eleven years. He has been assisted in the go-

vernment of the Empire by his Imperial kindred and Ministers of State. And now that the Imperial Marriage has just been consummated, it is a fitting time to bestow some token of Imperial favour on these faithful servants, in honour of that event. Prince Tun will henceforth be allowed to use a chair with four bearers, in the Imperial city. He is exempted from his duties as one of the heads of the Imperial body-guard, &c., and his son Tsailien is raised to the rank of High honorary State Supporter Duke (feng en fu kwo kung). Prince Kung has assisted in the conduct of affairs for many years and has rendered most valuable services. So long ago as the 11th year and 11th month of Hien-feng, an order was issued commanding that the title of *Chin Wang* (prince of the blood), be hereditary in his family for ever; but he so persistently declined the honour that further consideration of the subject was deferred till His Majesty should assume the reins of government. The Emperor's marriage has already been celebrated and the time of his ascension draws near, it is therefore ordered that the title of *Chin Wang* be made hereditary in the family of Prince Kung for ever.

* * * * * Wensiang, a grand Secretary, and member of the Grand Council, is allowed to use a chair with 2 bearers in the Imperial or Forbidden City. Paoyun, a Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and a President of one of the Boards, is appointed a Senior Guardian of the Heir Apparent [a mere title]; and Presidents Shen Kwei-fen and Li Hung-tso are made Junior Guardians of the Heir Apparent. The above titles are conferred in commemoration of His Majesty's marriage.

22nd.—The Empresses Dowager issue an edict conferring honours on the Ministers of the Court and on all those who took part in the celebration of the Imperial marriage. They also order the distribution of 10,000 taels among the soldiers who repaired the roads along which the marriage procession passed.

"We have received from their Imperial

Majesties, the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi, the following edict:—

"The Emperor having ascended the Throne while yet a child, and at a time when the empire was in a very disturbed state, and it being impossible for the princes and high officials to act without a supreme authority to which they might appeal: We yielded to the solicitations of the Ministers of State to act as Regents *pro tem*, notifying at the same time that the reins of government would be handed over to the Emperor as soon as he completed his education. For the past eleven years we have striven, early and late, with much fear and trembling, to discharge the duties thus imposed on us, without daring to consult for a moment our own ease or comfort. But the Emperor having made great progress in his studies, and being now in the prime of life, ought to assume the government of the empire, and in conjunction with his Ministers, Court and Provincial, strive so to rule as to terminate the troubles which afflict the State, and thus discharge the sacred trust handed down to him by His late Majesty, Hien-feng. We therefore command the Astronomical Board to select a propitious day in the 1st moon of next year, on which His Majesty may assume the reins of government. We also command the Grand Council and Grand Secretaries, in concert with the heads of the Six Boards and Nine Courts, to carefully and reverently determine the ceremonies to be observed on the occasion, and also the cases in which the old state of things should be reverted to, and report to the Throne. Respect this."

"We have received the following edict from their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi:—

"This day we have issued a decree directing the Astronomical Board to select a lucky day in the 1st moon of next year, on which His Majesty the Emperor may assume the personal government of the Empire; and considering the august nature of the great sacrifices offered at the * Altars

* The Altars of Heaven and Earth are probably meant.

and Temples, we deem it most necessary that the Emperor should perform them in his own person, in order to impart to them appropriate solemnity, and to show his reverence and sincerity. We therefore command that the great sacrifice at the Altar of Heaven, at the winter solstice of the present year, be offered by His Majesty in person, for the first time; and we direct the several Boards, reverently and diligently, to make preparation for the coming ceremony. Respect this."

23rd.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the completion of the repairs of the Yungting embankment and asking honours for the officials who superintended the work. During the 7th moon of the present year, the Yungting river, swollen by the heavy rains, burst its banks at the part known as the 17th division. But the viceroy and the intendant have already managed to repair the breach, notwithstanding the violence of the current at this season of the year. Li Hung-chang has exerted himself to the utmost and pressed forward the work with astonishing rapidity, any entry therefore against him in the official register on account of the bursting of the banks must be erased. The officials who superintended the work are also entitled to some reward for their exertions. Sub-prefect Wu Ting-pin and District Magistrate Chang Yun-hsiang are given a flowered peacock's feather, &c.

24th.—Yang-chang-sün, Lieut.-Governor of Chekiang, memorializes the Throne, requesting permission to rebuild the temple of the God of the Sea. The safety of Chekiang largely depends on the sea wall, and although it is man's province to erect such a wall and keep it in repair, it is none the less true, that we must look to the gods for its protection. The temple in question was situated in the city of Haining, but was so completely destroyed by the rebels, that only four stone pillars and a small pavilion were left standing. It occupied 40 mow of land. The sea is the greatest thing under heaven, and we are compelled to think that it is, with its

daily ebb and flow, under the immediate control of the gods. The eastern and central portions of the sea wall are of stone, but the rest is only a narrow strip of earth and wood, and this weak structure is all we have to oppose the strength of the mighty deep; the danger is at times very great. Fortunately the sea was very tranquil last year, and the wind very light, thanks to the gracious protection of the gods. The memorialist is informed that it has always been the practice for the local officials and people, whenever there was an unusually high tide, to repair in a body (to the temple of the sea god), and offer silent prayer, and that an answer has been invariably vouchsafed. It is estimated that the re-building of the temple will cost about Taels 45,000, and he begs permission to appropriate that sum from the funds allowed for the sea wall. The sum required, however, being large, it is not intended to commence building till next year.

The request is granted.

25th.—To-day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials from the Viceroy of Kansu regarding changes among the inferior officials of that province.

26th.—An edict is issued conferring promotion, brevets, peacocks' feathers and buttons on the petty officials of the "Board for controlling the affairs of the Household," for their services in connection with the Imperial Marriage.

(2) The Lieut.-Governor of Shantung reports that the Magistrate of Fushan has completed his three years term of office, and recommends that he exchange posts with the Magistrate of Chi-ho. Fushan has become a post of great importance since the opening of Yientai (Chefoo) to foreign trade and should be presided over by a magistrate of experience and ability. The place derives additional importance from its being the residence of the Commissioner of Maritime Customs. The Magistrate of Chiho would be just the man for the place. He is a *Chin-shih* (L. L. D.), an able and experienced official, and well versed in foreign affairs. But as Chiho is also a diff

cult and important post, it is proposed that it be given to the magistrate of Fushan (Chefoo), who has given so many proofs of his ability. By this transfer both places will be provided with suitable magistrates.

The Board of Civil Office is ordered to report.

27th.—Imperial edict. Peng Yü-lin, a Vice-President of the Board of War, has memorialized the Throne begging permission to retire from office on account of his wounds. Peng Yü-lin is a most indefatigable and deserving officer, and in recognition of his worth he was recently made a vice-president of the Board of War. But he states that he is still suffering severely from the wounds he received during his ten-years service on the Yangtze, and renews his request for permission to retire. Considering the earnestness and feeling with which he has preferred his petition, the Throne is induced to allow him to retire. But the new Admiral of the Yangtze, Li Cheng-mow, being necessarily but imperfectly acquainted with the requirements of his important post, Peng Yü-lin is ordered to pass along the Yangtze on his way home, and in concert with the new Admiral make such changes and arrangements as he may deem needful. He is also ordered to make an annual tour of inspection of the Yangtze fleet, and to report directly to the Throne any officials who may have neglected their duty, &c., and offer any suggestions for the improvement of the fleet which may occur to him. Whatever funds he may require in the execution of this duty, will be furnished him by the viceroys of the Two Kiang and Hukuang provinces.

28th—29th.—Pao Yuen-shen, lieutenant-governor of Shansi, reports on the salt trade of that province. Some time ago Censor Yuen Cheng-yi memorialized the Throne complaining of the abuses of the trade, and an edict was consequently issued ordering the lieutenant-governor to report. He finds that Shansi, Shensi and Honan get their salt-supply from the Ho-tung circuit. In Shansi and Shensi the whole trade, wholesale and retail, used to be farmed to certain

merchants; in Honan the wholesale trade was in the hands of merchants and the retail business in the hands of the people. But it was found that the election of the monopolists gave rise to so many abuses and was so ruinous to the monopolists themselves, that the trade could not stand such a system any longer. The Board of Revenue then, in 1854, decided that the trade, both wholesale and retail, should be carried on by the Government itself, except in Honan, where the retail business was left in the hands of the people. But it was subsequently ordered that in Shensi and Honan the people should be allowed to share with the Government the privilege of the wholesale and transport business. This system has now been in operation for more than ten years and has been found to work satisfactorily. The revenue has not suffered and the wants of the provinces have been supplied, and there is no reason for apprehending any difficulty in the future.

The Censor, in his memorial complains that at the annual drawing, several lots are withheld and distributed among the expectants of office, who dispose of them on the most advantageous terms, and thus that the price of salt is raised. The censor requests that this abuse may be remedied, and that the officials in question, instead of depending on such means for support, may receive regular stipends. To this the memorialist would reply that the censor is mistaken. The facts of the case may be thus stated: When the old farming system was abolished in 1854, the small dealers, regarding the trade as hazardous, were afraid to purchase; the intendant therefore selected a few officials to take the initiative. The plan succeeded, and gradually dealers were emboldened to engage in the trade. It was then decided that one-third of the trade should be in the hands of officials, and two-thirds in the hands of the people. This course has been all along adhered to, and it is not true that shares rightly belonging to the people have been given to officials. The plan has worked well, and is mutually advantageous; it is not continued in the exclusive interests of

the officials. The number of officials engaged in the trade is about 200, and if the present system were abandoned, and all these made directly dependent on the government, as suggested by the Censor, there would be no funds to pay them. His scheme is, therefore, quite impracticable.

Another charge brought by the Censor is that the Shansi district magistrates farm out the monopoly to merchants, solely with a view to their own advantage, and exact no end of money in fees of one kind and another, and the result is the people have to pay a most exorbitant price for salt. This is not the fault of the merchants, but of official greed. The remedy proposed for this is the strict carrying out of the law relative to the case, viz., that the merchants be properly secured, and be bound to provide their districts with a good supply of salt at a certain price. Or, where the magistrates import their own supplies, that they be required to employ suitable persons to carry on the work, the magistrates being held responsible for all abuses. With these remarks and suggestions the memorialist fully agrees and will endeavour to see them carried out.

The Throne has informed itself of the foregoing. The lieutenant-governor must order the intendant of circuit to keep a constant watch on the trade, with a view to its improvement &c.

30th—31st.—An edict is issued ordering the distraint of the property of the late Wenjui, sub-prefect of Hulan in Tsitsihar, who was defaulter in the sum of 2,950 taels and 6,320 strings of cash.

(2) Chien Ting-ming, lieutenant-governor of Honan, reports dolefully on the condition of that province. The harvest for several consecutive years has been very bad, while the demand for grain for the supply of the army in the west is so great that provisions of all kinds have become very dear. The spring crops this year were only middling, and the autumn crops were very much injured by continued wet weather; the country in many places being flooded. It will be impossible therefore to pay the

land tax in kind. The export of 100,000 piculs of rice would raise that article to a ruinous price and leave people and army without supplies. The tax must therefore be paid in sycee, at the same rates as last year; viz., in the Chi and 32 neighbouring districts at Taels' 3.00 per picul (of which Tls. 2 will be sent to the capital, .80 given to the army and .20 be for local purposes); in the Hsiang-fu and 13 adjacent districts Taels 2.80 (Tls. 2 for Peking, .60 for the army and .20 for local purposes), in the Nuihwang and 5 neighbouring districts the rate per picul will be only Taels 2.00 in consideration of their extreme poverty. The Board of Revenue is ordered to report.

Nov. 1st.—Chang Shu-sheng, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, reports that a subscription has been set on foot for the repair of the walls of Chungming. This city stands in a very isolated and unprotected situation, being on a flat, lonely island some distance from the mainland. The city was first surrounded by a brick wall in the reign Wanli of the Ming dynasty (1571—1619); a mud wall was added during the early part of the present dynasty. The former wall has now existed for more than 280 years, and having been neglected during the recent troubles, is a very dilapidated condition, and would need to be entirely rebuilt. A careful survey has been made, and the cost of construction is estimated at Taels 38,500. This sum it is proposed to raise by public subscription, and the proposal has already been generously responded to. When the walls are completed, the Throne will be asked to bestow honours on the donors of Chungming being the key to all the positions commanding the entrance to the Yangtze, it is of importance that it should be attended to without delay. So important was this place considered in the early part of the present dynasty that 10,000 soldiers were stationed there, and although the number is not now so large, the city still the residence of a General of Division.

2nd.—Fo-êrh-kwo-chun, criminal justice of Kwangsi, is ordered to return to Peking to await some other appointment, an

succeeded in the judgeship by Yien Shu-sên, who is at the same time made a but-
ton of the fourth grade.

(2) The Board of Revenue is ordered to consider the request that Fengtien (Moukden) be allowed to pay the land-tax this year in specie rather than in grain.

(3) The following edict has been received from Their Majesties the Empresses Tsz-an and Tsz-hsi:—The Astronomical Board having, as directed by Imperial edict, chosen an auspicious day, it is hereby ordered that His Majesty the Emperor will formally assume the government of the empire on the 26th of the 1st moon of next year (Feb. 23rd, 1873). The several yamens must make careful preparation for the proper celebration of the event. Respect this.

(4) Chiao Sung-nien having reported the completion of the repairs of the embankments of the Yellow River, and the satisfactory condition of the river generally, an edict is issued ordering that ten large sticks of incense be forwarded to him, to be reverently offered by him personally in the temple of the River God, in His Majesty's name, as a thank-offering. The river officials are also decorated with titles in reward for their exertions.

3rd.—Li Hung-chang reports the completion of the repairs of the Yungting embankments. In a supplementary memorial, he lauds the energy and ability of an expectant prefect, named Chow Fu, and requests that he be raised to the rank of intendant and retained in the Chihli province—(he properly belongs to the Kiangsu mandarin.)

4th.—The Board Controlling the Affairs of the Household having requested the Throne to appoint a high official to sacrifice to the God of Horses, Sz-tseng is appointed to perform that duty.

(2) Yuen Pao-hêng, Commissary of the Army of the West, reports that in consequence of the non-receipt of the war tax from several provinces, the troops have received no pay this year, and entreats the Throne to order the Board of Revenue to send funds without delay, in order to

quiet the men and prevent the possible outbreak of dissatisfaction among them. In March 1869 an edict was issued directing that in addition to the Taels 3,000,000 allowed for the viceroy's troops and the Taels 1,200,000 allowed for the troops under the Manchu general at Ninghsia, Taels 3,000,000 should be annually appropriated from the *li-kin* tax collected in the provinces, in order that the wants of the army might be better provided for and the troubles on the frontier brought to a speedier termination. Shortly afterwards, at the request of the memorialist, the Throne was pleased to grant an additional sum of Taels 300,000 to the provincial commander-in-chief, resident at Kuyuen. During that year (1869) the war tax from the provinces was paid with tolerable regularity, and things went on all right. The Manchu General, Mutushan, was able, or very nearly so, to provide for the 100 battalions under his command out of the funds allowed for his special use. The viceroy, after paying for rations, expenses of transport &c., still had sufficient funds left to distribute three months' pay among his men. But since 1869, the receipts have only amounted to one or two tenths of the proper sum, and the pay of the troops has consequently fallen greatly in arrears. During the last three years the viceroy has had to help Mutushan to the extent of over Taels 4,000,000, and in consequence his own troops have been left unpaid. For instance, in 1870, from the Dragon Festival (5th moon 5th day) to the end of the year, the troops only received one month's pay; and during 1871 they received no pay at all, not even at the three great national festivals, except the Taels 600,000 specially sent by the Board of Revenue for distribution among them at the close of the year.

In obedience to the two edicts issued on the subject, Shantung, Shansi, Szechuen and a few other provinces have paid up their war-tax arrears; but Honan, out of Taels 180,000 due, has only sent 50,000, and Hunan out of Taels 40,000 due has only paid 10,000. But while certain pro-

vinces have paid up their old arrears, the present year's tax has been only partly paid; thus Shantung has only sent Taels 40,080, Szechuen only Taels 100,000, Shansi Taels 120,000, &c. Only Kiangsu, Chekiang, Fukien and Hupeh have paid in full. The entire arrears due from the provinces amount to Taels 15,290,000, beside which there is a sum of Taels 500,000 due to Yüsz, Governor of Kokonor. The memorialist has wearied himself writing despatches pressing for payment and all to little purpose. Thus far the troops, notwithstanding their hard treatment, have behaved nobly and fought bravely. But if something is not done and done soon, they will not only be without pay but without food, and the consequence of such a state of things, may be very serious indeed. The memorialist would entreat the Throne to order the provincial governors to forward the whole of this year's war tax to Shensi not later than the 11th moon, so that the troops may receive at least one month's pay at the close of the year, and that there may be something wherewith to provide their rations. This done, the men will be quieted and possibly all danger (of disturbances) averted. He writes with great importunity, for the case is urgent.

The Board of Revenue is ordered to consider the above without delay and report.

5th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial requesting the establishment of soup-kitchens outside of six gates of Peking. The number of destitute persons in the neighbourhood of the capital is very great; food too is daily becoming dearer, and the poor find it very hard to obtain even the necessaries of life. It behoves the Throne therefore to make some provision for them. The request to establish kitchens outside of six of the gates is granted, the same to be opened on the 15th inst. Trustworthy officials must be appointed to superintend them, and they must be conducted on the same principle as last year. The memorialists must also visit them from time to time, and take care that no cheating goes on, and that the kitchens are managed

in the most economical way, so that the poor may get the largest possible amount of benefit from them.

(2) An edict from Their Majesties the Empresses-Dowager commands that the family of the young Empress's mother be ranked under the Bordered Yellow Banner.

6th.—An edict is issued making honorable mention of the late Wu Kwen-hsiu, treasurer of Anhwei, and decreeing him all the honours due to a deceased provincial treasurer. Yülu is appointed treasurer in his place.

(2) In reply to a memorial from the superintending censors of Peking, begging clothes and money for the poor of the capital, the Throne orders the appropriation of Taels 3,600 from the reserve fund of the Household, for immediate distribution among them.

7th.—Sun I-yien is appointed criminal judge of Anhwei.

(2) Ying Pao-shih, criminal judge of Kiangsu, having acted for a time as treasurer, reports having resumed his duties as judge.

8th.—Ying-yuen, commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, reports the following appeal case:—

Sung Ta-yao, a native of Ying Shang, Anhwei, charges Sung Ting-pi with having killed his son and his nephew. In the 8th year (1858) 2nd moon, 1st day, of Hienfeng, this Sung Ting-pi, availing himself of the confusion and alarm consequent on the presence of the rebels (Taipings), collected a lot of rowdies and plundered appellant's house, and killed his son and nephew. They then set fire to his house, burning it to ashes, and with it the corpses of the persons killed. Chen Yueh-chun can witness to the accuracy of these statements. Defendant, not content with what he had done, went still further, and seized a piece of complainant's land. These doings having been brought to the notice of the district magistrate, one of defendant's relations was thrown into prison, but while the rebels were attacking the city, the defendant and his party attacked the prison and released his friend.

Complainant then appealed to the prefect who ordered the magistrate to apprehend defendant. An intrigue was then set on foot to wheedle complainant into making an agreement with his enemy, the terms of which were, that he should receive the value of his house, if he withdrew the charge of murder. He then appealed to the Lieut.-Governor, who directed the prefect to investigate the case, but defendant by means of bribes, got the prefect hoodwinked, and having secured bail was released. Up to the present time complainant has failed to obtain a re-hearing of the case, and thus driven to desperation, has come to the capital for redress.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already appeared.

9th.—Imperial edict. Yesterday, Tien-shan, of the Sacrificial Court, read the memorials presented to the Throne in a most confused and indistinct manner, and is therefore handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be punished for his incapacity.

(2) Imperial Rescript. To-day the ceremony of presenting Their Majesties the Empresses-Dowager with additional titles, was performed; Her Majesty Tsz-an receiving the epithet Twan-yü 端裕 (lit. correct and abounding) and Her Majesty Tsz-hsi the epithet 端佑 Twan-yew (lit. correct and protecting.) The underlings and officials employed on the occasion are each presented with a silver ingot weighing one ounce—[worn as an appendage to the girdle.]

(3) The viceroy of Fukien and Chekiang reports the departure from Foo-chow of the Liuchiu tribute ambassador and suite. All the goods purchased by the embassy were allowed, as heretofore, to go duty free, in order to show His Majesty's benevolent consideration for those from afar. In the present instance the duty amounted to Tael 300.4.5.7. The ambassador repaired to the custom-house and prostrated himself with his face towards the Imperial residence, in acknowledgment of His Majesty's favour.

Nov. 10th—Tseng Pi-kwang, lieut.-governor of Kweichow, begs the Throne to pardon all the officials, civil and military, whose districts were taken by the rebels during the war. Legally they are guilty and amenable to punishment; but during the eleven years' war, the districts in question were presided over by more than one official. Of these some have been cashiered and others have died, while of the survivors, some have been transferred to other provinces, and others have atoned for past failings by subsequent services. A large portion of the province has already been restored to order and the rest is step by step being tranquillized; the memorialist would therefore entreat the Throne to pardon all the officials who are defeated by the rebels.

The petition is granted.

11th—Tun Wang, controller of the Astronomical Board, and his colleagues, having received an Imperial edict commanding them to select an auspicious day in the first moon of next year on which His Majesty the Emperor might formally assume the reins of government, report that they have selected three lucky days on either of which the ceremony might be performed, viz., 1st, 4th and 26th of the 1st moon.

The Board would leave it to Their Majesties to decide on which of these propitious days the ceremony shall take place.

[An edict was issued Nov. 2nd fixing 26th of 1st moon.]

(2) Chen Hung-yi, memorializes the Throne complaining of the abuses connected with the system of levying the land-tax in kind rather than in money, and prays that the system may be changed in a portion at least of the Fungtien (Moukden) prefecture. The evils complained of may be briefly enumerated as follows:—

1.—The district magistrates collect only a part of the tax in kind and the rest in money, charging the people, however, double the value of the grain.

2.—The magistrates, instead of at once purchasing the grain required, and storing it in the granaries ready for transhipment

to Tungchow at the proper time, wait till they can get it cheap and thereby delay the junks.

3.—Junks employed in the transport service, have to leave for Fengtien in the 4th Moon and do not get away from there till the 10th Moon. The cost of such a long delay is enormous. The magistrates excuse themselves by saying that all the junks not having arrived, the loading cannot commence. Thus time is wasted, winter arrives, and the junks have sometimes to go away unloaded after all.

4.—The grain having arrived at Tientsin, it has to be transhipped &c., and during this process it is stolen right and left; this cannot well be prevented.

5.—In the granaries the grain is so adulterated with chaff and rubbish, that it is unfit, or nearly so, for human food. This was keenly felt last year by all the charities in the capital.

To this proposal, however, it will probably be objected that the price of grain being very low in Fengtien, the sum received by the Government would be a very paltry one. This may be true; but it must be remembered that the Government, by levying the tax in money, would save the heavy outlay now incurred for transport, official salaries, &c., &c., and this would go far to make up the difference between the price of grain in Fengtien and at Tungchow. In some of the provinces, as Shantung, this plan has been already adopted, and the memorialist hopes the Throne will be pleased to look favourably on the present proposal.

[An edict was issued Nov. 1st ordering the Board of Revenue to consider and report.]

(3) Supplementary memorial from the Foreign Office. In the *Tung-wen-kwan* (Peking University) there is a pupil named Chin Jen-chieh, a literary graduate belonging to Shanghai. At the examinations held during the 9th moon of last year, he distinguished himself in (Chinese) composition, and the Throne, at the request of the memorialist, was pleased to make him a *Fu-kung-sheng*, and confer on him the title

of clerk or secretary to the Privy Council. But last month he absented himself from college without permission, and has not yet returned. If not punished in some way for such unwarrantable behaviour, others will imitate his example and college studies will be neglected. The memorialist would therefore request that he be stripped of his newly-acquired honours.

The request is granted.

12th.—An edict is issued ordering that a month's pay be given to the banner men and Peking gendarmierie, to enable them to make some little preparation against the cold weather.

(2) As a special mark of Imperial favour, permission is given to Ying-yuen, chief of the Censorate, and Chung-shih, commandant of a Mongol banner, to ride on horseback in the Forbidden or Imperial City.

13th.—The lieut.-governor of Chekiang reports the execution of a man for poisoning his mother. This unnatural son was named Wang Yew-chih, and lived at Yü-hang in the Hangchow prefecture. The case has been heard before the criminal judge and the memorialist, and the following facts elicited. It appears that a neighbour called Ni Chin-yün having lost a piece of calico, suspected the deceased woman, Wang Yew-chih's mother, of having stolen it, and went to her house to ask about it. She felt so deeply mortified and enraged at the imputation thus cast on her character, that she resolved to be avenged on her neighbour; she would take a dose of opium and go and die at his door. She communicated her intention to her son, who approved of her idea, and procured her 150 cash worth of opium from a stall in the streets, vendor unknown. Having taken this dose, she went to her accuser's house and continued raving at him for having charged her with theft, until the poison had so far operated as to deprive her of the power of speech. As soon as the fact of her having poisoned herself was discovered, every effort was made to save her, but without success. The son was seen purchasing the opium by one Ni Ah-pao, and has confessed his guilt. Now, although

the idea of poisoning herself in order to be avenged on her adversary, originated with the woman herself, yet the son is clearly guilty of having aided and abetted, and of having purchased the opium for her, the case therefore comes under the statute, which provides that a child wilfully causing a mother's death, shall be hacked to pieces. The crime having been committed within 300 miles of the provincial capital, the memorialist, in virtue of the powers conferred upon him, ordered the immediate execution of the above sentence; the criminal's head being placed in chains as a public warning. His wife not having been at home when the suicide occurred, is acquitted of blame. The person whose unfounded suspicions caused the woman to commit suicide, has been sentenced, in accordance with the statute, to receive 600 blows with the heavy bamboo, and be banished to a short distance for three years.

The Board of Punishments is ordered to report.

Nov. 14th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, reporting the satisfactory condition of the new embankment of the Yellow River at How Chia-lin and requesting the Throne to confer an honorific tablet on the *Tai-wang* or serpent-god. Last year the Yellow River burst its banks at How Chia-lin in the Yüncheng district, but the breach was successfully repaired, the inundated districts drained, and dikes erected to protect the fields. This summer the river rose to a great height in consequence of heavy rains, and the new embankment was severely tested, but through the diligence of the officials accidents were prevented. The frosty season has now commenced, and through the gracious protection of the gods, the lieutenant-governor is able to report the satisfactory condition of the embankment. This is a subject for deep gratitude; the Hanlin college is therefore ordered to prepare a suitable tablet and forward it to the lieutenant-governor, to be reverently placed in the

newly erected temple of the *Tai-wang* in acknowledgment of his favour.

(2) Ying-han, lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, reports the death of the provincial treasurer Wu Kwen-hsiu, and gives a sketch of his official career. He first took office in 1852, and served under Tseng Kwo-fan against the Taiping rebels in several provinces. He took part in the capture of Wuchang, Hanyang, Kiukiang, and 17 other cities in that direction, and subsequently distinguished himself in Anhwei and Kiangnan. He served in the army for 12 years and gradually rose from prefect to criminal judge. After the retaking of Nanking, he was made salt commissioner, in recognition of his services, and in 1868 was appointed acting lieutenant-governor of Anhwei, in which capacity he acted for two years. The Nienfei were than in arms, and his position was one of unusual difficulty, but he was equal to the task, and managed affairs with singular ability. In 1870 he resumed his post as treasurer, and devoted all his energies to the duties of his office. He was a man of a hard, unyielding disposition, who would not deviate a hair's breadth from what he conceived to be the path of duty, and was always at his work. He died on the 25th October, and in him the Throne has lost an able and faithful servant. The memorialist hopes the Throne will be pleased to decree him the honours due to a deceased lieutenant-governor who has achieved military merit.

[An edict was issued Nov. 6th decreeing him the honours due to a deceased provincial treasurer only.]

15th.—Wan Ching-li, Superintendent of the metropolitan department, and the prefect Liang Chao-hwang, request permission to open soup-kitchens outside six gates of the capital. The Throne has already been pleased to grant 20,000 piculs of rice and 60,000 taels for distribution among the poor of this prefecture, besides the 60,000 piculs of rice apportioned to it out of the general grant and to Li Hung-chang; there will therefore be sufficient funds and rice to go on with. By-and-bye, should more be needed, the memorialists will

apply to the Throne for an additional grant.

An edict was issued on Nov. 5th giving permission to open the six kitchens.

16th.—Edicts are issued ordering the lieutenant-governor of Honan to investigate two cases which have been appealed to the Throne from that province, and directed him to report the results of his enquiry to the Throne.

17th.—Imperial edict. The viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Fukien report the capture of certain insurgents and ask honours for the officials through whose exertions this was effected. In the Pucheng district some insurgents, headed by one Wee, rose against the constituted authorities, but were speedily quelled by the troops under General Lo Ta-chun, and utterly exterminated. The officials mentioned in the memorial are certainly entitled to some slight recognition for their services. Col. Chow Te-fu is promoted to the rank of major-general, &c. &c.

(2) Censor Kwo-hsiu and his colleagues beg that the 3,600 taels granted by the Throne from the reserve fund of the household for distribution among the poor of Peking, may be paid in full at current rates. They find that in 1854 the Board controlling the affairs of the house, informed the then Censors of the city that in grants such as the one in question, a tael only reckoned 2,000 cash, but the rate of exchange is much higher now, and the memorialists beg that the money may be paid at the current rate, otherwise it will not be sufficient. This has been done on several occasions.

18th.—An edict is issued in reference to a memorial from Wu Tang, viceroy of Szechuen, reporting the results of his triennial tour of inspection through the northern and eastern portions of the province. Several military officers are accused of incapacity, neglect of duty &c., and dismissed.

19th.—Li Hung-chang, viceroy of Chih-li, reports the escape of a criminal while on his way to the provincial capital, and re-

quests that the magistrate of the district to which the criminal belonged and the magistrate of the district in which the escape took place, may be handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be dealt with. The magistrate of Yungnien reports to the Viceroy that three criminals from Kaichow reached that district on the 8th August *en route* for Paoting. They continued their journey next day, their old guard being reinforced by some district soldiers. It appears the party did not all travel together. The cart containing Wang-san and Tu Yin-kwei was in advance of that containing Chang-tun. It was evening before the latter reached Sha-ho, the next district, and at a village not far from the city, one of the guards was suddenly taken ill and one of the others went to procure him some medicines. The remaining guard, fearing the city gates would be shut, pushed forward with all possible speed. At this time the soldiers had fallen into the rear, and one solitary guard was left to take charge of the criminal. It was already dark and the roads were in a dreadful state in consequence of recent rains. The cart sunk down to the axletree in mud and dirt, and it was necessary to lighten it in order to get it out again. The prisoner was therefore taken down and placed on the side of the road, and while his guard and the carter were trying to extricate the cart, he managed to break his fetters and get away. As soon as his escape became known, a hue and cry was raised, but no trace of him could be discovered. His crime was house-robbery and he had been provisionally sentenced to death. Strict inquiry has been made into the circumstances of his escape, but there is no evidence whatever of his guards having been bribed to connive at it. Still, the district magistrates of Kai-chow and Yung-nien must be held responsible; they should have sent a more trustworthy escort. The memorialist therefore requests that they be handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be dealt with. They will also be required to apprehend the criminal within a given time.

The two officials are handed over to the Board as requested.

20th and 21st.—In consequence of a memorial from Liu Chang-yew, lieutenant-governor of Kwangsi, an edict is issued dismissing and degrading four officials belonging to that province on account of their inordinate avarice.

The rest of these Gazettes is occupied with a memorial from the viceroy and lieutenant-governor of Hupeh, reporting their finding in the case Ma Feng-twan *versus* Chi Chih-chi district magistrate of Hanchuen. Ma Feng-twan, who is a petty official, having been robbed, while on his way through Hanchuen, rushed into the Yamén, sword in hand, demanding redress, and conducted himself so disorderly, that the magistrate, taking him to be some vagrant brave, ordered him to be bastinadoed. Smarting under this indignity, he brought an action against the magistrate for having unlawfully beaten him, knowing him to be an official. But he conducted himself so insolently in court, that he much prejudiced his cause; and before the case was decided, he sent an appeal to the Throne in which he accused the provincial officials of favouring his opponent &c. This appeal he got a friend in Peking, Ma Pei-chin, a recorder in the Board of Works, to forward to the proper quarter. In due time the appeal was laid before the Throne, and in the usual way sent down to the viceroy and lieutenant-governor for investigation. They find appellant's statements entirely false, save in the matter of the theft, and pronounce sentence accordingly. The statute provides that a person bringing a false appeal before the Throne, or before a viceroy, lieutenant-governor or criminal judge, and thereby criminating ten or more persons, shall be banished to the frontier. The present case comes under this statute. Appellant's charges were wholly false and involved more than ten persons. He is therefore banished to the Amoor to serve as a low class convict. As to the district magistrate, although he was not aware of the official rank of Ma Feng-twan when he ordered him to be beaten, yet he cannot

be held wholly faultless. But having already been deprived of rank and office, he has received sufficient punishment for his offence. Ma Feng-twan's accomplice, Ma Pei-chin, being a Peking official, should be handed over to the Board to be dealt with.

The Board (of Punishments) is ordered to report on the foregoing.

22nd.—To-day the Privy Council laid before the Throne a programme of the ceremonies to be observed on the occasion of His Majesty's formal assumption of the reins of government.

(2) To-day the Privy Council presented to the Throne a programme of the ceremonies to be observed at the approaching Winter Solstice, prepared by the Board of Rites, but in quoting an edict issued by the Empresses-Dowager, Their Majesties are inadvertently styled *hwang-how* instead of *hang-fai-how*. For this piece of extraordinary negligence, the clerks and secretaries of the Council who committed the blunder, and Grand Secretary of State charged with the examination of such documents, are handed over to the Board of Civil Office to be dealt with. In regard to the programme itself, Their Majesties direct that the ceremonies allotted to the day after the solstice be omitted. The rest is approved.

(3) Another edict is issued regarding a memorial from Chiao Sung-nien, governor-general of rivers and canals, reporting a miraculous interposition on the part of the River God, &c. This year, when the tribute junks from Chiang-pei reached Pali-miao, the canal was so shallow that they could not pass, but the intendant of canals went to the temple of the *Taiwang* [a designation for a class of gods who appear in the form of serpents and are supposed to have control over rivers and canals,] and offered devout prayer, which was immediately followed by a heavy fall of rain and a consequent arise of water in the canal. This is an event which calls for deep gratitude, and the Hanlin college is therefore ordered to prepare an appropriate tablet and send it to Chiao Sung-

nien, to be reverently placed in the temple of the *Tai-wang* at Chang-chiu-chen, in the Shantung province, in acknowledgment of divine favour.

23rd.—The lieutenant-governor of Hunan is ordered to select from among the prefects of that province, one most competent to fill the important post of prefect of Chang-shai; the place of the official selected to be taken by Yu-chang.

(2) Yu-chio having memorialized the Throne complaining that the Chi district, in the Chihli province, had not paid the summer and autumn taxes due to the *Tung-ling* (Eastern Imperial tombs), an edict is issued directing Li Hung-chang to order immediate payment.

(3) Ting Pao-cheng, lieutenant-governor of Shantung, memorializes the Throne regarding a venerable official who has lived to see the sixtieth anniversary of the taking of his Chu-ju (M.A.) degree. He is a native of Shou-si. He took his M.A. degree in 1813 and his L.L.D. in 1814, he was then sent to Hunan as a district Magistrate and gradually rose to the rank of intendant. He was subsequently sent to Kwantung (Canton) where he acted for a time as commissioner of salt and commissioner of grain &c. He is now living with his son, an expectant magistrate in Shantung. Next year a complete cycle (60 years) will have elapsed since he took his M. A. degree. It will therefore be his privilege according to ancient custom, to partake of the *lu ming* [a banquet given by the Emperor to successful candidates at the triennial examination for the M. A. degree, and which those who live to see the sixtieth anniversary of the day are privileged again to partake of.] His friends have sent an earnest request to the memorialist entreating him to petition the Throne to allow this venerable literate to partake of his second *lu ming* in Shantung, where he now resides, rather than have to go back to his native province, Shensi.

The request is granted.

24th.—An edict is issued regarding a memorial from the lieutenant-governor of

Shansi, complaining of the disorderly and riotous conduct of military officers and their men while on their way from one place to another. They beat and wound the carters; create disturbances at the Customs' barriers, and fire at the Customs' officials if not allowed to pass on first demand; carry large quantities of merchandise with them from place to place; they also take women along with them and a lot of braves as retainers. The cases mentioned in the memorial must be dealt with most severely, and precautions must be taken to prevent such occurrences for the future. Officers sent to any place on duty, must be furnished with a passport, stating the number of horses, men, guns &c., which they are authorized to take, and the time allowed for the journey, and this pass must be viséd at each Customs' barrier. Any officer guilty of infringing the rules of his passport or of refusing to produce it when required, must be forthwith reported to headquarters and severely punished. Probably Shansi is not the only province in which such irregularities occur, and it is therefore ordered that this edict be promulgated throughout the Empire for general information.

(2) The Lieutenant-Governor of Shantung reports that the district city of Yuncheng, and several villages in the neighbourhood, have been flooded by the Yellow River. On the 9th Sept., the Yellow River rose to an extraordinary height, and completely inundated the city. The people were driven from their homes and compelled to seek refuge elsewhere. Nearly every house in the city was washed down, but fortunately only 23 persons lost their lives. Their sufferings, however, were most heart-rending; they had neither food nor shelter. Taels 19,500 have been already distributed among them, and the timber &c., which remained over after the construction of the embankment, have been given them to build temporary sheds with.

The Lieutenant-Governor is ordered to make suitable provision for the people, and to

see that they really get what is allotted to them, so that not a single person may be unprovided for.

25th. Three officials belonging to the Board of Rites are granted additional honours in recognition of the special services they rendered in connection with the Imperial marriage. This is a special case and must not be taken as a precedent.

(2) Wenpin, governor-general of the rice transport, resident in Kiangsu, having reported the satisfactory condition of the lakes, rivers, and canals (within his jurisdiction), an edict is issued ordering that ten large sticks of incense be forwarded to him, which he is to reverently present in the temple of the River God, in His Majesty's stead, as a thank-offering.

(3) The Censorate lays the following appeal case before the Throne :—

A small shopkeeper belonging to Kwangshan in Honan, complains that his wife and two children have been murdered, and that he can obtain no redress. Having occasion to go from home for a few days during the 10th moon of last year, he found when he returned, that his wife and two daughters had been murdered and his house burned down. An attempt was made to get him to believe that the house having accidentally caught fire, his family had been burned to death; but discrediting this story, he had an official inquest on the bodies, and it was found that deceased had died from wounds inflicted by a knife. The knife too was subsequently produced and the perpetrator of this three-fold murder discovered; but although complainant has appealed to the district magistrate, prefect and lieutenant-governor, the murderer has never been apprehended. He has bribed the yamen underlings.

The Imperial pleasure regarding the foregoing has already appeared. [An edict was issued Nov. 16th, ordering the lieutenant-governor to investigate the case, make an award, and report to the Throne.]

26th.—Imperial edict. Prince Li has memorialized the Throne, praying that some additional august title be bestowed on Their Majesties the Empresses-Dow-

ager. The Emperor having been called to occupy the Throne while yet a child, the conduct of affairs devolved on Their Majesties the Empresses-Dowager, who have discharged the duties thus imposed on them with an assiduity and ability unexampled in the history of the past. But Their Majesties have been pleased to decree that the Emperor shall formally assume the reigns of government during the first moon of next year, and it is His Majesty's duty to reverently follow the example of his illustrious ancestors Shunchih and Kanghi who, in the 8th and 6th years of their respective reigns, conferred additional titles on the Empresses-Dowager. But Their Majesties, with characteristic modesty, repeatedly declined this honour, and only yield at last with great reluctance to the earnest entreaties of the Emperor. Having, however, happily consented to the proposal, the several Boards and Yamens must make preparations for the proper celebration of the ceremony.

(2) The literary chancellor of Hunan having complained of certain abuses connected with the literary examinations in that province, an edict is issued ordering him and all the literary chancellors in the empire, to put an immediate stop to such irregularities. The examinations are entirely under their control and they have ample powers to act. The evils complained of are, that persons who have purchased high official rank presume on their position and take away their essays from the examination hall and complete them outside, while others present themselves for examination without having gone through the preliminary forms.

(3) Chang Shu-sheng, acting lieutenant-governor of Kiangsu, is appointed acting Viceroy of the Two Kiang, and the treasurer Ehhsi is appointed acting lieutenant-governor in his stead.

(4) The lieutenant-governor of Shantung reports the completion of the dikes and embankments along the new course of the Yellow River in the Yuncheng districts. He also requests the Throne to confer an honorific tablet on the newly erected temple of

the *Tawwang* (River gods who appear in the form of water-snakes) at that place, in acknowledgment of the favour of the gods. [An edict regarding the above and granting the tablet, was issued Nov. 14.]

27th and 28th.—Imperial edict. Censor Li Hung-mo has memorialized the Throne to the effect that the affairs of Chihli province are daily becoming more numerous and complicated, and requests the appointment of a Lieut.-governor. The grand Council and the Board (of Civil Office?) are ordered to consider the subject and report.

29th.—Chang Shoo-sheng has received intelligence from Leaou Shih-wei of Che-chow in Hae-chow, that in the 5th moon of the 11th year of the present reign, the 9th day, information was received by him from a country gentleman, named Chang Sew-e, to the effect that the widow Chang Yang-sze, on the 5th day of the 6th moon, went out towards a lake to hoe melons, leaving her daughter at home to cook the rice. A grand nephew of the widow's, named Chang Ta-kean, entered the house stealthily during her absence, assaulted the daughter, and on her resistance, struck her on the left temple with an iron hook, wounding her very severely; after which he made his escape. The girl was so much injured that she died on the evening of the 6th. When the truth of the report was established, Leaou Shih-wei himself carefully carried on the further investigation of the matter and also employed persons to look into the affair. A warrant has been issued for the immediate apprehension of the culprit.

It appears on enquiry that the murdered girl was fifteen years of age; and that without any participation in crime on her part, she was assaulted and killed by Chang Ta-kean. Since she, being poor in circumstances and weak in body, suddenly met with this violence, and without committing any wrong herself, was undeservedly killed, her conduct is worthy of all praise; and, in order, according to custom, to make her worth known abroad for imitation by others, as it ought to be,

permission is prayed to confer upon her a mark of distinction by erecting an arch to her memory. As the villain Chang Ta-kean has not yet been arrested, the petition for the erection of the mark of distinction to be conferred upon the deceased, in order to appease her soul, should first be offered, and the matter thus made public for an example to others. According to the urgent petitions of the Commissioner of Justice, Ying Paou-she and the Fan-tai of Keang-nan and Ningpo, Mei Ke-tsaou, it is desired that the Emperor would graciously grant their prayer, and issue orders to the Board of Rites to command that the mark of distinction be conferred upon the girl Chang; that on the one hand, the Board of Rites and of Punishments may be directed to examine into the matter, and on the other, Chang Ta-kean be arrested and punished. In conjunction with the Governor-General of the Siang Kiang and the Literary President of Kiang-soo, the petition has been forwarded to the Emperor praying for the Imperial consent. The petition has been entrusted to the Special Council for presentation.

29th November.—An Imperial decree has been issued respecting the petition of Kwae-chang and others on behalf of soldiers who have engaged with the rebels, and for whom some reward is implored. It appears that in the 9th month of the preceding year, the rebels collected on the Frontier, whereupon Ta Uch-tse led out his forces, and following the enemy closely, defeated them with great slaughter. The officers have been diligent in their military duties, and all are worthy of reward. A further communication received, states that Wei Tsan-ling and Ma Kih-soo-urh, with others, are also deserving of the Imperial favour. Tsan-liu is therefore promoted and Ngó-ling with Ngó-ke are both permitted to wear the peacock's feather.

Dec. 1st.—Ting Paou-ching, Junio Guardian of the Heir Apparent, an officer of the first rank, and Foo-tae of Shantung has presented the following petitioner. Some Corean barbarians having met wit

a storm on the East Coast which drove them ashore, wish to repair their junk and return to their own country; and now respectfully petition the Emperor to that effect. Now, according to the statement of Le-kin, district magistrate at Yung-ching, made on the 4th day of the 7th month, in the 11th year of the present reign; he received information on the 3rd day of the present month from Sung Show-nāng the Hae Paou for the district of Shih-taou-hae-kow, that a small merchant junk had been driven ashore by a storm. The district magistrate accordingly led out the military, and proceeding to the spot indicated, saw a junk with her mainmast gone, and her rudder destroyed. There were seven men in all on board, having their hair tied up in a knot, and dressed in garments with round collars. In the hold was stowed away money current in their own country, amounting to 500,000 cash; also two bags of rice, 14 boxes of brass utensils, and 24 iron cauldrons, besides other goods, but nothing contraband. It was discovered that none of the Barbarians could speak the Chinese language; but, there was one man on board who understood the written character, and who, bringing pencil and paper, wrote to the effect that his name was Chang Sun-che, that he lived in Corea near the Chung-tsing-taou Bank, and that he was a Kiang-king-poo man by birth, who traded in grain in order to gain a livelihood. This man with the sailor Kin Shang-laou and others, in all seven men, hired a junk at his native place, and put on board 200 piculs of rice to convey to Ping-yang. He sold the rice, and now produced the shopman's receipt as proof of the truth of his statement. The money he received for it, deducting the sum paid for the brass utensils, amounted to 500,000 cash. On the 27th day of the 6th month of the present year, this man sailed from Ping-yang, and on the next day an adverse gale suddenly arose, which obliged them to cut away the mast and eventually drove them ashore. The inhabitants offered them no violence whatever. The district magis-

trate gave orders that they should be sent to Peking, there to await a favourable opportunity for returning to their own country. Their junk, however, being uninjured, and it being inconvenient to take their brass utensils and money to Peking, they begged to be allowed to repair the mast and rudder, and to return home. The magistrate therefore provided accommodation for them, and having reported the matter to the Treasurer of the Province, both officers enquired minutely into the whole affair and forwarded their report. I have also carefully looked into this matter.

Now according to custom, these men ought to be protected and sent to Tung-sêng, but first an official messenger should be sent to bring them to Peking to get the matter arranged, and to receive permission to return to their own country. But these shipwrecked Barbarians, Chang Shun-che and others, find it inconvenient to convey their goods to the capital. Besides, the Yung-ching district is near to Corea, and with a fair wind that country may be reached in a day and a night; and since the Barbarians merely beg that they may be allowed to repair their junks and return home, it might perhaps be permitted them to do so. They will be ever grateful for the Imperial protection; and if, in addition, they are provided with food during their stay, they will quickly repair their vessel. Their goods, found in their junks, should be returned to them without diminution; and, whenever the wind is favourable, let them return to their own country, without secretly taking with them anything which does not belong to them. Further, the coastguard and the commander of the garrison should be required to protect them and to see them safely on board.

The Board of Rites were ordered to examine into this matter and respectfully report upon it. The petition was presented to the Empress Dowager and the Emperor by the Special Council, and has received the Imperial consent.

2nd.—Kung Tsing-wang and others present a respectful communication. Re-

ferring to the Emperor's decrees and deliberations in the 11th year of the present reign, the 9th month and 20th day, we received instructions from her most gracious Majesty, the Empress-Mother, to the effect that, heretofore, because the Emperor was too young to ascend the throne, the arrangement of State affairs was difficult, and the Princes and Nobles requiring some one to whom they could present their petitions, we were permitted to approach Her Majesty and jointly to arrange all necessary matters. Her Majesty also informed us, that when the Emperor's education was complete, he himself would assume the conduct of the government. From the date of the Emperor's inheriting the throne to the present time, Her Majesty has exerted the utmost diligence as Regent, and has never in the least degree relaxed her efforts in the cause of the Empire. The Emperor's education being now, however, completed, and his intelligence daily increasing with his years, the time has arrived that he should take the reins of government into his own hands; have personal intercourse with all Officials both within and without his household; redress all grievances; and give due weight to the affairs of the government entrusted to him by the former Emperor. The Imperial Astronomical Board have received orders to choose a propitious day in the first month of the coming year on which His Majesty may take upon him the cares of Government; and the Special Council, with the Presidents and the Six Boards are, according to ancient law, ordered to consult and respectfully to report on the matter.

We, receiving these instructions, are rejoiced beyond measure, and consider that our Emperor is possessed of heavenly intelligence in thus accepting the trust committed to him by the previous Sovereign. He has already secured to himself the tender affections of both Empresses, and ascends the throne at an unusually early age. He is conversant with the literature of the Sages and Worthies; which knowledge is the foundation of all good govern-

ment. Hitherto, the Empress-Mother, listening * to all affairs of State, has been unremitting in her exertions to promote the public good. She has regulated audiences, settled the Five Relationships, promoted the worthy, and punished the rebellious; from first to last the country has enjoyed peace, and the people have lived in comfort. Thus has Her Majesty imitated the good example of former Rulers, and history will record her worth. With regard to the Empress-Mother's intimation, that as the Emperor has now completed his education, he intends to assume the reins of government next year; such determination as this belongs to our Emperor alone, and has never before been heard of from the earliest ages down to the present time. We being made aware of Her Majesty's wishes, will, as in duty bound, make arrangements for the event, according to ancient custom, and respectfully deliberate upon the matter. We shall consult the ancient laws of the States, and carefully drawing out a plan of proceeding, shall present the same to the Emperor for his consideration; hoping that His Majesty may approve of it, and order the Officers of the various Ya-mên to carry it out. And, if any alteration be required, such may be made according to the laws of each Ya-mên, and submitted to the Emperor for his approval. If any cause for renewed deliberation should arise, we shall respectfully inform your Majesties of the matter, and humbly await instructions.

This communication was presented, along with that of the Presidents of the Imperial Council Chamber, and the Emperor has signified his assent.

(1) The day previous to that on which the Emperor ascends the throne, officers shall be sent to reverently supplicate Heaven and Earth, the Imperial Ancestors, and the Gods of the land and grain. On the day of the Emperor's accession,

* When the young Emperor holds an audience, the Empress-Mother sits in an ante-room, behind a screen. She thus hears all that passes, and afterwards advises her son how to act.

His Majesty will enter the Tsze-Ning Palace and prostrate himself before the two Empresses. Afterwards, His Majesty will enter the Palace of Concord to receive congratulations, and to make known his will on state affairs. All ceremonies shall be performed according to the regulations of the Board of Rites.

(2) The great sacrifices at the Altars, and that in the Temple of Ancestors, shall be considered the first offerings of His Majesty's reign, commencing from the great sacrifices of the Winter Solstice of the present year; and the Emperor himself will present them in person. Discrimination will also be made between those sacrifices which the Emperor should present in person, and those which may be offered by his substitute. All shall be regulated according to the custom of each Yamèn, being previously submitted to His Majesty for His approval.

(3) The Emperor will worship at the tombs of the previous Emperors; before the tablets of the Sages; before those of the Expounders of the Sacred Classics; and at the shrine of the first Husbandman.† Also, the Empress will plant the Mulberry tree. All shall be done according to ancient custom.

(4) On the Empress-Mother's birthday, the Empress-Dowager's, the Emperor's and the Empress's; also, at the first day of the year, and on the Winter Solstice; all the ceremonies shall be in accordance with ancient custom, and the written instructions presented by each Yamèn.

(5) When the two Empresses attain to advanced age, congratulations shall be presented, the same as when His Majesty ascended the throne.

Dec. 7th.—The Emperor decrees that titles of honour shall be conferred upon the two Empresses, and orders the Imperial Astronomical Board to choose a propitious day in the second month of the new year for the ceremony.

His Majesty permits Wan-Kwei to act as Superintendent of Gan-kwan.

† The God Shin-Nung.

Suy-lin and others urgently petition that an inefficient district magistrate may be deposed. In consequence of the want of rain during the spring season, in the districts of Canton and Kaou-léen, the price of rice was unusually high, and Suy-lin therefore ordered the officials of these districts to purchase rice for the relief of the poor. In Ling-san district, however, violent persons, Lew-héen and others, sold grain beyond the limits of the district; which proceeding caused the poor of Ling-san to complain of the dearness of provisions. The people therefore assembled together in crowds, in order to put a stop to the transmission of the grain, and for the purpose of plunder. The district magistrate, Fung-seun, proceeded to investigate the matter, but could not put an end to the tumult. Lew-héen and his associates then banded together, and entering the magistracy, seized swords and weapons, with which they wounded some of the people; they themselves also seized the opportunity to plunder. The officers of the place have already arrested and punished more than fifty ringleaders. His Majesty orders Suy-lin and the others to quell the riot, and put an end to the disturbance. The want of rain caused much suffering in the district, and His Majesty therefore relies upon the officers to ascertain the feelings of the people in the matter, and to take measures for the restoration of peace. The district Magistrate who could not guard against the exportation of grain, and the consequent rioting and plundering, has been guilty of serious mismanagement, and has also been the cause of much suffering; he is therefore deposed, and Suy-lin and the others are ordered to arrange the matter satisfactorily.

8th.—Kwei-ling and Ching-ming return thanks for their appointments as Overseers of the Imperial provision department, and of the Imperial Band.

The master of ceremonies prays the Emperor to repair to the ancestral temple of the Emperor Too-wang, on the 13th of

the month, in order to sacrifice and worship.

An Imperial Edict states that Tih-ying and others report, that Poo-tih-höh, who is at present in command of a Manchu garrison, petitions that a higher office may be conferred upon him. This Officer, it is stated, rules over an extensive territory, the management of which is laborious, and the soldiers and people there have great confidence in him. Hence promotion to the office of Adjutant-General is asked for him. The petition has been granted.

8th.—I Ying Yuen the President of General Inspectors and member of the Imperial Household, with others, kneeling, petition the Emperor, desiring to obtain his Majesty's instructions concerning a matter which has been reported to us.

A Hoo-pih man has given information at our office, against certain Magistrates whom he charges with inflicting undeserved punishment and false imprisonment. We have ourselves publicly investigated the matter.

According to the evidence, a man from the district of Chung-tseang in the province of Hoo-pih, named Yung-foo, and aged 66 years, opened a druggist's shop in Kwae-hwo-poo. On the evening of the 21st day of the 9th month, in the 9th year of the present reign, three travellers stopped at a neighbouring rice shop kept by a woman named Jin-lew. During the evening, one of these travellers killed the other two, and then absconded. The witness's son Kow Hing-chung, hearing the cries of the two travellers who were attacked, went to the rescue, and saw a man come out of the back door of the rice shop and run away. He then went into the shop to make enquiry, and then with Jin-lew's grandson Jin Tsou-händ, in company with three others named Kin Tae-gan, Le Ching-heang and Yang Hung-e, pursued after the murderer, but could not overtake him. In the meantime Jin-lew had given information at the Ya-mèn, and the district magistrate proceeded to investigate the affair. As the culprit was not forthcoming, the magis-

trate, who is named Lew, arrested Jin-lew and beat her in order to force her to give some information. He further ordered the persons who pursued the murderer to appear before him, and tortured witness's son and Jin Tsou-häng into the confession that they had each murdered one of the travellers. The bodies of the murdered men were then thrown into the Lew-hae-pang pond.

Certain runners from the magistrate's office then went out into the country, secretly killed a man named Foo-leang against whom they had a grudge, and then extorted from one Lew more than 500 strings of cash by threatening to charge him with the murder. When Lew paid this sum they released him, and gave out that the man whom they themselves had killed, was the murderer of the two travellers.

Luckily, the relatives of the two murdered travellers, having discovered the deed, proceeded to give information before the district magistrate of Ho-nan, named Yêe, to the effect that the two men were murdered by their companion Hae Tseih Mo-tsze,* and that the latter had been arrested. The relatives then proceeded to the office of the magistrate of Chung-tseang in order to lodge information there; whereupon that magistrate, Lew, as he had already given judgment in the case, seized the two relatives Chang and Too, imprisoned them, and also caused Hae Tseih Mo-tsze to be arrested, and imprisoned in his Yamèn. He then bribed his Police runners and absconded.

The witness' younger brother Kow Yung-ting then went and laid the matter before the Taou-tae of Seang-yang, and prayed him to call the attention of the Chefoo of the Province to it, in order that it might be properly investigated. The district magistrate Lew, in the meantime, besought the Commissioner of Justice, whose relative he is, to protect him; and to intercede for him with the officer appointed to try the case; also, to issue an edict to the

* Hae, the family name; Tseih, the seventh child. Mo-tsze, the pockmarked.

effect that if the witness should take his case to Peking, he should be punished, as the entire matter had been already referred to the proper Board and arranged.

In the 4th month of the present year the district magistrate Yeë, liberated Hae Tseih Mo-tsze and examined him without torture. He kept Hae in confinement for four days, and then sent him back to the Magistrate Lew's prison. Witness' son, with Jin Tsou-häng, frequently and earnestly implored that they might be confronted with Hae Tseih Mo-tsze, but all to no purpose. Thus both these district Magistrates are implicated in the charge of false accusation. The case is a deep and intricate one.

Having no other resource, the witness came to Peking to lay the matter before us, and his statements perfectly coincide with his written evidence. We have examined into these statements and find them to be strictly correct. The case ought to be immediately looked into, and the dignity of the law upheld.

The original evidence in this case has been transcribed and submitted to the Emperor for further instructions. According to the witness' evidence he has applied twice at the several offices of the Chefoo, the Taou-tae, and the Criminal Judge; but no attention whatever has been paid to his request that the parties should be brought together and examined face to face.

The Emperor has ordered the petition to be placed on record.

Dec. 9th.—Recently Paou Yuen-shen reported that a God had manifested his power, and prays that the Emperor may be pleased to erect a tablet in order to commemorate the event.

It appears that in the 6th year of the present reign, during the Winter season, the rebels penetrated into Keang-chow in the province of Shense. The inhabitants trusted to some manifestation of the power of the God of the Fun river for deliverance. Accordingly, the water of the river rose so high that the rebels could not enter the city, and thus danger was averted and

deliverance obtained. This was truly a ground for much gratitude. The Emperor orders the southern Han-lin to cause a suitable inscription to be written on a tablet and given to Paou Yuen-shen, to respectfully erect in the temple of the river God of Keang-chow as a tribute of gratitude.

9th.—I Ying-yuen, your Majesty's slave, with others, beg to lay the following information before the throne, waiting for your Majesty's instructions.

A man named Hoo Tso-peaou from the district of Yung-ming in the province of Honan, has lodged information at our office of the murder of his father Hoo-seih-kin by one Chin-sin-chang and others, and we have given instructions to the proper official to investigate the matter thoroughly.

According to the evidence, the plaintiff Hoo Tso-peaou is 35 years of age, and resides in the village of Hoo-yuen in the district of Yung-ming, in the province of Honan. He gains his livelihood by cultivating land. In the 2nd month of the 10th year of the present reign, his father was engaged in carrying burdens on his shoulder for hire, having the sum of fifteen dollars about his person. When he came, on one of his errands, to a place called Fung-hwang-sye, he was suddenly attacked by Chin Sin-chang and several others who, rushing out of a cave in the Cha-shoo mountain, robbed him of his money and clothes, and finally murdered him. The witness then laid information before the Magistrate of the district, in order that so grave a crime might be duly investigated. He also laid his case before the yaou-tae and the Che-chow.

The elders of their family, in the village where the robbers resided, named Chin Gan-sze and Chin Yuen-suy, discovered on the premises of Chin Sin-chang a garment having marks of blood upon it, which they took, along with the culprits, before the Che-chow, who referred the case to the district magistrate in order that the matter might be enquired into. Chin Sin-chang confessed the crime; stated that his associates were Chin Tsze-se, Chin Kae-heöñ, and Chin Shun-chung; and without the

slightest attempt at concealment described the whole affair. The district magistrate, however, being a person of undecided character, took the advice of one of his subordinates named Fan-shing, and released the elders Chin Gan-sze and Chin Yuen-suy, instead of subjecting them to a strict examination. He merely detained the prisoner Chin Sin-chang in custody.

The witness next proceeded to the office of the Chefoo of his native district and lodged his complaint there. He was told, in answer to his petition, that the district magistrate was summoned to appear before the Che-chow. Hearing, however, that the subordinates of the Che-chow had apprehended another of the murderers, named Chin Tsze-se, but being bribed by Chin Yuen-yew, had again set him at liberty; the witness immediately proceeded to lodge information at the offices of the Taoutae and the Criminal Judge, and in reply he received an assurance that the Chefoo should strictly examine the district magistrate, and arrange the matter properly.

As the case, nevertheless, still remained unsettled, the plaintiff came up to Peking and lodged his complaint at our office. We have carefully examined the evidence in the case, and finding that the statements of the plaintiff are in perfect accordance with it, we lay the matter before your Majesty for further instructions. The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

10th.—Wän-yuh, Commander-in-Chief at Foochow, and acting Viceroy of Fokëen and Chö-keang provinces, with Wang Kae-tae, the Footae of Fokëen province, kneel and petition that a certain impracticable District Magistrate may be deposed from office as a warning to others.

In the district of Yew-chang-tseuen, in the province of Fokëen, the inhabitants are said to be addicted to violent practices. They are disorderly in conduct, following only the bent of their own inclinations. They frequently assemble in crowds and obstruct the Magistrates in the performance of their duty. Nevertheless, if an upright and just Magistrate were placed over them,

who would punish them when they were incorrigible, and who would maintain his own dignity among them, these people might be reformed, and there is no reason whatever why they should not become tractable. The petitioners themselves have issued stringent orders to every official to act in strict accordance with the law, in order, if possible, to bring about a reformation among these people.

In the township of Too-sing, which is under the jurisdiction of Wang Show-chang, the District Magistrate of Chang-foo, there lives a sharper named Hung She-joh, who is a quarrelsome, violent and disorderly person, and who has frequently been summoned to appear at the Magistrate's office. The former Magistrate of the district had often tried to arrest him, but failed in every attempt. Whenever he collected together a band of soldiers and volunteers, and proceeded to arrest this man, the latter always hid himself and escaped.

On the 24th of the 7th month, Wang Show-chang went in person with a guard of soldiers to arrest the culprit, but Hung She-joh went so far as to lead out his banditti, and to resist the Magistrate with spears, killing three of the volunteers. He then proceeded with his armed band to the Magistracy, plundered it of money and property, and killed two of the soldiers on guard. Wang Show-chang himself barely escaped with his life. This was certainly a most lawless proceeding.

The petitioners state that they have explored the township of Too-sing, and find that it pillows mountains and supports the sea.* The roads and paths are numerous and divergent; and the township is more than 30 *le* in circuit. It is entirely inhabited by Hung's clan to the number of at least 1,000 families; but none equal Hung She-joh in wealth, who has the entire population under his own control. When soldiers enter the district to arrest him, if they are few in number, he beats them off; if many, he runs away and hides; the nature of the country and the feelings of the inhabitants being alike favourable to him.

* *i. e.*—Is extensive.

The Taoutai and Chefoo of Chang-chow-chin having received petitions from the district Magistrate, and having consulted together on the matter, sent forward six battalions of soldiers, and gave orders to Li Hong-mow the Admiral of the Station to send a naval force to proceed by water to arrest Hung She-jöh, if, taking alarm, he should attempt to escape by boat. The petitioners also issued orders to Sun Kae-hwa the Commandant of Chang Chow-chin to proceed with a war steamer to Amoy in order to guard that point with the force under his command. An Imperial official waiting at Amoy, who was sent to act as Che-foo, also received orders to enter the district, and in conjunction with the other forces to surround the place and seize the culprit. The former general of the garrison at Chang Chow-chin, by name Luy Chin-chaë, and the Taoutai of Ting-chow, Chang-chow, and Lung-nëen-chow, named Wan-keih also signified their desire to proceed with the rest in order to arrest the culprit, being assured that if he could once be arrested the district would enjoy peace.

At the time when the district Magistrate Wang Show-chang was appointed to office, the people, he being a stranger, had not yet placed confidence in him. He was well aware, at that time, that Hung She-jöh's band was numerous; and yet, without taking counsel with his superior officer, as to how the matter could be properly arranged, he, on the impulse of the moment, entered the township in order to arrest the insurgent, and thus several lives were lost, and he himself barely escaped. Such conduct as this is wholly inexcusable.

It is further reported that the Magistrate Wan Show-chang, not having taken proper precautions for his own safety as well as that of his soldiers, was himself the cause of the riot. The Taou-tae and the Chefoo have themselves forwarded full information on this subject to the Fantae and also to the Commissioner of Justice; and, as there can be no possible doubt as to the accuracy of their statements, the petitioners pray that His Majesty may deprive this District Magistrate of his office, and order the

whole matter, from first to last, to be thoroughly investigated. Also, to issue strict orders to the Magistrates and to the military to lay some plan for the arrest of the ringleader and all others concerned in the late riot, and thus terminate the whole affair.

His Majesty is besought to lay the matter before the proper Board, and replies that the case is recorded.

Dec. 16th.—Päng Tsoo-han has been appointed Admiral at Fokeen. This officer has hitherto had charge of the garrison at Chih-te; and, as he cannot hand over his post to the newly appointed officer at once, he is permitted to delay his departure and to remain at his present station for a short period. Le Ngöh-neen is ordered to act as Admiral of the Fokeen province in the meantime.

Dec. 17th.—An Imperial edict has been issued to the following effect. On a former day Tso Tsung-tang gave information that the food of the people was deficient in the provinces of Shense and Kansüh, and besought the Emperor to forbid the cultivation of the poppy without delay. The cultivation of the poppy is strictly forbidden as being contrary to the laws of the Empire. In the provinces of Shense and Kansüh there were formerly disturbances which interfered with the cultivation of the land, and hence both the provisions of the people and the rations of the soldiers were deficient, and much suffering ensued. Tranquillity has now, however, been restored, and therefore the people ought diligently to turn their thoughts to the cultivation of the soil in order to secure an abundant harvest. Instructions have been given to Tso Tsung-tang to issue strict orders to the various officers of these two provinces to publish a clear statement of the law, in order that its prohibitions may be thoroughly understood. If any persons, being greedy of gain, clandestinely plant the poppy, then immediately on its appearance above ground, let orders be issued to root up completely the entire crop. Let strict orders be also given to the soldiers and police, forbidding them to make such

practices among the people an excuse for extorting money from them. And, if any officers be found so corrupt as to receive bribes in such cases, in direct opposition to the law, in order to hush up the matter, let them be degraded from office and punished according to law. The opium which is brought from outside provinces must be strictly watched and not permitted to enter the boundaries of these provinces, in order that every vestige of the drug may be rooted out. The practices condemned should be strictly prohibited in every province throughout the Empire; and if any persons engage in them, they should be punished, in order that the people may be preserved from a scarcity of necessary provisions. Respect this.

21st.—A petition has been presented to the Emperor, praying that His Majesty would issue orders to the transcribers and comparers of themes at the Literary Examinations, to discharge the duties of their respective offices with strict impartiality.

On the 4th day of the present month an Edict appeared in the Imperial Gazette to the effect that no unjust practices can possibly be allowed at the public examinations; from which may be seen His Majesty's desire for the success of the Literati, and that those amongst them who are men of talent should be singled out for distinction. Hence all improper practices, both within and without the Examination Hall, should be strictly prohibited.

At each examination for the degrees of Keu-jin and Tsin-sze, orders should be issued to the various officers without the screen, as, for instance, those who give out the papers for the themes; those who stamp them with the fictitious names; the transcribers, the comparers, and the receivers of the themes, to act with a strict regard to justice. The transcribers and comparers of the themes should be especially charged on this point. The head Examiner and his assistants should minutely and carefully examine the themes in order to discover whether any error has

been committed in the transcription. Thus it will be an easy matter to separate the intelligent candidate from the dull one.

On investigating the laws in reference to the copying out of themes at the Examinations, it will be found that red ink ought to be used for that purpose. They should be copied out with the greatest accuracy, and the name of the copyist should be signed to each theme written in black ink, his official seal being attached to the red ink copy; and then the themes should be handed over to the comparer, to examine whether the copy is an accurate one or not. If the transcriber should happen to omit any single character, or sentence, the comparer should carefully supply these; but, if the latter should overlook any mistake, then this should be rectified by the Examiners within the screen.

As these rules are most strictly binding, how is it that grave errors have been committed on these points during the past years! Some candidates attempt to bribe the officials to favour them; some use a private mark by which an official may recognize his theme and correct it; and some officials will act in this matter ever without a bribe.

With regard to candidates who are in straitened circumstances, and who have exerted the utmost diligence in the pursuit of their studies, if these should fail to obtain success at their first examination, they must, like other in like circumstances, wait for three years before they can again present themselves for examination. Living under rafter houses, these men daily cut open their stomachs and draw out their intestines, and yet, their themes, although composed with the greatest care, are sometimes transcribed as if a crow's claws had blotted the paper, so that they are rejected with disgust by the Examiners; truly a most pitiable case! The utmost care therefore should be exercised in the selection of those officials who, coming from the

* "Study their eyes out," as we should say.

various provinces, are appointed to act as copyists and comparers. These should be chosen in consequence of uprightness of character, and not merely with a view to fill up the number required.

The Emperor is further besought to issue orders to the various Examiners to see that those who act under them strictly discountenance all injustice. If any transcriber perform his office carelessly, he should be reprimanded, and obliged to re-copy the theme; and if any comparer should fail to perform his duty with accuracy, the lightest punishment inflicted should be a caution to act more diligently in future, and the severest, to deprive him of his office; thus there will be no more careless copying, or hurrying over a theme to get to the end. All themes should be copied out distinctly and without error, and then the Examiners can look over them minutely and carefully, and avoid the rejection of those which are really creditable as to composition. Thus those who do not succeed at the examination will not be discontented on account of their failure, but blame only themselves for it, while, at the same time, they will have no reason to regret the pains they have taken in their studies.

The Emperor replies that the petition is recorded.

(2) A further petition has been presented on the subject of the three examinations for Keu-jin and Tsin-sze. At the first examination the candidates for these degrees write themes on subjects chosen from the Four Books; at the second, on subjects contained in the Five Classics; and at the third, on ancient literature. These subjects for examination are all of them important, and yet it is reported that the recently arrived Examiner merely looks at the themes on the first subject, passing over those on the second and third. Also, of the three themes written on the Four Books, he only examines the first one minutely, and if the second and third have no very glaring errors he allows them to pass. He does not seem to be aware that the most intelligent scholars spend their

strength upon the second and third themes. The second set of themes test the ability of the candidates to explain the Five Classics; some showing more talent than others in composition, and others showing talent in explaining difficult passages. The literary attainments of the candidates, the amount of labour bestowed on their studies, with the amount of general talent possessed by each, are all exhibited in the second set of themes. With regard to the third subject for examination, in this the capacity for government possessed by each candidate is brought out, and also their knowledge of Astronomy, Geography, Rites and Ceremonies, Music, War, Punishments and Finance, an acquaintance with which subjects is absolutely necessary.

The assertion is frequently made, that we have no men of talent at the present day. But it is not the case that there are no talented men amongst us: the true statement of the matter is, that the Examiner does not exercise sufficient carefulness in looking over the second and third sets of themes. If a candidate should write, according to the ancient style, like a Han or a Gow, explain as distinctly as the three Soos, or write with the accuracy and weight of a Tsang or a Wang; yet, if his composition is not examined with care and accuracy, how can anything be known of his talent? Thus real merit is lost beyond recovery! The Emperor is implored to issue orders to all Examiners, both within and without the screen; and also to all their assistants from the various provinces, to use the utmost care and diligence in minutely examining the three sets of themes, in order that those candidates who are men of talent may be selected for honours, and that all underhand practices may cease. Thus the Emperor will obtain able assistants as officers, and the labour of study will be recompensed, and talent will not be irretrievably lost.

The Emperor replies that the petition is recorded.

25th. — Tsëen Ting-ming lately besought the Emperor that titles of honour

might be bestowed upon two Che-foos who were killed in battle. A decree has been issued to that effect.

Wang Yung-leih, the Che-foo appointed to Honan province, together with Heen Hwae-chung, appointed to the same office in the same province, were successively killed by insurgents in the reign of Heen-fung, and a petition is now presented to the Emperor praying that His Majesty would exercise his compassion on their behalf. The petition states that these two Magistrates exhibited great courage and determination and lost their lives in fighting with the enemy—a truly pitiable case. In granting the petition, His Majesty orders that temples be also erected to Heen Hwae-chung at Lüh-yih, where he formerly acted as Che-heen, and at his native place. His Secretary Chin-mo, who was killed at the same time, is also allowed a place in these temples. The temples are erected to Heen Hwae-chung that all may be aware of his faithful services. This matter has been referred to the proper Board. Respect this.

Shun Tsing-wang and others pray the Emperor that certain persons may be rewarded who have presented a number of horses for the use of the army; and orders have been issued that they may henceforth be permitted to ride on horseback through the Imperial city instead of dismounting at the gate according to custom.

27th. — An officer of the Imperial household named Ting-heu, with another officer named Peih Taou-yuen, kneel and inform against a certain official who has been guilty of disorderly conduct at one of the Imperial Granaries, and beg His Majesty to deprive him of office and to bring the matter before the Board of Punishments to be strictly investigated, in order to assert the dignity of the law, and to make known the responsibility attached to the oversight of Granaries.

With regard to the Granaries of the city of Peking, several evil disposed individuals, called "devourers of Granaries," secretly acting according to the bent of their own inclinations, have hitherto, when

giving out rice, taken away a greater quantity than was required, appropriating the overplus to their own use. This evil practice is most painful and lamentable; and the petitioners on their arrival at their official posts, frequently looked into it most carefully, desiring to give their utmost attention to the proper arrangement of the matter. They have already arrested a person named Yüh San-pang with others, and pray the Emperor to refer the case of these persons to the Board of Punishment, that it may be investigated and properly dealt with.

Fuh-tsing, the Superintendent of the Granaries, forwarded information to the petitioners to the effect that on the 14th day of the month, being the day appointed for the purpose, rice was given out to the troops of the Eastern Fourth Banner. On the next day, while the proper persons were examining the quantity of rice in the Granary and comparing with it the amount distributed as stated in the account, an officer of the fifth degree, wearing a peacock's feather, entered the building accompanied by eight or nine other persons, and throwing the pencils and ink-stones into confusion, seized several tens of rice tickets and thrust them into his breast. He then turned round and walked out of the Granary, his attendants following him and taking with them money or anything else they could lay their hands upon. The person in charge of the Granary being informed of the theft, immediately went in pursuit and seized the ringleader outside the gate, his companions having, however, in the meantime escaped. On asking this person his reason for coming to the Granary, he answered in a rough and evasive manner, and at the same time refused to give his name. He was then shut up in a public room and information was forwarded to the Inspector of Granaries, who on his arrival proceeded to examine the prisoner. This man then stated that he was a Manchu officer, by name King Shoo-nan, and that he belonged to the Bordered Yellow Banner. The stolen rice tickets which he had concealed in his breast were

then taken from him, together with others, on none of which rice had as yet been given out, to the number of twenty-four. Being asked why he had stolen these tickets, he refused to give any information on the subject.

The Inspector of Granaries then sent this prisoner to the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner to be dealt with, and wrote a full and accurate account of the whole matter to the petitioners. The petitioners state that having looked into the case carefully, they find King-shoo is really an officer as he stated. He ought on that account to act in all things peaceably, and in accordance with the law. Without any cause whatever, he led several persons into the Granary and there acted in the disorderly manner already described. The petitioners therefore pray that this Officer and his disorderly companions may be adequately punished, in order to inspire others with dread.

The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

30th.—I, Li Hung-chang, Governor General of Hoo-Kwang, an officer of the first rank, together with Wang Wan-chaou, Footae of Hoonan, kneel and petition your Majesty in reference to a chaste widow and her dutiful daughters who died together—a truly pitiable case. We implore your Majesty to confer a mark of distinction upon them, in order that their pure souls may rest in peace, and that others may imitate their good example. We humbly look up and beseech your Majesty to take this case into consideration.

According to the evidence in this case, the District Magistrate of Shen-hwa, in the province of Honan, has carefully and minutely investigated the matter, and states that a graduated scholar of Seang-heang district, Taoutae expectant of Kwei-chow, named Le Kwang-leaou, sent Kwang-shing to lodge information at his office to the effect that his (i.e. the expectant Taoutae's) brother's wife, whose maiden name was Choo, together with her two daughters Chang-ching and Go-ching, being instigated by demons to inordinate

fasting, finally hanged themselves and so died.

In consequence of this catastrophe, by which three lives were lost, we ought to be filled with doubt, lest there be some other hidden cause which impelled the deceased to this deed. While we were thinking about sending an official messenger to make enquiries, an official named Choo Kêa-pin gave information that resentment in consequence of oppression was the cause of death in this case. I immediately sent the expectant salt commissioner of Hoopih, named Hwang Chang-foo, to the province of Seang [ancient name of Hoonan] to examine strictly into the affair and to arrange it satisfactorily in conjunction with the Treasurer and the Criminal Judge.

Wân-chaou, the Footae of the province, immediately gave orders to the two above named officials to sift the matter to the bottom. Hwang Chang-foo then requested the Treasurer Woo Yuen-ping, and the Judge Too Tsung-ping to meet him, and bringing witnesses before them proceeded to investigate the case most minutely. It appears that Mrs. Le, whose maiden name was Choo, is the sister of Choo Kea-pin and was given in marriage to Hâng-tsun. She gave birth to two daughters, the one named Chang-ching and the other Go-ching. Le Hâng-tsun and his brothers are five in number, of whom Le Kwang-leaou is the eldest; and the family have always lived and messed together. Le Hâng-tsun went to the camp quartered at the south of Loo-tsih, where he acquired fame, and was promoted to the office of Che-foo. In the fifth year of Heen-fung, he was killed in an engagement with rebels, in the district of Tungchau in the province of Hoopih. At the time of his death, his widow, being then 30 years of age, took a vow of chastity.

As the widow had no son of her own, Le Kwang-leaou, with whom she had consulted, procured a child which she adopted, but which afterwards died. Mrs. Le, maiden name Choo, lamented for her husband and bewailed the loss of her adopted son to such a degree, that her eyes

became diseased from constant weeping, and she was obliged to depend upon her two daughters for support. Chang-ching, when in her infancy, was betrothed to the son of Lew Yoh-chaou, and Go-ching was also betrothed to the nephew of Hwang Kwoh-he, but the marriages had not yet taken place. In the summer of the ninth year of the present reign, Mrs. Le Choo became totally blind, and having no one to attend upon her, her daughters took a vow of celibacy in order to do so, and also commenced fasting in hope of restoring their mother's eyesight.

Le afterwards chose a propitious day for the marriage of his son with the widow's eldest daughter, but the latter, being strong in dutiful attachment to her mother, refused to fulfil her engagement. In the first month of the eleventh year of the present reign Le Kwang-leaou returned from the camp, and seeing the two daughters observing a fast and refusing marriage, invited them both, with their mother, to his quarters in order to expostulate with them. On the 21st of the third month, Choo Kea-pin, the widow's brother together with the son of Le Kwang-leaou, by name Le Tsên-chwang, took the three ladies to the capital city of the province to the quarters of Le Kwang-leaou, who strongly advised the daughters to eat animal food; but this they would not consent to do. On the morning of the 23rd, at breakfast time, Le Kwang-leaou took some soup made of fish and meat, which he poured over the rice of the two young ladies, and endeavoured to force them to eat it; but they positively refused to do so. Mrs. Le Choo also gently remonstrated with them, adding that as she was blind, she was only an encumbrance upon her two daughters, and it was better that she would die at once. Upon this, Le Kwang-leaou instead of soothing her and advising her, as he ought to have done, immediately left the room.

Unexpectedly, on the night of the 24th, Mrs. Le Choo hanged herself with her girdle; and her two daughters, being overwhelmed with grief, also hanged

themselves on the same night. On the next day Le Kwang-leaou was struck with horror on hearing of the deed, and cut down the bodies, but life was extinct. He then immediately went to the Che-Hên's office, accused the mother and her daughters of being instigated by demons to practise inordinate abstinence, and had the matter investigated.

We pray your Majesty to order a strict investigation into this case. These ladies committed suicide, because Le Kwang-leaou wanted to force the two daughters to discontinue their abstinence, and for no other cause whatever. This official ought therefore to be degraded from office. Mrs. Le Choo's self-imposed vow of chastity in consequence of the death of her husband, is highly praiseworthy. When she became blind, her daughters, the father being dead, and their mother deprived of sight, having no brothers and well understanding the rules of dutiful piety, took upon them a vow of celibacy; and, of their own accord, passed their time in abstinence and reciting prayers, attending upon their mother to the time of her death. As their uncle Le Kwang-leaou from the very first could not appreciate their resolution, they followed their mother, by putting an end to their lives on the same day as she did. These ladies afford perfect examples of chastity and dutiful piety, and their case is a truly pitiable one.

Le Kwang-leaou, although he did not violently oppose the wishes of these ladies, yet wanted his nieces to eat animal food and to marry, and so peremptorily insisted on their obedience to his wishes that three lives were lost. Although he be not arraigned as a criminal, yet his wickedness admits of no excuse. A petition on this subject, has, however now been presented. With regard to Mrs. Le Choo, she, at the time of her husband's death, which took place during an engagement with rebels, was 30 years of age, and at her death she was 46 years of age, so that she remained a widow for more than the ten years appointed by law for conferring the usual honours. The dutiful piety of her daugh-

ters was sincere ; for they cast away their lives after the example of their mother, displaying the excellence of their nature, and showing themselves to be most remarkable women.

We implore the grace of Heaven [the Emperor] to grant our humble petition in this matter and to confer a monument upon these ladies, in order that their souls

may rest in peace and their virtue may be imitated ; to order the local Magistrate to place the entire narration on record ; and to notify the case to the Board of Rites. This petition is humbly presented to the Empress-mother and the Emperor, for their consideration.

The Emperor replies that the case is recorded.

APPENDIX.

* * * The following translations were accidentally omitted from their proper places, and are reprinted here, to complete the series.

MEMORIAL BY PRINCE KUNG, AND IMPERIAL EDICT, REGARDING FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Mar. 17th.—Your Majesty's servants, Yihsin (Prince Kung) and his colleagues, upon their knees present a memorial ; for that in order to the better understanding (*lit* explanation) of the treaties, they would request your Majesty to be pleased to command that they be obeyed.

They would humbly observe that, in the treaty concluded in the tenth year of the reign Hsien Fêng (1860) between the *Ta Tsing-kuo* (the Empire or Government of China) and *Ta Ying-kuo* (the Kingdom or Government of Great Britain) there is an article providing that the minister be treated with high consideration, (under which any person guilty of) disrespect towards him, or of insolence or the like, is to be punished most severely by the local authorities. (In the same treaty) are laid down, with great distinctness, rules to regulate the collection of the duties, and the recovery of debts. During the ten years that have elapsed of intercourse between the mercantile communities of different states and the people of China, since the ratifications were exchanged, although there have been some chance disagreements between them, there has been no intention on the part of the well-conducted and peaceable to wrong (the people of) China ; and towards the officials of China also they (the well-conducted foreigners) have behaved with all civility.

(So,) in the collection of the duties on foreign trade by the several Custom Houses, although (this has been effected) in accordance with treaty, there have been here or there, in the interior, instances of surcharge ; (while in the matter of debts,) if in the trade between Chinese and foreign

merchants there have been here and there debts due by foreign merchants to Chinese long outstanding ; the debts due by Chinese to foreign merchants long outstanding have been, on the other part, not few (or small.) To the end that no undue favour might be shewn (to the Chinese, instructions have been sent as occasion required, to the Provincial Governments to deal with them impartially and completely.

The British Minister residing in Peking has (notwithstanding) come to the Yamen of your servants to complain that the people of China are in the habit of behaving disrespectfully to the officials and people of foreign states ; that the Chinese Authorities, so far from taking steps to restrain them, do on the contrary display (or, allow to appear) an unfriendly spirit, and that the common people under the influence of what they are constantly seeing and hearing, become actuated by this in a yet more serious degree ; that the merchants are overtaxed by the Custom houses : that in some instances, they suffer by a want of vigilance on the part of the officials to whom they should look : that in some they are defrauded by the government bankers or by ordinary traders, and that the authorities, instead of compelling the debtors to pay, screen them from justice ; the result of which is that there is an arrear of cases, the accumulation of years, unsettled.

He requests that representation be made to the Throne, and that Your Majesty be requested to issue a Decree commanding (the provincial governments) to obey.

Your servants have also received an official communication (from the British minister) to the effect that, in a (late) discussion on business with the magistrate of the District of Kuang-tsi in Hu Peh, the local authority stated that he had never read the treaty.

In the opinion of Your servants the officials and people of foreign states, who come to China (respectively) to administer affairs and to trade, are undoubtedly entitled under the treaties to be treated with civility: farther, that, inasmuch as the well-conducted and peaceable persons belonging to foreign states have no desire to wrong (the people of China.) the officials and people of China have certainly no right to persist in maintaining towards (the people of) foreign states a feeling of contempt or disrespect: that in the matter of the collection of duties by the custom-houses, these should be levied by them in accordance with the treaties, and that they should not (levy duties) otherwise: that, in the matter of debts owing on either side, if the Chinese government do not expeditiously clear off the debts that have been long due by Chinese merchants to foreign merchants, (they, your servants, know not) how foreign Governments can be called on to take steps for the settlement of debts that may have been owing by foreign merchants to Chinese merchants.

The Government of China in the conduct of affairs holds ever fast to justice; yet more is it obligatory, in cases in which China and foreign states are jointly interested, on one side as well as the other, to act with impartiality.

It becomes therefore the duty (of Your servants) to request that Your Majesty will be pleased to issue instructions to the provincial governments insisting upon a faithful observance of the treaty (or treaties) of the tenth year of the reign Hsien Fêng, and upon the duty of behaving to the officials and people of foreign states with

civility upon all occasions; (directing them at the same time,) as the lower classes may not be acquainted with (the treaties), to call on them one and all in notifications to obey them, (and to remember that) as regards the ministers of foreign states residing in the capital, they are to shew them the same respect as they shew to the officials of China, and that disrespectful or insolent conduct towards them will not fail to be punished most severely.

As regards unacquaintance with the treaties on the part of the local officials, orders must be given them by the heads of all the provincial governments alike, that they do read the treaties.

The refund of duties in cases where it is an ascertained fact that duties have been levied as they ought not to be on foreign merchants by custom-houses or barriers, and the repayment of debts long owing by Chinese to British merchants, are questions that ought to be looked into by the Ministers superintendent of trade. The *Yamên* of your servants has repeatedly written to them to separate the claims that are to be satisfied from the claims that are not, and to close the cases open with all speed.

(If action be taken in the way your servants recommend,) all mixed cases for the time to come may be disposed of in such wise as more or less to give evidence of peaceful intentions and to cause quarrels to be avoided.

The propositions which your servants have agreed together to recommend, in order to a better understanding of the treaties, they submit in a memorial reverently prepared, and prostrate they implore the glance of your Sacred Majesty thereon.

A respectful memorial, whereon they request Your Majesty's Pleasure.

The Ministers of the Great Council have had the honour to receive His Majesty's Pleasure thus:

"Be it as it is proposed." Respect this!

IMPERIAL EDICT ON THE DEATH OF TSENG KWO-FAN.

Mar. 21st.—"The late Tseng Kwo-fan was a man of great learning, splendid talents, and profound penetration; one in whom loyalty and sincerity were innate qualities, and who ever maintained a stainless moral character. Having started as a doctor of the Han-lin, his worth was recognised by His Majesty Taokwang under whom he gradually rose in office, until he reached the rank of Ch'ing-êrh. During the reign Hsienfêng he raised a Hunan army to oppose the *Yueh* rebels (Taepings) with whom he fought many battles in different provinces, and by his great and successful efforts proved himself worthy of the esteem of his prince and country. He was then specially called by His Majesty Hsienfêng to the Vicerealty of the Two Kiang, and was appointed in addition Imperial Commissioner and Generalissimo of the army. Under our reign he was made a Grand Secretary, and always enjoyed our entire confidence. In suppressing the rebellion in the south-east his merit was especially great, and after his victory at Nanking he rose to the rank of Earl of the first grade, the title to be hereditary in his family for ever; at the same time a double edged peacock's feather was also conferred on him. As a Viceroy he has always exerted himself to the utmost in regard to everything which affected the provinces under his charge. In short, this venerable minister had become the great hope (of the people) and was as we ourselves (*lit.* was our limbs, heart and backbone), and we had fondly hoped that he would long live to enjoy our favour. The tidings of his death have filled us with sorrow and dismay. He is appointed preceptor (or guardian) to the Emperor, and in accordance with the law relating to the demise of Grand Secretaries, Tls. 3,000 are given towards the funeral expenses, the same to be paid from the

Nanking exchequer, and also a jar of sacrificial wine, which Mutêngah (general of the Manchu garrison at Nanking) is appointed to pour out as a libation to the deceased. As a further mark of Our favour, the posthumous title of Wên-chêng (文正) is conferred on him, and his tablet will be placed both in the Temple of the "Illustrious Loyal" and in the "Temple of the Wise and Good" in Peking. A Temple will also be erected to his memory at his native place in Hunan and in Nanking. A true account of his official career must be drawn up and handed to the Imperial Historiographers (to be recorded in the national annals), and any entry which may stand against him in the official register must be erased. The Board (of Rites) is also ordered to see what further honours the law provides in such a case as this, and report to the Throne. His eldest son Tsêng Chi-tsê will succeed him in the earldom, and the formality of an audience is dispensed with. He Ching (lieut.-governor of Kiangsu) is hereby directed to ascertain the necessary particulars regarding the other sons and grandsons of the deceased, and report to the Throne. When that has been done, a token of the Imperial favour will be bestowed on them also, that all may know how an old and faithful servant is remembered and esteemed by the Throne. Respect this."

On the same day the following edict was also issued:—

"Let Ho Ching act as Viceroy of Two Kiang *pro tem.*, and Eshi act as lieut.-governor of Kiangsu in place of Ho Ching. Let Wênpan be appointed acting governor-general of the Transport Service, and let the lieut.-governor of Shantung appoint some one to act as treasurer of that province in place of Wenpan.